

Power Lawn Equipment To Be Restricted In Sierra Madre

Penalties Include Criminal Prosecution.

By Dean Lee

Residents will no longer be allowed to mow, edge, trim, or use anything else gas powered on their yards before 9 a.m. or after sundown without fear of being charged with a misdemeanor. The city council unanimously approved last week the restrictions first aimed at commercial gardeners using leaf blowers, that now extended to homeowners.

Fines may start at \$100, city staff cautiously said. All power lawn equipment will also be banned before noon on Sundays.

The council also voted not to apply the ban to the Downtown Overlay Zone and to place more severe limits on holidays both of which Councilmember John Buchanan took issue with.

"There is a chance that the Downtown Overlay Zone will go away," Buchanan said about the controversial zone limiting types of businesses allowed downtown. "I think we may want to, in fact, define the area and be more expansive in the definition and actually set forth what the exact definition, of what, the Downtown Overlay Zone is."

The council voted to keep staff's recommendation not defining the area.

After the question was later raised by resident Heather Allen, City Attorney, Sandra Levin explained the penalties.

"I understand talking with Chief Diaz, this is a misdemeanor," Allen asked to a surprised council that seemed unaware.

Levin explained, they do plan in the future, not to make the issue criminal, thus, being allowed

to issue citations. By default is a misdemeanor she said, which could lead to prosecution.

"We are planning to bring to you, and to recommend to you, an administrative citation ordinance," Levin said, "which is a vehicle that is used by cities to make any violation of the municipal code subject to a citation so you don't have to go to the lengths of making it criminal."

It was not said if a violator using gas powered equipment could go to jail. Levin also did not say when the issue of administrative citations would be brought back for discussion by the council.

She added that, with an administrative citation, the city would be giving residents an opportunity to correct any violation. Fines had also not been set, she said, although \$100 was used a number of times.

Before passing the ordinance, Buchanan asked to change the time restricted for holidays, something the other council members pressed to keep at noon.

"I can certainly give the person that has July 4 off and wants to get the lawn mowed and out of the way in the morning at 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. so they can have the rest of the day..." he said. "I'm just not sure 12 p.m. on a holiday gives people the kind of rest were are talking about."

City Manger Elaine Aguilar said holidays include, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. It was not said *(continued pg. 2)*

Crews Clean Up After Latest Storm System Passes Through



For much of the last seven days, the city of Sierra Madre, like the rest of the San Gabriel Valley, has been on 'high alert', unable to predict the impact of the three storms systems that passed through the area.

However, much to the relief of residents, despite the cold weather, the rains did not bring severe mud slides and debris flowing from the hillsides.

The city issued green, yellow and red flag alerts as the storms intensified. Flags could be spotted throughout the city and for most of the period, the city's website and SMTV 3 kept the residents well informed.

City staff also utilized the internet, sending 'flag alerts' whenever

conditions changed. In addition, the following message was sent to residents via email:

"Even though City crews were patrolling mud prone areas yesterday, they were unable to begin clean-up until the rain stopped. The City waits for the rain to stop for employee safety, and because it is very difficult to scoop-up muddy water. When the mud is in its most liquid form, it spills out of the equipment and back onto City streets. Once the rain ceases long enough for most of the moisture to run out of the mud, the City can begin removing the mud from the streets."

On Wednesday, as promised in the

email, City crews began cleaning up mud deposited on city streets. By the following day, most of the mud had been cleared.

Some residents did express concern that the alerts escalated to the level of 'Red Flag'. Red Flag alerts require mandatory evacuation, however, the last red alert was done very late at night and many residents were not aware. Others residents were grateful for the careful monitoring.

Sierra Madre also made the national news. CNN, as well as the local network channels, 2, 5 and 7, all descended upon the city. In addition, resident Andy Doty made the news when he bottled and labeled, "Andy's Mud". *Staff/MVO*

Why it's Wistaria and not Wisteria

History of the plant is revealed

By Bill Peters

There are many players in the drama leading Sierra Madreans to spell our famous vine as *wistaria*, with an "a", and not *wisteria*, with an "e". Included are an English botanist, Lewis and Clark, Richard Henry Dana, Jr., a cancer research institute, laboratory rats, preserved human specimens, a doctor at the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Medicine, and finally, a plant. Our story begins in 1808 when Thomas Nuttall, an English botanist, arrived in America. Although he had been a master printer in England, he had a yearning to be a botanist. So, in 1810, Nuttall began his new career direction as a botanist by joining several expeditions through the Great Lakes, the Missouri River, and finally in 1834 as part of a fact-finding scientific trip to Kansas, Wyoming and Utah, following the route of Lewis and Clark. One of the missions of this expedition was the retrieval of plant specimens lost by Lewis and Clark during their journey. Nuttall spent a year botanizing in the Pacific Northwest, but on a trip to San Diego in 1835, became a friend of Richard Henry Dana, Jr., the author of "Two Years Before the Mast". The character "old curious" in Dana's book is purported to be fashioned after Nuttall.

Nuttall returned to the East in 1836 to become affiliated with the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia where he worked on identifying and classifying various plants and birds. One of the plants he classified was the native American plant carrying the Latin name *wisteria senensis*. Nuttall, though, named this plant "wistaria" in honor of Dr. Casper Wistar, a prominent Philadelphia physician and anatomist and dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, who had died 18 years earlier in 1818 at age 57.

The honorarium was bestowed apparently due to Nuttall's affiliation with the founding of the Wistar Institute, a project undertaken by Isaac Jones Wistar, a great nephew of Casper Wistar.

Isaac Wistar, a lawyer and retired Civil War Brigadier General, responded to University of Pennsylvania efforts to save Casper Wistar's collection of dried, wax-injected human specimens he had used in teaching at the University. Isaac Wistar provided the initial gift to endow the Wistar Institute in 1892. Casper Wistar's collection of anatomical models and manuscripts for the first American textbook of anatomy are on display at the Wistar Institute in the Wistar and Horner Museum at the University of Pennsylvania today. Among Casper Wistar's other notable

accomplishments was that he had followed Thomas Jefferson as head of the American Philosophical Society.

The Wistar Institute, the nation's first independent medical research facility, is today an important center in Cancer research. But, in 1906 the laboratory developed of the first standardized laboratory rat for use in medical research. The descendants of this line of rodents is widely used today by researchers and is known as the Wistar rat. Nuttall's botanical work identifying the North American genus of the Chinese *wistaria* resulted in the horticultural giant that is the centerpiece of the Sierra Madre Wistaria Vine Festival.

The confusion that exists between the spellings of the plant named "wisteria" and "wistaria" is one of taxonomy. In botany all plants receive Latin identifications, according to Sierra Madre's Michael L. Charters whose informative website, www.calfora.net, is dedicated to information and pictures of local wildflowers. But Thomas Nuttall meant to honor Caspar Wistar and so does Sierra Madre with its wistaria plant.

The 2009 Wistaria Festival will be held in Sierra Madre on March 15, 2009. For ticket information, please see page 2.

Monrovia Returning \$280,000 to Taxpayers

Monrovia property owners will be getting a break on next year's tax bill as a result of the City Council's vote Tuesday night.

The Council voted unanimously to return \$280,000 to property owners. The sum represents the amount saved during construction of Monrovia's new Public Library.

Monrovia voters approved a \$15.5 million bond issue in 2006 to finance the new library, taxing themselves that amount over the next 30 years to pay for both the construction and the bonds themselves. Construction began just months later and the building is now nearing completion, on schedule and \$280,000 under budget.

Monrovia's Council voted Tuesday, Feb. 17, to put the \$280,000 toward paying off the \$15.5 million in bonds, reducing the principal and making it possible to reduce Monrovia property tax bills for one year by about \$18 per residential property. Vacant and commercial properties will also receive a one-year cut in the tax based on rate formulas.

The bond tax will resume its normal rate after the one-year reduction. The new 28,000-square-foot library will be dedicated in a two-hour celebration Saturday, April 4, in Old Town Monrovia's Library Park. Tours of the new building are included in the program that day, beginning at 11 a.m. Library Park is at the corner of Myrtle Avenue Palm Avenues.

The new library will officially open to the public and begin operations with a special Open House on Saturday, May 16, in conjunction with Monrovia Day, the community's annual birthday celebration.

SM CIVIC CLUB EDUCATION AWARDS DEADLINE IS MARCH 1st

Sierra Madre Civic Club reminds high school seniors that the deadline to enter their 2009 Education Awards program is March 1, 2009. No applications postmarked later than that date will be considered for an award.

Applications are available from counselors at local high schools or by contacting Education Awards Chair Marcia Bent at 626-355-5372, mbbent@aol.com. Time is of the essence. In addition to personal information about each student to be considered on the application, two letters of reference must be attached to the application.

