

For Lease: Community Health Alliance of Pasadena Eyeing Skilled Nursing Center

By Dean Lee

Although the city council stripped down Tuesday night's agenda, removing a number of items including a General Plan update, Mayor Pro Tem Maryann MacGillivray held fast to discussing the Skilled Nursing Center and the strong possibility of having a new medical facility lease part of the site. MacGillivray explained that the center was actually split into two segments and that the owner was in talks with the Community Health Alliance of Pasadena (CHAP) about leasing part of it.

"At this point in time CHAP is very interested in leasing the smaller half of it..." she said. "They feel that it is a great opportunity for them to expand their services in East Pasadena, North Arcadia and Sierra Madre." According to the Mayor Pro Tem, CHAP will be presenting the idea to their Board of Directors next Tuesday.

City Attorney Sandra Levin said later that any use for the site would have to go through Sierra Madre's city zoning because of the Downtown Overlay Zone. "Even another Skilled Nursing Center would require a zoning code amendment because since the abandonment of the facility's last activity, the Downtown Overlay Zone has been put into place and it restricts what uses are permissible."

Levin added that this did allow the Sierra Madre to be involved in any talks about how the property could be used.

City Manager Elaine Aguilar made it clear at the beginning of the discussion that the city does not own the property. "The staff report identifies that the city

does not have an ownership interest in the property," she said. "So we don't have that control. However we can assist in facilitating what ever options the city council does decide on." The city could assist, she added, by facilitating meetings or sending out letters of support for applications for grant money and/or lobbying county and federal agencies.

Councilmember John Buchanan said that "having a medical center would be better than what is there now." He added that he thought it was only one possibility for a theme centered on the business community. He also asked about the amount of people using the site. "I'm wondering if what's envisioned is a little greater intensity than the Skilled Nursing Center was." CHAP is designed for Medicaid/Medical patients or those that cannot necessarily afford their medical bills,

MacGillivray did say that another Nursing Center was also an option. "We did discuss assisted living with him [the owner] but he said it takes a greater amount of staff and space," she said. "He is more interested in an Urgent Care than the other."

During her 20 minute update on the facility, MacGillivray also said they started talking with the property owner because he wanted the property to begin generating income. She said the owner was now willing to make all the necessary upgrades to the property something that had turned potential businesses away in the past.

All public comments supported the medical facility and long time resident Gary Hood read a letter from Caroline Brown, a Fire Safe Council member and one of the most vocal people in support of a health center.

Her letter outlines the need in the event of a disaster. "It is a sobering fact that all the medical facilities available to us are south of the freeway," Brown's letter reads. "Expected to have collapsed underpasses, only Glendora Presbyterian Hospital, some 15 miles away, is north of the freeway."

Brown explained that if an earthquake, "the big one," were to happen, residents would have to be self sufficient for eight to 10 days."

Zimmerman had originally asked that the Skilled Nursing discussion be put off saying that it, along with the General Plan Update, were two of the biggest decisions the council was likely to make.

"There is one lesson that I have learned being on the Sierra Madre City Council, is, don't make really important development decisions without plenty of public input," he said.

The council did postpone discussion on a possible ban on smoking in outside dining areas and discussions on the General Plan. Both issues will be agendized for the March 10th meeting.

Andy Takes A Dive

Sierra Madre Youth Begins Making His Mark



Photo courtesy of the Howard Family

This week Rich Johnson, your intrepid columnist is venturing into undiscovered territory. Jumping headfirst into an arena of the human experience so foreign and unknown to him it boggles his imagination.

But first our story begins with a likeable young kid named Andy Howard. Literally born in 1997 in Sierra Madre, young Andy grew up nestled in the arms of his doting parents, Dave Howard and Vicki Poole. I first met Andy at Bethany Christian School where my two kids were already deeply entrenched in their education. Andy and I bonded immediately mano y mano. It was inevitable. He the five year old kindergartner, and me the forty-nine year old CEO of a thriving corporation. We fit like a hand in a glove: He would advise me on issues such as strategic planning and marketing. And I would help get the girls to stop picking on him. I knew then and there this young wunderkind was destined for greatness. And he didn't disappoint me.

At the tender age of 9½ Andy realized he needed an outlet for his youthful exuberance. I'm partially to blame for this intense level of intensity (redundancy intentional) as every Tuesday during Andy's early impressionable years I barbecued hamburgers for the entire student body at Bethany. Andy was always the first in line for his burger...no cheese. The die was cast.

Andy decided to become a racecar driver. He applied to NASCAR but was turned down because his feet couldn't reach the pedals. NASCAR also said something namby-pamby about minimum age requirements. So Andy decided if he couldn't be a driver, maybe he could be a...diver. All I can say is WOW! The rest has become an unfolding legacy in the making.

He got hooked up with the Rose Bowl Aquatic Dive Team. He has two coaches, nationally ranked divers Cristina Perovich and Hunter Shafer. Andy works out 2½ hours a day 5 days a week when school is in session. In the summer he works out 4-5 hours a day, 5 days a week. His schedule and mine are incredibly similar. He works out 2½ hours a day and I eat out 2½ hours a day. Eerie isn't it? His list of dives include: A front 2½ somersault; inward 1½ somersault, back 1½; reverse 1½ and handstand somersaults on the platform. He dives on the 1 and 3 meter springboards, and the 5 and 7 meter platforms. For fun he jumps off the 10 meter platform (isn't that like 30 feet up?) Yikes.

Andy has been to 3 U.S. National tournaments in Florida, Missouri, and Texas. In the last nationals he competed in he placed 3rd in the 11 and under division. All I can say is someday Andy's picture will probably be on a box of Wheaties... and the wrapper of a double quarterpounder (no cheese). I hope he remembers me.

While You're In Sierra Madre For The Wistaria Festival on March 15th

Check Out Sierra Madre's Architectural Heritage

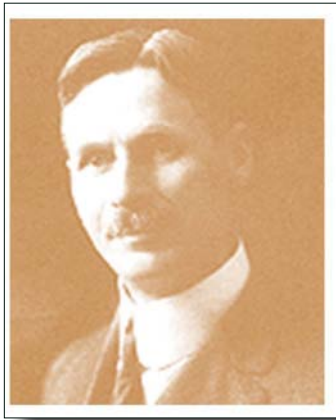
By Bill Peters

Visitors to Sierra Madre should take advantage of their time here to see the charm of today and yesteryear in the eclectic architecture scattered throughout the community. Here are only a very few examples—not necessarily the best, but rather designed to show off the unique charm of our town. These are private residences so we hope you will enjoy them from the sidewalk.

Mulvihill House (1949). If you are visiting the Wistaria Vine, then walk a few steps up the hill to 580 N. Hermosa Ave. to see the work of Harwell Hamilton Harris. Harris was born in Redland, Ca. in 1903 and educated at Pomona College. He later studied at Otis Art Institute. He studied with famed architect Richard Neutra before starting his own firm around 1932. The house has been remodeled, but you can see the influences of Neutra, Frank Lloyd Wright and the Arts and Craftsman movement so popular in Southern California.

Church of the Ascension (1888). Located at the corner of Baldwin and Laurel Ave., just north of Sierra Madre Blvd. on Baldwin, this

beautiful rendition of a country church is an example of Ernest Albert Coxhead's work. Coxhead arrived from England at age 23 in 1887, settling in Los Angeles where he received commissions to design several Episcopal churches, apparently this being one of the first. He left Southern California and continued a successful practice in Northern California designing both churches and residences.



Ernest Coxhead (above) designed more than 17 Episcopal churches in California in addition to many other structures. His work can be seen at the corner of Baldwin and Laurel Ave., Sierra Madre, the Church of the Ascension.

Essick House (1905) Now serving as a clubhouse for the Women's Club, this fine example of craftsman architecture can be seen at 550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



Coldwell House (1907). Built in 1907, this residence, located at 649 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., has been listed as a fine example of the Southern California craftsman style for its adaptation to its surroundings. It was designed by Louis B. Easton who may have worked with Greene and Greene, Pasadena's renowned architects. There are several examples of Easton's work in the area including the Craig House at 620 S. Grand Ave., Pasadena.

