

First The Rain, Then The Mud - Debris From Burn Area Shuts Roads



Debris Flows in the Upper and Lower Canyon prompted a Yellow Flag Alert at press time. As a result, Skyland Dr. and Woodland Dr. were closed at Sturtevant Dr. The City's Public Works Department will begin clearing of the mud as soon as the rain subsides. The City urges residents in the affected areas to continue to monitor weather reports and contact the Sierra Madre Police Department at either 911 or 626-355-1414 to report any new hazardous situations. Photos by Dean Lee

Will Washington Bail Out Sierra Madre? By Dean Lee

During a special City Council Meeting on Tuesday, City Manager Elaine Aguilar briefed the council on lobbying efforts on behalf of Sierra Madre in Washington by the Ferguson Group. The group will be looking for eligible money for local city governments as part of President Obama's \$800 billion stimulus plan.

Rodger Gwinn, President of the Ferguson group, said the idea was to create jobs and get money down to the local level quickly. He gave an update on the bills status. "The goal remains to get this bill finished around or by the 13th of this month, February", he said, adding that the House of Representatives postponed consideration this week.

Aguilar identified nine projects for funding, most with price tags in the millions, starting with money for the current Senior Center.

"The first of which is the complete remodel of the Hart Park House," she said. "As you are aware this is a current project. There is not enough money to complete it." The city is asking for \$450,000 to be allocated to it she said.

The second, she explained, was \$1.75 million for the construction of a new water well.

Next Aguilar said \$2 million needed for the replacement of water mains. She then said the city had a long term plan to build a new library, so they were asking for \$8 million, the most expensive item on the list.

Energy retrofits also made the list she said, "Two city facilities, our water wells, perhaps installing a solar system to make the city green." The scope varied from \$100,000 to \$1 million she said, "depending on the type of projects."

Street repair was a big one she said, "We

have a plan that rates all of our streets and the right method of repairing them all. The total identified there is \$5.5 million."

Also as part of a green effort she said they were asking for \$250,00 for alternative fuel vehicles.

At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Maryann MacGillivray, an unknown amount of funding was put on the list for the Skilled Nursing Center.

"We haven't had any meetings with anyone to figure out what that would cost," Aguilar said. "That would not be a city project that would be something the city would help lobby."

Last on the list was millions for a number of water related programs through the Foothill Water Coalition Aguilar said.

Councilmember Joe Mosca said the city had just signed a new contract with the Ferguson Group for \$60,000. Gwinn said that includes the stimulus lobbying. Director of Public Works, Bruce Inman, said the city has been using the lobbyist for over 10 years. He also said a lot of the allocated money would be filtered through the state.

Councilmember Don Watts said the amount of money, "was incredible," and could not believe people were willing to mortgage off all of their futures to pay back the money.

Toward the end of the 1.5 hour single topic meeting, the council got slightly off topic, discussing the idea of swapping the Skilled Nursing Center property across from city hall with the current library property at the west end of Sierra Madre Blvd.

Not everyone thought that was a good idea. "The reason it's been floated a number of years

without much success is, it's at best difficult and quite possibly unworkable," said Mayor Kurt Zimmerman. He said the developer/owner of the Skilled Nursing home property would have to be convinced to trade a much larger and more expensive parcel for a much smaller less expensive one.

"Even with federal funding I imagine what is required is we, the city, agree to pretty dramatically relax its limitations on height and density," He further explained this would lead to a tall and dense condominium complex. He also said any new library would have to be looked at carefully and cautioned that bigger is not always better.

"Having a new library is predicated on this notion that if it's bigger and better we will have more patrons," he said. That is not always the case. I think a very good example of that is the YAC [Youth Activity Center]." Zimmerman continued, "The vision that the city had, a place where all of our children would congregate, I guess was just that, a vision."

The Mayor also said even if the \$8 million is given by the federal government for a library there would be additional operations and maintenance costs.

Resident Fey Angus first brought up the nursing center saying that they should work with the owners to put in a medical facility. She further said a medical center could be used in an emergency such as a large earthquake. She also said a new library should not be the highest priority. Water she said was the city's greatest need, something council member John Buchanan later disagreed with. "I think we have water pretty well covered," he said adding they should maybe put the money toward infrastructure.

Another resident brought up the idea of the converting the skilled nursing to a civic center, with a new library and senior center.

LOCAL POLICE WARN RESIDENTS OF INCREASED BURGLARIES

Sierra Madre Police Sergeant **Keith Abbott**, sent the following to local neighborhood watch groups last week: "On behalf of Officer John Ford, I am notifying all of you about a residential burglary that happened on Saturday, 01-24-2009 during the daylight hours in the mid-north residential portion of Sierra Madre.

A main house and guest apartment, located in the 500 block of Auburn Avenue, were burglarized. In part, the suspect(s) broke a glass window pane to reach inside and unlock the deadbolt. The loss is pending. There is no suspect(s) or vehicle(s) description.

The following is a general crime prevention tip and is not necessarily related to the aforementioned crime: As an aside, know contact numbers for your tenants and neighbors. Communication related to a crime event is important. Also, if you have a house that has an exterior door, and glass door panes with an exterior single key cylinder deadbolt or lock, particularly ones with an interior handle or an interior keyhole, consider taking safety steps to avoid burglary.

Replace the glass panes so that someone cannot break a window pane of the door and just reach inside to use an interior door lock handle or key, if you keep a key in the interior lock, and just walk into your house. If you have a similar door arrangement and keep a key in the interior key lock, you might consider keeping the key on a hook, where you can get to it if you need to unlock the door and evacuate, but the key is not visible to a burglar looking through the glass of your door. Maybe keep this key out of sight on a hook.

Please be vigilant in watching your neighborhoods. You are the extended eyes and ears of the police. Report suspicious activity to the police immediately, including as much detail, such as exactly what is happening, descriptions of people and vehicles and any direction of travel.

Remember, regular neighborhood watch programs in your neighborhood are important, not only for crime prevention and crime trend purposes, but just for general fellowship with your neighbors. If you have any comments or questions, please call or email Officer John Ford at 626 355-1414 or jford@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us.

Plant a Wistaria Vine Today—Hold a Festival in 120 years! By Bill Peters

Sierra Madre's Annual Wistaria Festival is in the final planning stages by community business leaders at the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, the organization that plans and presents the festival each year. The Festival, which will be held Sunday, March 15, will include tours of the historic wistaria vine as well as arts and crafts booths and live music. Maybe you are thinking that you should plant a wistaria vine and hold your own festival. With a little planning you and your family could be the focus of a future wistaria festival in your backyard simply by following what Alice Brugman did in 1893: plan a wistaria vine. Because of Sierra Madre's keen weather and its long growing season, wistaria vines do particularly well here. We have proof. Each year thousands show up to tour the town's horticultural monster and enjoy a day-long celebration all dedicated to the 250 ton vine that extends over 43,560 square feet, an acre.

To get you on your way to your own festival, here are some tips on how to be ready for your own private wistaria festival in, say,

2129. First, locate a Chinese wistaria vine. Local garden nurseries are now beginning to stock these vines this month. Although Alice Brugman bought her one-gallon wistaria vine for 75 cents, today the Chinese wistaria can be purchased for around \$55 for a five-gallon sized plant, or larger. While that is quite a bit more than Mrs. Brugman paid in 1893, the larger, more mature plant offers guaranteed blooms from the very first year. Professional landscapers like David Beaulieu give sensible advice for your new vine. In his About.com article on Chinese wistaria plants he warns that you had better keep the vine away from the house since twining climbers can wind around any support for up to as much as 25 feet. The famed Sierra Madre wistaria, for example, has branches that now extend as much as 500 feet over its huge arbor.

To attain the maximum number of blossoms on your vine you will need advice on feeding and pruning, although at Armstrong Garden Center I was told that these plans are tolerant of everything from the vagaries of



weather and the bumbling of backyard gardeners. Planting in full-sun is required and you will need to locate more than an acre of land which we are certain any of our local real estate agents will be gleefully happy to help you with.

Once your vine is planted, you are on your way to quick success. These fast-growing vines cover areas quickly. Under the best conditions, wistaria vines can expand by feet per day during the height of the growing season. You and your family will enjoy the glorious springtime sweet smell from these ponderous blooms.

We hope, though, that you are an ordinary gardener and will put off planting your own vine until next year or later and rather elect to join with our community this, and every year, in celebration the Wistaria Festival to see for yourself what has been termed by Guinness Book of World Records the world's largest flowering plant.

Save Sunday, March 15 for Sierra Madre's Wistaria Festival.

PUSD Board Member to Speak at Kiwanis

The February 10 meeting of the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club will feature a presentation by Mr. Ed Honowitz discussing the Pasadena Unified School District. Mr. Honowitz is the PUSD Board member that represents the Sierra Madre area. He is running for re-election unopposed. His topic will be "Schools, The Community and You."

The meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 10 at noon at the Masonic Temple, 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. The public is invited. Lunch will be served. The cost is \$11 per person; reservations and exact change are required. For reservations, please contact Harriet Lyle at 355-6786 no later than noon the preceding Monday.

Inside This Week

Mudslides	Page 1
Calendar	Page 2
Around SGV	Page 3
Pasadena/Altadena	Page 4
Focus:	
Focus: Karlene Englert	Page 5
Education & Youth	Page 6
Opinion	Page 7
Legals	Page 8
The World Around Us	Page 9
Science & Health	Page 10
Food & Drink	Page 11
The Good Life	Page 12
Homes & Property	Page 13
Just For You	Page 14

Life is too short to drink bad coffee!
Come to Niko's
for a really good cup of coffee!

900 Valley View Ave ☘Pasadena/Sierra Madre's Border ☘ Corner of N. Michillinda and W. Montecito ☘ Phone: 626-510-6151



Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast
Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon: Rain Hi 60s Lows 40s
Tues: Sunny Hi 60s Lows 40s
Wed: Rain Hi 60s Lows 50s
Thur: Cloudy Hi 60s Lows 50s
Fri: Cloudy Hi 60s Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

“TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS”
SEASON OPENS”

On Friday, February 13, at 7:30 p.m., Kathy and Gary Symons will open the 2009 season of Sierra Madre Public Library’s popular armchair travel series, “Travelers and Collectors,” with a presentation entitled, “Mongolia and the Naadam Festival.” The Naadam Festival, though centuries old, now officially commemorates Mongolia’s 1921 freedom revolution, and is the country’s most beloved holiday. The gala celebration is marked by elaborate ceremonies featuring parades, dancers, athletes, equestrians, musicians, and three days of vigorous sporting competitions.

Travelers and Collectors is held on the second Friday of the month and runs from February through May. All programs start 7:30 p.m. and are held in the Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information and a schedule of upcoming programs, contact The Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, (626) 355-7186, or visit the Library’s website, www.cityofsierramadre.org. Travelers and Collectors is sponsored by The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library.

“LOVE A BOOK” PARTY FOR KIDS”

On Valentine’s Day, Saturday, February 14, at 2 p.m., the Sierra Madre Public Library is having a “Love a Book” party for kids in the Children’s Room. All school-age children are invited to this free program, which is one in a series of Sierra Madre’s One Book One City events celebrating Ray Bradbury’s novel, “Fahrenheit 451.” In addition to the planned activities and refreshments, a special feature of the party will be a display of “Books We Would Choose to Save,” selected by area schoolchildren. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, (626) 355-7186.

“FAHRENHEIT 451” CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

The Sierra Madre Library is sponsoring a creative writing contest based on Fahrenheit 451, the city’s One Book One City selection for 2009. Writers and poets of all ages are invited to create an essay or poem up to 500 words or a short story up to 3500 words based on themes contained in Ray Bradbury’s Sci-Fi classic. The First Place winner will receive a gift certificate to

Sierra Madre Books and will have their piece published in The Mountain Views-Observer and The Sierra Madre Weekly. The winning work will also be displayed at the Library during the month of March, along with other top entries.

Manuscripts may be submitted electronically to pbonnett@sierramadre.lib.ca.us or in person at the Library, beginning

January 12 and ending February 17 at 9:00 p.m. Winners will be announced the last week in February. Entries will not be returned, and winners will be published with permission of the authors. For further information, please contact the Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, (626) 355-7186, www.cityofsierramadre.org.



Call 626.836.8353
Fax 626.836.8373

Happy Valentine's Day

Where Your Community News Comes First

MountainViews-Observer

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 BE LOVE MINE	3 ECONOMIC STIMULUS SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING	4	5 Coordinating Council Meeting 11:30 YAC	6	7	
	10 CITY COUNCIL MEETING	11 ARTS COMMISSION 6:30 Council Chambers	12	13	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY	
15 Top Hat	16 PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY	17	18 TREE COMMISSION 7:00 Council Chambers	19 PLANNING COMMISSION 7:00 Council Chambers	20 39th WINE & CUISINE TASTING Alverno Villa	21
22	23	24 CITY COUNCIL MEETING	25 LIBRARY TRUSTEES 7:00 Council Chambers	26	27	28

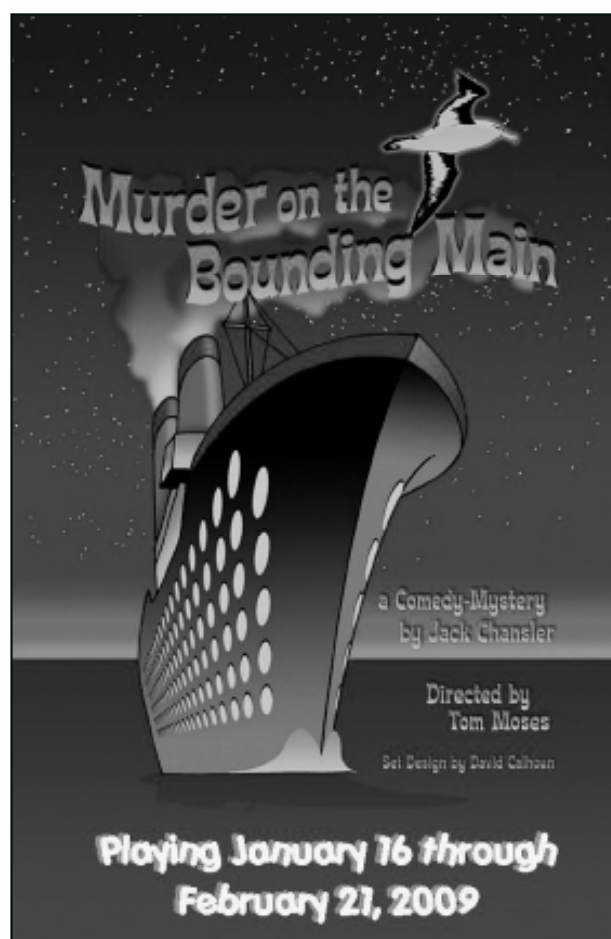
Sierra Madre Playhouse presents the World Premiere Of
“MURDER ON THE BOUNDING MAIN”
 Written by Jack Chansler -
 Directed by Tom Moses

This comedy-mystery is set in 1953 on the luxury liner THE BOUNDING MAIN. On board, Mason Armstrong, the famous gossip columnist is shot and killed. Several passengers who had no love for the man come to the surface. Ace detective Mordecai Pierce is pressed into service to solve the case. Match wits with the detective as he wisecracks his way through mayhem and mendacity. *From the people who brought you the screwball hit, BAD HEIR DAY!*

Fridays at 8pm:
 Feb. 13, 20
 Saturdays at 8pm:
 Feb. 7, 14, 21
 Sundays at 2:30pm:
 Feb. 8, 15

Regular Admission Prices:

\$20 Adult \$17 Seniors 65+
 \$17 Students under 18
 \$12 Children 12 and under
For reservations by phone, call 626-256-3809



The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library
 Invite you to
The 39th Wine and Cuisine Tasting

February 20, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Alverno Villa

Tickets \$60.00, available online at www.SierraMadreLibraryFriends.org or at the following Sierra Madre locations:

Sierra Madre Public Library	The Bottle Shop
Iris Intrigue	Savor The Flavor
Arnold's Frontier Hardware	Sierra Madre Books

Silent Auction • Fine Art • Magic Castle Magicians • Live Music • Domestic and International Wines • Fine Local Restaurants

REFLEXOLOGY CAN HELP!