Monetary awards to applicants chosen will be presented at Civic Club's meeting on Thursday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Park Hart Senior Center, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Over the years Civic Club has had a long standing tradition of giving their support to young people.

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast
Sierra Madre, Ca.

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

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.

www.santaanita.com (626) 574-RACE

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 15th 2009, 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 WisteriaFestival.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.

Sierra Madre Playhouse presents
"MURDER ON THE BOUNDING MAIN"

Written by Jack Chansler - Directed by Tom Moses



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

Admission Prices:
\$20 Adult \$17 Seniors 65+
\$17 Students under 18
\$12 Children 12 and under

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**"How to Write a Short Story"
Saturday, March 14,
10 a.m. to Noon, Youth
Activities Center**

The Sierra Madre Community Arts Commission and Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles are proud to present this free beginning writer's workshop taught by author/playwright, Gay Toltl Kinman. Join us to learn about point of view, characterization, narration, description, dialog and how they are all essential for fiction and non-fiction writing. For new writers and those who want to brush up on their skills. Ms. Kinman writes cozy mysteries and young adult novels such as: Death in Covant Garden and Castle Reiner. Many of her one-act plays are performed at the Lizard Theatre in Alhambra. Ms. Kinman teaches throughout the Los Angeles area. RSVP to Susan Clifton, sclifton@cityofsierramadre.com or 626-355-5278.

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

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MountainViews-Observer

Where Your Community News Comes First

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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
	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

**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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Sierra Madre Woman's Club

Essick House : 550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Celebrity Brunch
& Silent Auction

Saturday, February 28
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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Reservations by 2/25 : Martha

626 355-8586

SIERRA MADRE
LITTLE LEAGUE
OPENING DAY -
Let The Games Begin!

Saturday, February 28
at Heasley Field

- 8:30 Parade
- 9:00 Ceremony
- 10:00 Carnival/Photos
- 11:00 First Game

Also on Opening Day the "Diner Divas" are cooking up a homemade pancake breakfast with all the fixings.

We will also have fresh donuts for you light eaters. So...send the kids off on the trucks and come on over for breakfast. There will be Pizza for lunch along with all of your regular ball park favorites, including our famous Taylor's Burgers. Come get your Bean Town Coffee in your new Sierra Madre Little League Mug that will be sold at the

Diner for only \$10.00 each and get refills all season long for just fifty cents!

For More Information Contact:
(626) 355-5293

Sierra Madre

BIRTHDAY HIGHLIGHT FOR SIERRA MADRE CIVIC CLUB

By Phyllis Chapman

A gala celebration marked Sierra Madre Civic Club's 65th birthday on February 12 held at memorial Park Hart Center. President Jane Zamanzadeh gave greetings to the 75 people who attended and thanked Birthday Chair Ann Bixel and her committee for planning the festive evening.

Bixel chose the color purple to carry out the event's theme. This was evident in the beautifully designed invitations, table decorations and even the birthday cake, a dominate feature of a refreshment table groaning with goodies. Most people attending also wore purple.

Special honorees were past presidents, charter members and Honorary Life members. 23 past presidents were present including Joyce Adams whose husband, Gary, was a past Sierra Madre mayor, now residents of Idaho, Anne Tyler, also a charter member, Sharon Lefler, former Sierra Madre Elementary School Principal and Dorothy Murphy, president in 1949-50. Special remembrances were paid to past president Peggy De Palma who died in 2008 and Sue Messersmith who died in January.

It was during World War II when Civic Club began in 1944 and they helped in the war effort. In the years since they have been recognized with community awards as a dominate volunteer force for service in Sierra Madre and for generous annual philanthropy donations.

Pasadena

The Circle of Huntington Memorial Hospital Donates \$50,000 to Fight Breast Cancer



From Left to Right: Jane Haderlein, Dr. Ruth Williamson of Huntington Hospital; Tara Burnett-Doering, president of the Circle of Huntington Hospital.

The Circle of Huntington Hospital recently donated \$50,000 to assist the Constance G. Zahorik Breast Center in the treatment of breast cancer patients.

"The work the Circle of Huntington Hospital does to raise funds to help prevent and detect breast cancer is vital to our efforts to continually improve patient care," said Jane Haderlein, Vice President of Donor Relations for Huntington Hospital.

Funds were raised through patron donations and the Circle's "Let Us Entertain You" series of benefits held last year. The events included a series of concerts and a comedy night held at Huntington Hospital.

"We focus all of our fund-raising efforts to help women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and are going through treatment at Huntington," said Dr. Tara Burnett-Doering, president of the Circle. "We're proud that we can assist Huntington Hospital and the Zahorik Breast Center in the important work they do to help

women who are facing this life-threatening disease," Burnett-Doering added.

Founded in 1991, the Circle is a nonprofit organization made up of women from Pasadena, San Marino, and surrounding areas whose efforts have raised over \$1 million for Huntington Hospital. For more information about the Circle, please visit www.thecircleofhmbh.com.

Arcadia

Residential Burglaries Spike

The City of Arcadia has experienced approximately 50 residential burglaries since January 1, 2009. A majority of these burglaries have occurred during daytime hours, on weekdays, and are committed throughout the City. Homes have been targeted in the south and west portions of town and condominiums/apartments have been victimized in the downtown and west areas as well. Entry has been gained in many crimes through unlocked or open, rear and side doors and windows of the residences. Pry marks from items such as a flat-head screw drivers have also been found on forced open doors at scenes.

It is our belief that while some of these crimes may be attributed to individual suspect(s), the majority of the burglaries are being committed by organized groups of thieves. There is no specific suspect description to share with the public, but we are reaching out to the community in a campaign of awareness. The Arcadia Police Department is asking that anyone that observes suspicious activity or persons, immediately call our dispatchers at (626)574-5123.

Should you notice a person or persons wandering in a neighborhood or driving slowly past residences, parked or stopped cars that are not known to the area, subjects knocking on doors with no apparent business, or other actions that would indicate a crime in progress, you are asked to call the police. Please secure your homes and make sure that all doors and windows are closed and locked before you leave home.

The Arcadia Police Department has officers patrolling residential neighborhoods and additional investigators conducting saturation patrols, but community involvement is also necessary. These crimes have also plagued surrounding cities and our detectives are communicating with allied agency personnel to coordinate our enforcement and investigative efforts.

For further information, please contact the Arcadia Police Department, Detective Bureau at (626)574-5160. Robert P. Sanderson, Chief of Police

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POWER MOWER (cont. from pg. 1)

why Easter was left out.

Mayor Pro Tem Maryann MacGillivray said they should wait to change the time until people start to complain. She said people will, "need to adjust."

"When we have people coming down here saying, "I can't mow my lawn at 8 a.m. on Christmas", then we will look at it," MacGillivray said.

Councilmember Joe Mosca sided with dropping the time down to 10 a.m., something MacGillivray also agreed with, at first.

"I do think we obviously have more people at home and around their house looking to do their chores [on holidays]," Mosca said. "I certainly have my list and around those holidays is the time to do the list." He suggested dropping the time to 9 a.m.

MacGillivray later changed her mind after gaining support from Mayor Kurt Zimmerman, who also wanted to keep the time at noon.

"I don't have a problem with noon," Zimmerman said. "In general, I don't think it should be the roll of the city council to be paternalistic, but sometimes I think we need to save people from themselves."

He added, "I feel sorry that there is somebody, and I know there are people who do this, that they want to get up at 8 a.m. on Christmas to mow their lawn.

With the exception for Mosca and long time resident Gary Hood, the issues surrounding leaf blowers were not brought up. Hood suggested they look at other types of gardening technology that sucks up leaves and debris instead of blowing it into the air, which he and others have said is harmful.

Mosca reiterated the idea of incentives for gardeners who trade in older leaf blowers for newer less polluting gas or electric ones, an idea just passed by the Pasadena city council last Monday, see related story on page 4.

The Sierra Madre ordinance still needs approval, with a second reading by the council, at which time residents will have another opportunity for comment. If passed the restriction would take effect after 30 days.

Business Watch Meeting

Please Join Us

Wednesday March 4, 2009
8:00-9:00 AM
Council Chambers

Bring your questions, concerns
and ideas.

For further information please call
Sergeant Cayson or
Sergeant Enriquez
355-1414



Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Amgen Tour; Rinaldo Nocentini wins Pasadena

Stage 7: Crossing the finish line at 3:40:16 Rinaldo Nocentini from France took first place followed by Hayden Roulston from Switzerland. Peter Weening of the come in third. Champion Levi Leipheimer still remains in the led with Lance Armstrong, sixth overall.