Barlow House (1923-1924) Now Alverno High School, a private Catholicschoolat200N.Michillinda Ave., corner of Highland and Michillinda Ave., was designed by Wallace Neff. Neff is credited with developing the distinctive Spanish and Mediterranean style still popular today. The villa was built for Dr. James Barlow whose wife had seen Villa Collazzi outside of Florence, Italy and demanded one just like it. Neff's grandfather was Andrew McNally, founder of Rand-McNally Corporation. Andrew McNally had moved to Mariposa Ave., Altadena and young Wallace was lucky enough to spend a great deal of time there. His works are still popular and can be seen in San Marino, Chapman Woods as well as the only church he designed, St. Elizabeth at Lake and New York Ave., Altadena.

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ROUND THE CLOCK EMERGENCY INFORMATION

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast
Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon: Rain Hi 50s Lows 40s
Tues: Rain Hi 50s Lows 40s
Wed: Showers Hi 60s Lows 40s
Thur: Sunny Hi 60s Lows 50s
Fri: Sunny Hi 70s Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

“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.

Snow Day at Santa Anita Park, scheduled for this Sunday, has been postponed due to predicted inclement weather. It has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 1st.

Santa Anita will become a winter wonderland hosting its first-ever Snow Day during live racing. Fun-filled activities for the entire family will be available throughout the Santa Anita infield, including 200 tons of snow, winter games of chance, snow slides, a 50¢ x 100¢ synthetic ice skating rink, pony rides, face painting and much more.

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Wistaria Tickets Available Online

Tickets for the shuttle to and from the Wistaria Vine from downtown during this year's Wistaria Festival, scheduled for March 15²⁰⁰⁹, can now be purchased online using your major credit card or PayPal, by visiting WistariaFestival.com. You'll also be able to buy tickets by visiting WistariaTickets.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 Sierra Madre 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 time, and a self-addressed envelope (#10) with adequate postage, to “Wistaria Tickets,” at the address listed above. 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 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.

The Wistaria Festival also 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. 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.

Adopt "Hui-Hui" Today

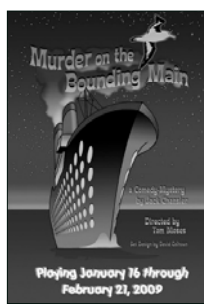


ask about A248047

Hui-Hui [way-way], a gorgeous, eight year old girl is looking for a new home. She loves to snuggle up under blankets and is very affectionate, although also independent. Hui-Hui is ideally looking for someone who is experienced in caring for cats and has no small children at home.

The regular cat adoption fee is \$70 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, and a free follow-up health check at a participating vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask about A248047 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave, Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.phsspc.org.



Sierra Madre Playhouse presents **“MURDER ON THE BOUNDING MAIN”**
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MountainViews-Observer

Where Your Community News Comes First

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

Happy Valentine's Day

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:

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Pasadena

PUSD Approves Police Presence On Washington And Wilson Middle Schools Campuses

By Teresa Baxter

After being tabled twice at previous meetings, the Governing Board of the Pasadena Unified School District finally approved the recommendation by the Pasadena Police Department to expand School Resource Officers to Washington and Wilson Middle Schools.

Public comment provided arguments on both sides of the issue, with both sides agreeing that the measure should not be put in place without some sort of defined protocols included in regards to student's rights. Michelle White, a representative for the American Civil Liberties Union proposed protocols similar to those adhered to by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

"There are very few protections for students in the 'Memorandum of Understanding' that's presently in effect," said White. "The protocols

from Santa Monica show the kind of protocols that ought to be adhered to."

Some of the protocols enforced by the SMUSD include informing the student of their right to have an administrator present during questioning by police. The student must also be informed of their right against self-incrimination and a check for comprehension to insure that the student understands what that means. Students who agree to be questioned may also change their minds during questioning, and request the presence of a parent or guardian.

Board member Renatta Cooper agreed with the importance of protocols similar to the SMUSD, but still voiced concern over past and current policies and procedures being enforced by police on school campuses.

"My concern about the police and their role on the campus has been within the whole interrogation process. It does appear that our students do in fact have Fifth Amendment rights and they are not to be forced to incriminate themselves," said Cooper. "It's quite clear to me that the police operate under the assumption that these kids are guilty of something...I know that's how the juvenile justice system works. I believe that our students need to be protected. So, we do need a protocol that protects our students from interrogation."

The motion for approval was amended with the stipulation that protocols were to be documented and enforced. The motion was passed with Cooper casting the lone vote of opposition.

Arcadia

Senior Theater Performance at Arcadia Community Center

The City of Arcadia Senior Citizens Department is having its annual performance of the Young at Heart Senior Theater Group for individuals 50 years and older. You will be entertained with "A Shoot Out at Wrinkle Creek Saloon" on Wednesday, March 11 at 11:30am at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive. This is a comical skit with the temperance ladies trying to turn the local saloon into a senior center. Cost of the event is \$10.00 and includes a delicious catered lunch. There is limited space and tickets need to be purchased by February 20th.

For additional information please call the Arcadia Community Center at 626.574.5130

For more questions, please contact Arcadia Senior Services at 626.574.5130.

Azusa

February is Grand Opening Month for San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity's Azusa ReStore!

San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity's Azusa ReStore is NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS at 410 S. Irwindale Avenue, Azusa, 91702. Come celebrate the Grand Opening of this ReStore during February to find out how much you can save on home improvement and repairs by shopping the ReStore. Store hours are 9-5, Mon.-Sat. ReStore Manager, Bill Anderson, will welcome and assist you with purchases and donations.

The ReStore offers all kinds of building materials that have been donated including doors, windows, tile, bathtubs, sinks, dishwashers, ovens, stoves, furniture, hardware, nails and tools. Inventory changes constantly and is priced at 1/3 to 1/2 of retail costs depending on whether the item is gently used or brand new.

San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity is proud to offer support for "green" lifestyles, offering valley residents the opportunity to donate building materials that are reusable and in good condition. To donate items to the ReStore, call 626-387-6900. Free pick-up is offered for large items donated within our service area which extends from Azusa on the east to Sunland, Tujunga, and Glendale on the west, and from the San Gabriel Mountains to the 60 Freeway.

The new Azusa ReStore location is a short 15-minute drive east on the 210 Freeway from Pasadena, so our current Pasadena ReStore shoppers are invited to continue bargain hunting in our easy-to-find new location as well as at the Pasadena ReStore, 770 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, 91103.

From Pasadena, exit the 210 Freeway at Irwindale Avenue, then turn right (South) and go about 8 blocks. Our new 16,500 sf site is on the SE corner of Irwindale Avenue and Roosevelt. Parking is in front of the ReStore in the lot accessed from Irwindale Avenue.

By donating to or buying at the ReStores, YOU are helping to build more affordable homes for deserving low-income families in the San Gabriel Valley. Donors receive a receipt for tax purposes.

Bring a copy of this article when you visit the new Azusa ReStore, and you'll receive 20% off the regular price of the first item you purchase!

SENIOR COMMUNITY COMMISSION SEEKING "OLDER 'SIERRA MADRE' AMERICAN OF THE YEAR"

The Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission is now accepting nominations for the Older "Sierra Madre" American of the Year. If you know someone who has demonstrated outstanding community service and is 60 years of age or older, please contact the Senior Services Desk at (626) 355-7394 for a nomination form.

Nominations are due to the Community & Personnel Services Department, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., by Sunday, March 1, 2009. The Senior Community Commission will discuss nominees at its Study Session on March 5, 2009 and announce the honoree at their regular scheduled meeting also on March 5th at 3 pm in the City Council Chambers. The honoree will also be recognized at a reception held in their honor at the Sierra Madre Hart Park House on May 1st.

Past Honorees include: Karl Teigler, George Maurer, Elsie Dannmayer, Doris Webster, Dorothy Tillquist, Celeste McCleary, Ed Wellman, Rose Fafach, Bonnie Garner, Isabella Paegal, James Tyler, Midge Morash, Lucile Flandres, James Heasley, Joylouse Harte-Smith, John Grijalva, Loyal Camacho, George Throop, Russ Anderson and Eph Konigsberg.

BARGAIN BOOK TABLE SALE AT SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will have a Bargain Book Table Sale inside the Library, Monday, February 23 through Saturday, February 28, during the Library's public open hours. Featured subjects will include Art, Fiction, Books on Women, Travel, Children's and Specialty books, all in good condition. All books will be sold at the bargain price of \$1.00 each. These every-other-month book sales provide funding for Library resources and programs. The Sierra Madre Public Library, located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, is open Monday through Wednesday from Noon to 9 p.m., Thursday & Friday from Noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (626) 355-7186 www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

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3pm-7pm

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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.



