

Sierra Madre Surplus? Audit Report Raises Questions

By S. Henderson

When the presentation of the 2006-2007 audit was made public recently, it caused as much controversy over the contents as the lack of having the audit previously raised. At issue was the disclosure that as of June 30, 2007, the city of Sierra Madre had a surplus of over \$1 million dollars. At a time when the entire country is suffering economically the idea that the city has an 'extra' million dollars lying around ignited a firestorm in some circles. There have even been calls to consider the repeal of the User Utility Tax increase that was passed by voters last April.

However, upon review, those extra dollars don't necessarily put the city in a better financial position. First of all, according to City Manager Elaine Aguilar, that was the city's financial position as of June 30, 2007. It is, "a snapshot of a point in time" and is not an indication of where we are today. For instance, that \$1 million dollar plus surplus is not a windfall for the city's general fund. At least \$200,000 represents interest that was not properly allocated by former staff to restricted accounts and must be reallocated.

The Financial Statements were prepared by R. Edward Beranek an independent auditor who issued an "unqualified opinion" of the city's financial situation. An "unqualified opinion" is one given without reservation and says that the city has complied with generally accepted accounting principles and that the records accurately reflect the city's financial situation.

The statements not only examine all accounts, they also review the city's budget performance. The audit did not at least one issue of concern. In the Required Supplementary Information the auditor noted that, "The City Manager or his designee is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts between the accounts of any department." "Expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations at the program level." The firm went on to identify areas in the 2006-2007 fiscal year where expenditures "exceeded the

appropriations" i.e., had "unfavorable variances". - Specifically, the General Fund - Capital Outlay was exceeded by \$1,099; The Non-Housing - General Government Account by \$177,457; Grants - Public Safety - by \$102,885 and Grants - Capital Outlay by \$589,957. Revisions to the budget should have been approved by the City Council. It is not clear if, after June 30, 2007, the previous council retroactively authorized these expenditures. The all items in question were before the tenure of City Manager Elaine Aguilar and Administrative Services Director Karin Schnaider.

When addressing the 'extra money', Schnaider stated, "The increase in General Fund reserves are a result of market trends in Property Tax and UUT, correction of accounting records, and new Franchise Agreement with Athens". Schnaider submitted an analysis of the General Fund Revenues (See page 3).

Aguilar also noted that the housing market was still riding high in FY06-07 and the downturn in the housing market will not impact the city until FY 07-08 and beyond.

It should be noted that the increase in the UUT that was passed in April will yield approximately \$400,000 in additional revenue and will not be sufficient to cover the increased salaries approved by the council in 2007 for public safety. In addition, the grant funding the city's paramedic program is expiring at a loss of \$200,000 in revenue to the city's budget.

The audit report, which was due in January, 2008, was the last of the seriously overdue audits that had not been completed by the previous city manager and staff. When City Manager Elaine Aguilar and Karin Schnaider, Administrative Services Director joined the city in 2007, they were faced with the critical task of making certain the past due audits were completed. Since that time audits for Fiscal Years 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and 2006-2007 have been completed. The audit for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, which was due January of this year, is 90% completed according to City Manager Elaine Aguilar.

(Continued on page 3)

Housing Element Update - Community Workshop

Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 6:30 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?

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

Sierra Madre City Council Meeting

Tuesday,
March 24, 2009
6:30 pm

Agenda Includes:

Reconsideration
Congregational
Church General Plan
Amendment
Smoking Ban
Budget Priorities

Thousands Attend Wistaria Festival



Thousands descended on Sierra Madre to attend the annual Wistaria Festival last Sunday. The event is sponsored annually by the Chamber of Commerce. Photo story pg. 14 Photo By Dave Felt

Sierra Madre's Gaurdian Angels

Ham Operators To The Rescue

While the thousands of residents and visitors participated in the city's largest festival, the Sierra Madre Emergency Communications Team (SMECT) was busy keeping operations running smoothly. At the Wistaria Festival they provided communications between the Chamber and the Vine including assisting with the busses and crowd control. SMECT is a group of approximately a dozen local FCC licensed Amateur Radio (Ham) Operators. They are an extended arm of the city's public safety efforts. Besides their assistance with the Wistaria Festival, they also help with the Mount Wilson Trail Race, the 4th of July Parade, and the Halloween festivities on East Alegria every year. Their mission is, "To provide supplemental communications for the City of Sierra Madre."

