

Saturday, February 28, 2009 Volume 3 No. 9

Sidewalk Washing Banned - Regardless Local Business Owner Jailed In Mishap Over Watering Sidewalk

By Susan Henderson

Tom Smock, co-owner of the Four Seasons Tea Room on N. Baldwin in Sierra Madre, started his day like any other this past January 31st. He has an established routine for checking the perimeter of the trendy, upscale tea room throughout the day, often cleaning up litter and debris. However, on this Saturday, when he removed dog

Smock to scrub the area down and rinse the surrounding sidewalk. He did so responsibly, or so he thought, so that the entrance to the restaurant would remain sanitary. He also did so under the vigilante eye of Sierra Madre's Code Enforcement Officer, Lisa Volpe.

What happened next astonished witnesses. According to Smock, when Volpe approached him regarding the violation of the city's water ordinance, he informed the officer of the extenuating circumstances. He even offered her a whiff of the shovel (since the contents had been disposed of), to verify his statement. Apparently that action was enough to send Volpe packing. She crossed Baldwin Avenue and called for back up.

Soon, two SMPD officers arrived and what happened next is disputed. According to SMPD Captain Gianonni, what followed was the result of Smock allegedly threatening Volpe. Smock, however, denied that allegation vehemently and says that the police would not allow him to tell them what happened.

Regardless, the SMPD handcuffed and arrested Tom Smock, age 67, for Assault With A Deadly Weapon, a violent felony. He was handcuffed, taken first to the SM Police Headquarters and then turned (continued page 3)



Four Seasons Tea Room on N. Baldwin

feces left behind by an irresponsible dog walker in the front of his dining establishment, Smock ended up at odds with the law. Another person's disregard for the laws of the land and common decency set off a chain of events that may have far reaching consequences.

Smock noticed the mess shortly before the restaurant opened. Although business owners are banned from using water to clean sidewalks at any time of day, due to the nature of the biological waste, it was necessary for

Our Home Town Grocery Store Is Back!



Mr. Taylor, second from left, and staff anxiously await your arrival!

Photo By Lina Johnson

Three Cheers for Taylor's Produce & Meats

Story by Mary Carney

Monday morning Taylor's Meats re-opened its Produce Section! Now we don't have to leave town for our fresh fruits and veggies, milk and dairy, eggs. Once again we have the essentials for a healthy diet right here in town, Mondays through Saturdays, 9 am through 7 pm.

Once again it's easy to pick something up for dinner on the way home – not to mention the makings for breakfasts and lunches the next day.

It's been a long haul to get here. Last year Don Taylor wanted to

make a small change in the produce section. The Department of Health came in and decided that what was good enough for lo-these-many-years was no longer good enough. So the entire produce section was arbitrarily closed down, while "a few small changes were made". Well, we all know how that goes. Those few small changes required a design, plan check, construction, inspection, reconstruction, reinspection, adjustments and inspections, and more adjustments and inspections. Hopes that the whole process would

be finished in time for Thanksgiving spread to "maybe Christmas" to "maybe early January" – and the "only a few weeks" turned into almost a year.

But the long wait is over. Come and See! See the new flooring. Appreciate the new cleaning corner. Once again come and select the wonderful fresh fruits and higher quality veggies than are available in nearby markets. Appreciate the convenience, and the dedication of the entire staff in hanging in there (cont. page 3)

Wistaria Festival An All-Volunteer Effort

By Bill Peters

Sierra Madre's horticultural wonder, the wistaria vine, is the world's largest blossoming plant. To celebrate its springtime bloom, on Sunday, March 15, the 2009 Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce Wistaria Festival will allow the public to view the 115 year old wistaria vine and continue the extravaganza with day-long activities that include a walk-through of the acre-sized arbor on which the vine sits, and a street fair in the city's downtown section.

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce is providing the office and clerical staff to carry out the many event details which include ticket sales, booth assignments and much, much more. But behind this effort is a group of dedicated community members who provide the on-the-ground work of making the celebration, which is anticipated to draw more than 10,000 people to the City, a success. They are all volunteers.

Bill Coburn, who is serving as the Wistaria Committee chair, oversees advertising and sponsorships. Carol Canterbury and Sue Levee are arranging for the buses that will carry ticket-holders up the steep hill to the vine. Susan Henderson and Tom Canterbury are handling the park, a difficult assignment given that more than 150 arts and crafts vendors will need a place to leave their trailers and other equipment. Halcyon Koerber and Lisa Spigai Perez arrange for the nearly 60 community members they enlist to make the tour at the vine an easy and safe one and docents to relate the history of the vine to visitors. Rosemary Morabito and Janette Ledea

coordinate the volunteers who will man the street barricades that control traffic in the downtown area. Mario Lalli is arranging for live music that will be heard in multiple outdoor venues. Others lending a hand in organizing the event include Chamber Board members Sue Lamb and Ron Brandley and city representatives Susan Clifton, Elisa Weaver and Charles V. Kamchamnan. Tiffany Bailey heads the staff at the Chamber office. There are many additional volunteers contributing time and talent to the Festival. Adding to the fun, in addition to the vine tour, the arts and craft booths and live music, will be a Kid's Zone with lots of activities, dining in the many fine restaurants located along Sierra Madre Blvd., Kersting Court, and Baldwin Avenue. KOLA-99FM will broadcast from its booth from time to time throughout the day. Children's activities and a food court will be located in Memorial Park.

Tickets to tour the wistaria vine can now be purchased at the Wednesday afternoon Farmers Market, at the Chamber office, or online at www.WistariaFestival.com. Tickets are \$9 per person round-trip pre-ordered, or \$10 the day of the event. Preferred hour for visiting the wistaria vine can be specified. The day of the event, a Wistaria Festival Shuttle Ticket Booth will be opened at 9:00 a.m. at the corner of East Montecito and Baldwin Aves. to accommodate visitors. Vine viewing will end at 5:00 p.m.

2009 Sierra Madre Wistaria Festival, Sunday, March 15
Activities all day long, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Historical Preservation Society Meets To Discuss Preservation and Restoration

By Dean Lee

Tensions ran high Sunday afternoon as members of the Historical Preservation Society met with Council Members John Buchanan, Joe Mosca and Mayor Pro Tem Maryann MacGillivray to discuss unprotected landmarks at One Carter, increased permit fees and the possible re-establishing of Sierra Madre's Cultural Heritage Commission. The one-hour meeting was led by Historical Preservation Society President, Dane Lenton.

MacGillivray introduced the idea of reinstating the commission. It had been disbanded by a former council she, as well as others, said. "That's a great idea Maryann," said long-time real estate broker and community volunteer, Judy Webb-Martin. "I think that's what we need to do."

Webb-Martin also said she did not think the planning commission should be dealing with preservation issues, something it is now charged with. Webb-Martin sat on the original Cultural Heritage Commission, along with Lenton. At that time it was a seven member board. "The commission does not have the time," Webb-Martin said. "Having a historic preservation commission again to do the work that need to be done, with people that have knowledge, who have education..."

Buchanan said they needed to plan out exactly what a new commission would do. "An ordinance would establish the commission," he said. "It says it will review certain things and when it comes to historic

preservation, there is at one point, a judgment that people are going to make. You can't make an ordinance that is so prescriptive that it actually defines what people do."

Others noted that the last commission was silenced for those very specifics Buchanan pointed out. They said the prior commission went so far as to regulate the colors homes could be painted. Webb-Martin said "that was just a rumor."

Lenton said the former commission was restricted by former city attorney, Charlie Martin. "We were told that if we wanted to talk with Charlie Martin we could pay his fee," Lenton said, explaining they were not allowed to contact residents. "He [Martin] said you cannot contact any landmark residents because it could be considered harassment," Lenton continued.

Buchanan noted that he did not approve of dissolving the first commission and was not on the council at the time. "One of the questions you have to ask is, just how much authority the Cultural Heritage Commission will have in relation to property rights?", adding later, "You have to think about how you're going to dispel the notions about the over-authoritarian nature of the Cultural Heritage Commission."

MacGillivray suggested that the timing was right relative to updating the General Plan. She explained that historic preservation had been added as an element for long range strategic planning. (continued on page 3)

City of Sierra Madre Housing Element Update Community Workshop
Tuesday, March 31, 2009,
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Sierra Madre Recreation Center

The Housing Element Update will set forth the City of Sierra Madre's housing strategy for the 2008-2014 period to address existing and future housing needs. The Community Workshop will provide an overview of the Housing Element and provide you an opportunity to give your valuable input on the housing needs faced by Sierra Madre's residents. Come share your ideas on the following:

- ✓ What are the greatest strengths of Sierra Madre's housing and neighborhoods?
- ✓ What are Sierra Madre's most important housing needs?
- ✓ What options should the City pursue to address its housing needs within the Housing Element?
- ✓ What sites are appropriate for future housing growth?

For information contact Danny Castro, Director of Development Services, 626.355.7138, dcastro@cityofsierramadre.com

Inside This Week

Cultural Heritage	Page 1
Calendar	Page 2
Around SGV	Page 3
Pasadena/Altadena	Page 4
Focus: Darlene Crook	Page 5
Education & Youth	Page 6
Opinion	Page 7
Legals	Page 8
The World /Science	Page 9
Good Food & Drink	Page 11
The Good Life	Page 12
Homes & Property	Page 13

BAG A WINNER AT SANTA ANITA!



*One bag per paid admission while supplies last.

The best older horses in the country invade Santa Anita Park on Saturday, March 7, in the \$1 Million Santa Anita Handicap presented by San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino. It's an action-packed day of Grade 1 racing, including a million dollar guarantee – \$500,000 guaranteed in the Pick 6 and \$500,000 guaranteed in the Pick 4.

Plus, all fans at Santa Anita take home a FREE* Santa Anita Sports Bag. This premium quality, durable nylon carry-all is the perfect gift to top off a day of world-class racing.

SANTA ANITA PARK

First Race: 12 Noon - Gates Open: 10 am • 626-574-7223 • www.santaanita.com

2009 SANTA ANITA HANDICAP



presented by
SAN MANUEL INDIAN BINGO & CASINO
An Economic Development of The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Celebrate the Irish in you with a green tea smoothie!

Niko & friends

Coffee - Deli

No Blarney!

900 Valley View Ave ♡ Open Monday through Saturday ♡ Corner of N. Michillinda and W. Montecito ♡ Phone: 626-510-6151

Read The Paper Online At: www.mvobserver.com

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 WistariaFestival.com. Residents are encouraged to get their tickets early, as radio advertising begins Feb. 23rd, and it is anticipated that tickets will move fast once the commercials begin broadcasting. There are a limited number of tickets available.

Tickets are also available at the 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.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	City Of Sierra Madre Annual Whale Watching meet at the Sierra Madre Rec Center at 9:00 am on Saturday the 7th		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Savings Begins 	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Saint Patrick's Day 	21	22	23	24	First Day Of Spring
Wistaria Festival 27 - 29	Huck Finn Campout and Fishing Derby 	March 				

"TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS" RIVERBOAT PROGRAM

Join John and Marie Meursinge at the Sierra Madre City Hall Chambers on Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. as they sail 465 miles up the Columbia and Snake Rivers on The Columbia Queen. Their program, Columbia Riverboat Adventure: Following the Trail of Lewis and Clark, will feature the beautiful Columbia River Gorge, Multnomah Falls, Mt. St. Helens, and a stop at Fort Clatsop, where Lewis and Clark wintered before embarking on their famed exploration. This program is free and open to the public. The Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers is located at 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. For more information and a schedule of upcoming programs, contact The Sierra Madre Public Library at 440 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, (626) 355-7186, or visit the Library's website at www.cityofsierramadre.org. "Travelers and

Collectors" is sponsored by The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library.

EDITING FOR WRITERS PROGRAM

On Monday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m., Stephanie Vitale will present Editing—What Every Writer Needs to Know, at the Sierra Madre Public Library. Drawing on 35 years of experience as an author, editor, and scriptwriter, Ms. Vitale will provide editing tips and discuss why knowing how to edit yourself is a vital skill every writer needs to develop. Learn how to give your manuscript that "extra edge," and what editors and publishers will look for when deciding whether to accept or reject a submission. This event is free to the public. For more information, please contact the Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, (626) 355-7186, or visit the Library's website, www.cityofsierramadre.org.

City of Sierra Madre

City of Sierra Madre

Housing Element Update – Community Workshop
 Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sierra Madre Room, Sierra Madre Recreation Center
 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
 Sierra Madre, CA 91024

The Housing Element Update will set forth the City of Sierra Madre's housing strategy for the 2008-2014 period to address existing and future housing needs. The Community Workshop will provide an overview of the Housing Element and provide you an opportunity to give your valuable input on the housing needs faced by Sierra Madre's residents.

Come share your ideas on the following:

- What are the greatest strengths of Sierra Madre's housing and neighborhoods?
- What are Sierra Madre's most important housing needs?
- What options should the City pursue to address its housing needs within the Housing Element?
- What sites are appropriate for future housing growth?

For information contact Danny Castro, Director of Development Services, 626.355.7138, dcastro@cityofsierramadre.com

Sierra Madre Aquatics Center Spring Lap Swim

The Sierra Madre Aquatics Center will be opening for the Spring Lap Swim season starting Monday, March 9, 2009. The Spring Lap Swim season will last through June 14, 2009. The Aquatics Center will be open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 12:00pm – 2:00pm and on Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Spring Lap Swim passes are \$100 and are available at the Community Services Office located at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Only season passes will be sold, there will not be daily admissions. For more information call 626-355-5278.

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.*

"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, scifton@cityofsierramadre.com or 626-355-5278.

WINSTON'S
 Since 1987

WINDOW
 WASHING

15 % Off With This Ad

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

(626) 355-5148

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Every Wednesday 3pm-7pm

Fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits from California family farms.

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

Free public on Mariposa.