Pain relief • promote healing • reduce stress • improve overall wellbeing

FootsmArts Reflexology
 Lic. #21422
 Despina Tsiknas-Arzuoman
 Certified Reflexologist
 Located in Sierra Madre
 (626) 355-3414

Call for information and visit our website
www.footsmarts-reflexology.com

Do you work long hours? Got a new job?

Let us take your dog for a walk!

Great with dogs! Reasonable rates!
 Call us today for a free consultation.

Wilson's Pet Care

626.833.4262

www.wilsonspetcare.com

“Hi, I’m Wilson”

Dog Walking

“In-Home” Pet Sitting

Pet Taxi

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Every Wednesday 3pm-7pm

Fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits from California family farms.

Specialty foods, vegetarian and vegan dishes, ethnic foods and hot food - Everything you'll find at the farmers market has been made or picked fresh, is pesticide-free and preservative-free.

Free public on Mariposa.

SERVING YOU SINCE 1949

GEM PLUMBING

Locally Owned & Operated

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING
 SALES, SERVICE &
 INSTALLATION

We'll Do It All

COPPER RE-PIPES
 FAUCETS • LEAK DETECTION
 KITCHEN AND BATH REMODELS
 DRAIN AND SEWER CLEANING • WATER
 HEATERS • WE TACKLE OLD FIXTURES

ALL MAJOR BRANDS

Emergency Service Available **355-3496**

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER American Express Cards

140 E. Montecito, Sierra Madre

State Contractor Lic. # 111308

REMEMBRANCES LUCIA M. EDWARDS

A celebration of the life of Lucia Edwards, who died Feb. 1, is scheduled for 10 a.m., Monday, Feb. 16, at St. Rita's Church. Lucia was a 50-year resident of Sierra Madre.



Lucia was born March 7, 1913, in Chicago. She was employed as a Registered Nurse.

Lucia moved to Pomona, Calif., in 1944 and was an Occupational Nurse at Kaiser Steel in Fontana.

In 1946, Lucia met and married the love of her life, Clyde Edwards, and they were together 48 years. He died in 1994.

She is survived by two daughters, Donna Young of Yorba Linda and Janet Hunter of Long Beach; three granddaughters, Jennifer, Diana and Kasia, and her sons-in-law, Roger Young and James Hunter.

Her family remembers her as a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

EDDIE LOGAN



Born in 1910, Eddie Logan passed away a few months shy of his 99th birthday on January 31, 2009.

Best known as the Shoe Shine Man at Santa Anita Race Track, Logan also was an important part of

African American Sports History.

In the late 1920's and early 30's, Eddie was a member of the Kansas City Monarchs, part of the Negro Baseball Leagues. The team was longest running franchise in Negro



The 1924 Kansas City Monarchs

League history. The League was formed so that Blacks could play organized ball before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1946.

Logan came to California in pursuit of professional boxing opportunities. However, he started working at Santa Anita on its' opening day, December, 1934 and continued to do so until January 3, 2009 when he suffered a stroke and seizure. See *Tribute To Eddie Logan, Page 10*.

CIVIC CLUB OFFERS EDUCATION AWARDS

Sierra Madre Civic Club announces sponsorship of its 2009 Education Award. Eligible to apply are 2009 graduating high school seniors who are either Sierra Madre residents or is a relative of a SMCC member.

Key points about each student to be considered by the Awards Committee include: volunteer activities, interests, hobbies, talents, educational plans and career interests. Also, about a person, place, event or combination of these which has made an impact on the life of the applicant or contribute to making a special or unique person.

Two letters of reference, one from a teacher or school advisor and one from an adult leader of volunteer activities or an employer, must be attached to the application.

To qualify for the award applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2009. These are to be sent to Awards Chair Marcia Bent, 541 San Gabriel Ct., Sierra Madre.

Monetary awards to those chosen will be presented at Civic Club's meeting, Thursday, May 14, 2009, 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Park Hart Senior Center, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Applications are available with local high school counselors or by contacting Bent at 626-355-5372. The Education Awards are consistent with the club's long tradition of supporting young people in their education and career pursuits. Phyllis Chapman, publicity, 626-355-3928 Marcia Bent, chair, 626-355-5372

Sierra Madre

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce announced that tickets for the shuttle to and from the Wistaria Vine from downtown during this year's Wistaria Festival, scheduled for March 15th, can now be purchased online using your major credit card or PayPal, by visiting WistariaFestival.com. For those who prefer the accepted biological spelling, you'll also be able to buy tickets by visiting WistariaFestival.com. Residents are encouraged to get their tickets early, as radio advertising begins Feb. 23rd, and it is anticipated that tickets will move fast once the commercials begin broadcasting. There are a limited number of tickets available.

Tickets are also available at the Chamber office, 37 N. Auburn Ave., Ste. 1, or by mail. To order by mail, send a check payable to the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, with your preferred viewing hour between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. as well as an alternate

Wistaria Tickets Now Available Online

time, and a self-addressed envelope (#10) with adequate postage, to "Wistaria Tickets," Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, 37 N. Auburn Ave., Ste. 1, Sierra Madre, CA 91024 Note: *The vine is on private property; and access is incompatible for people with limited mobility*; call 626-355-5111 for more information. *Wheelchairs, strollers are not allowed.* Tour Groups should contact the Chamber at 626-355-5111 for procedure.

Round-trip shuttle tickets purchased in advance are \$9, while tickets bought the day of the event will be \$10. The Wistaria Vine, located on private property at the north end of town, has been listed as the World's Largest Blossoming Plant by the Guinness Book of World Records as recently as 2007. Originally planted in 1894, the vine annually draws people from all over the world to Sierra Madre.

In addition to the tour of the vine, the Wistaria Festival features an arts and craft

fair in downtown Sierra Madre, with an expected 175 juried vendors displaying their wares on Sierra Madre Blvd and Baldwin Ave., which are closed down for the event. Live music is performed at multiple venues, and a Kids Fun Zone is set up in Memorial Park. Local non-profits also have booths downtown, some offering items for sale as fundraisers, others distributing information about their organization and its activities. In addition to the always available dining al fresco at local restaurants, there will be food booths in Memorial Park.

New to the festival this year will be a remote broadcast by KOLA 99FM, which will have a booth downtown featuring giveaways and prizes for festival-goers for two hours during the event. The Wistaria Festival will be held between 9am and 5pm, with the last bus up to the vine leaving downtown at 4pm.

Arcadia

It's Time For Mardi Gras!

An incredible celebration is planned for Methodist Hospital Foundation's Mardi Gras on Tuesday, February 24, and everyone is invited. The annual fundraiser is expected to pack Sirona's at Santa Anita Park and benefit The Campaign for Methodist Hospital.

"It's going to be a big bash with fabulous food and great music for dancing," said event chairman Lindburgh McPherson. "Our committee has worked endlessly to make this year's party the best ever."

Guests will sample culinary delights from top restaurants from Arcadia, Pasadena, Monrovia, San Gabriel and Sierra Madre while bidding on unique items in the silent auction. The R&B band Soulville will keep everyone moving – on or off the dance floor. The festivities will culminate a spectacular Mardi Gras parade led by the honorary king and queen, Shone and Sherry Wang.

Most importantly, amidst the fun and revelry, guests will be supporting the hospital's plan in creating The Next Generation of Care. The cornerstone of this plan is a new five-story patient care tower that is currently under construction. It will house a new expanded emergency department, medical and surgical inpatient beds, two new intensive care units, and a new pharmacy. The state of the art facility will also utilize advanced medical technology and information systems to provide exceptional care in a healing environment.



Preparing for this year's Mardi Gras are: Evelyn Greathouse, Mariette Salama, Cheryl Wolf, Methodist Hospital Foundation President Sue Francis and Mardi Gras Chair Lindburgh McPherson

"So if you're ready to celebrate Mardi Gras big this year and help a worthy cause, come join us," said McPherson. The event calls for business attire, but feathers are encouraged. For more event tickets or more information, please call (626) 898-8888.

Duarte

Duarte Has Good News In Bad Times

Despite the need for cutbacks and uncertain state funding, The Mayor sees a promising future.

Duarte Mayor John Fasana speaking on the State of the City had some upbeat news for the more than 100 business and civic leaders assembled at a Duarte Chamber of Commerce sponsored luncheon at City of Hope Cooper Auditorium. Duarte "continues to be blessed with substantial economic growth" despite the fact that we are experiencing "the greatest national challenge since the city was incorporated more than 50 years ago," he said.

Fasana noted that Duarte retailers are doing relatively well. City of Hope is continuing to grow with two new medical facilities scheduled to open this year. The Michael Amini Transfusion Medicine Center, a 60,000 square foot facility that will expand City of Hope's transfusion medicine programs, will open on April 9. The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center for Cancer Immunotherapeutics and Tumor Immunology, a five-story, 108,000 square foot facility, will open this fall. Also on the horizon is the April 2009 opening of a 48,000 square foot Best Buy, with 9,000 square feet of in-line shops adjacent to the Foothill Freeway at the northeast corner of Central Ave. and Mountain. A 15,000 square foot Fresh and Easy market will have its grand opening on Feb. 18 in a shopping center at the northwest corner of Huntington Dr. and Mt. Olive Dr.

Construction continues on a new 34,000 square foot Maryvale Family Resource and Child Education Center at the southeast corner of Huntington Dr. and Crestfield Dr. that will provide expanded day care, family counseling and related support services for the community when it opens this fall.

"Our fees and taxes are lower than many neighboring cities which places us in a strong competitive position as the economy moves to recovery," said Fasana.

Two new housing projects are continuing at a slower pace, but Phase 1 of a 51-home development on Huntington Dr. continues to sell and 4 of 15 luxury Las Lomas Estates homes are under construction on the former Atalla Ranch property in the Duarte foothills.

The Duarte Redevelopment Agency has entered into an ongoing Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with Lowe Development



Duarte Mayor John Fasana, Chamber President Bob Cruz, of Southern California Gas Co., and Duarte Unified School District Board President, Frank Figueroa at State of the City, State of the School District talks, hosted by the Duarte Chamber of Commerce.

Corporation for a Transit Oriented Development project located at the northwest corner of Highland Ave. and Duarte Rd., across the street from City of Hope and adjacent to the proposed Gold Line station. The 20-acre project is planned to feature approximately 1.5 million square feet of developable space including a hotel, office space, retail, restaurants, and housing. Fasana noted it could also serve as a potential location for the long sought new Duarte Library and a Public Safety facility.

A Bit Of Local History From George Maurer

Here is the real story on the metal sheets in the Sierra Madre and Arcadia hillside that were recently declared a hazard and a crew was being brought in to remove them.

A local newspaper recently said it was believed that the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) installed some metal mats in the Sierra Madre/Arcadia hillside following a brush fire in the hills. It stated, because they were not maintained they were now creating a hazard and needed to be removed.

The real story is much more fascinating. Following a severe brush fire about 17 years ago, county engineers held a conference outlining the steps they would be taking to protect residential streets from damage from mud slides.

They said they would be building heavy-duty wooden barricades on Orange, Hermosa, Skyland, Fern and many other locations to help in diverting the mud. They said they were convinced there would also be some real 'sluffing' of soil along Mt. Wilson Trail and some of the 'outcroppings'. They were apologetic, but said they had neither the resources nor man-power to deal with it and had to concentrate on saving residential properties.

Among those in attendance was Sierra Madre volunteer firefighter, National Forest Service ranger the late Tom Burres, who was familiar with the problem and decided to tackle the situation.

He somehow found out that some metal 'mats' used by the Navy Seabees and the Army Engineers to build airstrips in the South Pacific during World War II, had been declared surplus. In the South Pacific and other locations, they were locked together to form the surface over the sand to prevent the aircraft from sinking into the sand during take-offs and landings.

Somehow he arranged to get them released. Using his own truck and a borrowed city truck, he went and obtained all that were available and brought them to Sierra Madre.

He enlisted the help of the late Ambrose Zarro, the 70-plus senior citizen that was well-known as the "Trailmaster" to all who

walked Mt. Wilson Trail. Ambrose was a natural as he traveled from Compton every day to work on the trail and keep it passable for almost a decade.

Between them they enlisted some local youth and installed those mats in what they considered critical locations. Using a post-driver and post hole digger they planted some heavy-duty pipes in the ground and anchored the mats to them. These mats did their job and held for many, many years. The mats had been painted with a bright yellow primer and up until recently could be seen from the valley on sunny days.

Unfortunately, both Ambrose and Tom passed away and no one picked up the task of maintenance. Because of this neglect the mats deteriorated and became a hazard as they started sliding downhill with the mud they had been designed to hold.

Few locals know the story behind the mats and have wondered for many years what it was in our hillsides that stood out on sunny days. In reality they were a tribute to two real heroes that took the initiative to protect our Mt. Wilson Trail and our hillside from damage following the dangerous combination of fires and rain.

Tom lost his job with the Forest Service because of the time he spent away from his Forest Service job, to protect the city. He went on to follow his original training as an electrician. He built an unusual house on the corner of Sycamore and Las Rocas, swapping his trade with other tradesmen, that had an observation deck that overlooked the entire valley.

Ambrose had a partially-disabled wife and would get her settled in for the morning then travel to Sierra Madre to work on the trail. Many days it was strenuous work to remove large boulders and brush that blocked the trail. A family on Mira Monte would permit him to use their shower to clean up before he returned home. The real stories of two real-time heroes that served us well before passing on.



redwhite+bluezz

WINE · GRILL · JAZZ CLUB

L.A.'s Best Tasting Jazz Club

THANK YOU
Arcadia and Pasadena
for voting us

BEST
JAZZ CLUB

HAPPY HOUR
LUNCH

MON-SAT 11AM-7PM

WINE SHOP
DAILY 11AM-5PM

VOTED BEST
SUNDAY BRUNCH

BRUNCH+
ALL THAT JAZZ

EVERY SUNDAY
10AM-2PM

CUTTING-EDGE
AMERICAN CUISINE

EPIC WINE+ARTISAN CHEESE

JAM SESSION EVERY THURSDAY

PRIVATE EVENTS+BENEFITS

LIVE JAZZ EVERY NIGHT · NO COVER · DINNER DAILY AT 5PM

redwhitebluezz.com | 626.792.4441

70 SOUTH RAYMOND AVENUE · OLD PASADENA CA 91105



Neighborhood Green Fair a Success



By Teresa Baxter

According to event organizers, the First Annual Neighborhood Green Festival was attended by well over a thousand local residents converging on the grounds of the Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church last Saturday.