The final leg of the race tomorrow goes from Rancho Bernardo to Escondido

Stage 6: Race leader Levi Leipheimer (AST) took a big step closer to his third consecutive Amgen Tour of California title by acing the stage with a winning time of 30:40, eight seconds faster than U.S. National Time Trial champion David Zabriskie (GRM). Gustav Larsson (SAX), had the third fastest time, 16 seconds slower than Leipheimer

Stage 5: Team Columbia-Highroad's Mark Cavendish collected his second consecutive stage win by more than a bike length over rival Tom Boonen (Quick Step). Overall race leader, Levi Leipheimer (Astana) finished safely in the field to retain his yellow jersey.

Sage 4: Team Columbia-Highroad launched speedy British sprinter Mark Cavendish who managed to barely eclipse arch rival Tom Boonen (Quick Step) in a photo finish to win the stage. Overall race leader Levi Leipheimer (Astana) finished safely at the top.

Stage 3: The Cervelo Test Team squad executed to perfection putting three men at the front with Thor Hushovd snatching the golden ring in the pack gallop. With the peloton crossing the line all in the same time, Levi Leipheimer (Astana) retains the yellow jersey.

Stage 2: Leipheimer, who had put enough distance between himself and overall race leader, Francisco Mancebo (Rock Racing), to claim the yellow jersey for himself, did not contest the sprint, allowing the 22-year-old Peterson to win the stage.

Stage 1: Mancebo pulled away to take the well-deserved stage win more than two minutes ahead of a chase group containing many of the GC favorites, including Levi Leipheimer.

A Disappearing Dire Act

Residents outraged as Ficus Trees cut down in the middle of the night



Before



After

By Dean Lee

Over 100 people gathered outside Vromans bookstore Saturday morning protesting the removal of two large Ficus trees outside the store. Many blamed Vormans for the removal showing outrage by writing messages to the store on the barren cut tree stumps.

At one point during the protest police asked demonstrators to clear the sidewalk which they did. Another Ficus tree was also removed across the street.

The city wasted no time last week in removing the trees as part of a streetscape plan approved by the city council at their last meeting. The plan, 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 the Boulevard, is scheduled to complete the first week of March.

Councilmember Sid Tyler was among the protesters saying he was ashamed of the city. Tyler was the only councilmember against the removal of the trees.

"The attempt was really to slip these through the council when it appeared on the early January agenda," he said adding, "Sometimes city staff doesn't give you the whole story, we weren't as vigilant as we should have been."

Although it was obviously too late for these trees he did say it was a chance to look forward.

"It's not too late to really

reexamine what it is we want for our streetscape," he said. "Particularly in the commercial business districts, to look at the master street tree plan."

Tyler said they needed not only shade canopy tree but also drought tolerant ones.

He said the city wanted to get the Ginkgos in before the growing season.

Long time resident Branislav Kecman said he orchestrated the event. He also made clear they were not calling for a boycott of any business although others did not agree interrupting, "Why should I bring my business here if this is what they do?"

Kecman said, "We think there is a way to do it without aggravating anybody. We are not adamant about blaming



Concerned residents sign petition urging the city to stop cutting down Ficus trees

one or the other." He said they want the Chamber of Commerce and the Playhouse District to realize people coming here have esthetic as well as environmental concerns.

Some of the other council members said

the trees were a safety concern lifting up and cracking sidewalks. They also said the trees caused damage to drainage and the rooftops of businesses. None of them showed up although Kecman said he had invited them.

Black History Parade a Go

Post-Parade Festival Rescheduled



The city's Black History Parade organizing committee made the decision Friday to reschedule Saturday's post-parade festival at Robinson Park. According to city officials the decision was made due to the committee's sensitivity to community concerns after a man was killed by police during a traffic stop.

"I don't think they should have canceled," said Councilmember Chris Holden who represents the district. "I would not have done that, I don't think anything would have happened. They should have



let it go on."

Pasadena Police Chief Bernard Melekian said Friday that Pasadena resident Leroy Barnes was shot in the backseat of a car pulled over during a traffic stop shortly before 4:30 p.m. Thursday. According to Melekian police fired when

Barnes opened the door. He also said Barnes was armed but gave no other details. He said they would release more information Monday.

Melekian said Saturday's parade went well and by the hundreds of people that lined Fair Oaks it was obvious no one held back on the



Chris Holden

celebration. The parade was filled with Marching bands, ROTC programs, floats, civic leaders and elected officials including Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and Councilwoman, Jacque Robinson.

Bogaard was also anxious he said to find out what had happened during the shooting.

Holden said he was told the festival date had been changed something organizers did confirm. The festival will now coincide with a celebration in memory of Jackie Robinson in May Bogaard said.

Last of Lincoln Crossing's Initial Tenants Evicted

By Dean Lee

Although Former Altadena Town Councilmember Bobby Thomson said yes he was behind in rent as owner of BJR Postal/Copy Center; he also said he thinks being evicted from the embattled redevelopment project has more to do with his outspokenness against the developer than being two months behind in rent.

The center is located on the corner of Lincoln Ave. and Woodbury Dr.

"It was three days after we had the PAC meeting, that Monday," he said. "And I spoke up and then three days later I had my eviction notice."

Thompson was referring to a series of community meetings, the last held in December, where he and other organizer discussed federal, and other, charges filed against Dorn Platz the developer of the property.

He said they collectively removed all those involved.

"They systematically eliminated the Market, eliminated Bessie's Daughter's Soulful Tacos, and I new they were coming after me next."

Greg Galletly, president of Dorn Platz, has said in past interviews that he believes any new tenants they get will be better than the ones they started with. He also said, "We got new tenants for more money," referring to the eviction of another tenant Farm Fresh Ranch Market last August.

Dorn Platz sued the market for \$1.5 million in unpaid tenant improvements according to Par Aria the owner of Farm Fresh.



Bobby Thomson owner of BJR Postal/Copy Center

Aria said he was sued only as a way for Galletly to pay off a series of judgments against his company. Court documents show there were six judgments against



Dorn Platz for the Lincoln Crossing project including, \$300,000 to a cement contractor, \$600,000 to one builder and \$1.5 million to another. Mat's Pharmacy, another tenant, was awarded \$50,000 and documents show that another contractor was awarded an undisclosed amount.

Aria also said Panda Express was also given free rent as part of another settlement.

Helga Kuhn, the former

owner of Soulful Tacos said Friday they had been putting pressure on the County of Los Angeles to investigate Dorn Platz for misuse of funds. She added they were trying to get some of that money back.

"We had been trying to put some pressure on the county to give some aid to the last tenants that were there and to make the ones that weren't even able to open whole again."

Kuhn added, "Because the lady with the salon, she never got her money back, she put down first and last and everything." The store front where the business was planed still sits vacant with a "for lease" sign on the window.

She said she filed a complaint with the county in December for damages. She also sent a letter to First Lady Michelle Obama, and Vice President Joe Biden over the misuse of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) money. She said she not heard back from either of their offices although HUD did contact her over the letters to the White House.

"The county just mismanaged everything, so I think most of this could have been avoided."

Thompson said he has also had some of the same troubles as other past tenants including street repaired that blocked the entrance, open sewer smells and damaged floors. "I don't know if you noticed but there is a big cut in the floor," he said. "Now it's turning white, it's real ugly," he explained saying Dorn Platz had agreed to fix it.

Although saddened, he also said it would be a relief to leave, "it's like a baby to me." He said the only problem he had in moving out right a way was current mailbox rentals, none of which, have been notified.

I don't just want to turn my back on them," he said. "Some of them have paid for three and six months in advance. I hope we can work something out."

If not he said he would be out immediately not waiting for 20 days he has until the court date for the unlawful detainer.

"I cleaned out my garage over the weekend," he said. "I plan to move most of the stuff there."

Thompson said has not decided if he would reopen the business at another location. He added that he owed around \$3,800 for one month's but held the second month after receiving the notice of delinquency. He also said he had never been late in the two years he had been there. Most of Thompson's rent had been paid through community grant funds that have run out.



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know?

Hey, Buddy, Can You Spare....Some Time?

By Pat Birdsall

There are a few web sites that I log on to daily, and one that I should... All they ask of me is a minute of my time.

I began several years ago with **thehungersite.com**. Food is paid for by the site's sponsors and distributed by Mercy Corps worldwide and by Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest) to food banks throughout the U.S. Through this flagship site one can access the following cause-related sites:

Breast Cancer- (**thebreastcancersite.com**) Helps fund free mammograms for women whose awareness of breast cancer and the opportunity for help is often limited.