SERVING YOU SINCE 1949

GEM PLUMBING

Locally Owned & Operated

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING
 SALES, SERVICE &
 INSTALLATION

We'll Do It All

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

ALL MAJOR BRANDS

Emergency
 Service
 Available

355-3496



Cards

140 E. Montecito, Sierra Madre

State Contractor Lic. # 111308

More Sierra Madre News

ARREST (continued from page 1)
over to the Pasadena PD. He was booked and had to post a \$30,000 bond. Says Smock, "I've never been arrested before in my entire life."
For many who have knowledge of the incident, it is outrageous that cleaning up after someone else's dog could land this popular resident and business owner in jail. It is also inconceivable to others that the water violation, a civil fine, has already cost Smock over two days in jail, a cash outlay of \$30,000 plus attorney's fees. This amount does not include the costs that may be assessed by the courts and attorney's fees or any additional jail time that Smock may be facing. The majority of citizens spoken with, however, are most upset that there is either no flexibility in administering the code or in the judgment of the code enforcement and arresting officers.
The catalyst of the entire incident is the dog walker who failed to clean up after their dog. That too, is a violation of the city's municipal code. It is a problem city wide. Recently, neighbors and parents near Sierra Madre Elementary School staged signs along the streets bordering the schools because of the unsanitary conditions created by irresponsible pet owners.
Under normal circumstances, those in violation of most aspects of the city's municipal code are warned before a citation is issued, said SM Police Chief Marilyn Diaz. It was noted that Smock had been warned in the past.
Smock has brought the issue of trash and debris on the sidewalk to the city's attention in the past. He said he had even taken Mayor Zimmerman up on his invitation to call Zimmerman on his cell phone for assistance. Smock said Zimmerman never returned the calls.
At press time, Smock informed this reporter that the charges had just been reduced to a misdemeanor.

GROCER (cont. from pg. 1)

and keeping us fed. And, of course, check out the quality meats available there. Foster Farms Chickens, Salmon from Scotland and Canadian farms (much healthier than US farmed salmon). Beef from Nebraska; Pork from Ohio, Lamb from northern California.

Those marinated tri-tips you see in the bags? Trimmed and packaged by Taylor's skilled staff. Those quick-cooking, flavorful marinated chicken breasts – also marinated here, not trucked in from "elsewhere". They make a wonderful variety of fresh sausages from "scratch" using time-honored recipes, and then freeze them for easy grabbing from the freezer case. And then there's the bulk sausage so you can make your own breakfast patties, not to mention their Amish style sliced bacon for those special breakfasts?

Fresh fish, shellfish, fresh greens. Chickens whole, cut to order, or pieces. Wonderful steaks, and those great hormone-free ground lamb lulu kabobs, not to mention the frozen 1# packages of ground lamb for emergency dinners. Links of liver pate (sausage) in two flavors and 2 textures?

And, if you haven't had Taylor's meatloaf, you simply don't know what you've missed. So amazingly versatile! And what can you make with this amazing basic meatloaf? The most obvious one is shaping a couple pounds into a meatloaf and baking it in the oven (of course) – top with your favorite savory sauce or serve with a gravy thickened with high-mineral arrowroot. Save energy and, at the same time bake a casserole of scalloped potatoes (again available at Taylor's) or maybe acorn or butternut squash. Add a side dish of lightly steamed spinach or kale. Or, for a faster dinner, divide the meatloaf into 6 or 8 ounce ovals and quickly brown on both sides,

then turn the heat down until the pink is mostly gone. Make smaller hamburger patty sizes and broil or fry off. And my absolute favorite, meatballs. From small melon ball sizes to "spaghetti meatball" size, there's nothing better. Finish cooking by layering chopped cabbage on top, then spread a good a mushroom marinara sauce on top and let simmer. Or simmer the meatballs in your favorite BBQ sauce for eating "as is". Or dump into an Italian tomato sauce and serve with spaghetti, or layer in a bun with a grating or two of cheese for a meatball sandwich.

Yes, you do need to plan on having a jar available for the rendered fats which will appear – no point in pouring that down the sink and clogging the drains. Keep the jar in the fridge, and when it's trash day, take the chunk out of the jar and plop it into the trash – unless you know how to make soap??? But don't worry about what you do eat. A certain amount of saturated fats from our meat sources may be essential for your health – especially if your blood type is O, AB, or B. It's only the A blood types that are natural vegetarians. The rest of us may indeed enjoy being vegetarians once in a while, but for truly vibrant health we need our meats and saturated fats

And to round out their offerings, Taylor's also has ice creams and snack items, with a wide array of nuts and similar health-supporting munchies. Bags of ice. Other seasonal items are available, and if you haven't tried the Shelton Turkeys for Thanksgiving, make a point to order yours from them this year.

Our "home town" grocery store is back! And if you're a senior, be sure to stop by on Wednesdays for the senior discount. It's their way of saying "Thanks for hanging in there with us" as they went through this improvement.

PRESERVATION (from pg. 1)

"I actually added that this year," she said. "And we're going to be looking at the General Plan, rewriting the General Plan, and all those elements should be in the General plan. So it's probably a good time, if the commission were ever reinstated." She also said it was the council's job to drive out any negativity associated with it.
Mosca also told the group of about 20 attendees that they needed to speak up. "Go to the council and suggest that the Cultural Heritage Commission be reinstated," MacGillivray said, adding to the comments made by Mosca. "You should be putting together a plan of what you're feeling and your thoughts on what we should be adopting for preservation, and standing behind that, and rallying behind that, you are the constituents for that," he said.
He also encouraged, "Speak with every one of my colleagues and tell them how important it is to have that type of agenda in the city." Mosca was referring to Mayor Kurt Zimmerman and Councilmember Don Watts, who were not there.
Webb-Martin said the group should put together a 10-item list and present it to the council and include those things which were not currently being done addressed by the planning commission, such as drive by inspections.
The group also wanted to see immediate protection of the historic buildings at One Carter, and not have landmark designation fee waivers cut. They also wanted to question the city's Preservation Report Card "C" grade last year, and stop a moratorium on the MILLS act.
Lenton also suggested there should be a demolition penalty for landmarks. The group wants to restore the city's original historic districts. Without the historic district the city's Los Angeles Conservancy grade low.

"Somehow the city does not see clearly what their contribution toward preservation should be," he said, before MacGillivray arrived.
The Mills Act is a state law that allows cities to enter into contracts with homeowners to preserve the upkeep of landmark homes in exchange for a reduction in property tax. Lenton said the city places a limit on applications of three per year. "We are the only city in the state that does that."
Lenton also brought up One Carter, a hot button issue that some said, in 2002, led to former Mayor Glenn Lambdin asking the planning commission to assume the Heritage Commission duties.
Around the same time, the state Office of Historic Preservation had criticized the Heritage Commission's evaluation of the Maranatha High School Project. Although they agreed that the Willis House, built in 1941, was eligible for listing on the state's historic register, something Lenton said never happened.
Lenton also said the historic cabin and Carter Barn were not protected at all. The Home of Nathaniel Cater, for whom the site was named, had been demolished years earlier according to reports. Lenton said there was nothing stopping a developer from doing the same to the other structures.
"There were preservation issues that were supposed to be taken care of at One Cater," he said, later adding, "The Macomber Cabin and Carter Barn could be demolished tomorrow and there is no penalty."
Mosca brought up historical preservation at a past meeting but did not get the three votes needed to agendize it.

**SIERRA MADRE KIWANIS
INVITE YOU TO
JOIN US FOR
OUR MONTHLY
DINNER
MEETING
TUESDAY,
MARCH 3, 2009
7:00 pm
CORFU
RESTAURANT
Sierra Madre**

redwhite+bluezz
WINE GRILL JAZZ CLUB
L.A.'s Best Tasting Jazz Club

THANK YOU
Arcadia and Pasadena
for voting us
**BEST
JAZZ CLUB**

**HAPPY HOUR
LUNCH**
MON-SAT 11AM-7PM

WINE SHOP
DAILY 11AM-5PM

**VOTED BEST
SUNDAY BRUNCH**

BRUNCH+
ALL THAT JAZZ
EVERY SUNDAY
10AM-2PM

CUTTING-EDGE
AMERICAN CUISINE
EPIC WINE-ARTISAN CHEESE
JAM SESSION EVERY THURSDAY
PRIVATE EVENTS-BENEFITS

LIVE JAZZ EVERY NIGHT · NO COVER · DINNER DAILY AT 5PM
redwhitebluezz.com | 626-792-4441
70 SOUTH RAYMOND AVENUE · OLD PASADENA CA 91105

SIERRA MADRE STA. CA
MARCH 15
2009
91024

**SIERRA MADRE
THE WISTARIA TOWN**

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Postal Service announce a special post mark cancellation to celebrate the Sierra Madre Wistaria Festival.
This special postmark will be available at the Sierra Madre Wistaria Festival, Sunday March 15, 2009 at the Wistaria Festival Postal Station located at Kersting Court in Sierra at Sierra Madre Boulevard and Baldwin Avenue. This special Wistaria Festival Station will be open 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.
Bring postcards or letters and mail them from this special event post office and your friends will be surprised when they receive mail with this extraordinary postmark.
This postal cancellation has been announced and printed in the U. S. Postal Bulletin which is distributed world wide. To accommodate collectors from out of the area the Sierra Madre Post Office will cancel postcards and letters upon request with the Wistaria Cancellation for 30 days after the event. To postmark a letter after the event go to Sierra Madre Post Office and request the wistaria postmark on your mail.
For more information contact:
The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce (626) 355-5111
e-mail Info@sierramadrechamber.com
U.S. Post Office Sierra Madre, California 91024

**SIERRA MADRE KIWANIS
INVITE YOU TO
JOIN US FOR
OUR MONTHLY
DINNER
MEETING
TUESDAY,
MARCH 3, 2009
7:00 pm
CORFU
RESTAURANT
Sierra Madre**

Home Finance Workshop
Monrovia, CA (January 13, 2009) -- Come learn how you can secure your financial future at the Home Finance Workshop. Students of Mt. Sierra College along with the City of Monrovia will be hosting this free event on Saturday March 7th at the Monrovia Community Center (119 W Palm Ave Monrovia, CA 91016) from 1pm - 4pm.
Bring your questions and get professional sound advice from special guest speakers provided by The Arcadia Association of REALTORS'. Topics of discussion will include Foreclosures, Debt Consolidation, and New Mortgage Lending Laws. Special guest speakers will be attending from The Department of Consumer Affairs, The Arcadia Association of REALTORS' and Mr. Bob McCormick form CBS 2 Kcal 9 Money 101/KNX NewsRadio 1070am.
Andy Bencosme, President of the Arcadia Association of REALTORS' commented that "lending rules and laws are changing quickly as the government and lenders try to stabilize the financial markets. It is important for consumers to know how these changes impact how they can finance a home."
The event is free and open to the public. Registration begins promptly at 1pm with guest speakers and a Q&A session to follow, so please arrive on time. For directions call (626) 256-8246 or visit www.cityofmonrovia.org for more information. This is your chance to learn how you can secure your financial future. Come ask questions and get informed.

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**

SIERRA MADRE
POLICE




Carmen Gonzales, CNA / Med Tech
Marjorie Thorndyke, Resident
Judy Thorndyke, Executive Director

"Just the help I want, when I want it."



Needing a little extra care doesn't mean giving up your independence or your dignity. Set within a beautiful garden oasis, the Assisted Living apartments at Westminster Gardens offer just the right amount of help for those who need assistance with daily health maintenance. With 24/7 access to health professionals, you're never far from a friendly, helping hand. Give yourself and your loved ones the peace of mind that you're free to live your lifestyle while still getting the little extra help that you need.

Help yourself to a better lifestyle. Stop in for a no-obligation tour of our Assisted Living apartments today.



Westminster Gardens
A Retirement Oasis

1420 Santo Domingo Ave., Duarte, CA 91010
(626) 358-2569 ext.151 www.WestGardens.org



SCPH
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
PRESBYTERIAN HOMES

Westminster Gardens is an affiliate of Southern California Presbyterian Homes, a non-sectarian, not-for-profit company serving seniors through quality retirement housing since 1950. DSS License #197605591 CCRC #205

Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Police Chiefs Conference Held In Pasadena

The city of Pasadena and the Pasadena Police Department will host the annual conference of the California Police Chiefs Association from March 2 to 5 at the Pasadena Convention Center.

This will be the first major event at the center since it was closed for renovation and expansion more than two years ago, and the first year the association, founded in 1966, will have its conference in Pasadena.

"The city of Pasadena is honored to host the police chiefs of California's many communities," said Mayor Bill Bogaard. "We welcome the opportunity to showcase Pasadena to this distinguished gathering of law enforcement professionals."

Attendees will have an opportunity to work with peers to assess current issues in law enforcement and share innovative ideas and solutions in response to those issues.

Pasadena Police Chief Bernard Melekian is the incoming president of the California Police Chiefs Association. He will begin his one-year term March 4.

"I am proud to host this training symposium here and look forward to sharing the Pasadena Police Department's best practices with other chiefs who may be looking for innovative ways to approach police services and issues," said Melekian. "The conference will help all of California's police chiefs with economic issues impacting the quality of life in our communities and the resulting impacts on law enforcement professionals."

Michael Ross, CEO of the Pasadena Convention Center mirrored Melekian's excitement.

"We have worked hard to have the center ready and are thrilled that the first event we are hosting will honor two of our own prestigious citizens."

Robert McGowan, retired Pasadena police chief and past president of the California Police Chiefs Association, will be honored with Melekian at a special dinner during the conference.

Handbills and Flyers Discussed

On Monday night the city council will consider asking the city attorney to return in 60 days with a recommended amendment for no solicitation signs according to Public Information Officer Ann Erdman.

In 1998 the ACLU of Southern California filed a federal civil rights suit against the City of Pasadena on behalf of several community activists challenging a new ordinance that restricted the distribution of handbills, leaflets, fliers and other such unsolicited materials to businesses and residences where the owners had listed themselves on a do-not-deliver registry and/or where a No Solicitation sign had been posted.

Recent developments in this area of the law have created the opportunity for the council to discuss a potential amendment to the ordinance that would enable the city to enforce it with certain restrictions.