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News From Your Community For Your Community

Ficus Trees; Going, Going, Going, Gone

By Dean Lee

Reactions were mixed Monday night as the city council decided to let stand a decision made last month which calls for the removal of 35 existing large Ficus and Carrotwood trees and planting 77 much smaller Ginkgo and Mexican Fan Palm trees along Colorado Boulevard near Lake Avenue.

But they will grow the council said.

None of the discussed species are native to southern California.

Councilmember Sid Tyler, who originally asked to resend the decision, tried to again compromise with no luck. A motion made by him to save the Ficus but remove and plant everything else failed to get a second killing the motion.

JPL oceanographer, Bill Patzert explained the roll shade plays in climate change something he said was critical to Pasadena. Each speaker was given only two minutes to address the council.

"As I studied the temperature patterns in southern California over the last century, here in Pasadena the average temperature has risen over 5 degrees Fahrenheit," he said. "And so we are seeing more frequent heat days and certainly more frequent and longer heat waves."

Patzert went on to say the biggest defense against the extreme rise in heat was "the grand old trees in our communities."

He further explained why.

"Our streets, our freeways, our cars, our buildings, with all these black roofs,



Thirteen Ficus trees will be removed later this month, part of plan approved by the council, photo D. Lee/MVO

all they do is heat up our communities," he said. "But the thing that really cools off our communities are the great trees, and the bigger and older the tree the bigger the benefit."

Patzert lives in Sierra Madre a city known for shady tree-lined streets. He also called the planed palms nothing but designer trees that only look good on postcards.

Speaking from a wheelchair, resident Robert Gorski bluntly said, "If you get nothing else out of my two minutes here at the podium, please remember, I hate Ficus trees." He then explained why.

"I hate them most because of the way they uplift the sidewalk, there are other trees that do that but Ficus trees are the worst of all," he said. "Those

with reduced mobility are putting themselves into difficult and dangerous situations by walking over such uplifts."

A number of council members also had concerns about the city, perhaps, being sued over the issue.

Gorski also said he did not see accessibility mentioned in the staff report then warned of a lawsuit in Sacramento in which the city lost.

"They had no defense, they lost, they are now spending thousands, and thousands of dollars to repair their sidewalks."

Gorski was cut off at two minutes by Mayor Bill Bogaard who apologized but said it was in the fairness of time.

"I'm sorry to press like that, but I think in fairness on an issue this controversial,

it is appropriate to conduct myself in that way," he said.

Later, Councilmember Victor Gordo also questioned litigation down the road, asking if they were opening themselves up to lawsuits every time they had to replace a sidewalk.

Other business owners along Colorado also favored removing them.

"We have one of the prominent Ficus trees in Pasadena that is destroying not my sewer, but my roof," said the property owner of Cliffs Books. "The tree is so tall that it is covering my roof and plugging my drains and if I don't clean the drains out fairly quickly, I have serious roof damage."

Executive Director of the South Lake Business Association, Gina Teel



said she was worried about setting a precedence.

"We do have some on our street," she said. "So the concern would be, how would it affect our future streetscape improvement plans as they will be coming down the pipeline very soon."

She added, "They are big, they are beautiful, they are destructive and they costly."

Linda Vista/Annandale Neighborhood Association Board Member Nina Chomsky later picked right up where Patzert left off, in support of the trees.

"He [Patzert] told you the truth, we must save and preserve, enhance, our canopy trees our mature growth trees," she said. "And I would assert that when the world changed and Pasadena realized that and adopted the United Nations protocols and the green city action plan the tree ordinance didn't keep up ... I wish the city would be more consistent."

In an odd move, Councilmember Steve Madison asked Chomsky if she called a friend of his a "tree butcher" something she denied but said, "No but I do remember the famous chainsaw massacre, maybe that's what he is referring to?"

Before ending the discussion the council explained why it was a hard decision. Bogaard thanked the staff for trying to find a reconciliation of the city wide policy of saving healthy trees.

"We all know that there are numerous instances every year which trees are removed, perfectly healthy trees, because there are overriding policy concentrations," Bogaard said.

Trees would start to disappear by the end of the month staff said. The new Ginkgo and Mexican Fan Palm should be planed by April.

The project is expected to cost nearly \$130,000 they also explained.

Black History Parade Feature Producer

Pasadena's 27th annual Black History Parade on Saturday, Feb. 21, will feature as its celebrity grand marshal Ken Whittingham, a 1977 graduate of Muir High School in Pasadena.

Whittingham is a noted producer and director associated with television programs including "Everybody Hates Chris," "Scrubs," "Desperate Housewives," "30 Rock" and "The Office."

Other celebrity guests in the parade will include James Reynolds, who has starred as Commissioner Abe Carver on "Days of Our Lives" since 1981; 14-year-old Mariah Wilson, who portrayed Effie's daughter Magic in the film "Dreamgirls"; and 15-year-old Mishon Ratliff, who portrayed Tay on the ABC drama "Lincoln Heights" and whose debut CD will be released this summer by Streamline Records.

The community grand marshal is Lena Kennedy, a Pasadena native who has dedicated herself to working with many local non-profit organizations in the areas of health care and increased civic and political involvement. In 2008 she served on the national financial committee for the presidential campaign to elect Barack Obama.

Four District 7 Candidates Take Questions

Only one candidate answered a critical two part question, how much do you plan to spend on the campaign and who is your largest contributor, during a town hall forum held Thursday just weeks before voters will decide March 10 who will replace long time councilmember Sid Tyler.

Candidate Terry Tornek bluntly told the crowd of about 100 district 7 residents he plans to spend \$35,000 on his campaign, most of which he said would be donations less than \$100. Tornek has been officially endorsed by Tyler.

Urban planner Ciran Hadian told an displeased crowd she would not disclose that information, Margaret York quickly followed and a retired administrator John Walsh ignored the question altogether and talked about how city hall could save money.

"As for cost, the upcoming budget struggling in city hall are going to be very difficult," Walsh said.

He said he has gotten rid of both yard signs and mass mailers among other things to save money.

Pasadena Star News Public Editor Larry Wilson fielded other questions ranging from Traffic to schools to young people to safety.

Tornek said the city needed to focus on smaller projects and filling vacancies instead of huge, "blockbuster type projects,"

York said she had her family working on the campaign getting young people involved, including her, great, great grandchild who had been going door to door with them.

Hadian said after walking the city for two month the issues were ranging. "The issues range from very simple tree maintenance and trimming to dogs barking to section 8 housing to education to prostitution on Colorado Blvd., arts, zoning permits..." she said.



PSN Public Editor Larry Wilson fields questions to district 7 candidates ranging from traffic to crime. The event was held at Blair High School by the Madison Heights Neighborhood Association. Photos by D. Lee/MVO.



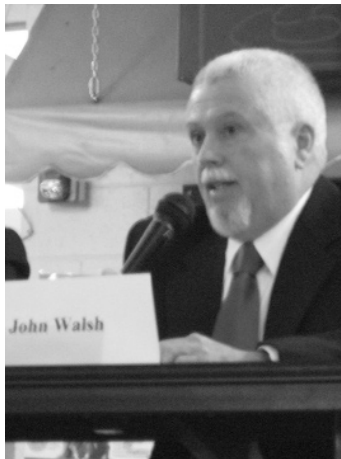
Ciran Hadian became a city planner by majoring in geography at UCLA. She then went on to earn a graduate planning degree from Cal Poly Pomona and a graduate business degree from USC. She has served on the Pasadena Planning Commission as the appointee of three mayors and is an active volunteer in many organizations.



Terry Tornek graduated from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School with a BA in Public & International Affairs. He also earned an MS in Urban Planning from Columbia University's School of Architecture. In 2005 Sid Tyler appointed Tornek to the Planning Commission where he continues to serve. He also sets on the Pasadena Design Commission.



Margaret York has lived in Pasadena for 28 years with her husband, Judge Lance Ito. Professionally, she has served for 40 years as a police officer, most recently as Chief of Los Angeles County Police where she oversaw an annual budget of \$112 million and led a force of over 600 employees.



John Walsh is a retired administrator, editor and lawyer. He began his professional career as a Pasadena deputy city prosecutor, followed by a private law practice. Walsh returned to City Hall as a deputy city attorney for police, fire, personnel, public works and the Rose Bowl.