Child Health- (**thechildhealthsite.com**) This site is dedicated to funding simple and very effective preventatives and treatment with the goal of robust child health around the globe. Funds the administration of Vitamin A to prevent life-threatening childhood illness and disease as well as the preventable cause of childhood blindness; the manufacture and fitting of children's prostheses so that a child injured by a landmine or other accident can still walk, run and play; eye surgeries that can reverse one kind of childhood blindness; and HIV testing that will alert medical personnel when a mother may pass the infection on to her child at birth so that she can be treated and the newborn spared this terrible disease.

Literacy- (**theliteracysite.com**) Dedicated to funding free books for children.

Rainforest- (**therainforestsit.com**) Dedicated to preservation of rainforests around the world. Your daily click funds the purchase of rainforest land by The Nature Conservancy, The Rainforest Conservation Fund, The World Parks Endowment, and Rainforest2Reef.

Animal Rescue-(**theanimalrescuesite.com**) Provides food and care for some of the unwanted animals given to shelters in the U.S. every year. Over 10 million animals are put to death in the U.S. alone because they are abandoned and unwanted.

Another web site hoping to eradicate world hunger is **freerice.com**. They want to provide rice to hungry people for free, and at the same time provide an education to all. You "earn" rice by answering questions in the following categories: Art, Chemistry, English, Geography, Language Learning and Math. The questions can be challenging, and the "game" addictive. Give it a try.

Please take a minute out of *your* busy day. With only a couple of clicks, you can make a real difference!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

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

A Weekly Spotlight on
Sierra Madre Volunteers

Jacki Raymond

Jacki Raymond -- Artist in Residence



You might wonder why we're featuring an Arcadian for our volunteer series. The reason? Jacki Raymond spends more time in Sierra Madre than in Arcadia. As executive director of Creative Arts Group (CAG) she is actually working and volunteering here more than in Arcadia. And she's at home with many artists in the San Gabriel Valley.

"I believe there are more artists per capita in Sierra Madre than in most other towns," Jacki stated. She ought to know. She shares brushes and palettes with most artists in this part of the state because of her talents and her position at CAG.

What are some of her activities in Sierra Madre? She worked on the Youth Master Plan and the Cultural Heritage Master Plan. Jacki was on the Sierra Madre Community Arts Commission for eight years and on the Chamber of Commerce Board. Years ago she served on the Skilled Nursing Board and at about that time painted the wistaria vine design featured on the kiosk in Kersting Court. Jacki is secretary of the Sierra

Madre Kiwanis Club.

Jacki and her husband, Dave, belong to Church of the Good Shepherd in Arcadia and both are part of the Bell Choir there. She grew up in Altadena and Arcadia, graduating from Arcadia High School. She received an Arts degree from Cal State L.A. and did graduate work at Cal Poly Pomona.

"I continued to be drawn to art after our two girls were born, then went back to Cal State L.A. for more training," Jacki explained. Actually, she took some business courses at Cal Poly, too, a perfect blend to prepare her for her first (and only job) so far. The art studio and school have grown considerably, both in size and scope, in those 30 years.

Although she isn't an active, working artist, Jacki has multiple abilities and all in artist avenues.

Jacki said, "I very much enjoy doing things for somebody besides myself. It's great to support nonprofit groups. Sierra Madre is a town that's concerned. People here care."

Dave grew up in Fullerton and met Jacki in Arcadia when he moved there with his family. He graduated from Stanford in electronic engineering and now works at Gale Banks Engineering in Azusa.

The Raymonds have two daughters and four grandchildren.

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

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.

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, February 8th, to Saturday February 14th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 252 calls for service.

Sunday, February 8th:

5:53 PM – Identity Theft, 00 block of W. Mira Monte Ave. The crime occurred on Friday, 1/23/2009 and the loss was \$1,844.00.

Monday, February 9th:

11:31 PM – Identity Theft, 400 block Sycamore Place. An unauthorized use of a Bank of the West debit card occurred Monday, 2/2/2009. The loss amount was undisclosed.

2:09 PM – Arrest, Business License required, 400 block Crestvale Drive. Officers responded to the area regarding a door-to-door solicitor. Officers found the solicitor nearby and obtained evidence that he was soliciting for donations, without having a required Sierra Madre business license. During the investigation the man admitted to a past arrest record for receiving stolen property. The man was arrested and transported to the police station, where he was booked and later released on a written promise to appear.

Wednesday, February 11th:

9:31 AM – Identity Theft, in the Los Angeles area. The reporting party discovered being a victim of identity theft after someone opened three wireless cellular telephone accounts in his name. No loss was reported at this time, as the phone accounts were closed before they were used.

1:53 PM – Grand Theft, 800 block East Grandview Ave. Tools were taken from the bed of a parked pick-up truck. The truck owner arrived home before the suspects left. The suspects dropped the tools and fled, which resulted in the recovery of all the tools. The suspects, a male and female Hispanic, fled the area in a gold or tan colored Ford pick-up truck with a stripe on the side. This case is currently under investigation.

Thursday, February 12th:

10:01 PM – Battery, West Sierra Madre Blvd and Kersting Ct. Officers initially responded to a call of a traffic accident involving a car versus a pedestrian. Further investigation revealed no traffic accident, but a battery between two men after they argued over a parking space. There were no reported injuries. One person left the area before police arrived. This case is currently under investigation.

Friday, February 13th:

9:14 PM – Traffic accident, 00 block of W. Sierra Madre Blvd. A 70-year-old male pedestrian was struck by a car while crossing the street in a marked crosswalk. The 70-year-old man was transported to the hospital. The 22-year-old female driver was uninjured and remained at the scene. The accident is currently under investigation.

Saturday, February 14th:

1:21 AM – Arrest, Outstanding Warrant and Suspended/Revoked driver's license, 600 block Ramona Drive. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed the driver had an outstanding traffic warrant and his driver's license was suspended/revoked. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

5:14 PM – Arrest, Possession of a Concealed Weapon, 600 block Oak Crest Drive. Officers responded to a disturbance call, as two people were heard yelling and screaming in the street. Officers arrived and detained a man that was walking away from the area. During the investigation, officers found the man to be in possession of a concealed pocket knife. The man was arrested and transported to Sierra Madre Police Department for booking.

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Every Wednesday 3pm-7pm

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

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

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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Fax 626.836.8373

And The Winners Are.....

Pasadena Unified School District Awards Outstanding Students & Teacher



PUSD Superintendent Edwin Diaz presents awards to Aidan Montiel, of Norma Coombs Alternative School, who took 1st place at the District's Spelling Bee in the grade 4-6 category. Also honored was Brittany Thomas, a 10th grade student at Marshall Fundamental, who was the District's 3rd place winner in the "Poetry Out Loud" competition. At right, Suzanne York, a teacher at Sierra Madre Lower School was recognized for achieving National Board Certification. York is one of only twenty two teachers in the district to earn certification. Photo by Teresa Baxter

Trish's Truth

by Trisha Collins

Why, Chris, Why?

By Trisha Collins

I was heartbroken when I heard the news. It couldn't be true. There was no way that my favorite singer in the whole world had abused his girlfriend. No way. Not after his extravagant concerts, not after all his loving songs! But who can deny the constant news and magazine reports explaining the terrible situation? Chris Brown, 19 year old male R&B and pop singer, "allegedly" physically abused his Barbados-born pop star fiancé, Rihanna. Oh, yes, it's true.

It all went down in the car after a pre-Grammy party. No one's really sure on exactly what led up to the conflict, but the evidence is enough to clear up any assumptions. A 911 call, a distressed celebrity left in an abandoned car with bruises and (get this) bite marks, and a disgruntled Chris Brown wandering the city on foot. In the end, he turned himself in and got out of jail with a \$50,000 bail. Now, many people are shocked that this dancing dynamic would harm his girlfriend, but I don't think it was his first time attacking Rihanna. I think it was his first time getting caught.

So, after I finished grieving over the ex- "love of my life", I realized that I learned something. Celebrities really aren't the picture-perfect people we think they are (many more people know that thanks to magazines like "US Weekly" and "People"). Sure, they may sing songs about true love and respect, but you know what? Somebody else probably writes those songs for them. Now I see that some celebrities are just fakes. Most only talk a good game and put up a front because it looks good and sells. It just goes to show that it really doesn't matter what you look like or how much money you. In the end it's all about what's inside and how you treat people.

Duarte Youth Boxing Club Boxers Racking Up Wins Around Southern California



Duarte Youth Boxing Club boxers, from left are Johnny Barragan, Luis Sedano, Jacobe Velasco, Joseph Martinez, Ryan Coulter, Kirk Scoby, and Paola Arana.