NAACP Calls for Release of Information



A cousin of Barnes looks for answers

By Dean Lee

Almost a week after a traffic stop in northwestern Pasadena turned deadly—in which Pasadena police shot a 38-year-old alleged armed man in the backseat of a car—community leaders and family members are still demanding answers?

Although many thought they might get answers Monday night during a packed council meeting Police Chief Bernard Melekian instead only said an investigation would be done.

"The matter is under intense investigation," he said. "That report will be completed as expeditiously as possible. The results of that will ultimately be made public."

He added that information would also be submitted for further review by both the district attorney office and the FBI.

Before immediately leaving the chambers Melekian said the department also gave their sympathy to the family, which were there, and then made the comment, "And certainly gratitude that our officer survived," which outraged the public.

Many in the community also dismissed the notion that Leroy Barnes' criminal record justified the events surrounded the shooting. According to police Barnes had been convicted for drug sales, domestic violence, and robbery. Reports also say he once shot at officers at

Brookside Park.

They instead focused on conflicting police information first given out Feb. 19 the day of the shooting. Police first said Barnes shot at officers after getting out of the car. Melekian later said the incident took place in the backseat and that Barnes never got out of the car.

Nicholas Whitaker of Long Beach, Barnes' brother, spoke Monday.

"No police or city members have come to my house," he said. "To speak to my mother in any regards, in any way." Reports later said Whitaker met Wednesday with Melekian and City Councilmember Jacque Robinson. No other details were given.

He also said, "The lack of information and communication that was given to me, I feel has not been up to par and at the proper level of conduct from the city."

He then said all the information needs to be brought out through the media, claiming it was defaming his brother.

"Also to the comment that the Police Chief made that his officers were safe, or survived the incident, seeing as they were the only ones firing shots, I'm sure they had no problem surviving."

The NAACP on Wednesday filed a public records request on behalf of a number of news organizations. They are requesting, among other things, all reports written pertaining to the shooting,



Police Chief Bernard Melekian gives an update to the City Council about police involved shooting as KTLA cameraman looks on
Photo D. Lee /MVO



Clarence Nelson

all dispatch records, the corner's report, interviews with the driver of the car, any tests done on a retrieved weapon, all audio and video tapes, as well as a number of department policies as they relate to officer involved shootings.

Other members of the public also spoke.

One long time resident said, "It could be my brother, your brother, my son, anybody so the fact that the way it was handled, I'm from the city born and raised, and I'm embarrassed totally embarrassed."

Resident Clarence Nelson told the council police are coming through their neighborhood like "The wild wilderness." He said they expected



Barnes' brother Nicholas Whitaker addresses the council

to be treated as they wanted to be treated, "Like when you go to your fine neighborhoods," he explained.

Nelson later held up pictures of a young girl with bruises on her face and arms.

"I'm holding up the brutality of some of the witnesses and people that were standing around when the police came to clear the scene." He said. "Some people could not move fast enough..."

He then graphically gave details of what happened.

"So you know what happened to this young lady, about five police officers, who immediately rushed her, picked her up slammed her on the police car, grabbed her under

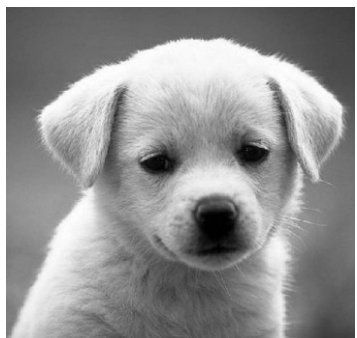
her under arms, brutally bused her, hand cuffed her, and then let her go."

"Do you think we are going to be quiet about that," he later asked.

He then said northwest Pasadena was out for justice.

In related news, a memorial set up for Barnes near Washington Boulevard and Mentone Avenue was taken down by city workers Tuesday angering residents even more. City officials said workers were told to clean up the area after trash had started to collect in the area. They also said the memorial was blocking a public sidewalk and not a lack of respect for the Barnes Family.

ANTONOVICH SEEKS TO SHUT DOWN "PUPPY MILLS"



water," said Antonovich. "This is cruel for the animals and places a tremendous burden on County taxpayers."

Over the past six months, the County has had to seize and/or order the relocation of hundreds of puppies and adult dogs due to such conditions, which has increased the burden, costs and impact on County shelters and rescue organizations.

Antonovich's motion calls on the County's CEO, County Counsel, and County departments to report back with proposed ordinance changes within forty five days. This action was recommended by the Puppy Mill Task Force, initiated by Supervisor Antonovich in 2008 which is made up of volunteers, county staff and representatives from animal welfare organizations and rescue groups.

To reduce animal cruelty and high taxpayer costs associated with the over-breeding of dogs at facilities commonly referred to as "puppy mills,"

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich wants more comprehensive laws to prevent irresponsible dog breeding in Los Angeles County. "Many of these kennels endanger the health and welfare of adult dogs and puppies by housing them in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions without adequate veterinary care, food and

Not All is Lost in Ficus Tree Fight



Late into the night Monday tree activists presented the city council with over 200 signatures asking for a moratorium on cutting any mature healthy trees. They got half of what they wished for and most left saying they felt victorious.

City officials said Thursday "that recognizing implementation of the streetscape plans and

specific plans may conflict with Pasadena's existing master street tree plan, the council requested staff to review all such plans and identify potential conflicts, and also asked for more information about the role of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee as it relates to the removal of trees in the public right of way. Staff anticipates that this effort will take about four months. On

Monday night the council will consider approving a temporary suspension of the removal of healthy street trees, with the exception of certain projects already underway, until staff has completed this review."



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.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, February 15, through Saturday, February 21, the Police Department responded to 1,017 calls for service of which 135 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, February 15:
A residential burglary occurred between 6:00 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. in the 400 block of Genoa. Victims returned home from shopping and forgot to close the garage door while they were unloading their groceries. The victims later discovered that their purse and wallet were stolen from the vehicle by an unknown suspect.

While on routine patrol around 10:05 p.m., officers spotted about 10 subjects loitering in front of Famima, 5 West Live Oak. A 20-year-old male Caucasian was contacted and a consent search revealed a pair of brass knuckles. He was taken into custody for possession of a dangerous weapon.

Monday, February 16:
Between 11:00 p.m. on February 15 and 11:00 a.m. on February 16, a commercial burglary occurred at Thai Classic Restaurant, 1011 South Baldwin. Unknown suspect(s) entered the business through a restroom window. The suspect(s) ransacked the location and stole a computer and miscellaneous property.

A victim came to the station shortly before 1:00 p.m. to file a fraud report. She lost her credit card in January and when she contacted her credit card company, she was informed that \$3,000 was charged on Travelocity.

Tuesday, February 17:
While officers were at Drinkers Hall of Fame, 151 East Huntington, around 1:00 a.m. on an unrelated fight at the bar call, they witnessed a traffic collision in the parking lot. A 45-year-old female Caucasian driver struck a parked vehicle while trying to leave the scene. Officers detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage on her breath and person. A field sobriety test was conducted, and it was determined that she was operating the vehicle while intoxicated and was arrested.

Around 7:18 p.m., officers saw a vehicle with an expired registration tab and the car was swerving between lanes of traffic at Huntington and La Cadena. Officers tried to conduct a traffic stop, but the driver failed to yield, even with emergency lights and siren activated. The 31-year-old female Caucasian driver finally stopped the car at Rosemead and Fairview, and it was determined that she was operating the vehicle while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. She was arrested for evading and DUI.

Wednesday, February 18:
Units responded to the 1500 block of South Fifth in reference to an identity theft. The victim advised that between February 8 and February 10, unknown suspect(s) obtained his bank account information by unknown means and made unauthorized ATM withdrawals totaling about \$2,000.

Around 9:49 p.m., officers were dispatched to Lower Azusa and Durfee regarding a solo traffic collision. A 19-year-old intoxicated male Asian driver apparently passed out behind the wheel and struck an electrical pole. The injured driver was taken to the

hospital for medical treatment.

Thursday, February 19:
Loss prevention personnel from Nordstrom advised that they had detained a man for credit card theft around 5:00 p.m. The suspect provided the last four digits of the victim's social security number and a fake driver's license to the sales associate in order to purchase two watches totaling \$3,700. While the sales associate was processing the sale, another employee checked the account and discovered that it was flagged for fraudulent activity. The victim was contacted and he advised that he was not at the store and no one else was authorized to use his account. When loss prevention personnel confronted the suspect after the sales transaction, he tried to run away and a struggle ensued. A private person's arrest was made, and the 32-year-old Caucasian was taken into custody for commercial burglary, robbery, theft/use of access card, forged instrument, and other charges. A consent search of his vehicle revealed personal information belonging to different individuals and fraudulent driver's licenses.

Around 11:40 p.m., while on routine patrol, officers spotted a vehicle in a driveway in the 700 block of North Santa Anita with the hood up. A man was looking under the hood while a female was sitting in the vehicle. A consensual contact was made, and record checks of the individuals were conducted. The 26-year-old male Hispanic had a no bail felony warrant and a \$50,000 misdemeanor warrant; the 40-year-old female Hispanic also had a \$50,000 misdemeanor warrant. A consent search of the vehicle was initiated, and officers found baggies containing a white crystalline substance resembling methamphetamine and a glass-smoking pipe. Both individuals were arrested at the scene without incident.

Friday, February 20:
Shortly after 5:30 a.m., units were dispatched to the 500 block of Las Tunas regarding a family dispute. When officers arrived at the scene, a 36-year-old male Hispanic ran from officers and then challenged officers by taking a fighting stance. The suspect was subdued and was arrested for obstructing/resisting and disorderly conduct.

Between 2:45 p.m. on February 17 and 7:20 p.m. on February 20, a residential burglary occurred in the 1900 block of Highland. Unknown suspect(s) made forced entry into the house via the front door. Once inside, the suspect(s) ransacked rooms and stole jewelry, cash, and a pistol.

Saturday, February 21:
A solo traffic collision occurred in the 2000 block of Holly around 1:00 a.m. A 19-year-old intoxicated female Hispanic driver collided into a brick and wrought iron fence. She was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol and minor driving while under the influence.

Around 2:30 p.m., units responded to Westfield mall regarding a robbery and battery incident. A male Hispanic suspect, 28 years of age, 5'6", 180 pounds, choked a 14-year-old boy during an argument. When a woman saw the altercation, she tried to call police. However, the suspect pushed her, pinned her against a wall, and took her cell phone.

A Weekly Spotlight on
Sierra Madre Volunteers

Darlene Crook
Children's Champion

When you read Darlene Crook's "resume" you realize that she is an advocate for children. Children's welfare is uppermost in Darlene's life which makes her a champion of children.

As a docent for years for Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Darlene taught kids from all over L.A. County about the canyon and everything it had to offer: the animals, their habits and habitats, and of the plants that Native Americans used years ago in their everyday lives.

"Many of these children would never have known these experiences without the Eaton Canyon hikes," Darlene said.

Another of Darlene's favorite activities was helping kids take advantage of RIF (Reading Is Fundamental), a national organization. Second graders in the Pasadena School System learn reading skills, taught by docents such as Darlene, with books donated by the Pasadena schools. "Children even get to keep the books which they have read," Darlene pointed out.

The Sierra Madrean also coached baseball and soccer when the five Crook children were little. She was a Camp Fire leader in Sierra Madre and assisted with Girl Scouts.

But her volunteerism doesn't stop there. Darlene has delivered Meals-on-Wheels for 15 years and works on the Friends of the Library Winetasting Committee. She is an active member of Civic Club (this year working on Huck Finn Day) and assists at the Friends of the Library Art Fair in May. She also finds time to participate in the Wistaria Festival in March.

During much of her life (for 12 years) she was a sought-after caterer, assisting several clubs around town with their meals. This year she

and Marlene Enmark will cater the Civic Club's April luncheon, the club's largest fundraiser of the year. People are already scrambling for tickets; they know how Marlene and Darlene



cook. Still another sidebar of her life was singing with the Sweet Adelines, a very popular vocal group in the area. For 22 years she sang bass with the group.

Darlene is a native Californian, having been born in Huntington Hospital. She graduated from Monrovia High School and attended PCC. It was there that she met her husband, Richard, who went on to become a geologist and still works as a consultant.

The Crooks have a son and four daughters, will all but one daughter living in California. And that daughter is moving back to California this year. There are six grandchildren, and the whole family enjoys camping together. They are able to do that often, Darlene said.

"I really enjoy being with people, and I urge others to volunteer because they'll get more out of every event if they do. I've just never been bored because I like keeping busy."

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

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.

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

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

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

Volunteer to Serve on a City Commission

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

- Community Services
- Tree Advisory
- Senior Community

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

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH THE
SIERRA MADRE FIRE DEPARTMENT?
Recruitment and Informational Meeting

March 3, 2009 7 pm - 9 pm
City Council Chambers

Sierra Madre Chamber
Seeks Applicants for Executive Director Position

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce is seeking an Executive Director to manage its office, implement the direction of the Board of Directors, manage staff (one part time assistant ongoing, occasionally a second part-time staffer to assist with specific events), and manage the Chamber's events (including but not limited to Chamber Mixers, The Wistaria Festival, Dickens Village, and a Health and Home Based Business Expo/Taste of Sierra Madre).

The suitable candidate will be:

- Dynamic Capable Professional Energetic Positive

As the face of the Chamber and all Sierra Madre Commerce, the qualified candidate will be effective at networking, a relationship builder, and an organizer. Duties will include event and revenue development, as well as evaluation, organization and management of the Chamber office and staff, including record keeping and regularly scheduled reporting to the Board.

The candidate will excel at membership development and retention strategies.

The Chamber's Executive Director will be a pro-active, PRO-BUSINESS Advocate, in general and within the Chamber's membership, the local business district, and serve as a liaison between the business community and governments and other organizations.

The Executive Director will direct all Marketing and Public Relations and be responsible for all Chamber communication to members, the public, governmental representatives, media, other chambers & numerous business and economic development organizations.