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

By Pat Birdsall

A brief synopsis of Part I...A question asked by a mother in Louisville, Kentucky on The Green Guide web site... "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 problems caused by Styrofoam and the options for changing the cafeteria were then outlined. This week: **What to do with the information you have collected:** As soon as you have more information about possible options, work with other students, parents, and existing school community organizations (such as PTA or parent's association) to generate broader interest in replacing Styrofoam at your school.

Have the group meet with your principal to present your data and concern and to learn where decisions are made about food service options at your school. Your principal can also help you learn what procedures need to be followed to make a change in your cafeteria. Some schools make these decisions independently; for other schools, decisions are made at the district level.

Once you have the information about "who" and "how," your group can put together a plan and even get a larger portion of the community to sign a petition supporting your plan. Try to make your plan as detailed as possible: get budget figures about how much is currently spent on Styrofoam, and make sure your plan has a budget and options for financing the changes, if they turn out to be more expensive. Your plan may entail new savings as well as new expenses: for example, switching to reusable lunch ware items saves on garbage disposal fees.

Postscript: The boy in Louisville, Kentucky, talked to the lunch ware supplier for his school and was told that non-Styrofoam cups would cost the same, so they made the switch! Evidence that *one* can make a difference—imagine what many can do! Let's get started...

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

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 north of Grandview.

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 please 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, February 1st, to Saturday February 7th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 265 calls for service.

Sunday, February 1st:

4:54 PM - Arrest, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, W. Sierra Madre Blvd and Sunnyside Ave. A motorist was stopped for a moving violation. A records check revealed the male driver was on parole for drug charges and the female passenger was on probation for robbery. During the investigation, drug paraphernalia was found in the car. The driver was arrested and transported to the police station. He was booked and released on a written promise to appear.

Monday, February 2nd:

7:56 AM - Residential Burglary, 100 block S. Lima St. The victim recently discovered that she was missing some jewelry. The owner believes her house was burglarized last year between Monday, 8/17/08 and Sunday, 8/21/08. The loss consisted of three pairs of gold earrings, a diamond bracelet and a gold pendant. The total loss was estimated at \$3,675.00.

8:53 AM - Vandalism, Mountain Trail Ave and Mira Monte Ave. The several body panels of a 2009 Honda were damaged with a sharp object. The crime occurred Sunday, 2/1/2009 between 7:30 am and 9:30 am. The damage was estimated by the owner at \$2500.00.

3:25 PM - Arrest, Suspended / Revoked driver's license, 100 block W. Highland Ave. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed the driver's license was suspended/revoked. During the investigation the driver, a resident of Ojai, was found in possession of marijuana. The driver was arrested and transported to the Police Department where he was booked and released on a written promise to appear.

Wednesday, February 4th:

10:25 AM - Vandalism. Memorial Park. Three flower vases from the Veteran's Wall were stolen and the flowers were thrown on the ground. The crime occurred between Friday, 1/23/09 and Saturday, 1/24/09. No dollar loss estimate was available.

3:23 PM - Vandalism, 100 W. Orange Grove Ave. A home sustained damage when paint balls hit the residence. The damage occurred Monday evening, 2/2. No loss estimate was provided.

5:11 PM - Identity Theft, 200 block E. Alegria Ave. The crime occurred Wednesday 1/27/09 and the loss was over \$25,000 from the victim's checking account.

Thursday, February 5th:

3:55 AM - Unlawful Display of registration, 00 block W. Mira Monte Ave. A car was impounded for expired registration. The car was displaying a current 2009 registration tab, but a DMV records check revealed the registration was expired as of 2002.

Friday, February 6th:

5:29 PM - An unknown injury hit and run traffic collision, W. Sierra Madre Blvd and Michillinda Ave. A witness reported a pedestrian was hit by silver SUV while crossing on a green light. Officers found the suspect vehicle and the suspect on N. Michillinda Ave. The vehicle was impounded as evidence. The victim has yet to come forward. The case is an open investigation.

Saturday, February 7th:

1:36 PM - Burglary, 00 block Suffolk Ave. The driver's side window of a vehicle was smashed whilst the car was parked in the owner's locked garage. The crime occurred between Friday, 2/6/2009 and Saturday, 2/7/2009. No loss estimate was available.

9:31 PM - Arrest, Suspended / Revoked driver's license, 200 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed the driver's license was suspended/revoked. The driver was arrested and issued a written promise to appear.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH THE SIERRA MADRE FIRE DEPARTMENT?

Recruitment and Informational Meeting

February 28, 2009 10 am - Noon

March 3, 2009 7 pm - 9 pm

City Council Chambers

A Weekly Spotlight on Sierra Madre Volunteers

Nan & Jerry Carlton

The Carltons -- Volunteers for 40-Plus Years

How do you spell "volunteers"? "Nan and Jerry Carlton," that's how.

These two Sierra Madre residents really live up the the Sierra Madre mantra -- Volunteering is Cool. And their work goes back to 1967 when Nan and two long-gone residents set the stage for the beginning of Girls' Softball. The same three women harassed the City Council into naming the plot of donated land in northeast Sierra Madre after Hal Dapper, a recently deceased (at that time) volunteer of the Athletic Association.

Jerry designed the present diner at that field. He was chairman of that association and president of Pony/Colt where he managed The Reds in the latter. Jerry was a member of the Parks ad Recreation Commission and was chairman of the Trail Race then. In the '70s he was Girls' Softball coach and manager. He and another local man ran the Christmas tree lot for 10 years in the '80s, with money going to town athletes.

Then in 2007, Jerry walked the whole town of Sierra Madre, checking all 469 fire hydrants in the City. Why was that necessary? "We need to know (for the Fire Department) if they are painted properly, if they're accessible, are capped, and if the blue dots on the streets, indicating their presence, are there," Jerry explained. The task took him all summer and the City Council commended him for the job.

Jerry recycles clear plastic bottles and aluminum for the Civic Club and he volunteers at the library book sales. He also substitutes for Meals-on-Wheels and works on the Wine Tasting Committee.

In the '60s Nan took third graders from local schools to Bailey Canyon on nature hikes, usually going to the waterfall and back. She and friends in '67 started Summer Little League and "that was the beginning of Girls' Softball," she explained. Nan is past president of Civic Club and has been a long-time worker for that club. She participated on all of the Relays for Life held in Sierra Madre.

"About four or five years ago" Nan started a knitting club. "We meet at Bean Town two times a week, and welcome others who want to knit." She also worked on the Rose Float for at least 12 years, helping youth volunteers.

Both she and Jerry participated in the PTAs



for both Sierra Madre School and Wilson, and taught Sunday School for many years.

Their beginnings? When she was a child, Nan and her mother came by train to Sierra Madre to be with Nan's grandmother, Florence Eakman, who was a well-known poet and children's book author. Nan has lived here ever since.

After Jerry left the Navy, he and Nan met and were married in 1953. Their son, Steve, is a hydro/geologist and has a son and daughter, Wyn and Liz. Daughter Suzi's son is Mike. Sierra Madre lost Sheri Carlton Burnett in 2001, and she left another Carlton granddaughter, Amanda.

Nan is recuperating after having had surgery on Nov. 20 last year, and is slowly getting back to activities. "I have to wait until March to resume going to Curves," Nan remarked.

Why do these two volunteer? Nan answered, "I was a Campfire Girl and that's where you learn to volunteer. You're supposed to give back."

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.

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DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIRED

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Oh What A Night!

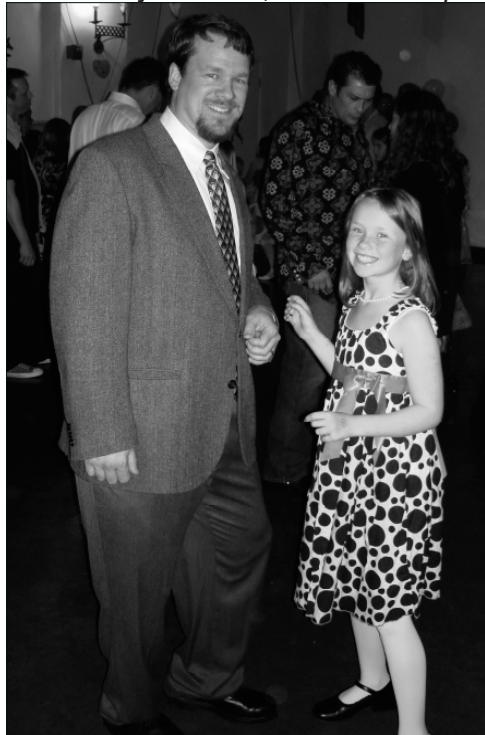
Sierra Madre Elementary School's Annual Father Daughter Dance Just In Time For Valentine's Day!