Environmentally minded vendors offered healthy foods, solar power systems, compact florescent and LED lighting solutions, home energy audits, electric cars, natural and organic products and dozens of other items designed to help Pasadena residents save money, and save the environment at the same time.

Exhibitors that day included presentations

Also among the crowds were promoters for the soon to be released documentary about alternative energy entitled "Fuel". In fact, the film was recognized as the winner of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award for Best Documentary.

"Fuel takes you on an adventure that tells the story about the disproportionate use of petroleum in this country and internationally," said promoter Valerie Preston. "It's about the incredibly ill effects that it produces and the repression of alternative energies."

The attention getter of the day was Dr. Cheryl Revkin, a member of the church who also serves on the Green Committee of Silver Lake, an organization that is

Cell Tower Ban Public Hearing Extended



By Dean Lee

After two solid hours of debate including numerous comments from the public over restricting wireless facilities, the city council Monday night put off making any decision, instead asking city staff to come back with a matrix comparing other city's ordinances as well as drafting the most aggressive ban legally possible against ground mounted cell towers.

The issue will be heard again Feb. 23 at the council's next regular meeting.

Councilmember Chris Holden asked that they compare their proposed ordinances with a San Diego one that was recently challenged in court and won.

"I want to look an ordinance that has been tested in the courts, that is pressing the envelope a bit in certain areas," he said. "There might be something we want to incorporate."

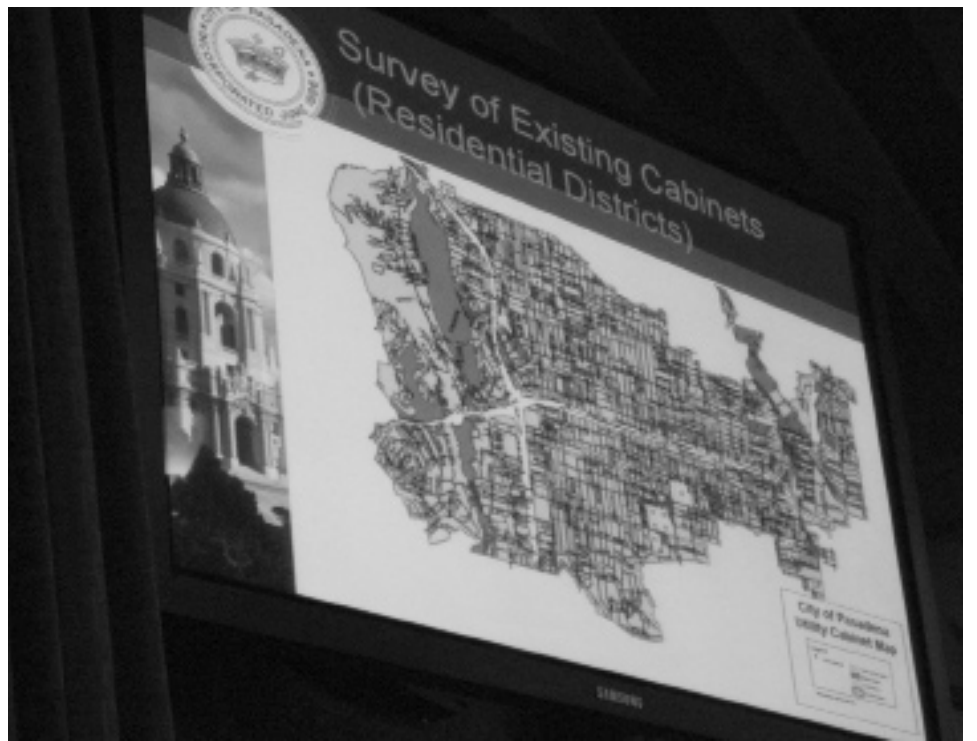
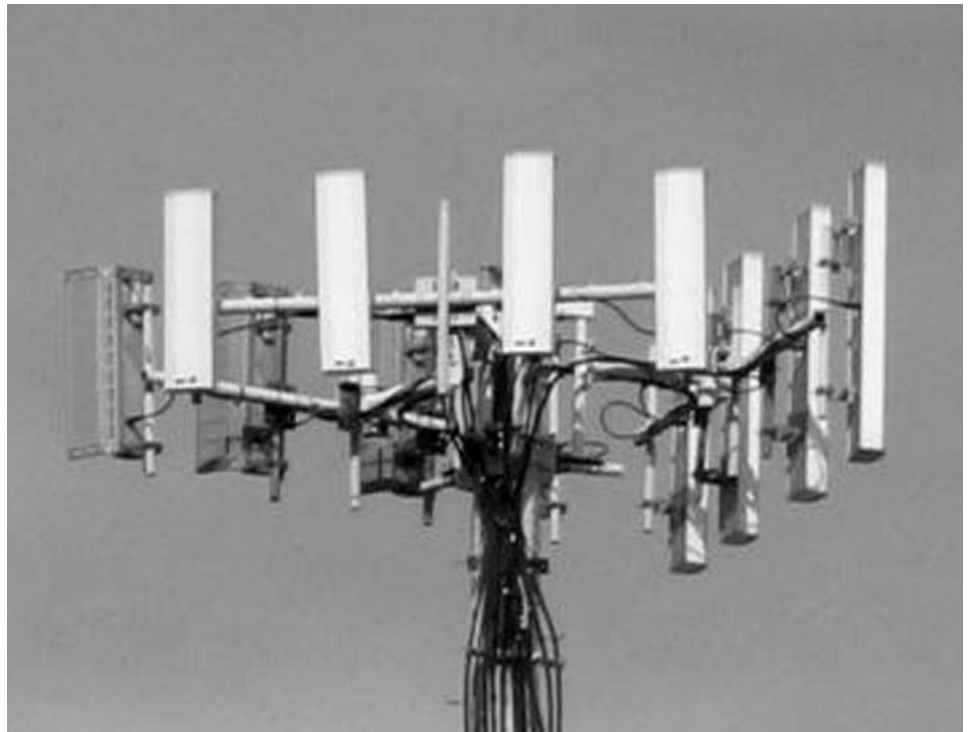
He also suggested looking at other issues brought up by the council such as "signal gap," and the posting of bonds for the removal of equipment if abandoned.

The San Diego County ordinance prohibits such things as non-camouflaged poles in residential and rural areas. It also applies height and setback restrictions for towers, requires submitting a "visual impact analysis," and requires a company to apply through a zoning board to obtain a permit.

The ninth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals ruled in September that reasonable cell-tower zoning regulations are proper and should be upheld. Cities cannot however prevent companies from providing cell-phone services or create signal gaps under the Telecommunications Act.

Both Council members, Steve Madison and Victor Gordo questioned the aggressiveness of their proposed amendments. Gordo also asked to proceed in closed session something City Attorney Michele Bagneris said they would have to justify.

"I feel a little bit hamstrung because I don't want to ask in public session what areas we could be more aggressive," he said. "And what areas, if we were to be more aggressive, could be defensible."



Bagneris explained they would have to look at threatened litigation or other potential lawsuits as a possible basis for a closed session.

Gordo also made reference to a previous situation in 2004 where Altrio Communications had left abandoned equipment after going out of business. He said a \$50,000 retainer left by them was not enough to cover the cost of removing unsightly TV boxes and likened the situation to possible abandoned cell-towers or power boxes for them. Staff said an annual fee would be applied for joint use such as attaching towers to a streetlight; the fee could then be used for removal if necessary.

Senior Planner Jennifer Paige-Saeki gave an overview of the city panned code amendments. She started by explaining the council's adoption of an interim urgency ordinance in June 2007, prohibiting the issuance of permits for all ground mounted commercial wireless facilities in residential districts.

During public comment residents made clear that any idea for a ban came from them after their concerns over a permit submitted by AT&T

"I Want to remind everyone here that the idea for a moratorium, the idea of extending a moratorium, the idea of an ordinance, the idea of getting outside consultation all came from this side of the podium that way," said Dr. Raymond Quan gesturing with his hands toward the council.

A number of people speaking were part of Save the Hill Neighborhood Alliance a community group dedicated to stopping a cell tower on Ave 64 which they did.

This time last year an AT&T spokesperson said the company had withdrawn its application for the tower.

Quan also said he opposed the city's plans calling them guideline to follow for companies to get "anything they want."

"What we need are some kinds of reasons to deny these kinds of applications and not just say do all these things and we can't stop you," he said. "Yes we can."

He went on to say that on public right-a-ways companies should have to justify why they need a tower something the council agreed to look into.

A number of speakers, some from other nearby cities, alleged the cell phone carriers are misleading, lie and exaggerate data. Many said the city cannot trust what they submit.

Dale Trader, former chair of the Neighborhood Coalition, said they should take into consideration the view of the mountains. He said nobody wants to look at a cell tower instead of the foothills.

Paige-Saeki also said most of their proposed regulations deal with title 12 putting utilities on a public right-a-way. Some of the requirements include only allowing cell towers to co-locate with a maximum seven feet height limit above any existing pole. The facilities are also not allowed on poles less than 25 feet. Only one facility can be placed in front of each residential frontage. There are a total of 16 restrictions proposed for right-a-ways.

Staff also proposed several updates to the existing standards that regulate cell towers on private property including not allowing them at all in residentially zoned neighborhoods.

Councilmember Margaret McAustin asked about commercial zones next to residential. Staff said regulations mandate that a cell tower must be set back the distance it is tall away from a neighborhood, "a 50 foot tall tower must be 50 feet away from residential property," they explained.

There is also a 500 foot distance requirement between towers something many wanted extended to 1,000 feet. The maximum allowed height for a pole was also limited by 10 feet from 60 feet to 50 feet.

Paige-Saeki said unique to the city was the creation of an opportunities map that encouraged co-location on city owned property including PUSD land. Director of Planning and Development Richard Bruckner said the idea was to give incentives to get the towers off the right-a-ways. He also said it was up the schools to determine where equipment would be put.

City Manager Michael Beck said on average cell phone companies pay \$18,000 to \$25,000 a year for the placement of a tower depending on their coverage map. Some in the audience encouraged the idea as a way for the city to make money.

Trees on Colorado Boulevard, Leaf Blowers on the Council's Agenda

According to Pasadena Information Officer, Ann Erdman, At its meeting last week, the council considered rescinding a contract awarded to Grave Building Maintenance Company last month for the removal of 35 ficus and carrotwood trees on Colorado Boulevard between Los Robles and Lake and the planting of 77 ginkgo trees and Mexican palm trees. Following a staff presentation and public comment, the council did

not reach consensus and tabled the issue until Feb. 9. On Monday night the city manager will make an amended recommendation, including the suggestion that the removal of some of the ficus trees be decided in the future after analysis by urban foresters.

As water conservation has taken hold in Southern California over the past 20 years, leaf blowers have taken over when hosing down driveways and sidewalks left off. The number of complaints

from Pasadena residents about excessive noise from leaf blowers has increased dramatically over the last few years. The council's Public Safety Committee recently reviewed Pasadena's leaf blower regulations and asked staff in the Pasadena Public Health Department to develop a plan for reducing noise and other environmental impacts of leaf blowers. This plan will be presented to the council on Monday night and they will consider approving it.



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know?
Students and Styrofoam - Part I

By Pat Birdsall

I was perusing some environmental websites, and on The Green Guide, I saw a question posed by a mother in Louisville, Kentucky that could be applied to “Anywhere,” USA... “My son would like to convince the head of his school not to use Styrofoam in the cafeteria. Do you have any information that he could use to

bolster his case?”

The Green Guide’s response (in part):

There are two primary problems posed by using polystyrene plastic foam (“Styrofoam”) in cafeterias.

1. It contributes to our nation’s burgeoning mountains of waste. According to The New York Times, the waste volume for all plastics (including polystyrene) is growing very rapidly, from close to nothing in 1960 to about 25 million tons per year in 2000.

2. Polystyrene is made from hazardous chemicals and may leach traces of these substances out into foods and drinks. Studies have found that styrene tends to migrate more quickly when foods or drinks are hot and high in fat. Although there is not yet enough information to know whether the small amounts from food containers are enough to cause health effects, it’s probably wise to avoid unnecessary exposures.

Options for changing the cafeteria... Does your school have the capacity to wash dishes? If so, you may want to try and institute the use of reusable utensils, plates and cups. Your school’s head of operations or head of maintenance, or the State Department of Health, should be able to tell you what options for reusable lunch ware are permitted by your state’s health laws.

If washing utensils is not a possibility, you certainly can consider healthier and more sustainable choices of disposable items. Plastics #1 and #2 are recyclable and don’t leach chemicals into food. You can also opt for paper products, especially those made from post-consumer recycled paper. *Treecycle* offers a complete line of food service containers and cups made from unbleached items, some with recycled content. *Seventh Generation* offers recycled paper plates. You can talk to the person at your school who orders supplies about the paper lunch ware options which may exist from their current supplier or other available suppliers. After you have garnered more information about viable options, the next steps will be outlined in Part II... Next week.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

Brought to you by:

Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council (SMEAC)
P.O. Box 85
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085



Fire Safe Council
“Announcements and Observations”

The FREE curbside “Chipper Day” program for residents living in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone is underway.

At the February 2nd meeting many in attendance signed up to participate after learning more of the particulars for this newly organized program.

You can still participate by calling the Fire Safe Council office 355-0741 and requesting a registration packet. If you have already received a packet it is not too late to mail it in. The program provides a savings of up to 20% on the costs of chipping and removing the chips from your property.

The grant for this “Chipper Day” program comes from the California State Fire Safe Council through funding from the United States Forest Service.

The next meeting of the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council will be March 2, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the City Council chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

For further information, call Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council: 355-0741. Or e-mail at smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, January 25th, to Saturday January 31st, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 288 calls for service.

Sunday, January 25th:

8:19 PM – Arrest, Suspended/Revoked driver’s license, Auburn Ave. and Carter Ave. Officer stopped a motorist after receiving a report of a suspected drunk driver. Further investigation revealed the motorist was lost and unfamiliar with the area. A DMV records check revealed the motorist’s driver’s license was suspended/revoked. The driver was arrested for the misdemeanor violation and released on a written promise to appear.

Monday, January 26th:

8:26 AM – Arrest, Suspended/Revoked driver’s license, 600 block of W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Officer stopped a motorist for a traffic violation. A DMV records check revealed the motorist’s driver’s license was suspended/revoked. The driver was arrested for the misdemeanor violation and released on a written promise to appear.

1:39 PM – Commercial Burglary, Bethany school, 100 block N. Baldwin Ave. Approximately \$245.00 in U.S. currency was stolen from a cashbox, from a classroom. The burglary occurred sometime between Friday, 1/23/09 and Monday, 1/26/09.

Tuesday, January 27th:

8:41 AM – Arrest, Unlicensed Driver, 210 Freeway (on-ramp) and Arboleda St., Pasadena. Officer stopped a motorist for a traffic violation and discovered the driver did not have a driver’s license. The driver was arrested for the misdemeanor violation and released on a written promise to appear.

Wednesday, January 28th:

11:47 AM – Arrest, Unlicensed Driver, 600 block of W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Officer stopped a motorist for a traffic violation and discovered the driver did not have a driver’s license. The driver was arrested for the misdemeanor violation and released on a written promise to appear.