The position requires a person able to work a flexible schedule, available beyond standard business hours, including some evenings and weekends. Weekly hours will range from thirty to fifty hours per week. Applicants can mail their resumes to 37 N. Auburn, Ste. 1, Sierra Madre, CA 91024, or e-mail them to info@sierramadrechamber.com.

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Every Wednesday 3pm-7pm
Fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits from California family farms.
Specialty foods, vegetarian and vegan dishes, ethnic foods and hot food - Everything you'll find at the farmers market has been made or picked fresh, is pesticide-free and preservative-free.
Free public on Mariposa.

PUSD TO SUE FOR RETURN OF MEASURE Y FUNDS Civil Litigation Will Target Yzaguirre, Kingsbury and Peterson

Pasadena, CA -- Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) officials today announced their intent to file a civil lawsuit against Jessie Yzaguirre, Mark Kingsbury and Eric Peterson for involvement in fraudulent activities related to the expenditure of Measure Y school facilities bond funds.

The Board of Education elected to pursue civil litigation after the District Attorney's office upheld its decision to forgo criminal prosecution. In December, Superintendent Edwin Diaz requested that the District Attorney reexamine evidence collected by an independent investigator hired by PUSD, which implicated the three individuals' involvement in fraudulent activity.

"We continue to maintain that the evidence uncovered by our forensic investigator clearly demonstrates that

these three individuals acted illegally in overseeing the Washington Middle School modernization project," said Superintendent Edwin Diaz. "Based on the advice of our attorney, we will pursue civil litigation to punish these individuals and recoup the taxpayers' funds."

"As we initiate project planning and management for a new school facilities bond, it is especially important that we send a strong message to our community, employees, and our current and potential contractors that we will not tolerate fraud. The Board of Education, Citizens' Oversight Committee, staff and contractors will meet the highest standards for accountability, management, and ethics to safeguard against any future misappropriation or mismanagement of funds intended to improve the quality of education for

PUSD students." Shortly after arriving at PUSD, Superintendent Diaz ordered an internal analysis of the policies, procedures and management of the District's facilities and Measure Y construction projects.

When the analysis revealed the possibility of illegal activity, he hired an external forensic auditor to examine records. The forensic investigation determined that contractors had been paid but that work products were not delivered.

The investigation resulted in the reorganization of the facilities division, and the application of rigorous standards, management and record-keeping practices. Strong citizen oversight and accountability are an integral part of the recently approved Measure TT.

Santa Anita Family YMCA Members Enjoy Discounts at Area Businesses with New YRewards Program

MONROVIA, CA, February 27, 2009 – Members of the nonprofit Santa Anita Family YMCA can now add discounts with local businesses to the benefits of YMCA membership.

The SAFYMCA's newly-launched YRewards program allows members to enjoy savings at a select group of area businesses just by presenting their YMCA membership card.

"These are financially challenging times for families and businesses. The YRewards program is a way of adding another layer of value to Y membership by helping our members stretch their dollars, while giving local businesses an opportunity to increase patronage and their bottom line," said SAFYMCA Chief Executive Officer, Damon Colaluca.

Businesses currently enrolled in the YRewards program include: Butterflies and Bees!, creators of custom gardens; Chang Thai Bistro, Monrovia; Countrywide Home Loans, Monrovia; Gentile, McCloskey & Company, Certified Public Accountants, Arcadia; Monrovia Floral; Old Town Sign Company, Irwindale; Stubbies Promotions, promotional products, Arcadia; The Skin Care Shop, Monrovia; Ink Tank, silk screening, Duarte; Joe's Place Restaurant, Duarte; Villa Italia Restaurant, Duarte; and Ward Service, auto repair, Monrovia.

Senator Bob Huff Introduces School Open Enrollment Bill

Legislation Would Create Equal Education Opportunities for All Students

Sacramento — Senator Bob Huff (R – Diamond Bar) today introduced the Open Enrollment Act, which will allow students across California to attend any K-12 public school in the state.

Current law requires students to attend the public school they are assigned according to their home zip code. This means that a student's education is determined entirely by what neighborhood they live in – and not by what parents think is best for their children.

Senate Bill 266 will not only ensure all California students have equal education opportunities but will also hold schools more accountable. By empowering parents to choose which school is best for their child, SB 266 dramatically shifts the accountability of schools from administrators to parents. This puts healthy pressure on schools to innovate and perform well in order to maintain student enrollment.

"Parents would effectively have the authority to vote with their feet," said Senator Huff. "If a school is not meeting their child's specific needs, parents would have the freedom to

choose a school that does. Let's face it: education reform is meaningless if the voice of the parent is not heard."

As home schooling enrollment continues to rise and parents choose private school over public, the state is in a new era of declining public school enrollment. But by giving parents more options, California could retain more of the students whose parents have the means to remove their children from public education and also help those students who are unable to home school or go to private school. "This legislation will help California use the existing education infrastructure more efficiently, by applying a market based model which encourages excellence in public education," stated Senator Huff. "In essence, the Open Enrollment Act will reward policies that work and discourage policies that don't."

Earlier this month, Senator Huff also introduced legislation – Senate Bill 129 – to save the School District of Choice program which allows schools to voluntarily accept students from other school districts. The program has been successfully running for 16 years and is set to expire in July.

Muir Reinvention Progress Monitored By County

By Teresa Baxter

With the oversight of the Los Angeles County Office of Education School Assistance Intervention Team, the John Muir High School administrative leadership team provided a mid-year progress report regarding student performance, professional development and campus management at the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education meeting last Tuesday.

"It's always a good idea, mid-year, to take a rigorous look at the progress and evaluate implementation," said Superintendent Edwin Diaz. "I want to give thanks to our support team from the county office for their work and leadership."

The L.A. County SAIT program was established to deploy support teams to help schools review and analyze data and implement research-based strategies to improve curriculum, instruction and assessment. SAIT also offers assistance in data analysis, planning, access to technical assistance with school support and evaluation services.

Marci Perry, a representative for SAIT commended the dedication and efforts of the administrative leadership team, but noted areas of weakness that need to be addressed for a successful reinvention.

"We are still not seeing, on a regular basis, the standards-based grade level appropriate instruction that the state wanted to ensure was occurring in the classrooms," said Perry. "The way that is being addressed is that the administrators are frequently visiting classrooms and leaving specific recommendations during their informal observations to let the teacher know what they expect to see differently in classroom practice."

Last year teachers and counselors had to reapply for their positions as part of the reinvention process based on the poor performance of students achieving their academic potential. Statistics show that Muir has failed to meet California's Academic Performance Index (API) targets for the past five years. Following the SAIT report findings, Board member Renatta Cooper expressed concerns over the lack of accountability currently going on in the classrooms.

"I don't think that it should be up to the administrators coming into the classroom and catching [the teacher] not doing what they are supposed to be doing," said Cooper.

"Everyone who is teaching at Muir knows what the deal is and they shouldn't need to be told what to be doing in the classroom."

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

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

Arcadia High School

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

Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

Barnhart School

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

Bethany Christian School

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

Carden of the Foothills School

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

The Gooden School

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

LaSalle High School

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

Monrovia High School

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

Norma Coombs Alternative School

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

Odyssey Charter School

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

Pasadena High School

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

Pasadena Unified School District

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

St. Rita Catholic School

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School

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

Sierra Madre Middle School

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

Weizmann Day School

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

Wilson Middle School

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

Pasadena Unified School District

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



Yoga Madre
Yoga Studio
and Wellness Center
Classes for all levels
626.303.1004
www.yogamadre.com
300 E. Foothill Blvd • Arcadia, CA 91006

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

A CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET Every Wednesday 3pm-7pm
Fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits from California family farms.
Specialty foods, vegetarian and vegan dishes, ethnic foods and hot food - Everything you'll find at the farmers market has been made or picked fresh, is pesticide-free and preservative-free.
Free public parking on Mariposa.

**THE COOKIES ARE COMING!
THE COOKIES ARE COMING!**
Thousands of Girl Scouts prep for cookie delivery and booths

WHAT: Thousands of area Girl Scouts will be picking up their inventory of the delicious signature confections to deliver to their customers and prepare for the Cookie Bothing Season that kicks off March 6.

WHO: Girl Scouts and Adult Volunteers

WHEN: Saturday, February 28, 2009 & Sunday, March 1, 2009

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.

MountainViews-Observer

Publisher/ Editor
Susan Henderson

City Editor
Dean Lee

Director Of Sales & Marketing
Ann Luke
(626) 325-3111

Art Director
Allison Kirkham

Photography
Jacqueline Truong
Lina Johnson

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

Editorial Cartoonist
Ann Cleaves

Webmaster
John Avery
Advertising Inquiries
Contact:

ANN LUKE
626-325-3111

PATRICIA PLUNKETT
626-818-2698

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

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

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



Susan Henderson

A Brief Word From The Editor/Publisher...

Every so often, given that life is so short and so precious, I like to take time out and say thanks. Today I want to especially thank the staff of this community newspaper for their patience, commitment and enthusiasm. Last week, we had the chance to gather for a celebration of our accomplishments thus far and share our common goals for the future. It was a wonderful, warm event. While we were together, we acknowledged how grateful we also are for the subscribers, supporters, friends and readers of the MountainViews-Observer. We realize that it doesn't matter how talented we may be, without you, this effort would not be worthwhile. To All of You....Stay Tuned....The Best Is Yet To Come! By the way, of late we have been subjected to a great deal of vandalism - papers and racks stolen, cars egged, etc. Please report any such suspicious behavior to your local Police Department. And, if you can't find the paper, call 626-355-2737 - we'll get one to you as soon as possible.

Stuart Tolchin On..LIFE WE DID IT - NOW LET'S DO IT AGAIN AND AGAIN



One of my favorite jokes goes as follows:
Do you know the word for "yes" in Yiddish?
No, I don't.
Why not?
It never came up.
I've been telling that joke for years, even though I can't remember anyone else ever laughing. I tell it because it so well expresses my own understanding of my secular Jewish heritage. Question everything! It never hurts to keep your brain awake while you are listening to somebody else's version of the truth. As a result of this peculiar attitude I am frequently an annoyance to others, who more easily accept assertions and "want to get on with it", rather than to clarify and understand. Consequently, it really came as no surprise to me that while attending a seminar this weekend and asked to pick a side, I was on one side while the other thirty people or so in the room were on the other side. I kind of felt bad for them because obviously I was right and they were wrong and I felt certain that, if given a chance to speak, I could explain to them the reason for their error. I was given the chance and certainly convinced myself and perhaps the seminar leader as well, who responded that even though my analysis was correct, everyone else was also correct and we all had a good laugh and proceeded ahead with the material.

She segued beautifully into a discussion of how important it was to question everything and moved into a discussion of how there could be no mistakes because every mistake, and everything else, was an opportunity for new learning and growth. Suddenly there appeared on the monitor at the front of the room the statement---
"WE EITHER GROW OR DIE"
Scary isn't it? But I think it's true. Once we think we've succeeded and killed the dragon and start patting ourselves on the back and resting on our laurels, growth has stopped and, although we have won the battle, we are in the process of losing

the war. I'm referring specifically to the nationwide back-patting that occurred after the election of President Obama. Hooray we did it! Now there will be no racism, no war, no economic crisis, no global warming, no overpopulation, no threat of terrorism, even no stupidity. Well, as all of us have already noticed none of these former problems have quite disappeared—in fact some loom larger than ever. What did we do wrong? Obviously, it isn't that we did something wrong, it's just that there's so much to do. There are opportunities everywhere to ease suffering, but I am afraid for a short while we all believed that we could rely on someone else---the smart good guys I guess--- to do it all by themselves.

I think this belief in the absolute power of "experts" does not empower us; but rather infantilizes us and lulls us to sleep with a false feeling of security. The seminar this weekend constantly emphasized that everyone of us is greater than we think we are, as is everyone else. Although it's quite understandable why we might want to question this premise, it's a great way to view the world. Furthermore, from what I observed this week-end, every single person, if given a nudge to break out of old limiting ideas and assumptions, can make the choice to utilize their personal and collective life experiences and wake to help change the world. Furthermore, believe it or not; in a way we are all connected. As one of us learns something we all acquire more knowledge and power. Really, we are all playing the game of life and involved in the excitement of not knowing what 'might' happen but, as explained in this seminar, without expectations, there cannot be disappointments and each of us immediately becomes empowered to experience all there is and that's pretty awesome to say the least.

By the way, the seminar I went to is called IPEC COACHING and it certainly seemed a step on the road to making the world a better place. Let me know if you're interested at noeltrauts@earthlink.net.



By Hail Hamilton

Deceptive Timeshare and Travel Club Sales—Part 2

This is the second in a series of two articles about timeshares, and is based on my experience recently at the Hilton Waikoloa Beach Resort as part of their effort to promote timeshare ownership with the Hilton Grand Vacations Club. It is also based on my research of timeshares.

Contractual Obligations of Timeshare Agreements

Timeshare sales contracts usually include clauses that disclaim any promises made during the sales pitch. The contract you sign will ask you to agree that you are making the purchase only on the basis of the representations in that contract. Prospective purchasers who notice differences between what is in the contract and what was promised by the salesperson are likely to be told that the contract is only "legal jargon."

If a timeshare salesperson will not put a promise in writing, don't go through with the sale. You will be forced to argue afterwards that you relied on that promise, even though you have signed a contract that explicitly says you did not rely on any verbal promises.

Timeshare Maintenance Fees

What you may not be told is the extent to which the annual maintenance fee will increase over time. If the seller claims the fees will stay the same, beware. Beautiful properties today may be run-down in five or ten years without sufficient maintenance. Timeshare operators also may force owners to pay unexpected but obligatory special assessment fees.

Secondary Market for Timeshares

timeshares for investments: they rarely appreciate in value.

In fact, the likelihood is that you will lose money on the sale of a timeshare. The original price may have included premiums of up to 40% to cover sales costs. As a result, a resale will yield as little as 60% of the purchase price. Then you will have to pay a new commission (often as high as 20%) to the broker who sells the property for you.