The evening was full of love and adulation as the young ladies of Sierra Madre Elementary School were brought to the dance by their proud fathers. Sponsored by the PTA, the event helps raise money for school activities.

It was a truly unforgettable evening for Fathers and Daughters alike.

Photos by S. Henderson



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 Be. 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 Marcia 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.



Friends, How Many Of Us Have Them?

By Trisha Collins

I've realized, from going through a few years of high school, that you've only really got a few real friends. There's only a couple people out there that really have your back, only a few who completely understand and accept you. There's a select few who are there for you exactly when you need them, and will put up with all your odd, unexplainable habits. Thank God for these few friends.

Everybody has got one (or maybe two, like me). That one person that simply gets you. They love you for exactly who you are, flaws and all. It doesn't matter if you don't talk for days, months, or even

years. When you do finally reconnect, it's as if you all were never apart.

I have a friend that I first met in the second grade. She was my best friend. I moved in the 4th grade and I thought I would die. How could I make it through the tough circumstances that would surely arise in the almighty 5th grade? We had plans, big plans. We were going to rule the school and I had to move away. I could see all our sleepovers and kickball games coming to an abrupt halt right before my eyes. I was devastated. After I first changed schools, we used to talk almost every weekend. Then it was about once a month. The next thing

I knew, we drifted apart, not talking to each other for months at a time.

So, isn't it odd that we were reunited quite recently and things haven't

changed a bit? I haven't talked to her in a good 5 years, but she's still the brownie-lovin' girl I used to know. I've found that it's important to know who your real friends are. You've got to know the differences between your hard-core buddies and lab partners. Because know matter how many "friends" you may have on Facebook or MySpace, most likely only 2 out of the 200 are going to be there for you when it counts.

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. Vannasdal

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 Lugenbuehl
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



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Fax 626.836.8373

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!



MountainViews-Observer

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All letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to:

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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.

Letters To The Editor

Let's hear it for Assemblyman Adams

Let's hear it for Assemblyman Adams. Recently he did the equivalent of saying that the emperor has no clothes. More literally he committed heresy among Republican legislators by admitting publicly that if we want to have the public goods and services that we all want as well as break the budget logjam, we are going to have to find the taxes somewhere.

The legislative Republicans have adopted the mantra of "no new taxes" no matter what and for that they have prevented a budget for over half a year and left California with the lowest credit rating of any state. (This is not to say that there is not plenty of blame on the Democratic side for not recognizing that we can no longer afford a lot of things that they have been wont to add, and much of it on credit).

I have a house that even after the recent declines is valued in the multi hundreds of thousands of dollars. I, and anyone who would consider moving to such a house in Southern California, expect schools I would be pleased to send my grandchildren to, streets and highways in good condition, police and fire services to keep my family and property safe, clean streets, nice parks, and all the other public services we are accustomed to.

If these things did not exist in my community I would expect the value of my property to drop by a couple of hundred thousand in no time. Most people recognize the reality that to maintain their property values they have to spend a certain amount, and probably suspect that a few more dollars in taxes, especially in times like these, is more than paid back in maintenance of the value of their property.

The legislative Republicans probably know these things, too, but they have managed to paint themselves into a corner. They sold themselves the idea that a pledge of no new taxes is critical to their electoral success and they are fortified by some special interest donors as well as a couple of yahoos on the radio who love to pump up their ratings at the expense of the well being of the rest of us by making a political football out of anyone who tries to recognize and solve complicated problems.

As long as the Republicans are a single issue group, they are in no position to shape responsible long term solutions to our problems of public finance.

I am one of Mr. Adams' Republican constituents and he has raised his reputation many-fold in my eyes.

--Eric Olson, Sierra Madre

The Right to Smoke

The cigarette smokers during Tuesdays council meeting used freedom of their right to smoke as an argument for not limiting it in town. We live in a Republic where the majority and their representatives choose what laws are best to have for the general welfare and happiness of the citizens. We do not live in a society where anything goes. We do not condone behavior which is dangerous to others. Like firing guns in the air, yelling fire in a crowded room, driving while intoxicated or speeding, shooting fireworks near mountains, or factories releasing toxic waste, etc. etc. Cigarette smoke is detrimental to anyone who breaths it. If you go into town you are going to get some of that toxic smoke into your lungs and who knows how long it lays there and how much damage it will do over time. The smokers have the right in doing something that is dangerous to themselves but it is not their constitutional right to inflict this on the rest of us. If you want a ban in outside Sierra Madre dining areas be sure and contact your Council Members. They want and need your input!!

J.Allen, Sierra Madre

A Memorable Candle This Year

By Craig Hakola

A decade score and a day more, a child emerged mostly undetected in the midst of America's woodlands. His first breath was drawn in the expansion state of Kentucky. Like the city of Bethlehem of old it could be said, that no great ruler was to be born of such a place. His family lived a precarious existence as they survived on the meager returns of an untamed land. Though Lincoln's family did not encourage reading; Abraham was irresistibly drawn to it as a flower to the sun. As he advanced in years he readily discovered the scarcity of books that were to be found in his isolated region, but he read everything he could track down, ambushed others and recalled an expansive portion of all. He was mostly self-taught and developed his writing style by penning poetry. He held firmly in his grip the tutored knowledge of the Frontier Spirit. Here a sharpened common sense and unique American philosophy would take root. The hard and undeniable facts of nature would be equally mixed with books and the two would stir a curious wisdom which Abraham Lincoln drank deeply from. Sprinkled by poets and powerful authors and strongly governed by the nurturing ideas of the Founding Fathers he would attain an untarnished perception of America.

The year was 1858, and two of the greatest debaters of any period in American history were the framers of the arguments this year. In seven separate debates across the state of Illinois, the dueling orators would match one another with piercing clarity. On one side was the perennial and cunning heavyweight in Stephen Douglas, preaching Popular Sovereignty; that people should have a choice to be either free or to be a slave in the new territories. On the other side was the little known and untested Abraham Lincoln, imploring and prodding the masses, that slavery robbed the Declaration of Independence of the fundamental and lasting message of freedom and equality. After the long public debate, which held and mesmerized the attention of a nation and the state of Illinois, Douglas would defeat Lincoln for the Illinois Senate Seat. Lincoln though had set into motion a well-defined, fresh and articulate voice for the defense of the natural maturity of America's ideals. Two years later Lincoln would be elected to the Presidency over several rivals including Douglas. Unfortunately though the nation had begun to wash away before him and he could only watch. South Carolina had seceded from the Union and other states hastily followed as Lincoln waited to be sworn into office. Lincoln was publicly despised in many parts of the now staunchly divided country, causing him to arrive in Washington in a disguise to avoid the possibility of being murdered.

The South declares its intentions and fires the first shot on Fort Sumter commencing the War. Lincoln had been hopeful for a peaceful solution to the crisis, but the thought quickly vanished like the morning dew. People on both sides firmly believed the War would be over in weeks. Each side thought that a little show of might, or a few drops of blood would quell any thought of a lasting pursuit of the endeavor. Each woefully underestimated the determination and tolerance for bloodshed in their opponent. Throughout the War, Lincoln would be haunted by questions of a nation, and those he carried of his own lingering doubts. The news for Lincoln and the North was seldom good. The finest General in America was to be found in the South, in Lee. McClellan was Lincoln's General and he was indecisive, as Lincoln would soon discover. Lee perceptible understood the character flaw in McClellan and exploited it repeatedly. Lincoln would go through six generals and an unfortunate string of dependable defeats as a torturous tally of dead and wounded challenged his core beliefs. Mercifully, he finally discovered a fighter in Ulysses Grant. Grant would completely prosecute the war effort and stomach the invariable loss of life that was to follow in the North's offensive. In a determination that displays an unwavering resolve of being rooted in righteousness, Lincoln had outlasted the South and finally accepted Lee's surrender. About a week before Good Friday, Lincoln heard crying in the White House. He went and asked the person, "What is wrong?" "The President is dead," the response came. Lincoln looked into the coffin to see his own face. A week later a Southern sympathizer would make the premonition a historical fact.

Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809. The ancestor that shared this day was a law. The first fugitive slave law was passed in America on February the 12th, 1793. The law was passed sixteen years before the sixteenth President Abraham Lincoln was to be born. Lincoln would have understood the divine providence in such a coincidence. The poor prairie boy who grew up to save a nation and ensure America fulfilled a promised endowment, bequeathed by its Founders; the celestial proclamation of Equality. A lofty promise which even its own author would not fulfill. It was a pledge of a colorblind and unprejudiced nation of hope for all people. Thanks to Lincoln it was no longer a mythical star but one which every nation and every people could clearly gaze proudly upon.

Happy 200th Mr. Lincoln -
CraigHakola@aol.com

Stuart Tolchin On..LIFE

ROT AT THE TOP



On Sunday Morning, February 8, 2009, one of the pundits appearing on Meet

Press described the two basic fears inherent in our particular form of government. The first he described as Fear of the Mob. One of our founding fathers, Alexander Hamilton (I believe) wrote of the Great Beast, the powerful anger seething within the downtrodden that might emerge at any time and destroy the fragile society. During his entire political life, Thomas Jefferson feared that the slave population would rise up in revolution and destroy the infant American Republic. Mr. Jefferson and a number of our founding fathers were of sufficient sensitivity to understand the horror inherent in treating human beings as chattel but nevertheless, while speaking of equality, they created a government that legitimized the most basic of inequalities. In addition to maintaining slavery, our founding fathers created a system wherein only the male landowners of a certain age were entitled to vote. I guess it was assumed that only these land-owning men had sufficient stake in the society such that they could be expected to vote and act in ways to preserve that society. The laws of this country, and those of almost any country, are designed to protect the status quo—to protect property rights; in other words, to make sure that the people on top stay on top. Certainly those at the top had reason to fear those in lower positions, and the actions of a government are often required to soothe the anger of the lower classes and at the same time keep them in their place.

The other great fear, as described on Meet the Press, is "Rot at the Top". The possibility that those most privileged in the society will act in ways so irresponsible and reprehensible that the rest of the population will no longer stand for it. Perhaps you remember the

mad Howard Beale, as played by Academy Award winning Peter Finch in Network, screaming "I'm mad as hell and I won't take it anymore!" If the powerful become too obvious in their contempt for the rest of us, well, we might just not take this anymore. The last two weeks, the first weeks of the Obama Administration, have made it clear that "we not at the top" have a great deal to be angry about. I'm particularly angry about the Tom Daschle debacle. The ex-Senate majority leader, a Democrat—a good-guy, was revealed to have neglected to pay taxes in connection with the five million dollars he earned after leaving the Senate; and what did he do to "earn" this money? Why nothing illegal of course—just for calling a few friends he made while working in the Senate as an employee of we taxpayers. Sadly, we have all been made too aware that our "Public Servants" are not working for us, they are working for themselves. It's not only Governor Blagojevich that violates the system, I'm afraid it's the system itself.

It's not just that the rich don't pay their taxes or that corporate CEOs receive government bail out money and magically transform it into personal bonuses earned for running their companies into the ground. Look, I admit it. I've never been a fan of wealth. It's evil and corrupting and, most of all, it's unsatisfying. People always want more and inevitably lose track of what is actually important in their lives. I think the major problem in America, and the world, is income disparity. I hate that billions starve while the rest of us (yes, you and me) worry about our lost equity and dashed early retirement plans. I would like to see the focus change from trying to protect or restore the status quo to a national commitment to create a better country and a better world. And I don't endorse any Iraqi-style forced regime change. That's all I expect from Obama—profound peaceful world-wide Revolutionary change within the next four years. Well, maybe it will take two terms.



The Stranger

By Hail Hamilton

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our neighborhood. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger...he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind.

Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home... Not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our longtime visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush. My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished.

He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked... and NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name?
We just call him "TV."
He has a wife now....We call her "Computer."

Looking Up With Bob Eklund

Smallest “Other World” Could Have A Surface To Walk On

In a mission led by the French Space Agency, the COROT orbiting telescope has found the smallest planet ever detected outside the Solar System. The amazing planet is less than twice the size of Earth and orbits a Sun-like star. Its temperature is so high that it is possibly covered in lava or water vapor.

About 330 exoplanets have been discovered so far, most of which are “gas giants” similar to Jupiter and Neptune.

The new find, COROT-Exo-7b, is different. Its diameter is less than twice that of Earth and it orbits its star once every 20 hours. It is located very close to its parent star, and has a high temperature, between 1000 and 1500°C. Astronomers detected the new planet as it transited its parent star, dimming the light from the star as it passed in front of it.

The density of the planet is still under investigation: It may be rocky like Earth and covered in liquid lava. It may also belong to a class of planets that are thought to be made up of water and rock in almost equal amounts. Given the high temperatures measured, the planet would be a very hot and humid place.

“Finding such a small planet was not a complete surprise”, said Daniel Rouan, researcher at the Observatoire de Paris, Lesia, who coordinates the project with Alain Leger, from Institut d’Astrophysique Spatiale (Paris, France). “COROT-Exo-7b belongs to a class of objects whose existence had been predicted for some time. COROT was designed precisely in the hope of discovering some of these objects.”

Very few exoplanets found so far have a mass comparable to Earth’s and the other terrestrial (i.e., rocky) planets: Venus, Mars, and Mercury. This is because small planets are extremely difficult to detect. Most of the methods used so far are

indirect and are sensitive to the mass of the planet—while COROT can directly measure the size of the planet’s surface, which is an advantage.

“This discovery is a very important step on the road to understanding the formation and evolution of our planet,” said Malcolm Fridlund, ESA’s COROT Project Scientist. “For the first time, we have unambiguously detected a planet that is ‘rocky’ in the same sense as our own Earth. We now have to understand this object further to put it into context, and continue our search for smaller, more Earth-like objects with COROT.”

COROT is a mission led by the French Space Agency (CNES), with contributions from the European Space Agency (ESA), Austria, Belgium, Germany, Spain and Brazil. It was launched into Earth orbit in December, 2006, carrying a 27 cm (10.6 in.)-diameter telescope designed to detect tiny changes the brightness of nearby stars. The mission’s main objectives are to search for exoplanets and to study stellar interiors.

On another world
Would lovers still rendezvous
At the twilight hour?

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

The poem quoted here is from Bob Eklund’s book, *First Star I See Tonight*, and is copyrighted by him.



Photo by Aaron Dominquez

ARGENTINA’S TEATRO COLÓN TO PCC’S SEXSON AUDITORIUM

Prize winning High School Junior, Akie Jette, to appear as solo violinist with the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra

Sunday, February 22, 2009; 3:30 p.m.
Sexson Auditorium, Pasadena City College

She may have won the “Pursuit of Excellence Award” from Flintridge Preparatory School in La Canada Flintridge last spring, but young violinist Akie Jette is definitely not resting upon her laurels. This past summer, the high school junior’s ‘pursuit’ of musical excellence led her to Buenos Aires, Argentina to study with world-renowned Argentine violinist Raphael Gintolli and perform with the Academic Orchestra of the Teatro Colón. Local audiences, however, will now have a chance to hear Jette perform when she appears as guest soloist with the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra (PYMO) at its annual winter concert, “Symphonic Dances”, on Sunday, February 22 at 3:30 p.m. at Pasadena City College’s Sexson Auditorium.

Jette, who began studying the violin at age six and is currently Concertmaster for both PYMO and the orchestra at Flintridge Prep, will perform Saint-Saëns’ Violin Concerto No. 3.

“Akie has been a member of our orchestra since 2006,” says PYMO’s Music Director, Jo Stoup. “We’re delighted to offer her this opportunity to shine and share her artistry with the community.”

Nor will the community be disappointed. Jette, who hopes to embark upon a professional career as a violinist, has already won first place in the intermediate division of TMJ’s Cali McGrath competition.

Those attending “Symphonic Dances” will also hear a number of works inspired by the world of dance, including Sergei Rachmaninov’s Symphonic Dances, Pavane by Gabriel Faure, Malambo by Alberto Ginastera and Lt. Kijé by Sergei Prokofiev. “Symphonic Dances was Rachmaninov’s last composition and he wrote it looking back at his Russian homeland, from which he’d been exiled for over 20 years,” Stoup explains. “Faure’s Pavane was not only inspired by a Spanish court dance but was choreographed for the ballet, as was Lt. Kijé.”

Ginastera’s Malambo, meanwhile, was inspired by Argentinean folk music. A malambo is a particularly fast paced dance in which gauchos, or cowboys, compete to show off their agility and machismo.