Thursday, January 29th:

1:20 AM – Arrest, Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Baldwin Ave. and Suffolk Ave. Officer stopped a motorist for suspicion of driving under the influence after observing several traffic violations. The driver was arrested for DUI after failing a series of field sobriety tests, and was transported to Pasadena Police jail facility for booking and housing.

9:59 AM – Arrest, Attempted Auto Burglary, 100 E. Laurel St. Officers responded to the location after an alert resident saw two men wandering through a carport looking inside parked cars. The resident copied the men’s vehicle license plate and called police. Officers later saw the suspect’s car and followed it to Lake Ave. and Orange Grove Ave., in Pasadena. Pasadena PD officers stopped the occupants for SMPD officers who developed probable cause to arrest both men for attempted auto burglary. Officers found what appeared to be stolen property and fraudulent identification inside the suspects’ vehicle. The men were then transported to Pasadena Police jail for booking and housing.

11:53 AM – Vandalism, 200 block S. Mountain Trail Ave. Unknown suspect(s) damaged a decorative pond in the front yard of the residence. This was the second incident at the same location in a period of a week. The dollar value of the damages was not readily available.

11:48 PM – Arrest, Curfew Violation, Carter Ave. and Grove St. Officers responded to a disturbance call near the area of Bailey Canyon Park. Officers found and arrested a 17-year-old male juvenile for a curfew violation, after the juvenile was also reportedly trespassing on private property. The male juvenile was cited on a written promise to appear and released his parent.

Friday, January 30th:

7:31 AM – Commercial Burglary, Best Buy Drugs, 100 block N. Baldwin Ave. The business owner arrived to work and discovered that someone had forced their way into the business. Suspect(s) stole several prescription medications and fled the scene. The case is currently under investigation.

10:38 AM – Theft of Identity, 500 block Auburn Ave. The resident reported being the victim of identity theft after discovering that someone fraudulently used her credit card information to purchase merchandise online. The fraudulent activity started in November of 2008.

7:11 PM – Arrest, Business License Required, 00 block Holdman Ave. Officers responded to the area regarding a door-to-door solicitor. Officers found the solicitor nearby and obtained evidence that he was selling magazines without a Sierra Madre business license. The man was arrested and transported to the police station. The man was booked, cited and released on a written promise to appear.

10:09 PM – Arrest, Unlicensed Driver, 300 block of W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Officer stopped a motorist for a traffic violation and discovered the driver did not have a driver’s license. The driver was arrested for the misdemeanor violation and released on a written promise to appear.

Saturday, January 31st:

10:26 AM – Arrest, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, 100 block of N. Baldwin Ave. The Code Enforcement Officer was warning a business owner about watering the sidewalk, a municipal code violation. The business owner then sprayed the officer with water and thrust a shovel toward her. Officers responded and arrested the man. He was transported him to Pasadena Police jail for booking and housing.

12:07 PM – Grand Theft, 300 block E. Laurel Ave. The resident reported the theft of several items from the backyard of the home. The theft has been a recurring problem that has spanned over a three week period. The investigation is on-going, and there no current dollar value of the loss.

A Weekly Spotlight on
Sierra Madre Volunteers



Karlene Englert

Karlene Englert - Faithful Volunteer



Photo by Bill Coburn

Everyone says it: “This town would have a difficult time without volunteers. Look at our Volunteer Fire Department. Look at the Library.”

Karlene Englert was on a roll recently and voiced that common Sierra Madre opinion: lots of jobs wouldn’t get done without the capable and willing volunteers.

When Karlene’s three sons were young, she moved, as a volunteer, among their schools and activities: Community Nursery School, Sierra Mesa School, to name a few. “Where my children were involved, I was involved.”

Karlene was on the board of the Pasadena Boys’ Choir and Parent Teachers Association in Azusa (where she lived for 16 years).

Karlene is a 38-year member of Sierra Madre Civic Club and has been 1st vice-president, membership chair, committee chair for feeding the homeless with Foothill Unity. She’s been on the Mt. Wilson

Trail Race Committee, docent for the Wistaria Fete, was on the Auxiliary of the earlier Sierra Madre Nursing Center, and is a Red Hatter. What do Red Hatters do? “Absolutely nothing but have fun.” And that’s a volunteer job.

Karlene’s volunteering at Sierra Madre Woman’s Club has lasted for half a decade. She’s been on the Board of Directors, House chair, Luncheon chair, and a member of the Tuesday Crew to assist with preparing clothing donations for sale at the Thrift Shop.

Karlene was born in Peoria, IL and traveled west with her family in 1951. She’s a graduate of PCC (an AA degree), and she and Jim were married in 1958. They had three sons, two now living in Washington State and one in LaVerne. She also has six grandsons.

Karlene has lived in Sierra Madre, off and on, since 1960.

“I’m grateful for friendships and I volunteer to keep the good relationships...There’s a comradeship...They depend on me...Once you start volunteering, it snowballs. You just never quit.”

Karlene Englert. She’s always there.

Volunteers are needed to help in a wide range of activities in Sierra Madre. Please contact De Alcorn at 626-355-4793 or dalcorn@cityofsierramadre.com for more information.

Current Volunteer Opportunities

Clerical
Tutors-Middle and High School
Youth Sports Coaches
Senior Services Desk
Senior Fitness Instructors
Handyman
Manning of Emergency Operations Center
Landscape Maintenance
Intern - Civil Engineering
City Web Site
Assemble New Library Patron Packets
Rewind Videos
Maintain Friend’s Library Garden
Library Interior Housekeeping

General Plan Committee
Canyon Plan Committee
Green Committee
Fire Department Volunteers
Police Administrative Assistant
Communications Assistant
Crime Prevention Aide
Chaplains
Speed Monitors
Crosswalk Monitors
Identity Theft Investigator
Criminal Justice Professional for Staff Training
Background Investigator
Emergency Operations Special Needs

GET OUT! GET ACTIVE! VOLUNTEER!
BE A SIERRA MADRE CITY
COMMISSIONER!

We want you to be a part of our City Team!

Volunteer to Serve on a City Commission

We are looking for motivated, enthusiastic, creative, and friendly volunteers to serve on the following Commissions:

- Community Services
- Tree Advisory
- Senior Community

For an application, visit www.cityofsierramadre.com
For more information please call (626) 355-7135

COTTAGE FOR RENT

Small cottage in Sierra Madre, CA. Best for a single occupant - 520 sq. ft. A great location in Southern California! Great view - San Gabriel foothills, Lots of trees and it’s a healthy community!! Available February 13th @ \$1600 / month.

HELP WANTED
Circulation /
Distribution Manager

10-15 Hours Per Week
DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIRED

Territory: San Gabriel Valley

Contact Joan:
(626) 325-3111



Schools Are In Crisis Says State Superintendent

Story and Photo By Teresa Baxter

State Superintendent Jack O'Connel made the trip from Sacramento last Wednesday to address Los Angeles County superintendents about the state budget crisis and how it will affect area schools.

"The status of California public schools is precarious and we really are teetering," said O'Connel. "There are many decisions that are going to be made in Sacramento and in the local school districts that I believe will determine the immediate future of our public school system."

A recent report by Education Week shows that California ranks 47th in the nation in per-pupil funding. The \$3.5 billion in cuts made last year have led to larger class sizes, more than 10,000 layoffs of teachers and other educational staff, and the further elimination of art, music and career technical programs.

O'Connel urged the superintendents to strongly oppose budget proposals that cut an additional \$10.8 billion from schools over the next 18 months. He also urged opposition to any manipulation of Proposition 98, the states minimum school funding law, and the current proposals to take \$7 billion from schools that would never be repaid, which is in direct violation of the constitutional guarantee.

"This crisis has compelled all of us to think differently," he said. "I know we're asking a lot while the state is in a cash crisis... but just like the fact that many of our parents moved to this country and made sacrifices for their children, I sincerely believe our citizens are prepared to make similar sacrifices."



PUSD Superintendent Diaz, State Superintendant Jack O'Connel answer questions on the financial status of our schools

ST. RITA'S HOSTS INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Submitted by Chairperson Ana Uyemura
Photo by Chris Bertrand

As you may know, the Girl Scouts of America is a large organization for girls from kindergarten through 12th grade. It was established by Juliette Low on March 12, 1912. It has been a tradition with the Girl Scouts to celebrate International Day for more than a century.

The Girl Scouts have been going strong at St. Rita for 37 years and for most of those years they have celebrated International Day. We have been blessed in the last 18 to 20 years to be able to celebrate it at St. Rita's O'Malley Hall, which belongs to St. Rita. All our Pastors, past and present have been big supporters of this event and other events we celebrate with the St. Rita's troops only.

At the present time, St Rita's has troops starting with Daisies in Kindergarten, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes and Seniors, but we celebrate International Day with troops from Sierra Madre school and some from Pasadena and Altadena.

For International Day, each troop represents a different country. A description of the country is given. Usually a dance from the country is performed with the girls wearing a typical costume from the country and a typical dish from the country with samples for everybody rounds out the representation of the country chosen. The goal is to celebrate the diversity and rich traditions of many cultures.

All together we had about 126 girls participating in last Saturday's, January 31, 2009, International Day.



La Salle Awards Alcorn Scholarship



Brother Michael Sanderl, FSC, '92, Trustee, and Principal Patrick Bonacci, AFSC, flank Julia Barrero and her mother.



How Does Fake Steak Sound For Dinner?

By Trisha Collins

Throughout the years, technology has made some pretty big advancements. There's the iPod, TiVo, cloned animals--oh yes, cloned animals. Science has made it to the point where actual animals are being cloned. And not just lab rats and mice; animals people like to consume, like pigs, cows, and sheep. The most outrageous part of it all is, these clones are being sold without public notice in our very own grocery stores.

Crazy, isn't it? I'll bet someone out there is eating a clone-burger and has no idea. I can't speak for anyone else, but I'm not too comfortable with eating meat that wasn't grown naturally. Just the possibility of my body processing that of a clone is enough to make me cringe.

If stores are selling cloned meat, why isn't it labeled? You would think that this type of thing would be on the nutrition facts or under the "ingredients" section. Well, there's the obvious reason why it's not: money. Companies and stores know that most people would turn away from the sight of cloned meat, and therefore ruin their profits. Now, they can't have that! Although the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approves cloned meat as safe to eat, I can't help but wonder how thorough their analysis was. How much meat was carefully scanned and processed? It's not as if the FDA hasn't failed us before. If they had been doing their job, we'd know about the e-coli breakouts in vegetables before massive amounts of people got sick.

How can you avoid eating cloned meat? With no labels, it's nearly impossible. You can always count on organics, however, to be all-natural (literally). I feel that with all the troubles of the world, science could focus its efforts a little more on improving our daily lives and a little less on achieving the perfect "fake steak".



COFFEE and CONVERSATION

with
PUSD SCHOOL BOARD
CANDIDATE

SCOTT PHELPS

Come meet Scott and hear about his unique vision for the PUSD. Bring your questions!

STEAMERS in

Sierra Madre

142 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

February 17th, 2009 8am - 9am

Hosted by SMS parent and founder of Learning Works Charter School, Mikala Rahn

Vote March 10th!

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3463 Head of School: Ann M. Gillick
E-mail address: agillick@alverno-hs.org

Arcadia High School

180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: David L. Vannasdall

Arroyo Pacific Academy

41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca,
(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Barnhart School

240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588 Head of School: Joanne Testa Cross
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.com

Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenebuhl
E-mail address: jml@bcsllions.org

Carden of the Foothills School

429 Wildrose Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016 626/358-9414
626/358-5164 fax office@cardenofthefoothills.com

The Gooden School

192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-2410 Head of School: Patty Patano
website: www.goodenschool.org

LaSalle High School

3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951 Principal: Patrick Bonacci
website: www.lasallehs.org

Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2000, email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Norma Coombs Alternative School

2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759 Principal: Dr. Vanessa Watkins
E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.us

Odyssey Charter School

725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001
(626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 798-8901 Principal: Dr. Derick Evans
website: www.pasadenahigh.org

Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981 website: www.pusd@pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School

322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-9028 Principal: Joanne Harabedian
website: www.st-rita.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School

141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
Contact person: Garrett Newsom, Asst. Principal
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Weizmann Day School

1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 797-0204
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School

300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981
Website: www.pusd@pusd.us



AHS Notes & Notices

By Janice Ma, Associated Student Body
Publicity Commissioner 2008-2009

Tardy Sweeps:

In an effort to curb the number of tardies, the AHS Administration has begun conducting tardy sweeps at the beginning of individual class periods each day, such that any student who is not in his or her classroom when the tardy bell rings receives a lunch detention. This has been going on for 3 weeks, and thusfar, has reduced the number of tardies per day by nearly 50%. The AHS Administration & Staff are very pleased with the results, which reiterate the importance of being on time to class everyday.

Recycling Competition: ASB hosted its 2nd recycling competition amongst the homerooms this past week, in an effort to promote the habit of recycling amongst the student body. The first competition yielded a grand total of 394 pounds.

1st Annual Student Creative Expression Contest

Arcadia: History Lives Here - Sponsored by Arcadia Historical Society

The Arcadia Historical Society is proud to present a new annual contest open to any and all students living or attending public or private schools in Arcadia. Students are asked to submit their own original work about Arcadia's history in the form of an essay, poem, illustration, photography, or performance. First, second, and third place winners in each of the three categories of Elementary School, Middle School, and High School, as determined by a panel of Historical Society judges, will receive cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$150 each. Winners and other selected entries will be on exhibit at the Arcadia Historical Museum March 28 - May 9. Brochures with details of the contest have been distributed to all public schools. To pick up a form, contact the Historical Society at (626) 446-8512. All entries must be submitted by Feb. 27. Winners will be announced on April 3.

Contact: Arcadia Historical Society: 626-446-8512 or Scott Hettrick, e-mail: hreporter@aol.com / cell: 626-485-8783 or Carol Libby, e-mail: clibby91007@yahoo.com

MountainViews-Observer

Publisher/ Editor
Susan Henderson

City Editor
Dean Lee

Director Of Sales & Marketing

Ann Luke
(626) 325-3111

Art Director
Allison Kirkham

Photography
Jacqueline Truong
Lina Johnson

Contributors
Teresa Baxter
Pat Birdsall
Bob Eklund
Jeff Brown
Stuart Tolchin
Kim Clymer-Kelley
Christopher Nyerges
Peter Dills
Hail Hamilton
Rich Johnson
Chris Bertrand
Virginia Hoge
Mary Carney
La Quetta Shamblee
Glenn Lambdin
Greg Wellborn
Ralph McKnight
Trish Collins

Editorial Cartoonist
Ann Cleaves

Webmaster
John Avery
Advertising Inquiries
Contact:

ANN LUKE
626-325-3111

PATRICIA PLUNKETT
626-818-2698

MountainViews-Observer (formerly Mountain View News) has been adjudicated as a newspaper of General Circulation for the County of Los Angeles in Court Case number GS004724: for the City of Sierra Madre; in Court Case GS005940 and for the City of Monrovia in Court Case No. GS006989 and is published every Friday at 31C East Montecito, Sierra Madre, California, 91024. All contents are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without the express written consent of the publisher. All rights reserved. All submissions to this newspaper become the property of the MountainViews-Observer and may be published in part or whole. *Opinions and views expressed by the writers printed in this paper do not necessarily express the views and opinions of the publisher or staff of the MountainViews-Observer.* MountainViews-Observer is wholly owned by Grace Lorraine Publications, Inc. and reserves the right to refuse publication of advertisements and other materials submitted for publication.

All letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to:
MountainViews - Observer
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl. #327
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
Phone: 626-355-2737
Fax: 626-609-3285
email: mvoobserver@aol.com

MountainViews-Observer
Mission Statement
The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.



War Crimes Petition

By Hail Hamilton

Recently I found this December 19, 2008 post by Bob Fertik. It says better than I can what needs to be done by the Obama Administration to right the wrongs committed by the Bush Administration. As I said in a recent editorial, Mr. Ferik's petition demands that Bush and his cronies be investigated and prosecuted for War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity.

"Dear Attorney General-Designate Eric Holder,

"We the undersigned citizens of the United States hereby formally petition you to appoint a Special Prosecutor to investigate and prosecute any and all government officials who have participated in War Crimes.

"These crimes are being euphemistically referred to as "abusive interrogation techniques" by such respected figures as Senator John McCain. These are euphemisms for torture. Torture is a War Crime. Waterboarding is a War Crime. The CIA has admitted waterboarding detainees. Recently, Vice President Cheney has brazenly admitted authorizing the program that led to waterboarding, other forms of torture too numerous to list, and ultimately, the deaths by homicide of detainees.

"As Major General Antonio Taguba, the Army general who led the investigation into prisoner abuse at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, has stated:

"After years of disclosures by government investigations, media accounts and reports from human rights organizations, there is no longer any doubt as to whether the current administration has committed war crimes. The only question that remains to be answered is whether those who ordered the use of torture will be held to account."

"The Washington Post recently summarized the Senate Armed Services Committee Report on detainee treatment thusly:

"A bipartisan panel of senators has concluded that former defense secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and other top Bush administration officials bear direct responsibility for the harsh treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, and that their decisions led to more serious abuses in Iraq and elsewhere."

"We, the undersigned citizens, demand a full and thorough investigation immediately upon your taking office. This investigation should be pursued no matter where it may lead and no matter what the political implications may be. To this end, we remind you that you work not on behalf of or for the President or the Congress, but for the People of the United States of America and for Justice itself.

"The United States is a representative democracy. The actions of our government officials are done in the name of its citizens. War Crimes have been committed in our name. Torture has been done in our name. The only way to clear our name of War Crimes is to repudiate them through the aggressive prosecution of each and every person involved to the full extent of the law through the appointment of a Special Prosecutor.

"Thanks for your support."

This petition can be found at www.democrats.com/special-prosecutor-for-bush-war-crimes. I encourage readers to read it and sign it. As I have said, this nation cannot move ahead and reclaim its leadership of the free world without admitting its mistakes, revealing those responsible, and prosecuting them to the full extent of the law. Any less is political farce.

Stuart Tolchin On..LIFE



Who Needs Horror Movies?

Well, I guess FDR was right. Sure, the only thing we have to fear is fear itself; but that still is pretty scary when you're afraid. The huge snowball of economic fear is getting bigger and bigger and it's affecting all of us. One of the things that really got to me was when I heard of the lay-offs of faculty at Cal Tech. Maybe even our best and our brightest aren't so smart after all.

I'm not for throwing in the towel but my whole life experience tells me that problems don't get solved just by throwing money at them, and that's all we seem to be doing. I guess most of us—especially me—are like animals born and raised in zoos. We're all domesticated and used to somebody else providing us with food, shelter, and safety. Maybe the "somebody else" is our whole civilization, which kind of tells us that if we just follow certain rules and act like good boys and girls and go to work each day everything else will take care of itself. Well, that's fine as long as there's work out there for us to do but as the news keeps telling us, lay-offs are increasing every day I recall reading in a Benjamin Franklin biography that an attempt was made for groups of Native Americans (they were called Indians then) to be educated in the same manner as the European colonists. After a very short time the experiment was abandoned because the Indian Leaders noted that this was unfair to the young Indians who were being "educated". When they returned to their villages it was noted that although these young men might have become leaned in languages and history and proper etiquette, they had not learned the important lessons of how to care for themselves or how to hunt or really even how to protect themselves in the wild. Rather than having become educated and having something to contribute to the tribe,

they had failed to learn even the most elementary things about survival and would be at a disadvantage for the rest of their lives.

Times are changing and most of us are not ready to face the demands of a new kind of life. Actually, it's more than we're not ready—we're actually in denial. The questions I hear are, "when will the housing market recover?" or, "How long will I have to delay retirement?", and "Isn't this all unfair"? I think we all need to focus on a different way of living and I, for one, really don't know how to do that. The more relevant questions may well be, "How will we adjust to these new economic times?" Will several generations of a family learn to live together in family residences? Strange, that's how it was when I was growing up when everybody had a grandparent or two living in the home. Really, it wasn't so bad, but it sure was different. I guess the main thing was that life wasn't so individualistic. Few of us had our own rooms and nobody had their own television or computer and privacy was sort of unknown. I wonder if we will be able to go back to that style of living right on top of one another. I think that's the real horror—the realization that if we're going to survive we're actually have to get along with each other and not spend most of our lives in diversion. Well, this is nothing that I haven't said before, but I'm just experiencing it a new way. We really have to learn to get along, not because it's a good idea and might lead to greater fulfillment whatever that is—we really have to learn to get along because WE CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO.



Gregory J. Wellborn

California's Calamity of Irresponsibility

While the so-called stimulus bill appears to be dead in the water right now, the mis-guided principles behind it don't even appear to be wounded. President Obama has indicated that the bill will be reworked, but he's also indicated that he now wants some \$200 billion for state and local governments. The list of industry and special interest groups with their hands out is growing by the day, but one of the least deserving of these solicitors at the federal trough are the states, and California is one of the worst offenders.

Sending federal money – to be read money from your pocket and mine – to the same politicians in Sacramento who have butchered even the faintest notions of fiscal prudence is insane. California is not an innocent victim. True, revenues have decreased lately, but the main reason California is broke today is because Sacramento's political class couldn't keep spending in check. The state spending binge of the last 5 years is quite simply unprecedented and almost morally irresponsible.

California's total budget is in the neighborhood of \$138 billion. That changes a bit from day to day, but the number was extracted from the state's website. The deficit is estimated to be \$40 billion. That's a 29% shortfall. To put these numbers in the proper context, however, consider that this budget is 54% greater than the budget was 5 years ago. Inflation over those 5 years has been 19%, and population growth has been miniscule at 3%. Together, I suppose you could make an argument that if the loons who manage our state had simply kept spending in check with population growth and inflation, our budget today would only be 22% greater than it was 5 years ago.

So, let's do some simply math. Today's budget should have been 22% greater, but it really has turned out to be 54% greater. That's 32% in excess spending. Low and behold, our budget deficit is 29%. Even with the affects of the 2008 recession, our state could easily have a balanced budget if there had been some semblance of spending restraint in Sacramento.

This is simply outrageous. As a conservative by nature and a financial planner by trade, I would be wagging my finger at any individual or business that practiced this type of profligacy. I certainly wouldn't expect the state, church, friends or family to help that person out of his or her dire predicament. That may sound harsh, but falling into some unforeseen hardship is one thing; spending recklessly with no regard to prudence or common sense is another, and the only

realistic prescription is some tough love. Human nature being what it is, bailing someone out of such reckless financial straits would only encourage the behavior again. The loving thing to do is to make them deal with their problem honestly by learning to live within a reasonable budget.

The fancy economic term for this is moral hazard. It means that if you enable financial mistakes you create a moral hazard that the person won't learn from their previous mistakes and will commit the same mistake again – usually bigger the next time. If the politicians in Sacramento are bailed out by the Federal Government, or by us California tax payers in the form of higher taxes, they won't learn their lesson, and the budget shortfall at some future date will be that much more massive.

There are so many special interest groups extending their hands in Sacramento that it can be tough to resist the siren call of need even in the best of times. In that regard, I have some sympathy for the politicians. Theirs is a hard job... when they say no. It's a piece of cake job when they say yes. I think we elect these people to make the hard decisions, not to simply cave in to everyone asking for money.

The only way to force them to do what they were elected to do is to force them into making the tough decisions they were supposed to be making all along. Reducing expenditures by 29% may be tough and will undoubtedly cut programs everywhere. But if we look back to 2003 (the size of the budget I have in mind), I think we would all agree that California was still a pretty good place to live. I didn't notice any disfunction in basic services, education or police/fire protection back then. That baseline budget plus the 22% inflation and population growth would be just fine today, and we wouldn't be in our current mess.

The simple truth is that our state's legislature, senate and governor have collectively failed us. I'm a forgiving man, so instead of firing them on the spot (although they deserve it), I suggest we give them one more chance – say 30 days to balance the budget without hitting us or Uncle Sam up for any more money. That's something I'm having to do in my own budget, and I suspect you, dear reader, are doing the same thing. It's what we're all supposed to do. Remember, it builds character, and that's something sorely lacking in Sacramento today.

Gregory J. Wellborn is an independent opinion columnist. He writes and speaks frequently on political, economic and social issues. His columns have appeared in publications such as The Los Angeles Daily News, The Orange County Register, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today. He can be reached at gwellborn@mvoobserver.com.



Letter To The Editor

Sierra Madre Smoking Ban

On Feb, 10 the Sierra Madre City Counsel will be discussing the drafting of regulations prohibiting smoking in outside dining areas. This is an important new ordinance that has been adopted by cities all over the U.S. including Pasadena. If you support this let the Council know your thoughts in the contacts below or at the meeting itself. They will also be finalizing an ordinance regarding the start times for powered lawn equipment. Contacts. You can call City Hall and leave a message at 355-7135 or go to the City Hall website at <http://cityofsierramadre.com/> and then click on contact us and leave an email for Council members!

Or direct E-mail Addresses:

Joseph Mosca/ joemosca@joemosca.com
Don Watts/ wattsai@yahoo.com
Mary Ann MacGillivray/ macgone@aol.com
John Buchanan/ jdbpol@aol.com

J. Brown

STARTING A NEW BUSINESS ?

FILE YOUR DBA HERE

Doing Business As,
Fictitious Business Name Filing



80 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre
626-836-6675

Obtain Street Address - Business Stationary - Flyers
Rubber Stamps - Business Cards - Mailing Service

Sierra Madre Legal Notices

City of Sierra Madre

Public Hearing Notice

To: Citywide
From: The City of Sierra Madre

Subject: Consideration of a Resolution adopting a Revised Fee Schedule pertaining to the Plan Check and Permit Fees (Building Permit Fees) associated with the installation of Residential Solar (Photovoltaic) Systems.

Applicant: City of Sierra Madre

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the City Council will conduct a public hearing to consider a resolution adopting a revised fee schedule pertaining to the plan check and permit fees (building permit fees) associated with the installation of residential solar (photovoltaic) systems. The revised fee schedule would provide for a fixed flat combination permit fee of \$515.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING	PLACE OF HEARING
City of Sierra Madre City Council meeting Tuesday, February 10, 2009 (Hearing begins at 6:30 p.m.)	City of Sierra Madre City Council Chambers 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA 91024

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the City Council will hear them with respect thereto. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7138.

By Order of the City Council

Danny Castro,
Director of Development Services

City of Sierra Madre

Public Hearing Notice

To: Property Owners within a 300-foot radius
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: General Plan Amendment 08-01 and Zone Change 08-01; Sierra Madre Congregational Church North and South Site

Applicant: Sierra Madre Congregational Church

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the City Council will conduct a public hearing to consider a request for a General Plan Amendment and Zone Change pertaining to properties located within the Sierra Madre Congregational Church site. The General Plan Amendment entails redesignation of land uses from RM (Residential Med/High Density) and C (Commercial) to I (Institutional); the Zone Change entails redesignation from R-3 (Multiple Family Residential) Zone to I (Institutional) Zone. The General Plan Amendment and Zone Change are being requested pursuant to Municipal Code Section 17.64.010, to make the zoning and land use designations consistent with the Institutional use of the site.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING	PLACE OF HEARING
City of Sierra Madre City Council meeting Tuesday, February 24, 2009 (Hearing begins at 6:30 p.m.)	City of Sierra Madre City Council Chambers 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the City Council will hear them with respect thereto.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Sierra Madre Congregational Church North and South site consists of the following addresses: 154-170 and 191-201 West Sierra Madre Blvd., 34, 34 ½ and 40-48 North Hermosa Avenue, and 40 South Hermosa Avenue, in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The project qualifies for a Negative Declaration pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

APPEAL: If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the City Council in court, one may be limited to raising the issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.

By Order of the City Council

Danny Castro,
Director of Development Services

Friends of the Sierra Madre Library
39th Wine and Cuisine Tasting

Just about EVERYONE can order tickets online and join us Friday, February 20th, 7:00pm to 9:30 pm at the Alverno Villa

Tickets are \$60.00 and available in town or at www.SierraMadreLibraryFriends.org



Call 626.836.8353
Fax 626.836.8373

Want to make your ad dollar go farther? Enhance your visibility?

The MountainViews-Observer is the answer...Possibly the smartest way to spend your money in today's economic times.

Call us for details. **626-325-3111**

WINSTONS
— Since 1987 —

WINDOW WASHING

15 % Off With This Ad

**Screens
Gutter Cleaning
Power Washing
House Wash Downs
Carpet & Floors
Residential & Commercial**

(626) 355-5148

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

A CERTIFIED FAMERS MARKET
Every Wednesday
3pm-7pm

Fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits from California family farms. Specialty foods, vegetarian and vegan dishes, ethnic foods and hot food - Everything you'll find at the farmers market has been made or picked fresh, is pesticide-free and preservative-free. Free public parking on Mariposa.



Rich Johnson

Valentine Hygiene Primer For Guys

Okayguys.Ifyouareabout to entertain a lovely lady this upcoming Valentine's Day, listen up. If you are not entertaining a lovely lady this Valentine's Day, you may be too far gone. Irregardless, I'm only going to talk about this once.

Literally, one or more ladies have contacted your sophisticated, suave and chic columnist pleading that I address vital issues of critical importance to the fairer sex. You might want to take notes. If your significant other (assuming you have one) ever reads my column, it is certain to be posted on the refrigerator and/or on the wall above the john.

Minimal Standards of Hygiene

Hot water is your friend. Deodorant, cologne and aftershave are no substitutes for a hot shower. If you lift things for a living that are heavier than a bread box, shower often. Soap would be a nice touch.

Deodorize. If your 24 hours are up, it's time to reload. Stick or spray, it doesn't matter. Some of you need to do both.

Send an expedition up those two little caves above your mouth. If you need a machete to clear a path, invest in a nose hair trimmer. If you can actually convince a girl to get close enough to kiss you, she's going to notice if there's a rain forest hanging down from the twin towers.

While you're at it, check the hairs above your eyeballs. Yeah that's right. There are two rows: one on the left and one on the right. If they connect in the middle, it's no wonder women run away from you. No eagle wings or feather dusters. They need to be groomed, trimmed and all going in the right direction.

Dust off your tooth brush. In fact, replace it - and then USE IT. No, not to clean tile

grout. Stick it in your mouth and spin your head. While you're in the neighborhood, floss. Leftovers from dinner need to be kept in the refrigerator, not between your teeth. I'm fairly certain if you floss regularly your breath might improve.