If you decide to buy a timeshare or membership in a vacation club, be aware that resales are difficult, if not impossible. In general the market for resales is poor and may vary considerably, depending on the location and time of year. One recent survey found that only 3.3% of owners reported reselling their timeshares during the last 20 years. Still, desperate to sell, many owners have been taken in by timeshare resale scams.

Last Word on Timeshare Presentations

So as you can see, you could be in for quite a ride. Some tourists know what to expect — but they take the tour anyway for the free goodies or cash offers they receive for sitting through the whole thing. So if you don't mind wasting precious vacation time in one of these presentations, and you are ready to resist the pressure, then go for it.

The best way to make it as painless as possible is don't ask questions, make comments or give excuses for not buying. Remember, they have an argument to counter anything you might say. "We'll think about it," is always your best response. Then go about enjoying your vacation.

No Way Forward



Gregory J. Wellborn

In listening to President Obama's speech to Congress and the nation last Tuesday night, it occurred to me that never had so much been promised to so many with so much irrationality. I was of course reminded that President Obama is a gifted speaker, and if he wisely uses his access to the bully pulpit he could do much to relieve the sense of fatigue that has beset so many in our nation. If he actually coupled that with the right policy prescriptions, he could be one of our greatest presidents. Sadly, Tuesday's speech showed only that this president has much to learn about how the real world works.

Americans are looking for leadership and want desperately for their new president to succeed. We all understand that if he fails we will pay the price. America faces economic challenges domestically and military challenges overseas, and while President Obama acknowledged both, his proposed solutions will do inexorable harm on both counts.

Domestically, we face a tough economy, which may not have hit bottom. What's needed is for that great engine of growth, that has always been the entrepreneurs and risk takers, to be unleashed and encouraged to start new ventures, invest in new projects and seek new inventions. The easiest way to do that is to assure those who would take on those challenges that their efforts will be rewarded by reducing taxes across the board. This isn't even that bold a proposition. There's plenty of history which shows that every time taxes have been lowered economic activity grows and the economy prospers.

Instead, President Obama admits to seeking a tax increase on the most productive 2% of Americans, but he hides the fact that his spending requests would ultimately necessitate massive tax increases on the rest of us as well. The stock market recognizes this, and values have been plummeted with every proposal made by this new administration.

In addition to the rather straight forward increases in income taxes, President Obama also called for a vigorous "cap and trade" policy which would tax carbon emissions. Included in this is a call by Obama's environmental advisors for carbon dioxide to be regulated as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act. These two programs would increase tax rates on almost every form of production. At the very least, they would drive even more manufacturing overseas. At their worst, their onerous tax burden would cripple economic activity worldwide.

As a companion piece, the entire notion that we can pursue an energy independent economy without expanding our nuclear capacity is childish naivety. There is no other form of energy production which promises to fulfill our energy needs better than nuclear power. The much ballyhooed wind farms are a joke. It would take 200 square miles of windmills to produce the same energy as one nuclear plant. Perhaps it makes sense to have some wind farms, but let's not kid ourselves into believing that they can ever compete with the efficiency of nuclear plants. If we want to have the energy to grow our economy and improve our living standards, we either accept our reliance on fossil fuels or we start getting serious about building more nuclear plants.

President Obama's promises to provide universal government run healthcare, to further bail out financial institutions and to refinance mortgages will add trillions in financial commitments to the trillions that have already been promised or spent. There is simply not enough tax revenue to fund all this spending. The only possible way to pay all of this, should these plans come to fruition, will be inflation. If the government can't tax its way out of its spending binge, it will simply print more money. Many of us remember the devastation which attended Gerald Ford's and Jimmy Carter's attempts to use inflation as a policy tool.

Lastly, President Obama's near neglect of the military conflict in which American sons and daughters are engaged is reckless to say the least. He has dismissed the near universal advice of his military commanders and set a hard deadline for withdrawal from Iraq. We have won the war in Iraq but still need time to insure that the fledgling democracy becomes strong enough to stand on its own. Withdrawing too early on a strict deadline threatens that outcome.

The President's commitment of 17,000 additional troops to Afghanistan seems like a step in the right direction — we need to win that war, too — but it coincided with an administration trial balloon suggesting that the U.S. would accept the re-imposition of Sharia law on the poor people of Afghanistan if the U.S. were allowed a face-saving exit from the country.

Appeasement, diplomacy and peace treaties have never succeeded in defeating the enemies of democracy and freedom. They didn't prevent Hitler's invasion of Poland, North Vietnam's conquest of South Vietnam, Pol Pot's genocide against Cambodians or Yasser Arafat's intifada against Israel. They won't be much more successful against Al Qaeda or the resurgent Taliban.

President Obama gave another stirring speech on Tuesday night, and at times it even had me believing that everything would be just fine if only the government spent more money domestically or negotiated long enough internationally. As someone quipped on one of the morning shows, "socialism and defeatism never sounded so attractive". Let's hope that President Obama learns how the real world operates before the costs we're paying for his on the job training get too high.

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

Sierra Madre Legal Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 1287

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA AMENDING CHAPTER 9.32 BY ADDING PROVISIONS RELATING TO POWERED GARDENING EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre makes the following findings:

1. Powered gardening equipment, such as leaf blowers and hedge trimmers have a negative impact on the public health and welfare by disrupting the rest and relaxation of our residents through the excessive noise that these devices generate. For this reason, it is essential that non-work hours, weekends, and holidays be protected and reserved for the benefit of our community without the intrusion of excessive noise; 2. Powered gardening equipment endangers the health and welfare of our residents by dispersing dust which may at times contain harmful pollutants. This Ordinance is designed to protect our community from the potential harmful effects of dust; WHEREAS, this Ordinance is categorically exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21000) of Division 13 of the Public Resources Code (California Environmental Quality Act(CEQA)) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 in that the provisions of this Ordinance protect the environment from noise, emission, and dust pollution.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 9.32.020 of Title 9 is hereby amended by adding a definition for “holiday” and “powered gardening equipment” to read as follows:

‘Holiday’ means and includes New Year’s Day (January 1), Martin Luther King Day (the third Monday in January), Washington’s Birthday (the third Monday in February), Memorial Day (the last Monday in May), Independence Day (July 4), Labor Day (the first Monday in September), Columbus Day (the second Monday in October), Veteran’s Day (November 11), Thanksgiving Day (the fourth Thursday in November), and Christmas Day (December 25).”

‘Powered gardening equipment’ means any portable equipment powered by a gas or electric self-contained engine used for landscape maintenance.”

SECTION 2. Section 9.32.060 of Title 9 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“A. Daytime Exceptions. Any noise source which does not produce a noise level exceeding 80 dba at a distance of twenty-five feet under its most noisy condition of use shall be exempt from the provisions of Sections 9.32.030, 9.32.040 and 9.32.050 between the hours of seven a.m. and nine p.m. daily except Sundays and holidays, when the exemption herein shall apply between ten a.m. and six p.m.

B. Emergencies. Emergencies are exempt from this chapter.

C. Construction. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, including section 9.32.100, between the hours of seven a.m. and seven p.m. daily, except Sundays and holidays when the exemption herein shall apply between ten a.m. and six p.m., construction, alteration or repair activities which are authorized by a valid city permit shall be allowed if the noise level at any point outside the property plane shall not exceed 85 dba.

D. Powered gardening equipment. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, including section 9.32.100, no person shall operate powered gardening equipment within the City outside of the hours of nine a.m. to sundown, Monday through Saturday, and twelve p.m. to sundown, Sundays and holidays. The foregoing prohibition shall not apply within any commercial zone. Noise generated by powered gardening equipment within any commercial zone shall be regulated by other sections of this Chapter.”

SECTION 3. Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases of this Ordinance or the rules adopted hereby. The City Council of the City of Sierra Madre hereby declares that it would have adopted each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more other sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases hereof be declared invalid or unenforceable.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after its passage and adoption pursuant to California Government Code section 36937.

SECTION 5. Certification. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause the same to be published according to law

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this 24th day of February, 2009.

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

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

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

Newsstands Around Your Town Free

Home Delivery To Your Door

\$40 for Six Months \$80 For 1 Year

U. S. Mail

\$52 for Six Months \$104 For 1 Year

Special Discount for Annual Subscription Renewals:

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

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

Sign Up Today:

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Telephone: _____

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

☐ 6 months ☐ One Year

☐ Home Delivery ☐ U.S. Mail

Make your check payable to: MountainViews-Observer and mail to: 80 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. #327
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

or e-mail us at mvobserver@aol.com if you would like to subscribe via credit card or PayPal.

You can always call us at: 626-325-3111



THE LAW OFFICES OF

DOUGLAS J. FARRELL

WILLS PROBATE AND TRUSTS
DRAFTING, ADMINISTRATION, AND LITIGATION

REAL PROPERTY AND TITLE LITIGATION

37 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD.
SIERRA MADRE, CA
626-355-3401

SierraMLaw@cs.com

LA County Issues Warning: Beware of Tax Scams

“Don’t be fooled! Solicitation notices are being mailed by companies promising to help negotiate property tax reductions-and charging hundreds of dollars in unnecessary fees. They are even imposing late fees,” Molina warns. “Don’t get ripped off! You NEVER have to pay for a review of your property’s assessed value. The L.A. County Assessor’s Office does this service for free.”

L.A. County property owners have reported receiving mailings offering to lower their property taxes from companies using solicitation letters that look official. Many of these notices could be confused for forms from the State of California or the L.A. County Assessor’s Office; and may even feature bar codes

and the property’s Assessor J.D. number. “Neither Los Angeles County nor any other government agency approves or endorses these companies’ services,”

Auerbach said. “Furthermore, companies offering to lower property taxes must clearly show they are not a government agency-and failure to do so is a violation of California law.” The L.A. County Assessor has initiated an automatic review of approximately 500,000 single-family residences and condominiums purchased between June 1,2004 and June 30, 2008 to determine if there is a decline in value.

After April 1: A list of the properties included in the review will be listed on the L.A. County Assessor’s website.

By June 2009: Property owners will receive a letter with the review results.

Through December 31, 2009: Property owners who disagree with the results of the review may contest the outcome. If a property was not included in the automatic review, the owners are always able to file for an assessment review.

July 2, 2009 to November 30, 2009: Property owners, who disagree with the assessed value, may also file with the independent Assessment Appeals Board. Property value reassessment reviews are permitted under Proposition 8 which allows a temporary reduction in assessed value when the current market value of a property is less than the value shown on the property tax bill. Assessed value of property is established when it is either purchased or built; this is called the “Proposition 13 value”. Owners who purchased their home or condominium at or near the top of the market may have a Proposition 13 value higher than its market value. Decline-in-value reassessment applications are easy to complete and can be obtained by contacting the L.A. County Assessor’s office at (888) 807-2111 www.assessor.lacounty.gov.

Property owners, who believed they were responding to a government notice and have paid fees to a private solicitor, should contact the L.A. County Dept. of Consumer Affairs Real Estate Fraud and Information Program at (800) 973-3370.

City of
SIERRA MADRE



2008-2014 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

The Housing Element Update will set forth the City of Sierra Madre’s housing strategy for the 2008-2014 period to address existing and future housing needs.

The Community Workshop will provide an overview of the Housing Element and provide you an opportunity to give your valuable input on the housing needs faced by Sierra Madre’s residents. Come share your ideas on the following:

What are the greatest strengths of Sierra Madre’s housing and neighborhoods?

What are Sierra Madre’s most important housing needs?

What options should the City pursue to address its housing needs within the Housing Element?

What sites are appropriate for future housing growth?

**COMMUNITY
WORKSHOP**

FOR INFORMATION

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009

6:30-8:00 PM

SIERRA MADRE ROOM

Sierra Madre Recreation Center
611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Light refreshments will be provided.

DANNY CASTRO

Director of Development Services
City of Sierra Madre

626-355-7138

dcastro@cityofsierramadre.com

Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

Looking for Water Ice on the Moon

NASA's Lunar CRater Observation and Sensing Satellite, known as LCROSS, has just made the trip from Northrop Grumman's facility in Redondo Beach to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida in preparation for a spring launch.

The satellite's primary mission is to search for water ice on the Moon in a permanently shadowed crater near one of the lunar poles. LCROSS is a low-cost, accelerated-development companion mission to NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO. At Kennedy, the two spacecraft will be integrated with an Atlas V launch vehicle and tested for final flight worthiness. LCROSS and LRO are the first missions in NASA's plan to return humans to the Moon and begin establishing a lunar outpost by 2020.

After launch, the LCROSS spacecraft and the Atlas V's Centaur upper stage rocket will fly by the Moon and enter into an elongated orbit to position the satellite for impact. On final approach, the spacecraft and Centaur will separate. The Centaur will strike the chosen lunar crater, creating a debris plume that will rise above the surface. Four minutes later, LCROSS will fly through the debris plume, collecting and relaying data back to Earth before striking the Moon's surface and creating a second debris plume. Scientists will use data from the debris clouds to determine

the presence or absence of water ice.

"The LCROSS project has had to work within very challenging cost-cap and schedule-cap constraints," said Dan Andrews, LCROSS project manager at NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif. "The shipping of our spacecraft is a testament to our balanced approach and the great people working on this project."

To remain within budget and a short schedule of 26 months, the LCROSS project team developed a simple yet innovative spacecraft that uses existing NASA systems, commercial, off-the-shelf components modified to survive the harsh conditions of space, and the spacecraft design and development expertise of integration partner Northrop Grumman Space Technologies.

Water ice is thought to exist on the surface of the Moon, delivered over geological timescales by the regular bombardment of the lunar surface by comets, asteroids and meteoroids. Energy from sunlight usually splits this water into its constituent elements, hydrogen and oxygen, which generally escape to space. Rock samples collected by Apollo astronauts near the lunar equator are thus extremely dry.

However, some deep craters near the lunar poles never receive any light from the Sun, and are permanently shadowed. Any water

that eventually ended up in these craters could remain frozen and stable for extremely long periods of time—perhaps billions of years, depending on the stability of the orientation of the Moon's axis.