“Our musicians won’t compete but they will show off their talent,” adds Stoup with a smile. “It will be an amazing performance guaranteed to make your soul dance.”

Tickets for Symphonic Dances may be purchased at the door for the suggested donation price of \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. Children under age 12 are free.

Pasadena City College is located at 1570 East Colorado Blvd in Pasadena, with parking available at any PCC student lot for \$2. For more information, call (626) 403-1086 or visit the orchestra’s website, www.pyomo.org.

ABOUT THE PASADENA YOUNG MUSICIANS ORCHESTRA:

Founded over 50 years ago, the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra (PYMO) has provided musical training for gifted young instrumentalists in high school and junior college. This season, students from 32 schools throughout Southern California and from a variety of economic and ethnic backgrounds are taking part in the program. As diverse as the musicians are, however, they share one common goal: to learn how to play in a symphony orchestra.

PYMO rehearses and performs at Pasadena City College, where Music Director and conductor Jo Raquel Stoup is a member of the music faculty. All orchestra members must belong to a performance group at their school, thus making PYMO an extension of their school music program. PYMO rehearses once a week and performs three different concerts yearly in addition to its annual tour.

The mission of the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra is to provide excellence in music education and performance for young musicians and to enrich the cultural experiences of the community by presenting music at a high level of artistic achievement.

PYMO is operated by the PYMO Association, a non-profit organization dependent on a network of volunteers and donors, including parents, friends and area businesses. PYMO is particularly grateful for the many benefits derived from its close association with Pasadena City College, the Orchestras of Pasadena, and the many high schools in the area. ARCADIA METHODIST CAPTION
The people in the picture from (l to r) Evelyn Greathouse, Mariette Salama, Cheryl Wolf, Methodist Hospital Foundation President Sue Francis and Mardi Gras Chair Lindburgh



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TABLE FOR TWO By Peter Dills

The Worker Is Worthy Of Their Wage

We all know them, those embarrassing people that just can't bring themselves to leave a decent tip. What is the thinking behind tipping and what should be given, and when did it start in America? Tipping began to take hold in Sates in the late 19th Century after the Civil War.

It was widely considered by many groups including the intellectuals of the day as an outright evil. Newspapers wrote vigorously against its vices. They reasoned that it established an aura of servitude, by offering a demeaning handout, or petty token. It appeared to them to imply a level of superiority and class that conferred on the lowly receiver a beggarly countenance. There were groups such as bartenders that flatly refused tips as they considered it far below their status to receive these patronizing gifts. Now when someone says, "those were the good old days," you may know what they mean. Those attitudes are dinosaurs as the tide has surged dramatically. The tipper of today may feel that they are now the servant of some codified law passed down by Hammurabi, which they do not entirely understand. Tipping is in theory set about to insure good service and once completed, rewarded in scale. Today tipping is so copious that we encounter it at every turn. What about the places where you have to tip in advance. This does not insure good service, does it? Only at a place like a Starbucks does this seem to make any sense. Call most other advanced tipping a ceremonial offering of a hopeful spirit.

When determining a tip at a restaurant, what are you to consider before settling your bill and factoring in a tip? At a restaurant you are tipping on the speed of service, accuracy and usefulness of the servers, and not on the food. Is tipping at a fancy restaurant different than tipping at a coffee shop? Many people believe it is. Keep your cool and don't be overcome by the trapping of the place. The basic rules are, basically universal.

Here are my guidelines for tipping but not necessarily the way I tip. I even give 10% for atrocious service. It seems with my picture in this paper, and on my TV show "The Chef Knows," that I might get a bad reputation from the Server Syndicate, and be labeled a "bad tipper," which is a stigma that carries long faces and low mumbled talk. You on the other hand can level the full power of the wallet upon these slothful rapsallions (I jest my beloved envoys of my repast).

Here are my suggestions from the Coffee house to the Spago House

Fair to medium service 12 to 14 %

Good to Better then Average 15 to 18%

Great Service 20%

This should be applied to the food and beverage total before tax

Can't figure the whole percentage on tipping. Best way is to just double the tax which falls in the Good range.

Also for parties of 8 or more, restaurants include the tip in the total many times, so check for that or ask if you are unsure.

Let's move around and head to the bar. How much should you leave for wine or a drink at the bar? Believe it or not a full bottle of a \$10 wine takes as much energy as a bottle of Dom Perignon to open. If the bartender keeps my glass full and clean, and if the wine is kept cold, and takes the time to pour it for me, I suggest 10 to 12% with a minimum of \$3 for the bartender. Have Kids? Of course I do. Luckily mine is as clean and tidy as they make them but they are not all created like her. If your children make a mess, throw food and crayons on the floor. I always leave the busboy at least \$3. If you don't, well you could consider cleaning it yourself. Now let's get out of the restaurant and move to the car - Valet Parking. If there is no charge and it's a tip only, I suggest at least \$5, again depending on speed of service. What if there is a \$5 fee? I will give at least \$1 extra and maybe even \$3 if my car is brought to me quickly.

I hope these offer you some use guidance so you don't feel trapped the next time you turn the corner and encounter the next tip.

Email me at the chefknows@yahoo.com with your thoughts. Join me every Saturday afternoon at 3 PM on LATV and KJLA for my recent reviews.

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Ingredients:

- 4 seven-ounce Mahi Mahi filets

Salsa Ingredients:

- 1 can black beans
- 1 ½ mangos, peeled, diced ¼"
- 1 red onion, diced ¼"
- 1 ½ red bell peppers, seeded and diced ¼"
- ½ bunch fresh cilantro, chopped
- 3/4 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 ½ teaspoons rice wine vinegar
- salt and pepper to taste

Method:

Combine all of the above ingredients, except mahi, and mix well. Refrigerate.

Sauce Ingredients:

- ¼ cup teriyaki glaze (may be purchased at your local grocery store)
- 1 tablespoon orange juice
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 ½ teaspoons corn starch
- 1 ½ teaspoons water

Method:

Combine teriyaki glaze, orange juice and soy sauce. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat. Combine cornstarch with water until smooth. Whisk into sauce until desired consistency.

Grill mahi mahi on the grill for 3 to 4 minutes per side (being careful not to burn the filets). When done, spoon 1 to 2 tablespoons of the teriyaki sauce on each serving plate. Place mahi mahi on top of sauce, and top with black bean salsa.

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FEBRUARY 5	Theolonius Dub
FEBRUARY 6	Bobby Bradford's Motet
FEBRUARY 7	Lisa Finnie
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

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The Senior Spot
By Bruce Lamarche
OLD FRIENDS

We all can remember our best friends from school days. Some of us have been lucky to have special friends later in life. What makes a friend? We know it's not necessarily your relatives and not necessarily people we have worked with at our jobs. Friends come from odd connections in our life but there is that something special that just clicks when we are together. Perhaps it is the power to listen to each other. Sometimes it's a warm bantering of humor that allows us to kick each other in the behind in a friendly way. It can be the ability to laugh and joke together over the issues of life.

So, where are your old friends now? When is the last time you spoke to them or went to dinner together to talk about "stuff"? It is so easy to let time pass and allow the special times you used to spend together to just not happen.

Friendships are crucial to happiness. Mental health experts say that people with a small but regular set of friends can translate into good life happiness.

You can tell who your friends are by the fact that they call you when you need help and show up on your door step to take charge when you are weak. They talk straight to you when you need it and will surprise you with a phone call just to say hello and ask how you are doing. Friends will be there when you need to talk.

We lose contact with our friends easily, though. Our ego will be hurt if they didn't call you at Christmas or your birthday. Yet, we may not realize how many times we do the same. Circumstances may cause them to simply forget. That's not indicative of the end of friendship, it's just life.

If you have a special friend that you have lost track of, the internet is an amazing tool for locating people. www.zabasearch.com is an interesting source for addresses as well as just typing in your friends name (and it's free.) If you can't find them, look up someone who might know where they are and call them.

Pick up the telephone and call friends that you have let slide into the past. You might be surprised how delighted they are to hear from you. Go to lunch or have one another over for coffee and just talk. The magic that made you friends in the first place is still there.

Got a question? Ask Bruce 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 COMMUNITY COMMISSION SEEKING
"OLDER 'SIERRA MADRE' AMERICAN OF THE YEAR"

The Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission is now accepting nominations for the Older "Sierra Madre" American of the Year. If you know someone who has demonstrated outstanding community service and is 60 years of age or older, please contact the Senior Services Desk at (626) 355-7394 for a nomination form.