Do you know what the biggest organ in your body is? Oh, that's just disgusting! I'm talking about your skin. Were you aware that in the animal kingdom the male of the species is always more beautiful than the female? Not us. So listen up, and let's get back on the evolutionary track. Start with moisturizer. Buy some and rub it all over your body. Yes, even there. Then, just maybe, some woman won't mind looking at you.


Did I mention changing clothes regularly? No, not changing out of yesterday's boxers and into the day before's. Change into CLEAN clothes. While we're at it, wear socks. Smelling bare feet in tennis shoes would make an effective form of torture at Guantanamo. Remember, hot air rises. Typically right up to her nose.

Optional body noises are not the homo sapien males' mating call to the female. Save your belches, burps and farts for the guys at the ballgame. Try it on a woman and you will foul out (Get it? Foul out...baseball? Oh, never mind.)

Men! Everyday can be Valentine's Day with the ladies, if you follow a few basic rules. Don't be a walking billboard for evolution. Remember, Neanderthals died out as a species 'cause they didn't get lucky.

And don't forget Corfu Restaurant for Valentine's Day dinner. Call Amy at 355-5993 for reservations. Great food, great setting, and romantic music with Jane Fuller. Mention my name and I will give you a big kiss at the restaurant. Guys get Hershey's kisses. Gals will have more options.

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library
Invite you to
The 39th Wine and Cuisine Tasting



February 20, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Alverno Villa

Tickets \$60.00, available online at www.SierraMadreLibraryFriends.org or at the following Sierra Madre locations:

Sierra Madre Public Library	The Bottle Shop
Iris Intrigue	Savor The Flavor
Arnold's Frontier Hardware	Sierra Madre Books

Silent Auction • Fine Art • Magic Castle Magicians • Live Music • Domestic and International Wines • Fine Local Restaurants

Sarah Hart Concert

Friday, February 27
7:30 p.m.



The music and message of Nashville's Sarah Hart will delight listeners from every age and background. Teens, families, young and old alike find her spirited music uplifting.

"Her stage presence is captivating as she bounces easily from piano to guitar, engaging eager audiences with her singing, her energy and her witty conversation. You'll walk away thinking you've just had a wonderful evening with an old friend."

A gifted writer, performer and speaker, she shares her love for God with her audiences through her life affirming and thought provoking music.



Sample Sarah Hart's music at SarahHartMusic.com or ocp.org/artists/3453

Admission is free, funded by donations. Freewill offerings to help defray costs and possibly provide additional inspirational concerts of this ilk will be gratefully received. Seating is first come, first served. Recommended for ages 10 & up.

**St. Rita Church
Baldwin at Grandview
Sierra Madre**



Sponsored by St Rita Parish
626-355-1292
www.St-Rita.org

Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

Ancient Moon Rock Yields Secret of Lunar History

DID YOU EVER WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE ROCKS the Apollo astronauts brought back from the moon? After more than three decades, one very special rock has answered a longstanding question about the moon's history: Whether our little sister-planet ever had a liquid core and a magnetic field.

Magnetic traces recorded in the rock provide strong evidence that 4.2 billion years ago the moon did have a liquid core functioning as a dynamo, as does Earth's core today, producing a strong magnetic field.

The particular moon rock that provided the new evidence was long known to

"Many people think that it's the most interesting lunar rock," said Ben Weiss, Assistant Professor of Planetary Sciences at MIT and senior author of a paper on the new finding published Jan. 16 in Science. The rock was collected during the last lunar landing mission, Apollo 17, by Harrison "Jack" Schmidt, the only geologist ever to walk on the moon.

"It is one of the oldest and most pristine samples known," said MIT graduate student Ian Garrick-Bethell, who was the lead author of the Science paper. "If that wasn't enough, it is also perhaps the most beautiful lunar rock, displaying a mixture of bright green and milky white



Photo by Aaron Dominquez

The magnetic field necessary to have magnetized this rock would have been about one-fiftieth as strong as Earth's is today, Weiss said. "This is consistent with dynamo theory," and also fits in with the prevailing theory that the moon was born when a Mars-sized body crashed into the Earth and blasted much of it's crust into space, where it clumped together to form the moon.

The new finding underscores how much we still don't know about our nearest neighbor in space, which will soon be visited by humans once again under current NASA plans. "While humans have visited the moon six times, we have really only scratched the surface when it comes to our understanding of this world," said Garrick-Bethell.

STEPHEN HAWKING LECTURE IN MARCH

Noted physicist Stephen W. Hawking will give a public lecture called "Why We Should Go into Space" on Monday, March 9, at 8 p.m. The lecture, sponsored by Caltech, will be presented at the newly expanded Pasadena Convention Center. This is a ticketed event, with all tickets priced at \$10. Tickets for the general public go on sale on Monday, February 9. For more information, contact the Pasadena Convention Center or check the following web site: <http://events.caltech.edu/events/event-6181.html>

If you'd like to learn more, you can contact Bob at beklund@mvoobserver.com.



Photo Courtesy NASA

be a very special one. It is the oldest of all the moon rocks that have not been subjected to major shocks from later impacts—something that tends to erase all evidence of earlier magnetic fields. In fact, it's older than any known rocks from Mars or even from the Earth itself.

crystals." The evidence written in this lunar rock showed it must have remained in a magnetic environment for a long period of time—millions of years—and thus the field had to have come from a long-lasting magnetic dynamo.

Here's A Cute Little Filly

EquiStar Announces Birth of First Foal



Photo By Lara Laramendi

Owned by Kit Marshall and managed by Romesh Sinclair, EquiStar, LLC sees great promise in the 2 week old filly. Born Saturday January 24th, 2009, the little filly is aptly named "Wildflower" for her sweet yet fiery personality. The ensuing thunderstorm Sunday night may have been a sign from her famous grandsire "Thunder Gulch", that perhaps this filly will be a force to be reckoned with on the track!

"Wildflower" is the pioneer offspring of a fruitful and impressive private foaling facility located in the Bradbury Estates. Marshall's ranch will soon be home to three more foals, future prospects for the Grand Prix Show Jumping ring. With Grand Prix horses currently showing successfully at Horse Shows In The Sun (HITS) in Thermal, CA, the future shines bright for the EquiStar herd.

Marisa Thomas marisaannet@gmail.com

IN A WORLD OF HORSE WHISPERERS, MEET THE 'LEATHER WHISPERER'

A Tribute To Eddie Logan

Photo/Story by Brad Eastland Reprint - MountainViews-Observer January 14, 2008



When Eddie Logan was born on May 2nd, 1910, William Howard Taft was president. Ty Cobb was playing center field for the Tigers. World War One wasn't even on the Kaiser's radar screen. And the Titanic was still two years away from going down.

Now here it is 97 years later and Eddie is still with us. But even more amazingly, he still shows up for work every day at Santa Anita Park, where he holds court as the Arcadia racetrack's premier shoeshine attendant, a job he has held since the track opened on Christmas Day, 1934.

Anybody out there know anyone else who has held down the same job for 73 years?

"I don't recall ever missing a work day," says the irrepressible Logan, barely five feet tall but still spry, with a bounce in his step to match his still-strong handshake grip. "I was taught that if you say you're going to do something you better damn well do it."

Last Saturday at Santa Anita was a big day for Eddie. One of the featured races was the 2nd annual "Eddie Logan Stakes" for two-

year-olds going a mile on the grass. Yankee Bravo, a handsome dark brown son of Yankee Gentleman, came from last place and thundered his way down the stretch to win going away, but the star of the race---and the day---was clearly Eddie himself. When track announcer Trevor Denman informed the crowd that the man presenting the trophy to Yankee Bravo's owners had been shining shoes on site for the last 73 years, a collective gasp was followed by a burst of applause....

Eddie bumped into Charles H. Strub in a shoeshine shop in Pasadena in 1932. "I'm building a new track, Eddie," said Strub, a dentist, adding that he wanted Eddie to work there. Two years later, when Santa Anita was finally finished and ready to go, he told Eddie, "I got you!"--and over 100,000 pairs of expertly shined shoes later Eddie is still there, plying his trade. "Old Doc Strub spent five thousand dollars to build my shoeshine stand and get me the right equipment. That was big money back then!" Eddie says through his trademark huge grin.

Eddie admittedly doesn't remember names or faces as well as feet. But he remembers everything about one Charles S. Howard, the man who owned the legendary Seabiscuit: "Mister Howard had good leather," affirms Eddie, adding, as if he just shined them yesterday and not seven decades ago, "With good leather, sometimes you only use water around the edges. You don't wash the tops. His shoes, I just cleaned 'em dry on top, then cream and wax."

A bit of a local legend himself, Eddie has

developed a well-earned reputation as a quipster and purveyor of useful sayings. His favorite is, "Keep your mouth shut your eyes open and you might learn something." Fellow track employees are understandably fond of quoting Eddie. Another favorite of his co-workers, particularly relevant to his horse-obsessed clientele, is, "Don't wear your dress shoes into the horse's stall." Good advice.

But at the core of what makes Eddie Eddie is love of job and pride in craft. He understands that no two peoples' feet are the same. How does he know to shine one person's shoes differently from another? "The leather tells me," he says.

And he's still a bargain. The man charged \$2.50 a pair back in '34, yet only charges \$5 bucks today. So make sure to leave him a nice tip. Maybe he'll throw you back a quote or a quip you can use the rest of your life.

When asked about the secret of his longevity, Eddie was quick to reply: "I like horsemen. I like all the owners and trainers. They treat me good and with respect. My job keeps me young."

But nobody lives forever. So if you get the chance, get on over to Santa Anita and have the man they call "the foot man" take a crack at your best pair of leather shoes. You'd better hurry. In thirty or forty years, he might not be with us anymore....

Editor's Note: On December 27, 2008, Eddie presented the trophy for the winner of the Eddie Logan Stakes at Santa Anita. On January 3, 2009, Eddie Logan suffered a stroke and seizure from which he did not recover. He died on Saturday, January 31, 2009 in his Monrovia Home at age 98 after 75 years at Santa Anita Race Track.



Online Safety: Botnets

What is commonly referred to as a "Botnet" (or robot network) is actually a collection of computers run by remote control software and controlled by a single user. The software that allows a computer to be controlled in this fashion is typically downloaded and

installed without the legitimate users' knowledge or consent. This collection of computers (sometimes numbering in the thousands) can be used for a variety of purposes, most of them bad. It's generally not a good idea to have someone or something controlling your computer without your knowing about it. The hackers that set up these networks of infected machines (called 'zombies') usually rent out the networks to the highest bidder for purposes such as large-scale spamming, phishing scams, Distributed Denial of Service attacks (DDOS) password cracking and click-fraud.

In a DDOS attack the botnet is used to overwhelm a website with so many requests for service that legitimate customers cannot get their requests handled properly. The most common result of this avalanche of traffic is the website crashing. If the site in question is an e-commerce site or a financial institution the losses from the down-time can run into the millions.

In a Click-Fraud scam the web browser on an infected machine is automatically redirected to a specific website whenever the browser is opened. Usually the hacker involved has some sort of financial arrangement with the advertiser that pays for each 'click' that sends a user to the website in question. A botnet of sufficient size and quality can produce a handsome financial return for the effort involved in setting up the network in the first place.

In these and other botnet activities the hacker is indirectly given an additional layer of protection from identification as the source of all the mayhem caused as all the requests appear to be coming from separate machines with no apparent link between them. ISP's (Internet Service Providers) as a rule have policies in place that prohibit spamming and other behaviors usually engaged in by botnets but the damage has usually already been done by the time the offending entities have been blocked.

Botnets with as many as a million zombies have been recorded by computing security experts. The best way to keep from becoming a zombie is to practice the on-line safety basics: Keep your system updated with the latest service packs, use a properly configured firewall, keep your anti-spyware and anti-virus software updated and running and never click on a link that you don't know where it will take you.

The bad guys usually prey upon the unknowing and the unwary first. By keeping your system as secure as possible you will encourage them to look elsewhere for an easier target.



REFLECTIONS.....

By Liz Lambdin

So, I was thinking. . . I was recently introduced to the term "spiritual materialism." I read the definition multiple times trying to understand its meaning. You may think this to be odd, but though my brain was having a tough time understanding its meaning, somehow and somewhere in my psyche, I sensed an understanding. The cool thing is that I believe that I may have thrown up a silent prayer asking for understanding – maybe I did, or maybe I didn't it really doesn't matter. But I think I got a small glimpse of what the meaning may be.

I have to take an aside here to set the stage for the state of mind that may have lead to my discovery of a partial definition of spiritual materialism:

A Broken Heart:

Recently I went through a series of events that pretty much tipped my world upside down. There were arguments, frustrations, hurt feelings, failures and the loss and realization of things that I took so ignorantly for granted. The time frame of this disturbance was only three or four days, but my, WHAT a terrible three or four days. If I allow levity to have its way with me here, I would like you to picture me as a little chubby baby just able to sit up who was plopped down like a blob of Playdough in the middle of the living room floor - planted. Now, what, I can't move. If I lean this way, I'll roll over on my face and the same thing if I go that way, so suffice it to say, there I sat, plopped down, trying to keep my balance and observing. My mindversations (hey I just coined a new word) were all over the place. One minute I was indignant; another fuming. Self righteous and at the same time completely ashamed and broken. Silently screaming "You are 51 bloom'n years old and you still have to apologize for your actions. When will you learn, why can't you learn." Here I am, surrounded with nothing but lovely things, people, conditions, and comfort – why is it that I find myself completely inside out, flattened, broken. My mindversations were struggling with each other – on one hand, peace and kindness are my goals, yet feeling a need to protect my "rights" and my "ego" from being trampled seemed a rational entitlement (eek, did I say entitlement?). Entitlement, sheeeesh - that has become a four letter word in my vocabulary.

Ok, so anyway. Being in that state of mind I struggled with whether or not I should be the one to apologize or play it tough and wait for someone to apologize to me. If I waited for the latter, I may have to wait much longer than I was willing to. I like to get things fixed as soon as possible. Then I said something like well Liz, it IS after all the bigger person who is willing to apologize isn't it. And BAM, there it was – spiritual materialism in its purest form. If I want to be spiritual, I would imagine that measuring my spiritualism against deeds and ego is a farce. There is no self in spiritualism. It is just goodness by itself. Kindness by itself. It is its own identity – apart from me. Wow, I wonder if that could actually be a viable definition of non-spiritual materialism. If I want to be nice, healed, loving, then I should just be nice, healed and loving and not measure it against anything else. Whew, what do you think?



TABLE FOR TWO By Peter Dills Lovers Specials

Every February the irresistible power of love moves across the hearts and onto the lips in a timeless embrace. Flowers and candy invitingly spring anew and the lowly flicker of candlelight performs a magical dance. A wine toast seals the romantic ceremony with the promise of a heart. How and when did the tradition of Valentine's Day begin? One plausible answer may contain as much myth and legend as any poet's pen. Legend holds that "Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men — his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death."

If you have not already done so, you had best formulate your plans in rapid order or you may discover an ancestor of Claudius in your partner's hand. Here are a few ideas that may make this year's Valentine's a night to enshrine in the memory.

The Melting Pot, 88 W. Colorado. I recently reviewed this romantic restaurant and if you did not heed my words a few months ago, "book now for Valentine's Day," you may need the "Midas Touch" to get in at this late hour. An excellent option may be to go the night before Valentine's Day. Every couple dining at The Melting Pot, between Feb. 9 and Feb. 28 will receive one sealed "love letter" with the chance to win a prize, including the grand prize, a trip to Italy. This year, The Pasadena Melting Pot will offer a special Valentine's Day menu, which includes romantic desserts such as white chocolate fondue with a raspberry heart. (626) 792-1941.