The presence of usable quantities of water on the Moon is an important factor in rendering lunar habitation cost-effective, since transporting water (or hydrogen and oxygen) from Earth would be prohibitively expensive. Water ice could be mined to provide liquid water for drinking and plant propagation, and the water could also be split into hydrogen and oxygen by solar panel-equipped electric power stations or a nuclear generator, providing breathable oxygen as well as the components of rocket fuel.

For more information about the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/lcross>. For more info, contact Bob at beklund@mvoobserver.com.



Photo by Aaron Dominguez



On Line

with P.J. Carpenter

Those who would trade privacy for safety have once again renewed their efforts at getting Internet Service Providers to turn over information about user online activities even when the activities in question do not warrant such scrutiny. The Internet SAFETY Act, a bill sponsored by two Texas lawmakers that stands for "Stopping Adults Facilitating the Exploitation of Today's Youth,would require Internet Service Providers to retain user data about subscribers' web surfing and email activities for up to two years. The main (stated) objective of this bill is to give law enforcement additional tools in the fight against the creation and distribution of child pornography,the premise being that

On-Line Privacy: ISP Data Retention & You

wider record collection about user activities would lead to the discovery of more online trafficking of this material. The proposed law would provide stiff penalties for non-compliance and could potentially require even Wi-Fi hot spot providers to maintain accurate records of all Internet traffic passing through their facilities.

Proponents of measures like these often state that the telephone companies have long ago adopted the practice of saving logs and archiving data about customer calls for a wide variety of uses and that customer privacy has been protected to such a degree that it takes a search warrant in order to gather even the least bit of information about any specific user. It would only make sense then that ISP's followed suit.

Privacy advocates point to the fact that the broad language in measures such as these often do little to protect users from unwarranted invasions of privacy and do next to nothing to ensure that customer information is not provided to third-parties without the customers consent, including a third-party with a subpoena for records in a civil matter.

Whether we want to believe it or not, more and more of our private lives shows up online each day. These bits of personal data add up and may end up revealing more about ourselves than we may wish to have known by the general public. Add to that the real and distinct possibility that EVERYTHING you do online may be held onto indefinitely by your ISP and the picture of your online self gets clearer for all the world to see.

The Mountain Clymer

by Kim Clymer-Kelley

This past week a friend of mine, Sharon Pevsner (best known in town as the fastest woman in Sierra Madre and four-time women's winner of the Mount Wilson Trail Race), contacted me to tell me of her fight to get a smoking ban in Sierra Madre. The issue has been put forth to the city council, who heard cases for both sides at their February 10th meeting. Sharon was emailing everyone in town that she thought might help her in her fight, asking for their support. She asked that I use my voice here in the paper to let others know what is happening.

As some of you may be aware, smoking bans of various scopes are now in affect in the towns of Pasadena, Monrovia, South Pasadena, La Canada, Glendora, El Monte, Burbank, Whittier and West Covina (to name a few). Some prohibit smoking in public outdoor dining areas, some extend it to shopping areas as well, and some have put an outright ban on all smoking in public places. Those who support the proposed ban in Sierra Madre are seeking to ban smoking within a set distance of all areas where food is served. The businesses that would be affected in town would be Bean Town, Village Pizza, Casa Del Rey, Lozano's, Ugo's, The Only Place in Town, Sierra Madre Thai, Coldstone, Lucky Baldwin's, The Charcuterie, Steamers, Starbucks, Sierra Juice Company, Sierra Madre Pizza Company, Mountain View Sushi, 322 Café and in the canyon, Mary's Market. The Buccaneer would not be affected entirely, though because of its close proximity to Ugos' outdoor dining area, Buc patrons who wish to light up will have to do so in the back and not outside the Sierra Madre Blvd. entrance.

I have mentioned here before that I have been a loyal patron and supporter of Bean Town for years. It has been my home away from home since before its expansion somewhere around 13 years ago. Most of the good friends that I have here in town I have met while sitting outside of Bean Town. All of these years I have sat with them most mornings, afternoons, or evenings and shared countless hours of conversation and laughs over our morning eats. No matter when any of us would stop by, there was always a familiar face there with whom we could sit and chat. Over the course of the last year...maybe

a little more...that firm tradition has begun to fade. A few of our beloved members have passed on this last year and a half. Others have moved away from town. The morning crowd is still somewhat intact, albeit a bit thinner these days, but the rest of the day belongs to the smokers who have descended upon the town in the last year or so...this is their last refuge since most other towns in the area have enacted smoking bans for such areas.

I have stopped coming those times of day...so have most of the regulars. Many now sit down at Kersting Court seating area...others now frequent places such as Mary's Market (myself included). It is sad. Even the neighboring Village Pizza has been affected. I have noticed a sharp decline in the number of people sitting at their outdoor dining area. Twice in the couple weeks, I have stopped by the eatery for dinner. Both times I sat down outside to eat my meal, but was driven away by the heavy smoke. Apparently everyone else had been too, since I was the only one dining at the previously packed eating area. I have no respiratory or other health problems as some people do...I am very tolerant of most things and can usually enjoy myself in uncomfortable situations....I am not a fuss budget...I simply cannot stand the smell of cigarette or cigar smoke...the latter can literally make me nauseous...I usually get a bad headache and burning eyes from both. Most non-smokers are like me, or worse...it is simply a very offensive intrusion on everyone's senses and a hazard to everyone's health.

Those who most vocally oppose the ban are currently passing around a petition. They have also set up a webpage and a Facebook profile for their cause. They are insisting that the U.S government supports their claims that there is no harm in second hand smoke. I think that they should check out the official E.P.A. position on the subject. (see insert)

Though I will make the generalization that all smokers are pretty foolish, I do not make the generalization that all smokers are inconsiderate and slovenly as this group accuses non-smokers of doing. But

Smoking Ban? Absolutely

there is a lot of evidence in the streets and on the sidewalks that would tend to confirm that this particular group is just that. While many smokers have learned to respect the people and public areas in which they smoke (perhaps this respect comes with age and experience), those who usually smoke outside of Bean Town have not. I have not once been asked by any of them if I minded if they smoke when I occupied a nearby table. This is usually considered the polite thing to do. Perhaps it is the arrogance of youth, perhaps it is their generation's feeling of entitlement, perhaps it is a result of some negligence in their upbringing...I don't know...but clearly they have no respect for others or concern for what harm their disgusting, deadly, and ill-chosen habit has on other people. Second hand smoke is a major health concern and it is time that the town takes action to protect its citizens from this unpleasant and unnecessary threat.

I urge everyone in town to show up on Tuesday, March 10th for the council's vote on the proposed smoking ban.



Smokers Fight for Smokers' Rights

By Allison Kirkham

Many of you know me, though you may not be aware of it. I am Allison Kirkham, and for almost two years, I was making your cappuccino at Beantown Coffee Bar. For the last year you've been seeing my work – I am the Art Director of the paper, creating page layouts and calendars for you to read each week.

I am also what some call a "Cigarette Kid" – meaning that I am one of the smokers that you probably see on the street everyday. Smoke has recently become a big issue, and that's what I'm writing in response to.

The Sierra Madre City Council has announced that a proposed smoking ban in patio dining areas is in the works. This has become a hot-button topic, and since smokers rarely are heard in smoking ban debates, I am answering the City Council, as well as the citizens of Sierra Madre in print.

Two major reasons have been presented by the City Council as motivation for a smoking ban to be put in effect. First is the issue of litter that comes from discarded cigarette butts. Second, and of highest import to the City Council and Sierra Madre residents, is the issue of second-hand smoke as a threat to public health.

It seems a little ridiculous to me (and should to anybody) that a smoking ban would be the most effective way to lower the amount of litter clogging the gutters of the city. If the City Council is really bothered by littering, that is what they should enforce – littering laws already on the books. Proper enforcement and fines for littering have been proven as the most efficient ways to keep trash off the streets. Creating a smoking ban to minimize litter will keep some cigarette butts off the sidewalk, but will not solve the problems of discarded newspapers, drink cups and food wrappers that most commonly clog the storm drains when rain comes into town.

The bigger issue is, of course, the health of the non-

smoking citizens of Sierra Madre. The City Council has said that second-hand smoke is a danger and a threat to public safety that must be eliminated. I, as a journalist, would like to see their sources.

While it is incontrovertibly true that cigarette smoke is annoying, and that smoking cigarettes is dangerous, there is no conclusive proof that outdoor smoke can in any way impact the health of anyone but the smoker.

But studies have been conducted, by the Government, no less, that prove that second-hand smoke kills! That is completely true – there have been studies done that prove that second-hand smoke is dangerous. The most valid of these are collected into a 1992 document released by the Environmental Protection Agency titled "Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders." It's all right there in the title – second-hand smoke causes lung cancer, and how can you argue with that? It is not my intent to argue with that report. What I do wish to point out, however, is also right on the title page. The report was mostly funded by the Indoor Air Division of the Office of Atmospheric and Indoor Air Programs.

All of the conclusive proof in the EPA document that second-hand smoke kills came from studies conducted entirely indoors, and the subjects of the studies were people who spent vast amounts of time indoors with smokers. Years of exposure are required for second-hand smoke to have a provable impact on an individual's health – exposure like that which waitresses in smoking bars or the spouses of indoor smokers experience. This report did not seek to prove that outdoor smoke is dangerous, and all subsequent reports and studies have been inconclusive as to whether or not outdoor second-hand smoke is a health risk at all under normal circumstances.

Therefore, the arguments from those in favor of a smoking ban that it is for public health and welfare are invalidated. Since it has not been proven that anyone has ever suffered from long-term health problems because of outdoor second-hand smoke, it cannot be argued that outdoor smoke is a health risk – simply another annoying nuisance, like an overabundance of strong cologne or a cloud of diesel fumes that you might pass and be irritated by, but that would not be detrimental to you in any tangible way.

Now, having faced the reasoning behind the proposed ban from the non-smoking side, the opponents of the ban also have two reasons to support their attitude.

The first reason we "Cigarette Kids" think the ban is a bad idea is because of the local economy. Smokers come to the city to seek refuge. While this may seem like a negative, it's actually a good thing. I live in Glendora, but I come to Sierra Madre to spend my money. I don't just buy cigarettes, coffee and beer – I also shop at all of the restaurants in the business district, I buy gifts in the shops, I buy books from the library, and generally do all that I can to give my money to local concerns. The money that Sierra Madre would turn away by enacting a smoking ban wouldn't just be from tax on cigarettes – it would be coming out of the pockets of all of the small businesses that make the city as wonderful as it is.

Typically with a smoking ban, businesses see a drop in spending for about six months, then sales go back up. Burbank has seen this, Pasadena will see this, but Sierra Madre will not. Sierra Madre is a tiny city that is not attractive to many outsiders. While that may seem nice, at some point it will mean that without as many customers as possible, all of the local businesses that make Sierra Madre so great will lose money, and may have to leave for more forgiving pastures. Several

THE GAS COMPANY'S ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER HELPS BUSINESSES 'GO GREEN' IN RECORD NUMBERS

A growing interest in energy efficiency and other ways to "go green" helped make 2008 the most popular year ever for the Energy Resource Center, the Downey-based energy-efficiency education and training facility operated by Southern California Gas Co. (The Gas Company).

"Our seminars and equipment demonstrations are helping thousands of business customers learn how energy efficiency reduces costs and helps the environment," said Mark Gaines, director of customer programs for The Gas Company. "We also provide information on about our energy-efficiency rebate and incentive programs, which can save our customers millions of dollars."

In 2008, the Energy Resource Center drew 39,262 visitors, the most in its 13-year history. The facility offered seminars on dozens of energy-efficiency topics, such as industrial waste heat management; boiler system efficiency; foodservice appliances; heating, ventilation and air conditioning; and energy-efficiency software for new and existing business processes.

The 44,000-square-foot facility also houses a foodservice equipment center, which features one of the largest collections of commercial cooking equipment in the country. The Energy Resource Center invites restaurants and other foodservice customers to "test drive" this equipment to help them make better purchase decisions.

"We used the Energy Resource Center to demo out some equipment, and a representative was there to answer any questions we had," said Brian Rocha, Operating Partner and General Manager for Silvergreens, Santa Barbara. "The Gas Company rep was also very helpful in educating us about their rebate program, in addition to the benefits of energy-efficient equipment."

To learn more about The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center, visit www.socalgas.com/business/resourceCenter/ercHome.html. The Gas Company will hold its Fourth Annual Energy-Efficiency Expo May 19 at the Energy Resource Center from 8:30am to 1:30pm.

All rebates and incentives are subject to change without notice and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funding is available. These programs are funded by California utility customers and administered by The Gas Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Southern California Gas Co. has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas to its customers for more than 140 years. It is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, providing safe and reliable energy to 20.5 million consumers through 5.7 million meters in more than 500 communities. The company's service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles in diverse terrain throughout central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border. The Gas Company is a regulated subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE). Sempra Energy, based in San Diego, is a Fortune 500 energy services holding company.

businesses in town are trying to fight the smoking ban – and with good reason. When the smokers go, so will a portion of their livelihood. Sierra Madre is not a tourist destination like Pasadena, or a business center like Burbank. The city doesn't have the attractions needed to keep customers coming to the doors of the local stores when smokers have been chased away and Oldtown Pasadena is a more hip destination just down the road.

The other reason that the "Cigarette Kids" are fighting the smoking ban is a pretty simple one. When we were children, we were told that we live in a country that would allow us the freedom to make our own choices, our own decisions – good or bad. That we would be allowed to rise or fall on our own, and that we could be free of discrimination. Some parts of what we were told are true – and some parts aren't. There is no liberty in being told what's good for you – it's a choice that you have to make. Smokers have a right to smoke, and we're trying to claim that right. "But," people say, "Where to smokers' rights end and mine begin?" At the front door of any business you enter. You can choose to go inside where we cannot. We have been pushed outdoors, and now an attempt is being made to push us away from buildings and into the alleys – out of sight and out of mind. We were told that we could not be discriminated against because of our race, our weight, our age, or sex, or faith – and we're not. We're only being discriminated against because of our choices.