Nominations are due to the Community & Personnel Services Department, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., by Sunday, March 1, 2009. The Senior Community Commission will discuss nominees at its Study Session on March 5, 2009 and announce the honoree at their regular scheduled meeting also on March 5th at 3 pm in the City Council Chambers. The honoree will also be recognized at a reception held in their honor at the Sierra Madre Hart Park House on May 1st.

Past Honorees include: *Karl Teigler, George Maurer, Elsie Dannmayer, Doris Webster, Dorothy Tillquist, Celeste McCleary, Ed Wellman, Rose Fafach, Bonnie Garner, Isabella Paegal, James Tyler, Midge Morash, Lucile Flandres, James Heasley, Joylouse Harte-Smith, John Grijalva, Loyal Camacho, George Throop, Russ Anderson and Eph Konigsberg.*

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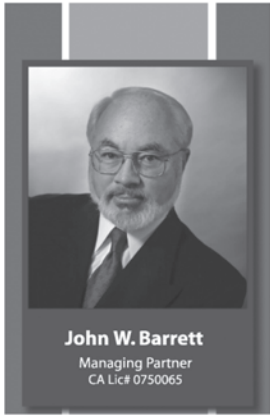
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Pat Ostrye Speaks...

What?? No In-N-Out??

In one of last week's California Section of the L.A. Times there was quite an article regarding the ultimate plight of Escondido. According to reporter Tony Perry, In-N-Out has never bestowed upon that "capital of affluent Northern San Diego County", population 135,000, the privilege of sporting one of its very popular hamburger and fries restaurants, in spite of pleas from the Clty Council. It would seem that In-N-Out should be happy to be a part of Escondido's fast food industry, depending, of course, upon where the nearest one is presently located.

Sierra Madre, a village that doesn't allow such infringements inside its borders, doesn't have to be concerned about all that nonsense, even if there are those among the ten or eleven thousand residents who enjoy a fabulous burger now and then. Not to worry, Arcadia has and In-N-Out nearby at Santa Anita and Colorado, doing a land-office business, probably from 10 am to late in the evenings.

I think one of the very first ones is the one that still stands on Walnut in Pasadena. When our family discovered that one those many years ago, all of them were hooked and spoiled for any other fast food burger. Nor did they mind the long line curly along the road; there seemed to be more chefs than the small space could handle, making service immediate and courteous.

Consequently, we learned early on that it was a long time before Orange, Riverside and San Diego Counties offered this fantastic burger site. Having family members spread out along the coast of California, and doing considerable traveling in those days, we were overjoyed when In-N-Out popped up along the way. Particularly, Riverside. Over the past twenty years we often make trips to the Riverside National Cemetery where my late husband, their father, is buried. It was Hooray! when one opened up not far from the cemetery, with inside seating yet, a new innovation for In-N-Out at that time.

It just might be that this Times' publicity may spur on the powers that be to add one more In-N-Out to the more than 200 sites in California. Postrye@netzero.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 1/2 ounces cream cheese,
softened
2 large eggs
1 tsp sugar
1/2 tsp lemon juice
8 ounces wide egg noodles
1/2 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.

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Chris Bertrand

My head has been buzzing or some might even say "fuzzing" with HVAC terms and topics lately. To be honest, I've been cramming in more information about BTU's, therms and air conditioning tons than I ever wanted to know. First of all, for the uninitiated, HVAC is industry lingo for Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning. I can even speak a bit of the lingo now. "Tons" of air conditioning refers to the quantity of electrical air conditioning that substitutes for a "ton" of ice in the now antiquated ice, air-conditioning systems of a century ago.

In the process of interviewing contractors, Warren Bryant of Bryant Heating and Air Conditioning came to my door. Amazingly, especially in this economy, some other bidders came late, were sloppy and generally acted like they didn't care about gaining my business. Bryant definitely cared, and definitely wanted my business.

Sharp as a tack, spry and witty, Warren Bryant, now 88, has walked the HVAC walk and talked the talk for... wait for it...63 years. No, it's not that the company name has been around that long with multiple owners. Warren and his wife/business partner, Becky, started this business together in 1946, and both are still active California contractors. Recently, they were honored for their 50 year tenure as a Lennox dealer.

Becky was actually one of the first two women to graduate in Industrial Engineering from University of Minnesota in 1944, applying her degree to parachute design and manufacturing for the military during World War II at Munsingwear. Many companies, like this one who made underwear, were converted to military gear suppliers during that war.

Becky then took her knowledge to the HVAC industry where Warren and Becky worked together at another HVAC company, before teaming up as business partners to start their own firm in 1946. Only later did romance blossom. They married in 1953, celebrating 56 years of marriage this year. They must have that rare ability to blend and balance work and home life with such longevity, using a light-hearted banter to take the bite out of serious topics.

On the topic of longevity, Warren Bryant commented that most American businesses are facing their first or maybe second "downturn." Bryant's seen half a dozen. Their experience with such cyclical economic realities has allowed them to plan ahead, not to panic, and to know where to batten down the hatches to survive and thrive in the current economic realities.

One Of A Kind:

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

Warren Bryant's 88 Years Young and still at the top of his game!



As a buyer, I want to buy from a company that will be around tomorrow and next year, when I need service. One that works from a brick and mortar office with permanent staff, company vehicles and seasoned technicians. I want to be reasonably assured they'll be around to service, provide parts and maintain my purchase.

Bryant has been in the forefront of HVAC as far back as the 1960's. Warren was significantly sourced and quoted in the July 9, 1960 Saturday Evening Post about a "new-ish" concept, home air conditioning. That "revolution" is now a housing standard throughout most of the United States. His Post quote from 1960 is as applicable today as it was back in air conditioning's infancy. "I talk engineering and efficiency as long as the customer will listen, but most people like it simple. Like most dealers I hope the seal of approval will be extended to cover a formula for running time and electrical consumption too." Translate that to: cheaper up front often means higher running costs in the long run.

Bryant is passionate about his industry, keeping it simple when it can be, and delves technically deep when appropriate. He proudly stays current with new technology, brand quality and features detailing and comparison, pointing out his newest set of technical textbooks for his "light reading." Here, your bid is not computed by following a step by step instruction sheet from a furnace manufacturer, but utilizing the science and math that makes a really good HVAC system.

HVAC is an "invisible" industry, not flashy or glamorous; hidden from attention until it doesn't function properly, comments Bryant. In the design phase, it's important to calculate the effects of single or dual pane windows and south-facing room exposures in addition to room sizes, home square footage and ceiling height. Then venting and air flow can be customized to deliver even, comfortable HVAC.

Through their decades of experience, they've also learned which product might rest on the laurels of having a "brand" name private label pasted on it, and which might be more cost effective and equally efficient, yet carry a less known name. It's comforting to find a company that has the knowledge to customize

a system to maximize efficiency, minimize costs where possible and in these green-conscious days, save energy.

The Bryants offered a few recommendations that will pay for themselves in long-run operating efficiency. Invest in a variable speed fan, and if possible, a two stage flame for the furnace. They deliver only the minimum amount of temperature change needed. Installing new, highly insulated and dampered ductwork is also well worth the effort, to reduce the loss or gain from the equipment to the room vent.

Bryant laughed that many ordering new systems these days are alarmed that a smaller furnace system is quoted. In fact, the efficiency of such systems has increased so much in the past few years, that the new flues today's more efficient furnaces has been downgraded from expensive steel to PVC. The reason? These new systems can be so efficient that the exhaust temperature is only slightly warmer than body temperature, about 100 degrees.

Not only are the owners well experienced, Bryant's installation team has been together for over 18 years. Employee Nick Lagalante celebrating 20 years with Bryant this month. That kind of longevity is really hard to find these days.

Now both in their late 80's, the Bryants know they won't be around forever, even though I wish they could be. They've established a transition plan, so that now and in the future, Bryant Heating and Air Conditioning is in good hands.

I have a new appreciation for my HVAC system. Maybe an 8x10 glossy photo of my new system, framed next to the family picture? Well, maybe...

Bryant Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. is located at 1350 E. Las Tunas Drive, in San Gabriel. Reach them at 626-286-1141 or BryantAC@Pacbell.net

Have an interesting home, garden or person who helps create them, which might be of interest to our readers? Contact Chris Bertrand at Chris@BertrandOnline.com!

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