Young boxers from the Duarte Parks and Recreation Duarte Youth Boxing Club have been racking up wins all around Southern California this year. According to head trainer, Victor Valenzuela, Ryan Coulter, 15, (100 lbs.) a sophomore at Duarte High School, won his bout at the East L.A. Boxing Show on Feb. 14. Johnny Barragan, 24, (152 lbs.) of Glendora, and Luis Sedano, 19, (132 lbs.) won their matches in two boxing shows in San Diego. Luis Sedano, who is employed by the City of Duarte Parks and Recreation Dept., was named Outstanding Boxer in one of the shows. At a show in San Fernando, Kirk Scoby, a 13 year-old Northview Middle School student, (105 lbs.) won his bout on a first stoppage. Paola Arana, 18, (101 lbs.), competing in the Open Division, female, and Joseph Martinez, 18, a DHS senior, competing in the novice division, won the USA District Championships in Pacoima. Advancing to the regional tournament in Coachella on Feb. 21-22, where she is unopposed, Arana will move on to the U.S.A. Boxing Championships in Denver, Colorado, June

8-13, where the best fighters from around the U.S. will compete. Arana is a DHS graduate who now attends Citrus College. In the past four years head coach Victor Valenzuela and assistant coaches, Eric Campugan and Louis Valenzuela have developed a highly competitive youth boxing program, with some 30 to 40 youths each day training out of the boxing ring at the Duarte Teen Center. Last year at the National Invitational Desert Showdown in Indio with over 600 of the top amateur boxers from around the country, Mexico and Canada competing, all seven Duarte Youth Boxing Club boxers came home with honors. Five, including Paola Arana, Ryan Coulter, Steven Salinas, Jacobe Velasco, 14, and Tino Dominguez, 16, won championship belts. Joseph Martinez received a silver medal and Luis Sedano, a bronze. To compete in amateur boxing, boxers must be certified by USA Boxing Federation. The Boxing Club is open to youngsters 8 years old and up. For more information, call the Teen Center at (626) 303-0863.



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San Rafael Elementary School To Offer Dual Language Immersion Program

By Teresa Baxter

Last week the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education decided to move forward with and experimental implementation of a dual language immersion program at San Rafael Elementary School. Research was presented to the board by Alice Petrossian, the Chief Academic Officer of the district, which supported the benefits of students mastering two languages.

PUSD plans to establish dual language classrooms for Spanish and Chinese Mandarin at San Rafael in the 2009-10 school year, which will begin with Kindergarten and first grade. Two to three classrooms will be devoted for English/Spanish immersion and one classroom for English/Mandarin.

"As adults, children who were enrolled in these programs will know two languages very well and therefore, they will have an upper edge in high school, college and the workplace," said Petrossian. "They will also be more competitive in the global economy and will have a deeper understanding of their own first language, primary cultural influences, and how these factors influence them as individuals."

According to the proposal, English speakers and English learners will receive instruction in English and a target language in the same classroom. The goal is to develop academic proficiency in both languages. English learners and English speakers will be mixed in the same classroom to promote oral and written fluency in two languages.

Applications for the new dual immersion program will be available online at www.pusd.us/oe, or in-person at 351 S. Hudson Ave, room 121. Applications must be submitted by March 11, 2009.

Families and neighbors are encouraged to attend an informational meeting on Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m., at San Rafael Elementary School, located at 1090 Nithsdale Rd., in Pasadena.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

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

Arcadia High School

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

Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

Barnhart School

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

Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James 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

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

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 through high school counselors or by contacting Marcia Bent at 626-355-5372.

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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.



Deceptive Timeshare and Travel Club Sales—Part 1

By Hail Hamilton

This is the first of two columns about timeshares. I recently spent 10 days at the Hilton Waikoloa Beach Resort on the Big Island of Hawaii as a guest of the Hilton Grand Vacations Club. Let me begin by saying the whole trip was a timeshare promotional. We knew this upfront. What we didn't know was how small our room would be and how extremely expensive the resort was. It was so expensive that we ate out every night. Except for the swimming pools and lagoon, none of the well advertised activities or amenities was free or at least discounted to prospective timeshare purchasers, which was surprising since we were there at Hilton's invitation so they could sell us a timeshare.

The following is what I learned first-hand from my experience, and from my research of timeshares.

Types of Timeshares

The three most common types of timeshare opportunities are:

■	Fixed-unit, fixed-week agreement - you buy the deed to the property which allows use of the property for the same time period each year.
■	Right-to-use plan - you lease the property for a particular time period each year for a set number of years, usually 10 to 15 years. Under this type of agreement, the ownership remains with the developer.
■	Vacation club or points-based program - you buy points which are then used like currency to purchase time from the amount of available weeks at various <u>resorts</u> . The number of points required to purchase time depends on the season, resort location, luxury, unit size and demand.

There are also variations in how the time can be used, depending on the contract.

■	Fixed time - In this arrangement, you reserve the same vacation weeks each year.
■	Floating time - In this case you do not reserve specific dates each year, but rather, reserve a certain season each year, usually within a three to four month period. You must then reserve a specific vacation period in advance. <u>Reservation</u> confirmation is usually on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Common Sales Practices Used in Time Share Sales Pitches

There are certain common traits and techniques all timeshare salespeople employ, all with the purpose of "closing the deal - today". Tomorrow does not exist.

The presentation is all about misdirection and distraction. The music, for instance. It's loud and festive. It's supposed to put you in the mood; but it also conceals the conversations at the next table. Another purpose of the music is when they turn it down, you really notice the silence - to announce another new owner (sometimes fictional) joining the program. The other way they have called attention to new owners is to open a celebratory bottle of champagne.

They can write upside down. Most will use a yellow, not white, legal pad. Felt tipped pens, not ballpoints. They also read quite well upside down. Especially the resort directory which contains a description of every property that you can exchange into.

They have favorite pages in the book and may bookmark specific pages with paperclips or know the book well enough to rapidly find resorts that will be of particular interest to each prospect, depending on what you said you enjoy. Fabrications may be told by salespeople who suggest they own a timeshare, or their parents owned one.

Next week: I will examine contractual obligations of timeshare agreements, timeshare maintenance fees, and the secondary market for timeshares.



The Stimulus Bill And Other Fairy Tales

"Once upon a time there lived a..." Such is the beginning of most of the fairy tales I've heard. They almost always tell a story about people who face trouble and are saved by a dashing prince who acts decisively with wisdom and courage. Today we're supposed to believe that we are living in a 21st Century fairy tale wherein Princely President has swooped on the scene to craft and enact a stimulus bill which will solve all our economic problems, allowing us to live happily ever after. Like most made-up stories, this one

may help children and the pathetically naïve to sleep at night, but the reality behind it should keep the rest of us awake from sheer terror.

The stimulus bill will not create employment, and it will not improve the economy. It won't even be neutral in this regard. It will be an unmitigated disaster. The economist Thomas Sowell once said that when government wants to do something, we should ask ourselves two key questions: 1. Who's paying for it and what do they have to give up? And 2) Will it actually generate greater benefits than its costs?

If we look at the stimulus bill, it's pretty clear that the most productive Americans of this generation and the next will have to pay for it, and that the least productive Americans will benefit. This is bad policy to say the least, and given its size it is a disaster of monumental proportions. Tax benefits are being given to people who don't even pay taxes (in the form of a refund of monies they may or may not have paid into social security) while tax increases will be passed on to everyone else. That hasn't received a lot of press coverage but it's true none the less.

While the government plans on borrowing today the money needed to cover the massive deficit this bill will create, this only means that taxes will have to increase in the future to cover these debt payments. There has been no time in history when tax increases of this magnitude have helped an economy. Even the Congressional Budget Office acknowledged that the economy will be worse off as a result of this bill's passage.

The last time government deficit spending of this magnitude was attempted, we were in the midst of the Great Depression. If ever there were a time when somehow government spending could work magic, it would have been then. Instead, it failed. FDR's own Secretary of the Treasury stated, "we have tried spending money. We are spending more than we have ever spent before and it does not work. ... We have never made good on our promises. ... I say after eight years of this Administration we have just as much unemployment as when we started ... and an enormous debt to boot!"

This really shouldn't come as a surprise to readers of this column. I've pointed out at least a couple of times now that if you buy the argument government spending improves the economy where it is spent, then you have to buy the argument that government taxation hurts the economy where the taxes are levied. It's simple math. If the government gives me a buck to spend, I'm better off, as is the person on whom I spend my new buck. But when the government takes away a buck from my neighbor by taxing

him in order to give it to me, then my neighbor is worse off, as is the person on whom he would have spent the buck he originally owned.

I really wish it were as simple as saying that all this spending and taxing would be neutral; that somehow the taking of a buck from my neighbor and giving it to me would just leave the economy neutral. I spend, he doesn't, and together it's a wash. But I can't say that.

Almost by definition, government spends money less efficiently than the private market does. This has been documented in study after study, but it's truth is simply a matter of common sense. The government's decision making process is inherently political, whereas the private market's process is inherently economical.