How about a weekend trip to beautiful Newport Beach for your lovely? Plan a romantic weekend in paradise at four diamond rated **The Balboa Bay Club and Resort**. Offered are two special packages:

1) Mini-Romance Getaway Package- Rates starting from \$249/night*. Package includes: luxurious guest room accommodations for one night, breakfast for two (room service or The First Cabin Restaurant), and valet parking at The Resort.

2) Holiday Romance Package- Rates starting from \$349/night*. Package includes: luxurious guest room accommodations with rose petals for a touch of romance, chilled champagne upon arrival, breakfast for two (room service or The First Cabin Restaurant), a \$50 Resort credit for use during stay and valet parking at The Resort. Reserve through the BBC&R at 888-445-7153. * as of www.ba.boabayclub.com on 2/5

Want to stay local in the Pasadena area? If, for you, there's nothing like a delicious steak, try **JJ's Steakhouse, 88 E. Colorado Blvd** (yes, 88 East Colorado). Owner Ralph Viscuso, tells me that there are still a few open tables. There will be a complimentary sparkling wine toast, plus the ladies will receive a magnificent rose to capture the perfect atmosphere for the evening. For more information call (626) 844-8889.

You want to be Bohemian and go against the establishment this year? If all else fails, head to **Pavillion's** and get a bottle of bubbly and some sweet chocolates. Select a great movie like: 'When Harry Met Sally', or 'Dr. Zhivago' (you may need two bottles for this epic). You can never go wrong by spending some quality time with the one you love.

Happy Valentine's Day! Join me this Saturday at 3 p.m. for my TV Show, **The Chef Knows on KJLA TV**.



Come Put Some South In Your Mouth!

Big Mama's Rib Shack is proud to feature freshly prepared, Southern Style Cuisine including ...

**BBQ Ribs • BBQ & Fried Chicken • Gumbo • Jambalaya
Fried Catfish & Snapper • Shrimp & Chicken Creole • Homemade Desserts**

Dine In, Take Out & Delivery Available

1453 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena
Just North of Washington Blvd.

(626) 797-1792

For Delivery, please call (626) 405-1101 (La Bite)

www.bigmamas-ribshack.com



Risque LINGERIE BOUTIQUE

Shopping at "Risque" is a royal treat in itself!!!! We will make you feel like a pampered princess, from making sure you're in the right sizes to offering an exquisite selection of styles and materials. Your comfort is our top priority. "Risque" is an excellent choice for friendly, exceptional customer service.....Your one-stop shopping destination!

OUR PRODUCTS

Fine European Lingerie
Lejaby (from France)
Betsey Johnson Intimates
Bridal Collection
Betsey Johnson Swimwear
Swarovski Crystal Jewelry & Accessories

OUR SERVICES

Bridal Registry
Custom Gift Baskets
Host Small Parties & Events
Personalized Shopping
(By appointment)



New Men's Section!

1045 EAST GREEN STREET

PASADENA, CA 91106

626.796.1100

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



Groovy Lemon Pie press conference Japan - Sept. 1971

Groovy Lemon Pie Returns to The Buc!

Butch Magnum, Greg Tortelvis, Woody Smith, Gary Putman

Groovy Lemon Pie will take over THE BUC once again! We packed the place last time...Let's do it again!

The Buccaneer Lounge (THE BUC)!
70 W Sierra Madre Blvd - Sierra Madre,
February 13, 2009 9:25 pm
Cost: FREE

The Buc rocks!! A great jukebox, great down to earth bartenders, and pirates!! The inside of the Buc is done up in Pirate portraits and black light highlighted pirate paintings scrolling the length of the bar's backdrop... and the drinks are cheap. The crowd is unpretentious and ever-friendly for a bunch of locals.

The Four Seasons Tea Room
Candlelight Dinner

Bring Your Own Wine No Coverage

Join Us For A Superb Valentine's Day Celebration
5 Course Gourmet Dinner Plus
Gift Certificate for another visit.
Saturday, February 14, 2009
5:30 p.m.

Four Seasons Tea Room
75 N. Baldwin Avenue, Sierra Madre
626-355-0045
Call for reservations

*\$90 For Couple
\$45 Per Person*



PIZZA PASTA PANINI

STEAKS SEAFOOD COCKTAILS

"Great fresh Italian, Great Jazz, Cool bar

very reasonably priced,

this is the best hang in LA!!."

extensive wine list

specialty beers on tap

(626) 836-5414

www.cafe322.com

322 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre, CA 91024

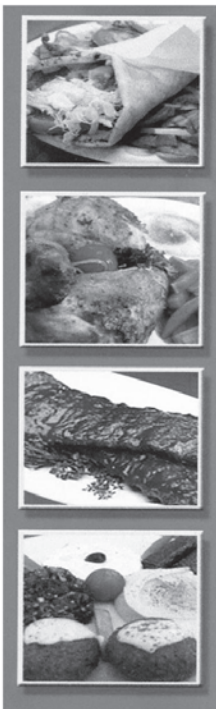
Live @ 322

FEBRUARY 2009

FEBRUARY 1	Jazz Lunch with Mercy Powell Quartet
FEBRUARY 3	Drink & Think Quiz - Quizmaster Midge
FEBRUARY 4	LA Jazz Collective
FEBRUARY 5	Theolonius Dub
FEBRUARY 6	Bobby Bradford's Motet
FEBRUARY 7	Lisa Finnle
FEBRUARY 8	New Astro Turf
FEBRUARY 10	Drink & Think Quiz - Quizmaster Midge
FEBRUARY 11	Max Buda
FEBRUARY 12	Theolonius Dub
FEBRUARY 13	Jack Sheldon
FEBRUARY 14	VALENTINE'S DAY with Romantic Jazz Vocalist Judy Platt
FEBRUARY 15	Jazz Lunch with Mercy Powell Quartet
FEBRUARY 17	Drink & Think Quiz - Quizmaster Midge
FEBRUARY 18	Jazz Vocalist Judy Kelly
FEBRUARY 19	Theolonius Dub
FEBRUARY 20	Mercy and The Merketts
FEBRUARY 21	The Jon Meyer Trio - Special Guest Andrea Baker
FEBRUARY 22	New Astro Turf
FEBRUARY 24	Drink & Think Quiz - Quizmaster Midge
FEBRUARY 25	The Jennifer Leitham Trio
FEBRUARY 26	Theolonius Dub
FEBRUARY 27	Swing Dancing with Flat Top Tom and The Jump Cats
FEBRUARY 28	Judy Wexler

Every Sunday - Opera To Broadway with Danny Guererro

WE CATER!



Chicken King Express
Delicious Healthy Fast Food!!

**OPEN FROM
11AM - 9 PM**

**Rotisserie Chicken
Wraps, Ribs
Salads, Soup
Kabob**

**\$1 OFF
ANY COMBO
PLATE OR
LUNCH
SPECIAL**

Pick-up Only. Cannot combine coupons.
Must present coupon when ordering.
Expires April 26, 2009

**CHICKEN PITA
OR FALAFEL
SANDWICH**

**ONLY \$1.99
With purchase
of soft drink**

Pick-up Only. Cannot combine coupons.
Must present coupon when ordering.
Expires April 26, 2009

**445 W. FOOTHILL BLVD. MONROVIA
(626) 305-3111**

FREE DELIVERY - 3 Mile Radius

FREE DELIVERY All Orders \$50 or more anywhere in the SG Valley!



Order Your Gourmet Valentine's Desserts with Us!

Open Mon. to Fri. 7AM-2:30PM; Friday, 2-13-09 7AM-7PM

Picasso's
café • bakery • catering

"Where Great Food is a Work of Art!"™

www.picassoscafe.com

6070 N. Irwindale Ave., Suites A-D · Irwindale, CA 626.969.6100



The Senior
By Bruce Lamarche
HEROES *Spot*

Our media and society produces mixed messages and much confusion over the definition of the word “hero”. We see movie stars portraying crime-fighting characters, amazing football players in this week’s Super Bowl, and then there is the amazing crew from US Airways 1549. So what constitutes a hero?

Certainly the actions of the pilot and crew of that jet that landed in the river were heroic. They overcame personal fear and concerns and did their job in a chaotic environment. This was amazing. It would be easy to overlook the actions of the crew in the cabin who calmly evacuated the passengers. Again, this is a true form of heroism.

Is heroism always so dramatic? I think not. Many of you are heroes in more subtle ways. I think of the parents of children with disabilities who believe the best and do whatever is needed for the benefit of their child. The single mother who works hard and then comes home to care for her children shows strength and character.

There are so many examples of heroic behavior that we only have to open our eyes to see that it is all around us. It is represented by our ability to do things in life that are beyond our own self-interests. It is the willingness to see a need and sacrifice some time from our “busy” schedules to help a stranger. Do we stop what we feel is so important in our own life to recognize needs in others and then just “do what is right?” Do we push ourselves beyond tired for the good of others?

Consider the words of Theodore Roosevelt, “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again . . . who spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly . . .”

What kind of example are we to our children and grandchildren? They are watching and learning by how we live our lives. What are the lessons we teach?

Bruce can be reached by phone-(626) 335-3412 or e-mail: blamarche@verizon.net
This article is provided by Bruce Lamarche, a member of Society of Certified Senior Advisors, www.csa.us. Bruce’s company, R & B Reverse Mortgage Services (Glendora) helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining a reverse mortgage. www.LASeniorMortgage.com

SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI: *They’re back!* Beware...

Sierra Madre must be a lucrative haven for door-to-door magazine sales. Every year our streets are inundated with young people who try to ingratiate themselves into our lives by claiming to be our neighbor’s son or daughter. They are assured by “Mom and Dad” that we would be more than happy to further their scholarship drive, class trip to Europe, or a cause du jour, by subscribing to a magazine or two. Don’t believe the “little darlings,” it’s a scam. Call the Sierra Madre Police Department at 355-1414, when one of them comes knocking on your door.

~Helpful Hints~

Clothespins can be used as clamps when gluing two thin objects together. Let the clothespin hold them in place until the glue sets. Remember to use a clip-on clothespin to hold nails when hammering in hard-to-reach places--or, use traditional straight clothespins to make little puppets. Using the knob as a head, have kids paste on bits of yarn for hair, and scraps of cloth or colored paper for clothes to give each one its own personality.

Recipe of the Month:

“Nothin’ Says Lovin’ Like Somethin’ from the Oven”



Noodle Popovers

8 ounces sour cream
1/4 cup butter- melted, plus 1 tablespoon for noodles
1 ½ ounces cream cheese, softened
2 large eggs
1 tsp sugar
½ tsp lemon juice
8 ounces wide egg noodles
½ cup Guyere cheese or Swiss cheese-shredded
Parmesan cheese to garnish
* In a medium bowl, combine sour cream, melted butter, cream cheese, eggs, sugar and lemon juice
*Whisk lightly with a whisk or fork.
*Cover and refrigerate overnight if possible or at least 2 hours.
*Add noodles to a large pot of boiling, salted water and cook until al dente. Drain and toss with the tablespoon of butter, cover and refrigerate overnight if desired.
*Preheat oven to 350
*Generously grease or butter the cups of a 12 cup popover pan or muffin tin. Set aside.
* After refrigeration, fold the noodles into the cold egg mixture and combine well. Add cheese and mix again to combine.
*Fill cups with noodle mixture, bake until golden brown (40-45 minutes)
*Sprinkle with grated parmesan cheese - serve.



Happy Birthday!

February Birthdays: Susan Henderson, Lorraine Bush, Hilda Pittman.

For Your Funny Bone

Michelangelo and a politician arrive at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter proclaims, “He’s here! He’s here!” and ushers the politician inside as trumpets sound and angels sing. As Michelangelo follows, the gates slam in his face. Shaken, he knocks. St. Peter appears. “I don’t understand,” Michelangelo says. “I have served God all my life through my work, and I arrive here and am completely ignored in the midst of the tremendous welcome for, of all people, a politician!”

“I’m sorry,” says St. Peter. “We have many artists and religious people in heaven. But this is our first politician!”

And, Valentine’s Day Groaners-

Q- Who sends a thousand Valentine cards signed, ‘Guess who?’

A- A divorce lawyer.

Q- What do squirrels give for Valentine’s Day?

A- Forget-me-nuts.

Q- If your aunt ran off to get married, what would you call her?

A- Antelope.

Quote:

Without love, the rich and the poor live in the same house.

~Author Unknown~

Activities:

Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Memorial Park (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

Lunch Program: Monday- Friday at the Intervale Café -12:00 Noon-Call (626) 355-0256 to make your daily reservation. Suggested donation \$2.00 for seniors (60+) and \$3.75 for visitors.

Monday: Free strength Training Class with volunteer Lisa Brandley 1:00-1:45

Tuesday: Bingo- 1:30PM- 3:30 PM .25c per card
Yoga- 5:30 PM- 7:00PM Instructor Andrea Walsh- \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over.)
Call 355-5278 for more information.

Wednesday: 1st & 3rd Wednesday- Community Lunch & Learn Program

Thursday: Game Day- 1:00PM- 3:30PM- Poker, UNO, Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Pinochle...you name it.
Yoga- 5:00 PM- 6:30 PM \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over) Call 355-5278 for more information

Friday: Ping-Pong 1:30 PM

Saturday: Senior Club for those 55 and older- Brown bag lunch at 11:30AM
Meeting at Noon- Bingo at 12:30 PM- only .25c per card

Monthly Excursions:

At press time, information on future trips was not available. Please inquire at the Senior Desk , 626.355.7394.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic- Second Tuesday of each month 11:00 AM- Noon No appointment necessary

Financial Consulting- 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Hart Memorial Park House from 10:00AM- Noon. Please call (626) 355-7394 for an appointment.



Meals-on-Wheels: Meals are delivered to homebound seniors by volunteer drivers through the YWCA Intervale Lunch Program M-F (with frozen meals for the weekend.) \$2.00 suggested donation per day. Call Susan Garcia at (626) 858-8382 for more information.

It's about

YOU
not the insurance company

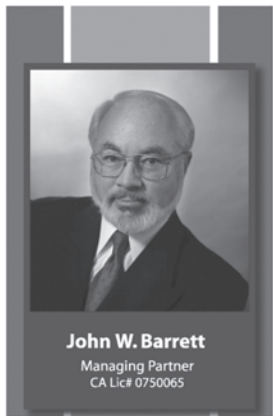
As an independent insurance broker, I have a fiduciary responsibility to act in my client's best interest, not the interests of the insurance industry or the medical community.

- Are you faced with the decision to go on COBRA, and need to know your alternatives?
- Are you faced with providing your own health insurance because you are self-employed?
- Are you unable to obtain standard major medical insurance because of a pre-existing condition?
- Do you want to lower your monthly health insurance premiums?
- Are you a small business owner faced with the choice of greatly reducing the cost of your group health insurance or eliminating employees?

If you answered yes to any of these questions take the time to call or email me for assistance in solving your dilemma.

My direct number is (626) 797-4618

john@healthinsbrokers.com



Health Insurance Brokers
333 W. California Blvd., #110
Pasadena, CA 91105
626-797-4618
www.healthinsbrokers.com

From the Inside Out:
Clinical Scents-ability

For most of mankind’s existence, there have been three sources of life force energy.