That is why we are fighting the smoking ban, more than anything else. Because it is just another sign saying that we will not be living in the liberty provided by an America that was promised to us, but has not yet been delivered. Visit StopTheSmokingBan.Com for more information.

11 Good Food & Drink

MountainViews-Observer Saturday, February 28, 2009



TABLE FOR TWO By Peter Dills

Raise the Anchor!

A riddle for my readers, what is the name of the ship that never leaves its port and is not named after a Queen? A small clue: Football, Baseball and Basketball. The repairs have been made and she is ready once again for another lengthy excursion after having been safely secured in San Gabriel. As I grow older and wiser, and as my vision blurs, my recollection of past events heighten in their glories and leave me with escalating memories of a loftier station then was once granted in an earlier era. Time does have a way of majestically giving lift to incredible heights to what was once before an ordinary bird. At times I almost trick myself into believing that I was the high school quarterback and my lips only met cheerleaders after the winning touchdown was thrown, by me. If we only had cheerleaders at my High school it would make the thought acceptably plausible. Speaking of old things, one is back showing off a new facelift.

"The Galley" AKA "The Boat" in San Gabriel has re-opened and received a revamped attire. Sure the Old Boat had character and a sense of comfortable ease of an old chair but the termites would have finished the wooden edifice off at some point and sunk the ship without firing a torpedo. Kohl's Department store has opened on site of the old location but The Boat still retains the familiar area of the same parking lot. What to expect when dining at this vessel? Many curious and devoted patrons from the past have made dinner a lengthy wait. Just like the days of old, you grab a trusted tray as the mariners of a distant age sported an oar and get in line. "If it is not broken don't fix it," is noticeable relevant here. You give the cooks your selections and in many cases it will be prepared while you wait in line. The tested favorites are still to be found. For starters there is the Tangy Red Cabbage; cheeseburgers, chicken dinners, sandwiches, and the unforgettable Blue Cheese Salad. One modification, is now they offer a full bar with a healthy list of beer and spirits. I had a very large Heineken for \$7.50, well worth it. In fact everything on the menu is reasonably priced; my intuition tells me that they stuck with the popular, feed the masses strategy which has served them well for decades. They also have new 16 HD TV's. Unless you are a stuffed shirt you and the family will enjoy the reasonably priced and easily likable and new rendition of The Boat.

I was a little inquisitive as to the why on a couple items. The Boat has refrigerators in the cooking area that are in full view of the hungry masses. The inviting open kitchen scene exhibits boxes of frozen patties and bags of frozen fries. Not the Kodak that stirs a furious hunger in this Critic!!! In light of all the nostalgic reminiscing you conjure in me, I will give you a reluctant pass for this detail. This is a fun time for any group of friends wanting to watch a sporting event in a comfortable setting.

All references above to a real boat are to be deemed with satire. You will not be directed to lifeboats in case of emergency, no life vests are to be donned in high seas and aside from tipping an abundance of cocktails, you should not require seasick medication for this trip.

Clearman's Galley 7215 N. Rosemead San Gabriel (626) 286-1484

Santa Anita Uncorked

The 2nd annual Santa Anita Uncorked takes place on Sunday, March 29. It's a grand culinary festival featuring fine wines, cuisine sampling from popular local restaurants, the Paddock Art Show and a full day of races. Tickets are (\$60) and included parking, clubhouse admission, official race program, wine tasting, cuisine sampling, art exhibit, souvenir wine glass and an excellent seat for live racing.

Tickets can be purchased from:
Arcadia Rotary 626-447-0236
Wine of the Month Club 626-303-1690
Santa Anita on-site ticket office
Call 626-574-RACE or 800-574-6401
Visit www.santaanita.com for more information.

It's about

YOU

not the insurance company

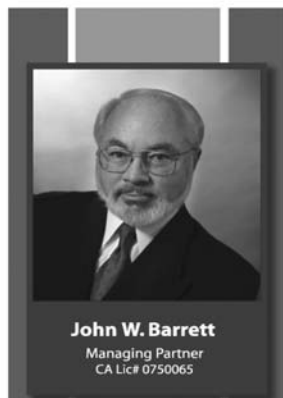
As an independent insurance broker, I have a fiduciary responsibility to act in my client's best interest, not the interests of the insurance industry or the medical community.

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

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

My direct number is (626) 797-4618

john@healthinsbrokers.com



John W. Barrett
Managing Partner
CA Lic# 0750065
Health Insurance Brokers
333 W. California Blvd., #110
Pasadena, CA 91105
626-797-4618
www.healthinsbrokers.com

Even though money is tight...

Here's an ideal way to keep your business visible...to thousands every week:
The MountainViews-Observer.
Great readership! Great rates!

Let us show you how: 626-325-3111



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

**WE HAUL JUNK & ABANDONED VEHICLES:
PPI's (Private Property Impounds)**

***We follow all California Vehicle Codes and post legal signs on your commercial or private property discouraging illegal parking ***

Call for information packet
(626) 357-3220 (626) 334-1383 (626) 914-1841

www.janstowing.com

RESTAURANT LOZANO

LUNCH TUES-FRI
11:30-2:00

IN DOWNTOWN SIERRA MADRE SINCE 1981

EXPRESS LUNCH

ONLY \$11.95

(INCLUDES A CUP SOUP OR LUNCHEON SALAD, AND HALF PORTION ENTREE OF YOUR CHOICE AND BEVERAGE)

DINE IN & TAKEOUT / MEETINGS & CATERING

44 NORTH BALDWIN AVE., SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024

RESERVATIONS:
626.355.5945

CATERING:
626.355.3576

WWW.RESTAURANTLOZANO.COM



PIZZA PASTA PANINI

STEAKS SEAFOOD COCKTAILS

"Great fresh Italian, Great Jazz, Cool bar

very reasonably priced,

this is the best hang in LA!!."

extensive wine list
specialty beers on tap
(626) 836-5414

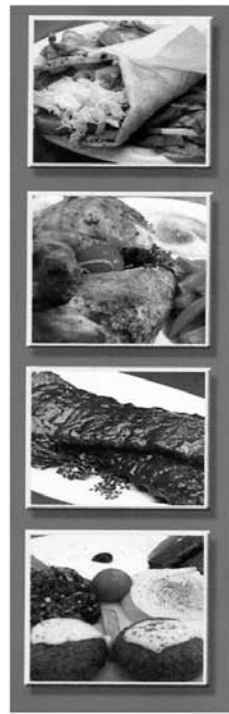
www.cafe322.com

322 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Live @ 322 March

Sunday 1st - 2:00 - 5:00 Jazz Lunch with the Mercy Powell Quartet. 7:00 Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro
Tuesday 3rd - 8:00 Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge
Wednesday 4th - 8:00 The Los Angeles Jazz Collective
Thursday 5th - 7:30 The Danny Guererro Jazz Trio
Friday 6th - VR Smith & Putter Smith
Saturday 7th - Lisa Finnie
Sunday 8th - 2:00 - 5:00 New Astro Turf. 7:00 Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro
Tuesday 10th - 8:00 Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge
Wednesday 11th - 7:30 Gea Schell & Chris Corangelo
Thursday 12th - COW BOP with Bruce Forman
Friday 13th - 8:00 Jack Sheldon
Saturday 14th - Cheryl Barnes & Phillip Cabbasso
Sunday 15th - 2:00 Jazz Lunch with the Mercy Powell Quartet. 7:00 Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro
Tuesday 17th - 8:00 - 9:00 Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge, 9:30 St Patty's Day with Max Buda
Wednesday 18th - 8:00 Song Sirens .a music collective of women artists.
Thursday 19th - Cannonball Coltrain project with Luther Hughes
Friday 20th - Mercy & the Merketts
Sunday 22nd - 2:00 New Astro Turf. 7:00 Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro
Tuesday 24th - 8:00 Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge
Wednesday 25th - 8:00 The Jennifer Leitham Trio
Friday 27th - Swing Dance Party with Flat Top Tom
Saturday 28th - The Superstitions
Sunday 29th - 2:00 Jazz Lunch with the Mercy Powell Quartet 7:00 Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro
Tuesday 31st - 8:00 Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge

WE
CATER!



Chicken King Express
Delicious Healthy Fast Food!!

OPEN FROM 11AM - 9 PM

Rotisserie Chicken Wraps, Ribs Salads, Soup Kabob

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

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

**CHICKEN PITA
OR FALAFEL
SANDWICH
ONLY \$1.99
With purchase
of soft drink**

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

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

FREE DELIVERY - 3 Mile Radius

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

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Every Wednesday
3pm-7pm
Fresh vegetables and
seasonal fruits from
California
family farms.

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



**BEVIN EUSTACE
REALTOR®**
(626) 821-1213 BUSINESS
(626) 808-7403 CELL
(626) 447-0388 FAX
bevinastace@aol.com

COLDWELL BANKER

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
15 EAST FOOTHILL BLVD.
Arcadia, CA 91006
www.bevinastace.com



636 W. Sierra Madre Villa Unit B \$759,000
YOUR VILLA AWAITS YOU... WELCOME HOME...A UNIQUE MUR SOL DEVELOPMENT...ONLY 1 LEFT

3 Bdr, 2 Bth. Tuscan Style Townhome built in 2008 nestled in the quaint town of Sierra Madre. Luxury living includes gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances, exquisitely designed, walnut hardwood flooring, wood burning fireplaces and so much more. This townhome features an elevator, and private patio for entertaining. All of this just walking distance from downtown Sierra Madre. For a private tour call Bevin at (626) 808-7403.



The Senior Spot

By Bruce Lamarche

Be in Control or Say NO!

We are taught to be polite, to be courteous, and to respect and please others. When asked questions feel compelled to respond helpfully. Often times though, a part of us is uncomfortable with the request, sometimes in ways we can't quite define.

Pushy sales people, needy relatives, telemarketers, and charities whose names you "almost" recognize will trigger emotional responses in you as they try for success with your checkbook. Yet with your gut instinct on alert, you still cooperate and try to please.

Saying no is not selfish, nor is it rude. These pushy people do not want you to stop and think. They do not want you to take the time to analyze the facts and make an informed decision.

Suggestions to help you handle these situations:

1. Take time to think. It is ok to tell anyone that you will be taking time to think and analyze the proposal. This can be the comment, "I need a minute" or "thank you for the information and I'll sleep on it." If the pushy person says the deal must be decided on right now then walk away.

2. Get another opinion. After finding out the details of the request, consult someone else who you trust. Consider their point of view.

3. If the push is from a salesperson, ask them for references and credentials for you to check out at your convenience.

4. Don't accept the tricky choices of "A" or "B" as though they are the only choices. A salesman will sometimes not ask you if you want it or not, but will ask which of two options you want to choose. The choice of "No" or "waiting" is not given. In the confusion, it is natural to feel you must choose between two choices. Don't respond

to this kind of pressure.

5. Flip the situation on the person with the request. If the pressure is from a friend or relative requesting money or something you are not comfortable with, ask this person questions that make them solve their own problem. Offer your advice instead of your money. Offer them alternatives to consider. Do this with a helpful smile and with confidence.

6. Don't be afraid to say that you can't do what is requested and offer no explanation. You do not have to explain or justify your decision.

7. Do not ignore your instinct. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. If something seems wrong or confusing, pay attention to your instincts.

8. Do not be embarrassed if you do not understand something. This is especially important in financial matters. If you can't get it clarified to your satisfaction, walk away.

9. When all else doesn't work, just say NO!

Many business people are good reliable folk who offer helpful products. You have the right to think things through carefully and understand the details. Slow things down and be in control. It's your money; it's your life. Choose to control the situation . . . and all with a pleasant smile.

Got a question? Ask Bruce by phone-(626)335-3412 or e-mail: blamarche@verizon.net

This article is provided by Bruce Lamarche, a member of Society of Certified Senior Advisors®, www.csa.us. Bruce's company, R & B Reverse Mortgage Services (Glendora) helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining a reverse mortgage. www.LASeniorMortgage.com



Around Monrovia

by Pat Ostrye

Monrovia Seniors Moving On Up!

Today I am writing about the New Horizons Senior Club in Monrovia because there is always something great going on. One thing all of us do keep in mind is that we weren't always seniors. Everyone has a story to tell: diverse and extraordinary backgrounds, interesting positions held during his/her working days, amazing tales from all over the world. Many of the members are native Monrovians with really fascinating stories of "the way it was" as they moved from kindergarten through MAD (Monrovia, Arcadia, Duarte) High School before it broke off into each city's own high school. Their alumnae is still going strong. Every week we discover new talents among our group.

The New Horizons Club celebrated its 35th anniversary last October, dating back to my first days on the city council, when the less-structured senior meetings were being held in a mobile Recreation Building where the Police Department parking lot now stands. Fortunately, through the years the City Administration has always held seniors in great regard and so the groups are now having meetings every Tuesday in the Monrovia Community Center at 119 W. Palm, across from the new library scheduled to open in April. The meeting opens at 10:30 am. Dues are \$3/year including the necessary insurance. The Pledge of Allegiance starts us off, followed by the singing of God Bless America, our only opportunity to really belt it out as if we were going on the road! Then a short business meeting.

Lunch is \$1, sandwiches by Sally, our caterer for the big events as well, chips, dessert, all the coffee and tea you want. On the second Tuesdays we have hot dogs, perhaps chili, chips and birthday cake donated by The Gables, an assisted living senior residence, to celebrate the monthly birthdays. On the 4th Tuesday of the month we have pizza and salad, with the Mayor coming to keep us up to date on what is going on in the city. On 5th Tuesdays we have potluck, adding a little to the coffers because those who would rather not "bring a dish" pay \$5 and it's worth it; we have great food. With at least 63 in attendance, if only 20 pay, do the math! There's also 50/50, tickets 3/\$1, drawn in \$5 increments, thereby sharing the wealth. To round out the meeting, Bingo at 50 cents a card with half of it going to the treasury so that we can have special entertainment or a speaker once a month, usually on the 3rd Tuesday.