All of us private participants in the economy make our spending decisions based on getting the most for the least. That's called efficiency. For an example, take hybrid cars which will be subsidized in this stimulus bill. If hybrid cars could be made and sold for the same money as a gas-burning car and if they could travel as many miles, the demand for them would be overwhelming. Detroit would be cranking them out by the millions. The truth is that hybrid cars don't provide the same amount of power or travel as far per dollar of cost as gas-burning cars do. They aren't as efficient. It's only the government subsidy (either to the manufacturer, the dealer or the buyer) that creates a real market for them.

The upshot is that more money will be spent getting Americans to and fro by focusing on hybrid cars than if the market were allowed to function efficiently. By spending more money for the same benefit, we are made poorer. Additionally, the extra money we have to spend inefficiently on hybrid cars means less money will be spent somewhere else and total employment in the economy will actually fall.

This is just one example, but the principle is the same. The less efficient we become because of government taxation and spending mandates, the more unemployment will rise. Thus, the primary rationale of the whole stimulus bill - the creation of 4 million new jobs - is a sham. Unemployment will not decrease, and the economy will not improve.

Not a very nice ending for a fairy tale is it? Of course that's the way with fairy tales. We were never supposed to believe they were real, let alone enact them as national policy. I suppose we can hope that this is all just a bad dream and that we'll awake soon to find we really haven't damaged our economy and committed our grandkids to paying off trillions in national debt.

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



Stuart Tolchin On..LIFE RICHES & FAME

Over the weekend I read an article

describing the antics of a former Fry's Electronics executive who managed to talk the company into loaning him ten million dollars, which he then blew gambling. In addition to that, he managed to obtain about 65 million in illegal kickbacks from part suppliers; but, alas, he managed to gamble this away also. For those of us that ever have shopped at Fry's we know that this man must rank as a great American hero because at Fry's stores it's almost impossible to even find someone to wait on you and impossible to get any customer service at all. Yet this talented guy managed to stiff them for 75 million dollars or so—What a Guy—and what does it tell us?

Well, first of all it tells us, as if we didn't already know, that there is no accounting oversight anywhere. If you want to steal, just go ahead—you'll probably get away with it for a pretty good while before anyone catches on and, when you do get caught, somebody will probably want to cover that up because they don't want to be seen as negligent or even complicit in the illegality. Anyway, it seems like we really can't be too mad at these thieves because after all they're not really hitting anybody; all they are doing is pursuing the great American goal of immense wealth and unprecedented luxury. The newspaper article explains that as a Vegas "high roller" he was freely given hotel rooms of unimaginable magnificence, food, expensive liquor, prostitutes and the latest in electronic gimmickry pursuant to his request. (He did require that all electronic equipment be purchased at Fry's thus demonstrating the company loyalty which was undoubtedly a necessary component of his advancement in the retail world.) Why aren't we all doing this?

I'm afraid that the reason we aren't all similarly involved is that most of us are too fearful and probably too unimaginative. SHOW ME THE MONEY, This I believe, as I've said before, is the sickness of America. We've lost touch with all other values—the only way we know how to keep score is by counting dollars." It makes me mad—I don't think wealth is necessarily evil if it just happens to be compensation for doing something very well that is of some benefit to other people--like, it's okay for Picasso to get rich. Still, I think the incredible prices paid for Picassos or Van Goghs represent some sort of strange perversion.

Speaking of Picasso or Van Gogh or any other famous guy, our fixation upon celebrities seems absolutely insane. I guess we think that any connection with a famous person makes us equally famous or worthwhile or immortal or something. Graduates of my high school always mention that we were in the same class as Tom Selleck (We weren't; he was a year behind us and surprisingly unnoticeable. If you weren't on the basketball team you didn't know him.) Still this business of celebrity watching is almost universal.

Much as I want the focus of political reform to be on the possibility of creating a humanistic, moral, compassionate community of self-sufficient fair-minded individuals who are kind to their pets and grow their own tomatoes, it may not be possible. Maybe it's good to be rich and famous - it is kind of sad, I guess, that most of us will never get the chance to know. If anyone has some spare wealth or fame lying around please send it over to me so I can try it out. Still, I believe I can live without it and so can the rest of you; so let's forget about the trip to Vegas and just be compassionate and aware for a while to see how that feels.



Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

Spacecraft Headed for Asteroids Flies by Mars

The Dawn spacecraft, which began its journey to the asteroid belt in 2007, has just flown by Mars, and scientists at the Tucson-based Planetary Science Institute (PSI) used the encounter to tune up Dawn's GRaND instrument.

Dawn's instrument payload includes a visible-light camera, a visible-light and infrared apping spectrometer, and GRaND (Gamma-Ray and Neutron Detector).

The team used the Mars flyby to calibrate the GRaND instrument by comparing its measurements of the Martian neutron and gamma-ray output to data acquired by the Mars Odyssey spacecraft, which has been orbiting the red planet for the past seven years.

Dawn didn't loiter at Mars. This encounter is only a slingshot flyby in which the spacecraft sped past Mars and used the red planet's gravitational pull to increase its velocity by about 2,500 mph relative to the Sun.

Dawn is headed for Vesta and Ceres, the two most massive bodies in the asteroid belt, which is located between Mars and Jupiter. Scientists hope the encounters with Vesta and Ceres will help them journey back in time to answer many questions relating to the solar system's early formation.

GRaND will measure the energy spectra of neutrons and gamma rays coming from the surfaces of Vesta and Ceres to determine the geochemistry of these asteroids.

The quantities of various elements on the asteroids' surfaces will provide

scientists with clues to the formation and thermal evolution of Vesta and Ceres, including the role of water in planetary development, said Tom Prettyman, a senior scientist at PSI and the lead investigator for GRaND.

The neutrons and gamma rays that GRaND measures are emitted by the decay of long-lived radioactive elements and during the subatomic collisions that result from cosmic rays slamming into the asteroids' surfaces.

"Galactic cosmic rays are mostly energetic protons that interact with the spacecraft's structural materials to make

neutrons and gamma rays, just as they would on a planetary surface," Prettyman explained. "The neutrons and gamma rays propagate through the spacecraft and wind up in our instrument. In addition, cosmic-ray interactions produce radioactive isotopes in the spacecraft's structures that

contribute to the background radiation measured by GRaND."

Since Odyssey has been orbiting Mars for seven years, scientists know the amount of neutron and gamma-ray radiation coming from the planet's surface, and the spectroscopy data from Odyssey will be used to calibrate GRaND, Prettyman said.

While the data acquired during the flyby will be used to calibrate the instrument, it also has value for Mars research, Prettyman added.

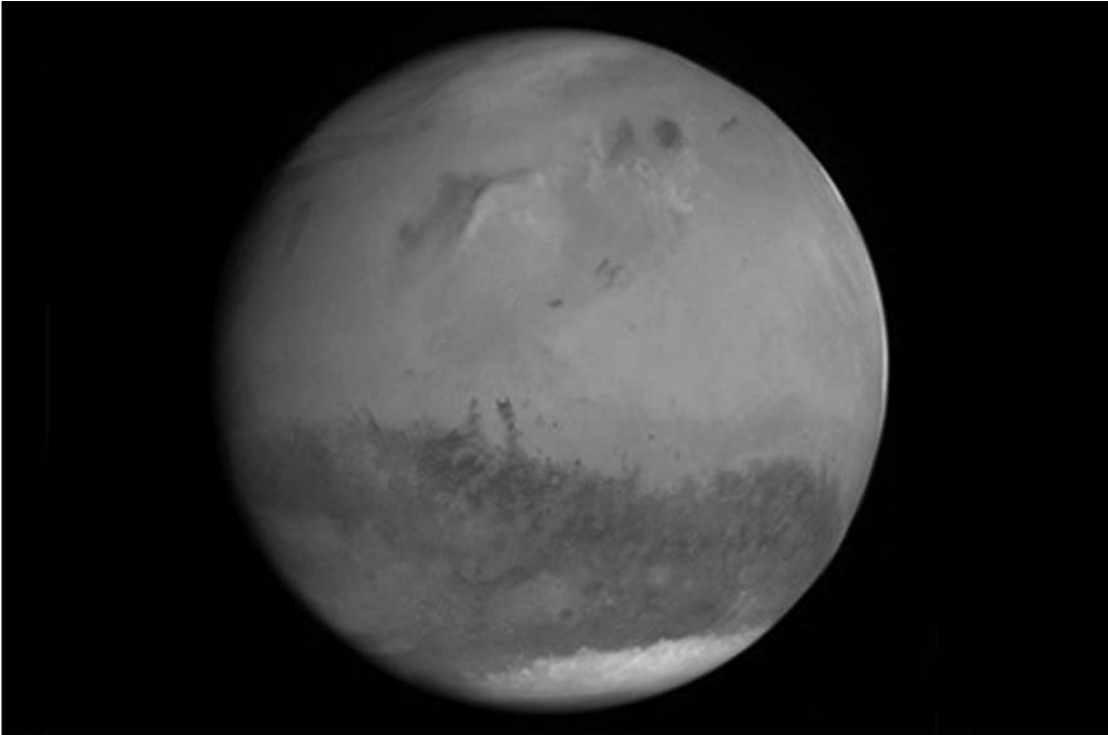
Dawn made its closest approach to Mars on February 18, flying within about 300 miles of the Martian surface before speeding off toward Vesta, which it will begin to orbit in 2011. After mapping Vesta, Dawn will fly on, making a three-fourths orbit around the Sun before reaching Ceres in 2015.