The Sierra Madre Emergency Communication Team was established and authorized by the Sierra Madre Emergency Communication Team Charter presented to the Sierra Madre City Council, at the May 2000, meeting. SMECT is assigned by the SM Disaster Plan to support the SMPD. Therefore, during emergencies, SMECT activation will be initiated by the Sierra Madre Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Their service as "personnel locators" and "portable communicators" make these amateur radio operators extremely valuable during a disaster. To quote the FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, Amateur Radio is "the only truly fail-safe communications service on the planet Earth"

As communicators, they are flexible and creative enough to respond to



Mary Carney, Bob Ross, Sierra Madre Emergency Communications Team. Photo By Dave Felt

the unique circumstances of each emergency. Except for one City owned radio that will be in the new EOC, all equipment is owned and maintained by SMECT members.

They are ready to provide support in the event of Earthquakes, Major Fires, Wide Spread Power Outages, City Communication Equipment Failure or Overload, Major Windstorm and/or Flooding, Missing Person searches, and Civil Disturbance. They are always willing, ready and able to help.

The logistics of transporting two to three thousand people back and forth from the vine to the festival in just a few hours can be a daunting task. But thanks to the SMECT's assistance, the operation ran smoothly.

Inside This Week



Face painting was one of many popular activities for children at the Wistaria Festival in Sierra Madre. Photo by J. Truong

Garden Tour's First Stop: MAMAKOS GARDEN

Hidden from the street, this 1930's Roland Coates Monterey Colonial home is approached over a driveway of decomposed granite that winds its way through shade loving plantings under a canopy of mature Oak trees and arrives at the front entrance opposite a motor court.

The Mamakos', who are only the second owners of this beautiful two acre property, worked closely with Landscape Architect Owen Peters of EPT Design to completely redesign the garden. His work has been carried on in the last few years by landscape designer Rick Button.

On the east side of the home a large stainless-steel abstract sculpture by Bill Martin is surrounded by a fern garden. Behind the house a broad expanse of lawn

forms a T-shaped swath of greenery. In keeping with the size of the lawn, large-scale succulents, ornamental grasses, Aloes and Pineapple Guavas are paired with Roses, Geraniums, Irises and Camellias in a non traditional partnership.

Oversized pots of succulents add drama to this large-scale landscape. A koi pond adjacent to the house provides a serene water element. A coyote sculpture by Gwen Murrill stands guard next to the swimming pool, and a covered pavilion with a swing provides a shady place to watch an afternoon match on the adjoining tennis court. Narrow pathways open into secluded areas containing a formal rose garden, herb knot garden, vegetable garden, native plant garden, green house and potting area.



Garden Tour

April 19, 2009
10:30 am - 4:30 pm

Showcasing exquisite gardens
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Tickets can be purchased at

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108 N. Baldwin Ave.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
In person, by mail, or phone
626-355-8350

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast
Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon: Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Tues: Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Wed: Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Thur: Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Fri: Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

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.

Friends April Best Used Book Sale April 3 & 4

April Showers bring...books! In fact they bring an excellent selection for all ages at very reasonable prices. Let’s take a peek:

Teens: Your wonderful selection of books in April includes the popular “Twilight” series. Looking to adorn your coffee table with books of unparalleled beauty? You’ll discover stunning picture books on Lighthouses, Big Sur, Tuscany, and the Village of Greece to name but a few. Epicureans can feast on cookbooks including In America’s Test Kitchen, and an excellent selection of books on Home Decorating. There will also be a new collection of children’s books.







Of course a new selection of DVD’s, videos and

books on tape are in the offering for April. And outside tables (April showers permitting) will be filled with hard back fiction titles for \$1.00 each, and paperback books for 25 cents each.

Mark those calendars for Friday, April 3rd, from 3:00 to 7:00 pm and Saturday, April 4th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to come visit us at the library: 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre. Need help with directions? Call (626) 355-7186. The Friends operate the Best Used Book Store. Reasonable prices and all proceeds support the library programs. Come and shop early for the best finds