On St. Patrick's Day we will have Jim McEwan, a marvelous pianist who plays absolutely everything out there and will play all of the Irish numbers for our sing-along. On April 7th we will have a special Easter Luncheon, catered by Sally, and in May we will go all out for the 100th birthday of Marion Melon, one of our faithful members, never misses a meeting. The age group starts at 55, on up. Do come as a guest while you decide if our club is for you. I'm President, call me at 626-355-5761, e-mail postrye@netzero.com, or just come, you'll like it!



Yoga Madre

Yoga Studio and Wellness Center

Classes for all levels

626.303.1004
www.yogamadre.com

300 E. Foothill Blvd • Arcadia, CA 91006

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Every Wednesday 3pm-7pm
Fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits from
California family farms.

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

SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI:

With the economic clime being what it is, I thought some information that my friend Ken Anhalt passed on to me would benefit us all. He told me that a market in our area cuts the price of several products by 50% each day. The market is Fresh & Easy... I called the store located on Foothill and Second in Arcadia to find out the details, and spoke to a nice young man named Shane. He told me that certain products have a "date code" for freshness and when these items will be "out-of-code" on the following day, they are marked down by 50%-- usually between 8:00 or 8:30 PM. I might be missing a few items he mentioned, so please check out all departments. The items I wrote down are: meat, produce, juices and breads. The best times to take advantage of the bargains would be in the evenings before the store closes at 10:00PM, or when it opens the next day at 8:00 AM. Thanks Ken!

~Helpful Hints~

Using Tea in the Garden

1-For healthier potted plants, place a few used tea bags on top of the drainage layer at the bottom of the planter before potting. The tea bags will retain water and add nutrients to the soil.

2-To speed up the decomposition process and enrich your compost, pour a few cups of strongly brewed tea onto the heap. The liquid tea will hasten decomposition and draw acid-producing bacteria, thus creating desirable acid-rich compost.

Recipe of the Month:

Recipe of the Month: For the Slow-Cooker- Easy Red Beans and Rice



Ingredients:

- * 1 tsp cornstarch
- * 1 lb red beans, soaked overnight and drained
- * 1 ham bone
- * 1/2 lb sliced bacon, chopped
- * 1/2 stick butter (1/4 cup)
- * 1 tsp salt
- * 3 stalks celery, chopped fine
- * 2 medium onions, chopped fine
- * 1 bunch green onions, chopped fine

Directions:

Put 3 inches of water in a slow-cooker and stir in cornstarch. Add all remaining ingredients. Cover and cook on low-heat setting for 8 hours or on high-heat setting for 4 hours, or until beans are tender. Remove ham bone. Chop the meat, and return it to the cooker. Serve over rice. ~Serves 8~



Happy Birthday!

March Birthdays: Ella Guttman, Viky Tchatlian, and Santos Ruiz

For Your Funny Bone

A guy finds a lamp on the beach and proceeds to rub it. A genie came out and told him that he will grant him just one wish. Well, the guy was caught off-guard and said, "I have always wanted to go to Hawaii, but I'm afraid to fly. Can you build me a bridge to Hawaii?" The genie thought about it and said, "Do you realize how much is involved in building such a bridge? I would have to sink pilings down miles into the ocean. It would take millions of yards of concrete. The labor would be incredible. Can't you think of something else?" By this time the guy has had time to think, and says, "Okay, I've had a question that has bothered me all my life and I wonder if you could explain something to me. Would you please explain how the mind of a woman works?" The genie looked at him and said, "Do you want that bridge two lanes or four?"

Quote: *Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best.*
~ Henry van Dyke~

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:

**For reservations and further information call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394 or stop by and see her at the Hart Memorial Park House- 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM*

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.



MEALS-ON-WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER MEALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS **ONCE A MONTH OR WEEKLY Please contact Darlene Traxler at 626.355.0256.**

REVERSE MORTGAGE INFO

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



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

We Make It Simple



www.LASeniorMortgage.com

See the "Senior Spot" column weekly!



Chris Bertrand

One Of A Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them

Victorian Flavor Perfectly Fitted Into A Thoroughly Modern Lifestyle

Noted local builder, Reggie Tollefson built this home at 604 Fairview for himself back in the 1970's. The detailing that Victorian aficionados so love adorns the exterior, with many patterned shingles, tall peaks, inviting porches and much more. One foot stands firmly in traditional style, while updates and upgrades in the last five years have made the home more energy efficient and current.

Inside, though a traditional personality pervades every corner of the home, a thoroughly modern household can be very happy here. Spectacular wood ceilings in the family room and kitchen, intricate box beams in the formal living room and two stunning fireplaces with meticulous, intricate carving set the tone for the décor style without unduly intruding.

Part of the recent remodel included extensive attention to custom cabinetry. The dining room boasts expansive storage,

buffet service and glass front display space. The third bedroom, currently configured as a wonderful home office, offers another installation of thoughtful custom storage especially for those with a book collection, and the master bedroom includes generous built-in storage, as well. As far as I'm concerned a home can never have too many closets or cabinets! Gorgeous birch hardwood floors throughout most of the



focused around the fabulous heritage

home have made it easy to clean, green-conscious as well as allergen-resistant. The Pella brand windows are a high quality addition, beautifully yet significantly reducing the heat and air conditioning loss. The master bath is a delightful, airy and spacious retreat with a soaking tub, separate shower with plate glass surround, dual sinks plus plenty of breathing room for two to prepare for work simultaneously.

The vignette views are artfully captured throughout the property, adding to the special qualities this home imbues. As you are seated in the living room, the bay windows look out to the beautiful garden. The family room and kitchen windows and the back porch are

oak tree that gently arches over the outdoor dining table. The master bedroom and the front courtyard share the best vignette views: Filtered mountain peaks framed by mature trees seemingly make the homes across the street disappear. The finished space over the garage is ready for the new owner's imagination... an artist's studio? Home theater? What a delicious decision!

604 Fairview Avenue, Sierra Madre is 2595 square feet (per assessor) with 3 bedrooms, two and one half baths, a three car garage and a 7850 square foot homesite. Offered at \$948,000 by Emily Duggan of Century 21 Village Realty, Sierra Madre. For more information contact her at 626-695-1206 or WhoaEm@aol.com.

Know of an interesting home, garden or person who helps create them? Pass along the details to Chris Bertrand at Chris@BertrandOnline.com

Greening Your Thumb: PICK PERENNIALS

Regardless of the size of your garden, perennials should be your first choice over annuals. So, what is a perennial exactly? A perennial is a plant that has a much longer life span than annuals or biennials, and thus are a great investment in your landscaping. They are usually sold in nurseries in 1 gallon or 5 gallon containers. (You may be able to find a limited selection of perennials in 4", but choices vary from nursery to nursery.)

Perennials have varying growth habits, some die back at the end of the year only to reappear again in spring of the following year. Others are prone to look a little scruffy come year's end, but will revive and be no worse for the wear when spring appears once again. Then we have the third type that look good all year round and only require (light) trimming throughout the year to keep them looking spiffy and manicured and should get cut back in winter (Jan/Feb) so they can go another year (or more) in your garden.

All perennials require a certain degree of maintenance throughout the year to keep them healthy and looking their best.

Now, what makes perennials truly indispensable is the incredible selection of textures, colors, and shapes. They can be low growers that spread anywhere from 1' to 4' or more, depending on plant type. Others are upright, either spreading or compact. All bring interest, structure and color to your garden. One of the most beneficial aspects to perennials is they don't have to be replaced every few months -they can actually last for several years with good maintenance.

Some perennials are best suited to sunny locations, while others prefer filtered light or shade. Some need more water than others. The trick to combining perennials in your garden is to group together things that have similar requirements and to locate them in a place where they will thrive and give you years of enjoyment.

Barristers Nursery has classes every Saturday at 9:30 (\$5 per class) through April on how to prune, shape and maintain perennial plants. These classes are extremely informative (with a hands-on approach to help the student actually see how plants are pruned and shaped) and will take the fear out of gardening. So, join us if you can.

Call to register (626) 441 1323.

Dickson Podley REALTORS® The Ratliff Team

Bill Podley welcomes The Ratliff Team to the Dickson Podley's South Lake Avenue office. Susan Ratliff, a twenty-year veteran of the real estate industry started her career in the early 90's with broker/owner, Bill Podley at Podley, Caughey & Doan Realtors. Susan's decision to re-join the firm was largely based on the scope of services offered by Dickson Podley, to its agents and clients.



Susan Ratliff

"We believe the philosophy of this company is most in line with our own values and those we serve. Bill Podley carried us through the challenging real estate climate of the early 90's and has the knowledge and experience to carry us through this current market" Susan said.

Susan had consistently held a top producer position with her previous firm. Susan specializes in creating aggressive marketing plans for sellers who are looking to maximize the highest possible profit in this shifting market. Her experience in a declining market in the early 1990's has proven to be a valuable asset to the homeowners she represents today. She also specializes in representing relocation buyers who appreciate Susan's extensive

knowledge of different communities within the San Gabriel Valley that allows them to choose the perfect new home. Susan and her husband, Dick are the parents of four children and nine grandchildren and reside in La Canada Flintridge.



Jeff Reisbeck

Jeff Reisbeck, who is Susan's son in law, re-joined the team in 2008 after a three year hiatus in the mortgage field. Jeff began his real estate career in 2003 after an Executive Management Career in the restaurant industry with firms such as Darden Restaurants & Baja Fresh. Jeff specializes in representing first time home buyers as well as investment buyers looking for rental property, assists clients with mortgage related topics that will fit the client's needs, manages the teams internet business and handles all transactional issues in closing the escrows. Melissa Reisbeck, Susan's daughter, assists the team in an administrative capacity as well as handling all the financial aspects for the team. Jeff and

Melissa reside in a 1940's Traditional in Monrovia with their two children and two dogs.

Jen Daniels specializes in buyer representation with a focus on the first-time homebuyer.



Jen Daniels

Jen and her husband, Shaun recently purchased their first home and moved to the San Gabriel Valley, residing in West Covina. She joined The Ratliff Team in 2008 as a buyer's agent. She has found this association to provide her with a full spectrum of experienced agents guiding and directing her through each transaction.

The Ratliff Team can be reached at 866-980-5333 or info@TheRatliffTeam.com.

Established in 1957, Dickson Podley REALTORS® currently serves The Foothills Area, from Glendale to Glendora, with all its realty needs. Dickson Podley REALTORS® has 6 branch offices located throughout the area (Pasadena, La Cañada, Altadena, Monrovia, Glendora, and Sierra Madre). Please visit www.dicksonpodley.com for more information on the company as well as to get in contact with local agents in your area.

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



Luther & Georgina
TSINOGLOU
Working on Common Ground



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

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



www.Tsinoglou.com
1.888.451.4915 | 626.408.1401

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Every Wednesday 3pm-7pm

Fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits from California family farms.

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



416 Jeffries Ave. #43, Monrovia
Gorgeous new mobil home in upscale park with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, huge kitchen with eating area, center island & many cupboards. Fireplace in living room, formal dining room & utility room. A very clean, very nice senior park built in 2006. **\$225,000**



Carolyn Papp
626-353-7443

COLDWELL BANKER

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
Arcadia Regional Office
15 E. Foothill Blvd. Arcadia
626-445-5500

Open Houses 2/28 and 3/1

Open Saturday & Sunday 12-4pm
480 N Catalina Ave., Pasadena \$349,900
Open Saturday 2-4pm
12043 Lambert Ave., El Monte \$590,000
Open Sunday 1-4pm
793 Woodland Dr., Sierra Madre \$449,000
Open Sunday 2-4pm
9543 E Naomi Ave., Arcadia \$488,000
401 Santa Rosa Rd., Arcadia \$678,000
845 Glenlea St., La Verne \$624,000
5675 Skyline Circle, La Verne \$824,000
651 N Sunnyslope Ave., Pasadena \$775,000
535 Cliff Dr., Pasadena \$798,000
314 Sierra Woods Dr., Sierra Madre \$799,000
299 E Laurel Ave., Sierra Madre \$1,278,000
Open Sunday 2-5pm
303 E Wistaria Ave., Arcadia \$1,080,000



Photo Copyright ©2007 Bill Coburn

Sunday, March 15, 2009

Vine Viewing 9am—4pm

Downtown Festival 9am—5pm

Visit the Guinness Book Certified
World's Largest Blossoming Plant

- 150+ Craft and Food Vendors
- Outdoor Dining at Local Eateries
- Local Merchants will be OPEN
- Live Entertainment - Two Dozen Musical Acts at Six Outdoor Venues
- Kids Attractions
- Gateway Coach Roundtrip from Goldline Sierra Madre Villa Station to Sierra Madre will be free on this day only, 10am to 6pm

Get Your Tickets Today!!

Shuttle Tickets Available Online at
www.WistariaFestival.com or at
The Chamber Office
37 N. Auburn Ave., Ste. 1

Tickets Also on Sale at the Sierra Madre Farmer's
Market, Plus Free Drawing for Two VIP Tickets
Each Wednesday 3—7pm

Call for info (626) 355-5111

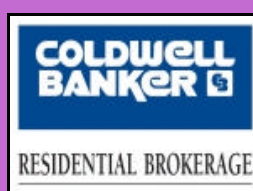
Remote Broadcast from Kersting Court
by KOLA 99FM—11am to 1pm



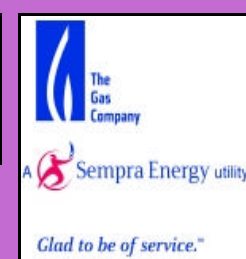
Stage Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Gail Francone, Coldwell Banker
Residential Brokerage, Arcadia



For special Wistaria Festival Room
Rates, call (626) 357-1900
Group Name Wistaria Festival



Copyright © 2009 Sierra Madre Chamber of
Commerce, Flyer by The Coburn Group