The name "Dawn" is not an acronym, but instead is meant to reflect the pioneering nature of the mission.

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



Photo by Aaron Dominquez



On Line

Online Privacy: Facebook Users Rise Up!

with P.J. Carpenter

Users of the wildly popular social-networking site "Facebook" launched a successful movement to force the management of the service to rescind proposed changes to the Terms of Service clause applicable to users of the site and user data posted on the site. The changes in question would have given Facebook in effect ultimate ownership over content posted on the site even if a user had deleted their account or otherwise discontinued their membership. Had the proposed changes gone through any comments or shared content posted on another users active account would not have been removed if a user decided to delete their account. Facebook management said that these proposed changes were meant to be more reflective of the way people used their service. Facebook users did not see it that way and let their displeasure and disagreement with the new setup be known in no uncertain terms. Some privacy advocates took the

measures to mean that anything posted on Facebook could be used in any way Facebook deems fit, forever, no matter what a user might do later. Several users groups were created in response to this state of affairs and the largest, "People Against The New Terms of Service", grew to encompass over 90,000 concerned users in a matter of days. The uproar eventually convinced Facebook management to revert back to its original policies.

This episode underscores the basic dilemma users often encounter when using social networking sites or any other computerized public forum: how much information is too much information? The whole point of these sites is to connect with others and in order to do that sooner or later a poster will have to let others know who he or she is. This means telling about us about you. In the best of circumstances a user of one of these services will connect with just the group they've

been looking for. In the worst of circumstances a user will connect with just about everyone except the group they've been looking for. This group will invariably include at least one Nigerian prince who only needs your bank account number to make both of you rich and at least one adult toy marketer who just knows that you are the target market for their products.

Users of these social networking sites can minimize these potential privacy breaches by selecting the highest privacy settings on their accounts that allow them a comfortable level of interaction with others without completely isolating themselves. It might also be a good idea to remember that although these sites often have the look and feel of a private diary they are publishing sites in every sense of the term. Once something has been posted it's there forever. For better or worse.



Rich Johnson

Why It's Great To Be A Guy

I understand it appeared to some that I picked on guys two weeks ago in my lead up column to Valentine's Day. I won't apologize as my motives were pure (well kinda), but I want to take this week to build up my fellow manly men. So let's jump right in and talk about why it's great to be a guy.

- A. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds.
- B. You know stuff about tanks.
- C. A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase.
- D. Your bathroom lines are 80% shorter.
- E. You can open all your own jars.
- F. You can go to the bathroom without a support group.
- G. You can leave a hotel bed unmade.
- H. You can kill your own food.
- I. The garage is all yours.
- J. You can be showered and ready in 10 minutes.
- K. Wedding plans take care of themselves.
- L. Your underwear is \$10 for a three.
- M. None of your co-workers have the power to make you cry.
- N. You don't have to shave below your neck.
- O. If you're 34 and single nobody notices.
- P. Chocolate is just another snack.
- Q. You can be president.
- R. Flowers fix everything.
- S. Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.
- T. You can whip off your shirt off on a hot day.
- U. You don't have to clean your apartment the meter reader is coming by.
- W. One mood all the time.
- X. You don't mooch off others' desserts
- Y. If you retain water, it's in a canteen.
- Z. The remote is yours, and yours alone.
- AA. You needn't pretend you're "freshening up" to go to the bathroom
- AB. If you don't call your buddy when you say you will, he won't tell your friends you've changed.
- AC. If another guy shows up at a party in the same outfit, you might become lifelong buddies.
- AD. There's always a game on.
- AE. Your last name stays put.
- AF. When changing channels, you don't

have to stop at every shot of someone crying.

AG. You don't have to lug a bag of useful stuff around everywhere you go.

AH. When your work is criticized, you don't have to panic that everyone secretly hates you.

And finally the greatest reason it's great to be a guy:


AJ. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.

So, guys, now you have something you can put up on the refrigerator or above the john.


In a post script, I must confess I abused the English language two weeks ago. Fortunately, one of the three people who occasionally read my column reported me to the editor. What did I do? I had the audacity to use the word, "Irregardless." I'm eternally sorry. I am sure I have set back the English speaking world eons if not ages. Next week I may try to help set the teetering world of correct English usage back on its appropriate axis. Then again, irregardless, I will write about something.



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TABLE FOR TWO By Peter Dills

Day Tripping Temecula Style

I had to discover it for myself. I have heard of Temecula of course and I have driven through it a few times. I just didn't know much about the Wine Country in this region. I have heard about every Indian Gaming Casinos it seems, and that darn Pechanga song keeps me up at night like a skipping record, so I had tame the thought.

I loaded the wagon up with an arsenal of corkscrews and a flotilla of wine glasses, and then headed down for weekend of wine tasting and relaxation. There are many wineries and to visit all the places in 24 hours would require a wine shooter and a high performance car. I do not possess the latter. To commence the day we began at The Thornton Winery, here we sampled a splash of the bubbly and the Chef was kind enough to bring us an Ahi Tuna appetizer as well. A great way to start any journey. From there it was off to Wilson Creek Winery, running the show is some old friends from South Pasadena and they are churning out more than 50,000 barrels of wine a year. The pride of the Wilson Winery is the Almond. They must wear a beret when they make this stuff by the manner they are able to replicate the delicate old country tones. There is a tasting room, a restaurant and plenty of space for a party, plus a beautiful patio outside which gives one the stately view of the vineyard as the grapes dawdle in the radiant sun. One of the more sophisticated restaurants for tasting is at The South Coast Winery. A well visited restaurant, with a beautiful fireplace, which skillfully kindles the flame of romance in any heart. The other rooms carry the same classy feel as the restaurant. The grounds have a Hotel as well and I am told some of the rooms sport Jacuzzis. Wine and Jacuzzis sounds like my kind of trouble. The city proper has some common and reliable favorites, including Claim Jumper and El Torito, just in case you can't break the habit. We ended the night at Harry's Bar and Grill in Temecula. Temecula's stunning growth has taken place recently so many of the restaurants are chains. This is one of the few non-chain restaurants in downtown. I can't give you pitter patter with all the details as I didn't eat there but I am told its great food. I found it a nice bar to enjoy a night cap.

There is so much more to talk about and too little space, so I have a suggestion. Join me the weekend of **March 14 & 15th for the World of Wine Barrel Tasting**. At the participating wineries you experience grapes indigenous to Spain, France, Italy and Germany which are now grown on vines in Temecula. In all there will be over 20 wineries participating. My recommendation is to visit the web site for additional information. Discount tickets are available. One more suggestion, there are tour vans that offer expert guides and will get you around quickly and safely without the hassle of driving. Again check out the web site www.temeculawines.org.



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Agents were also honored for “Outstanding Performance”:

Imy Dulake, Thom Bluemel (*not pictured*), Peggy Fong Chen, Gary Lorenzini and Bruce Pfeiffer



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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

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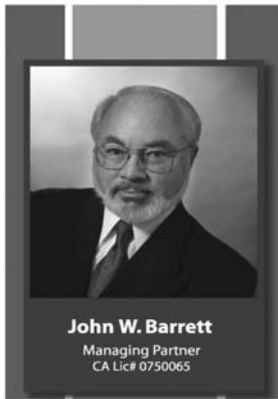
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The Senior
By Bruce Lamarche
**CHECK YOUR
ATTITUDE**
Spot

Ok, so you don't think you have a bad attitude . . . about anything. An honest look at ourselves can reveal attitudes that are unhealthy for us, both mentally and physically. We create the stereotypes that younger folk see as typical for seniors. Personally, I'm not sure what "senior" means. In my mind anyway, I'm definitely only 32. Yet, despite this youthful outlook on life I find myself melting into certain "older" mentalities. I've decided not to accept this.