The first is sunlight which we all require, and which is absorbed through the skin with varying inner cell types using the broad and uninterrupted frequency range to activate bodily functions. We all know, for instance, that we require sunlight for the body to create “Vitamin D”, which is essential for properly using calcium.

The second source of life force energy is that available from living plants - which contain “distilled sunshine”. Most of the plants we eat and use, with the exception of molds and some mushrooms, are grown in conditions ranging from full sunlight to a total lack of visible sunlight (molds). Such plants, their seeds (concentrated energy), blossoms, leaves, branches, barks, stems and roots can be combined to provide almost all the physical nutrients required by the body.

The third source of life force energy is what we call “meat”, the dense protein-rich flesh of animals. The grazing animals get 100% of their own food from plants; the predatory animals eat the grazers and so, by default, are alive only because of the plant eaters. While 100% of mankind eat plants, only three-fourths of mankind actually required sources of flesh for optimum health, and in general, only a few millions (relatively speaking) eat the quantities of protein that many of us in the US eat.

Proper combining of the rich protein and oil containing seeds and nuts with other plant products (beans of all kinds, peas, grains) create whole proteins that provide an extraordinarily nutritious diet - as long as most of those seeds and nuts are eaten fresh and raw. Dried foods become concentrated sources of nutrition, and usually need to be rehydrated and cooked before they’re eaten, but there’s nothing like fresh from the garden foods.

So, why title this scents-ability? Well, these plants, when properly processed by various means - steam distillation, grinding with room temperature oil(s) and filtering, steeping in warm / hot liquids, drying and powdering and remixing with water or oils -

result in the extraction of what, for thousands of years, became the “medicines” that we had at our disposal to keep our bodies healthy.

When someone mentions Chinese herbs, the usual comment is that they “taste terrible” ... probably because many of our bodies’ ills are caused by “acid” conditions, and many herbs are chock full of minerals, which are “alkaline” and usually bitter - and needed for balance.

Some plants produce extraordinary oils just loaded with fragrances - some rich, some dreamy, woody, sharp or pungent, and of course, some that are unmentionable. Unfortunately, today the science behind Aromatherapy, has been lost behind the vaguely “airy-fairy feel-good” kinds of things - available during massages (how decadent!), for example. Freshening up a room with a scent. Nice, but hardly truly important. Not so. But, it all depends on what you’re looking for.

A truly skilled clinical Aromatherapist, with decades of passion and experience is to be valued as if s/he were your own most beloved child. Such an Aromatherapist’s skill in selecting just the right healing essences (fragrances) from plants, and the ability to correctly matching them to individual bodily conditions are nothing short of astonishing. Everything from poor healing of bone fractures to complete recovery decades later, shingles, skin conditions of all kinds ... None of it is magical, all of it is real, and some if it may be right for you. The web is an enormous resource for us all, and asking around may lead you to “the” individual who is best for you.

We know that each one of us is unique - there are four different blood types which means at least four different metabolism types, not to mention the increasing frequency of mixed racial bloodline / DNA interactions just for starters. We all heal from the inside out - why not add something fragrant to the healing process while you are doing that?



By Mary Carney



Chris Bertrand

One Of A Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them
Photos and Story By Chris Bertrand

Sonja Yates, director of San Gabriel Valley's Habitat for Humanity, is ever so pleased with the great progress on the four simple homes under construction in Monrovia. But she's concerned, as all non-profits are in this economic downturn, about their capital campaign to finance the completion of the homes. A tribute to the dedication and priority of this organization in the minds of many in the community, they've already raised \$422,146 of the \$533,000 cash needed to complete these four houses.

The families chosen to become owners of the completed projects are well on their way to fulfilling the 500 required, sweat equity hours to partially fund their personal investment in their homes. In addition, the selected families, who undergo a rigorous need and ability to pay evaluation, must invest 1% cash down payment to buy their homes. When the project is complete, the mortgage payments from resident Habitat families go into this affiliate's fund to help build additional homes.

Ray Quiroz and family eagerly await the completion of their home in this project. Quiroz was proudly at work on his home last Friday, in itself an unusual circumstance on a weekday. He excitedly told Yates that his employer had inquired recently on the progress of his sweat equity hours.

He was blown away as well as humbled to learn he'll now be allowed to work at the Monrovia home under construction one day a week, while still receiving his full salary, courtesy of his employer. This was music to his ears, and Quiroz

was busily getting the most possible from this "gift" day per week.

During my visit, a group of civil engineering students from Cal State LA arrived for their second stint as volunteer workers. For them, it's a win-win situation. They get hands on construction experience, which will insert valuable reality-based exposure to construction into their future occupations. They also commented they had such a great time previously, that they had to come back.



Future homeowner thanks volunteer.

Another group of volunteers were carefully framing an interior wall for the southwest home. One of those volunteers was excited to report he was graduating that day from the construction trade school arm of Rio Hondo College. He was enthusiastic about his volunteer time at the Habitat for Humanity site, which gave him real experience to combine with his classroom study, and a bullet item to add to his resume for a new career.

No one had much time to chat with me, because they were there for a purpose. Supervisors moved from project to project, checking calculations and work product quality. Volunteer coordinators

Monrovia Habitat Build 80% Funded.....But There's Much More To Do!



Artist rendering of four completed homes in Monrovia

provided orientation to newcomers. This well oiled machine called Habitat for Humanity still requires more help, especially on Saturdays and weekdays, and especially from trained construction workers and supervisors, particularly in the electrical field.

To date, the San Gabriel Valley Habitat has raised over 80% of their \$533,000 goal, with significant financial contributions from the Dorothy Read Trust, The Walt Disney Company, Downey Savings, Cal National Bank of Monrovia, Samuelson and Fetter and more than two hundred individual donors.

Yates, eminently passionate about the organization, invites the community to "become directly involved in changing lives and neighborhoods to make our community a better place and to promote affordable home ownership. You'll never be the same after a day at Habitat for Humanity!" Church, business and service club groups make up the bulk of their volunteers, but individuals are critical to filling the volunteer roster needs to keep the project going. Construction experience is NOT required to be of immense help to the build!

To volunteer or donate, visit their website at www.SGVhabitat.org or call them at 626-792-3838, extension 17. A volunteer orientation is scheduled in Pasadena on the second Tuesday of each month. To schedule a group or individual volunteer day, or to offer your behind the scenes help and talents call Habitat for Humanity!

Have an interesting home, garden or person who helps created them, that might be of interest to our readers? Contact Chris@BertrandOnline.com today!



Raising The Wall - Habitat For Humanity

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE Arcadia Regional Office 15 E. Foothill Blvd. Arcadia 626-445-5500	
<p>9670 Las Tunas Drive Temple City \$675,000</p> <p>This choice retail location in Temple City has central air & heat systems, public parking near rear off alley, approx 1,750 sq. ft. w/extra rooms or office upstairs (not included in sq. footage). Located across the street from City Hall and City Park.</p> <p>Elmer Black 626-840-9215</p>	<p>164 E Camino Real, Monrovia \$389,000</p> <p>Darling home on 9,362SF lot w/2 br, 1 ba, wood flrs, some dual pane windows, updated kitchen & bath, family room w/pl. Large covered patio & lrg yard w/new wall, auto security gate & 2-car garage.</p> <p>Susan Miali 626-254-1009</p>

Open Houses 2/7 & 2/8

Open Saturday 2-4pm
684 W Silver Tree St.,
Claremont \$549,500
7130 N Muscatel Ave.,
San Gabriel \$549,000

Open Saturday & Sunday 12-4pm
480 N Catalina Ave.,
Pasadena \$349,900

Open Sunday 1-4pm
1153 Mountain Gate Rd.,
Upland \$299,900

Open Sunday 2-4pm
5675 Skyline Circle,
La Verne \$829,000
164 E Camino Real,
Monrovia \$389,000
207 N Alta Vista Ave.,
Monrovia \$650,000
535 Cliff Drive,
Pasadena \$875,000
7130 N Muscatel Ave.,
San Gabriel \$549,000

<p>BEVIN EUSTACE REALTOR®</p> <p>(626) 821-1213 BUSINESS (626) 808-7403 CELL (626) 447-0388 FAX bevineustace@aol.com</p>	<p>COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE 15 EAST FOOTHILL BLVD. Arcadia, CA 91006 www.bevineustace.com</p>
<p>636 W. Sierra Madre Villa Unit B \$759,000 YOUR VILLA AWAITS YOU....WELCOME HOME...A UNIQUE MUR SOL DEVELOPMENT...ONLY 1 LEFT</p> <p>3 Bdr, 2 Bth. Tuscan Style Townhome built in 2008 nestled in the quaint town of Sierra Madre. Luxury living includes gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances, exquisitely designed, walnut hardwood flooring, wood burning fireplaces and so much more. This townhome features an elevator, and private patio for entertaining. All of this just walking distance from downtown Sierra Madre. For a private tour call Bevin at (626) 808-7403.</p>	

338 Highland Place, Monrovia



Offered for sale at \$1,150,000
See more at www.338HighlandPlace.com

The historic 1926 *Wood House* was designed by architect Herbert Gerhardt in the Pueblo Revival Style. This charming 4bdr 3ba home w/ garden, patio, pool & gazebo w/ BBQ on over half an acre, creates a delightful personal haven.

- 2,423 sq. ft. per Assr.
- 4 Bedrooms / 3 Baths
- Lot Size: 23,757
- Year Built: 1926



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Exclusive Listing Agent

“tink”

CHENEY
Catherine “Tink” Cheney
Previews Estates Director
Direct: 626 356 8129 / Cell: 626 233 2938
Email: tinkcheney@earthlink.net
www.tinkcheney.com



OWNED AND OPERATED BY NRT/ Pasadena South Lake Office
©2009 Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation. Coldwell Banker is a registered trademark, licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Owned and Operated by NRT, Incorporated. Coldwell Banker does not guarantee the accuracy of square footage, lot size, or other information concerning the condition or features of property provided by the seller or obtained from public records or other sources, and buyer is advised to independently verify the accuracy of that information through personal inspection and with the appropriate professionals.

REVERSE MORTGAGE INFO

R & B Reverse Mortgage Services, Inc.
Bruce Lamarche - Walter Clayton
620 W. Route 66, Suite 107, Glendora
(626) 335-3412



Licensed by CA Dept. of Real Estate, License #01787663

We Make
It Simple



www.LASeniorMortgage.com

See the “Senior Spot” column weekly!

Are Flowers Being Fooled?

Are the flowers being fooled? Can January heat bring February (not May) flowers? With temperatures running hot, then cold, then hot again, what's in store for SoCal spring gardens?

Maybe it's because of the extreme weather of the past few weeks – an unseasonable heat wave followed by freezing cold spell – that flowers are being fooled into thinking its spring. According to horticulture expert Brian Sullivan from La Canada's Descanso Gardens, for one beloved plant, it's one of best seasons by far in decades. The camellias are loving life in Southern California and putting on a stunning showcase of blooms, with petals carpeting the ground like pink snow.

Growing in home gardens around Southern California, camellias are one of winter's prized blooms. And Descanso Gardens, home to the largest camellia collection in North America – with 34,000 plants – is ground zero when it comes to tips on how to select, grow and enjoy both rare and familiar

plants.

I think readers would enjoy hearing tips from Brian Sullivan as well as finding out how our wacky weather is affecting the growth of plants. Descanso also has a camellia event this weekend where thousands are expected to descend on the Gardens to see the latest in camellias, attend events on both days and tour the Camellia Forest, where camellias can reach up to 30 feet in height.

I can be reached at 818-949-7984 (office) or 323-791-5250 (cel) or via email at pr@descanso.org to discuss this idea with you. More information on Descanso Gardens is available at www.descanso.org. I look forward to your call.

Brenda Rees - Descanso Gardens



STARTING A NEW BUSINESS ?

FILE YOUR DBA HERE
Doing Business As,
Fictitious Business Name Filing



& POSTAL 80 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre
626-836-6675

Obtain Street Address - Business Stationary - Flyers
Rubber Stamps - Business Cards - Mailing Service

Where Your Community News Comes First

Mountain Views-Observer

Sierra Madre Arcadia Pasadena Altadena Monrovia





Ugo's
Gourmet Italian
Celebrating
Valentine's Day
All Weekend
February 13, 14 & 15

Join us for a complimentary glass of Prosecco
(Italian Sparkling Wine) with any entrée order
Call for Reservations

74 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard
Sierra Madre, CA

626 836-5700

Tuesday-Sunday 8-9
Closed Monday

IN TIMES LIKE THESE.....We all need to make certain we stay informed. Community newspapers like the MountainViews-Observer are the best way to keep in touch with your community. Your local news comes first. News you won't find anywhere else. More news...less advertising.

Subscribe today and keep the independent flow of information at your fingertips.

The MountainViews-Observer is now offering subscriptions to guarantee delivery of your paper each week. There are three ways to get the paper:

Newsstands Around Your Town	Free
Home Delivery To Your Door	
\$40 for Six Months	\$80 For 1 Year
U. S. Mail	
\$52 for Six Months	\$104 For 1 Year

Special Discount for Annual Subscription Renewals:

25% Off	Home Delivery	\$60 For 1 Year
	U.S. Mail	\$74 For 1 Year

PLUS...Subscribers will receive a discount coupon book good for purchases at local stores and restaurants in the area!

Sign Up Today:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone: _____

I would like to subscribe to the MountainViews-Observer for:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 months | <input type="checkbox"/> One Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail |

Make your check payable to: MountainViews-Observer
and mail to: 80 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. #327

Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

or e-mail us at mvobserver@aol.com if you would like to subscribe via credit card or PayPal. Or call us at: 626-325-3111

Restaurant
LOZANO

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S FINEST HIDDEN DINING DESTINATION

VALENTINE'S WEEKEND

CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF ROMANCE




**44 N. BALDWIN AVENUE,
SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024**

FRIDAY LUNCH ~ 11:30-2PM
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
DINNER 5:30-10PM
SUNDAY DINNER ~ 5:30-9PM


RESERVATIONS CATERING
626.355.5945 626.355.3576

WWW.RESTAURANTLOZANO.COM

*They came from two different origins, but found they shared
One Common Philosophy.*



Luther & Georgina
TSINOGLU
Working on Common Ground



We pride ourselves on helping people achieve their goals by establishing a solid rapport and understanding. When it comes to a home or investment property, it's crucial to work with people who have a genuine concern for your best interest.

Serving all your *real estate* needs in Southern California since 1992.

DICKSON PODLEY REALTORS

www.Tsinoglou.com
1.888.451.4915 | 626.408.1401



SPRINKLER WORKS

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS • Landscape Lighting • Waterfalls
Lic #644140

Gary (800) 414-1004
Specializing in Trouble Shooting & Repairs

Even though money is tight...

Here's an ideal way to keep your business very visible...to thousands of weekly readers: The MountainViews-Observer.
Great readership! Great rates!

Let us tell you more. 626-325-3111



ALSTON & ASSOCIATES
MORTGAGE COMPANY
Licensed Mortgage Lender

www.alstonmortgage.com

**GUARANTEED APPROVALS
GUARANTEED CLOSING**

Office: (310) 665-8688 Fax: (310) 665-8698



Mark Alston, Founder & President