One stereotype is that seniors have to accept loss of mobility, flexibility, strength. This is not true. Admittedly, we are not 21. It seems that many "older folk" give up on fitness using the excuse that age is a good reason or that it is natural to become sedentary. Physical conditioning and improvements can be had at any age. Walk for life! We're not talking about shuffling around the mall. I'm talking about starting the day with a vigorous walk around the neighborhood. Starting with your comfort level and doing it every day can increase your mileage. This has a tremendous effect on your mental outlook for the day and helps mitigate stress. The natural chemicals released into your blood by exercise, make this possible.

Another misconception that can affect attitude about life is that you are genetically predisposed to certain health and mental issues. Genetics are not the only factors in determining this. Our positive social activities and choice of mental attitude about life in general can change health positively and improve mental health. On that note, think about laughter. This is not only a tremendous stress reducer but it triggers positive chemistry in your body resulting in physical and mental health. This is not to mention the joy it brings to others. But, be careful with this "laughter" thing, it's contagious.

Some of us say that "the world is not what it used to be." That young people are all rude and that things are going to . . . you know where. Admit that nothing is ever as it used to be. It never has been. I believe that most of younger people are fine citizens who are compassionate and do the right thing. Let's not label all for the actions of a few.

Perhaps a choice of a negative attitude is a way of wallowing in self-pity. Boy, that gets a lot of results! We get our 30 seconds of sympathy before others get tired of it. This doesn't even consider the negative impact on our outlook and even on our health. Hmmm . . . choice? Yes, our very capable minds are choosing our attitude about life events and our way of living.

So, here's our word for the day (and for life). It's "choose". This powerful word is somewhat of a self-fulfilling prophesy. Despite our external environment and our physical conditions, we can choose our reaction to our circumstances. One view says, "My day is ruined because my car is wrecked." Another, more productive view, says, "So, what about the car, I'm alive and uninjured. This is a great day!"

How will you choose your reactions for the next event in your life . . . and the one after that?

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 He can be reached at (626) 335-4292.

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Senior Travel Opportunities

The Arcadia Travelers Club sponsors a variety of local day trips and mini vacations for persons age 50 and above. Enjoy excellent group travel on state of the art charter buses and stay at top rated hotels and resorts. The Club welcomes guests to travel with them for a modest guest fee or become a member for only \$7.00. The trips originated out of the Arcadia Community Center - 365 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007, where members may park their cars while on club sponsored trips.

One such trip is the Luck of the Irish and Showtime Cabaret – featuring a traditional corn beef and cabbage (or salmon) lunch, followed by a variety show celebrating all things Irish. This trip is scheduled for Monday, March 16 from 11am-4:30pm. The cost is \$78.00 for members and \$87.00 for non-members.

Another trip is the International Orchard

Show, which involves going to the Stripling Orchid Nursery in Carpentry, having lunch at the Santa Barbara Golf Club, and spending the afternoon at an Orchid show at Earl Warren Showground. This trip is scheduled for Sunday March 22 from 8am-6pm. The cost is \$64 for members and \$ 74 for non-members.

In addition to the above mentioned day trips, the Travelers have a mini spring vacation filled with gaming and sightseeing. The Chukchansi Gold Resort and Yosemite Valley trip offers a three day and two nights a commendation including a \$20 voucher for gaming and food, plus a tram tour of Yosemite Valley. The cost for the trip is \$227 for double occupancy and \$367 for single. This trip is schedule for March 30 – April 1.

For more information or questions regarding this trip, please contact Arcadia Travelers Club at 626.574.5130.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

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

~Helpful Hints~

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

Recipe of the Month:

"Nothin' Says Lovin' Like Somethin' from the Oven"



Noodle Popovers

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



Happy Birthday!

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

For Your Funny Bone

Michelangelo and a politician arrive at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter proclaims, "He's here! He's here!" and ushers the politician inside as trumpets sound and angels sing. As Michelangelo follows, the gates slam in his face. Shaken, he knocks. St. Peter appears. "I don't understand," Michelangelo says. "I have served God all my life through my work, and I arrive here and am completely ignored in the midst of the tremendous welcome for, of all people, a politician!"
"I'm sorry," says St. Peter. "We have many artists and religious people in heaven. But this is our first politician!"
And, Valentine's Day Groaners-
Q- Who sends a thousand Valentine cards signed, 'Guess who?'
A- A divorce lawyer.
Q- What do squirrels give for Valentine's Day?
A- Forget-me-nuts.
Q- If your aunt ran off to get married, what would you call her?
A- Antelope.

Quote: Without love, the rich and the poor live in the same house.
~Author Unknown~

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday: Ping-Pong 1:30 PM

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

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

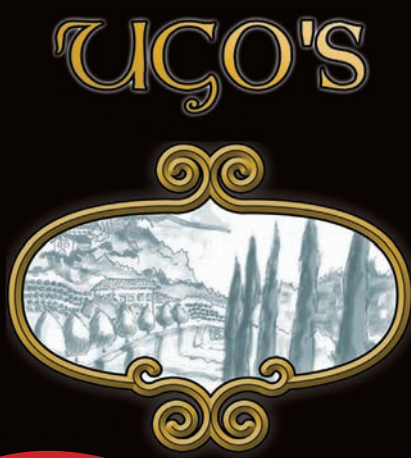
Free Blood Pressure Clinic- Second Tuesday of each month 11:00 AM- Noon No appointment necessary

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



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

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Chris Bertrand

Nestled at the cusp of the San Gabriel foothills, just a few minutes above the I-605 and I-210 interchange, is a 4.22 acre Bradbury property currently for sale as a buildable and subdividable parcel. Natural terracing has created several potential new homesites on this gated property, which also contains an 1884-built Queen Anne style farmhouse and a spacious 1988-built carriage house. The prestigious community of Bradbury is one of several tony, nature and equine-loving addresses found dotted across LA. Tiny by population, with only about 800 current residents, this minute municipality was incorporated in 1957 by property owners who prioritized the early vision of the community, retaining "spacious building sites which afforded privacy and country living in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains," according to the city website. That vision is alive and well today, where country living, horses, fruit orchards and "room to roam" remain high priorities. All with easy freeway access to just about anywhere in LA.

The property's original, Queen Ann farmhouse includes an expansive wraparound porch to enjoy the cool foothill evenings partially encircled by heritage oaks and miles of beautiful vistas. The home was expanded early on to its current 2622 square feet, with an added second floor. A permanent connection from the main home to the kitchen was built at some point, "updating" it from the original outbuilding-style kitchen.

Other Queen Anne architectural features include multiple patterned shingles and detailed spindlework on the porch structure and interior staircase. Authentic era light fixtures abound, and wood burning stoves still provide heat for the home. Twelve foot ceilings and exquisite wood

One Of A Kind:

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

A Step Back In Time...To Bucolic Bradbury



work provide charm and character, as well. The home was never assigned any historic designations, which allows for changes or new construction without historic status restrictions.

The home has been used extensively in filming, according to the owner, and this occasional use has provided significant income due to its seemingly remote location plus nearly original and authentic interior and exterior. In 1988, a 2292 square foot carriage house was constructed with modern car storage and second floor guest accommodations.

Just below the property, on the north side of Royal Oaks Drive, runs a wonderful, wide bike, walk and horse trail on old railroad sidings, used widely by local residents. Many Bradbury residents also trailer their horses about five minutes away to the Santa Fe Dam trails which connect to trails leading all the way to Long Beach.

Living amidst nature, with nearly unpopulated access to the Angeles National Forest is immensely appealing to many, yet requires a bit of common sense. The Bradbury city website recommends bear proofing measures, as do most forest-adjacent communities for a reason. Goldilocks and The Three Bears could easily have been written up here in Bradbury.

Years ago, as the story goes, a bear (now gone) was attracted into the

home, perhaps by a great smelling dinner. Said bear was apparently fond of the chocolate syrup in the refrigerator, but had a little trouble extracting it from the squeeze bottle. Bear and chocolate continued to have issues and that one container of chocolate syrup was applied to many surfaces high and low in the kitchen and elsewhere in the home. After all the chocolate excitement, the bear decided it would be nice to take a nap in the master bedroom. At least Goldilocks wasn't involved in this Bradbury tale!

This Bradbury property is at a crossroads, ready for a new estate to be built as many have been throughout this prestigious community, or a new owner to love it "as is" with its century old lifestyle, room for horses and/or orchards... and modern guest quarters to boot!

The property is currently listed at \$2,989,000. To get more information about this property, whose MAILING and LISTING address is 2010 Gardi St., Duarte, but legal address is on Royal Oaks in Bradbury, contact Diane Holguin from Dickson Podley Realtors in Monrovia at 626-408-1413, Diane@DicksonPodley.com or at www.DianeSellsLA.com

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



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