Piano Trios perform at Church of the Good Shepherd, Arcadia

Music in Sacred Spaces Series presents the Harmonium Trio in a concert of piano trios by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Astor Piazzola and Anton Arensky at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, in the chapel of the Church of the Good Shepherd, United Methodist, Arcadia. Members of the Harmonium Trio are Tina Chang Qu, violin, Ling Yan, cello and Yin Yin Huang Acevedo, piano. Qu, born in china, has studied at the Curtis Institute of Music under Jaime Laredo and at Julliard under Dorothy DeLay and at USC. Huang Acevedo, a native of Taiwan, serves as Associate Professor of Keyboard Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. Yan, a native of China, received her bachelor’s and masters’ degrees at Boston University. The group has performed together as the Harmonium Trio for several years. A suggested donation of \$15. Reception following hosted by the United Methodist Women. Church of the Good Shepherd is located at 400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, California, 91007, 626-447-2181. Please call for reservations.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15 		17 Saint Patrick's Day 	18 	19	20 First Day Of Spring 	21 Bethany Church Spring Eggstravaganza 
27 - 29 Huck Finn Campout and Fishing Derby 			March			

Calling All Artisans and Patrons: Renaissance Returning To Sierra Madre

Memorial Park in Sierra Madre will yet again be transformed into an artistic carnival of creative... um, creativity. Yes, on Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17, 2009, the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will turn Sierra Madre into an irresistible feast for all the senses. We will see, we will hear, and we will taste!

100 artists will be displaying the fruits of their passion, efforts and labor. What’s more they’ll give us a peek at how they create their masterpieces. The rest of us, as patrons of the arts, will have the opportunity of adding these treasures to our private collections. Imagine transforming your living room into a gallery that will make the Norton Simon’s and Getty’s of this world chartrouse with envy.

Add entertaining live music, craft projects for the youngin’s, and a wide range of tantalizing food to this festival of epic proportions, and you have the event of the season: The 47th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair.

Artists: Sales are high as our Fair is well known for its superior quality emphasizing fine arts and skilled craftsmanship. The number of entries in each category is limited so now is the time apply. Apply at <http://sierramadrelibraryfriends.org>. Or contact Sharon Murphy at (626) 355-3977.

To the Rest Of Us: Be sure to mark Saturday, May 16, 2009, 9:30 – 6:00pm, and Sunday, May 17, 2009, 9:30 – 5:00pm on our calendars as a Must See Event Weekend. Memorial Park is located in Sierra Madre at 222 West Sierra Madre Blvd. 1 long (and I mean long) block west of Baldwin Avenue.

St. Rita's Semi-Annual Welcome Event Sunday March 22

New to St. Rita’s church or school and don’t feel you know many members? Moved to Sierra Madre recently, and looking for a new Catholic church home? Belonged to St. Rita’s for a long time, but don’t feel you’ve connected yet? Let us welcome you to St. Rita’s!

Join us Sunday afternoon, March 22, at 3 p.m. for a casual wine and cheese gathering at the home of Dick and Chris Bertrand. Please bring a bottle of wine or your favorite beverage, a cheese and crackers plate, or an appetizer to share.

Representatives of various St. Rita organizations will join our pastor, Father Krekelberg, to welcome you to our wonderful parish community! At 5 p.m., following the gathering, we will tour the St. Rita’s campus and facilities, with those who are interested. RSVP to Chris Bertrand at 626-355-1621 or to PR@St-Rita.org.

City of Sierra Madre



Sierra Madre Social

Public Works Open House



Public Works Open House and Sierra Madre Social

The Sierra Madre Social will be held in conjunction with the Public Works Open House. This is a great opportunity for new and longtime residents to get an inside look at City Yards and learn about local community groups and City Departments. Youth have the opportunity to explore Public Works trucks and tour the City Yards!

Date:

Saturday, March 28, 2009

Time:

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Participating Groups:

City of Sierra Madre participating Departments include: Public Works, Community and Personnel Services, Senior Services, and Development Services. Local community groups will be on site to answer questions and provide information. The Public Works Open House will feature agencies such as: San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Southern California Edison, California Conservation Corp., Los Angeles Regional Agency, Athens Services and other local environmental groups.

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER “PICNIC”
AT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE

March 6- April 11, 2009. Fri. & Sat. at 8, Sun. at 2:30
Dark on Sunday, March 15
Admission is \$20
Seniors (65+) and students (13-17), \$17
Children 12 and under, \$12
RESERVATIONS: (626) 355-4318
GROUP RESERVATIONS: (626) 836-2125
ONLINE: www.sierramadreplayhouse.org

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SIERRA MADRE SURPLUS - From page 1

Calls for a repeal of the increase in the city's User Utility Tax based upon the funds available at the close of Fiscal Year 2006-2007 may be premature. A number of factors, including the increase in wages negotiated by the POA, and an anticipated change in the city's property tax revenue may cause income projections to be considerably less. One significant revenue decrease in the immediate future will be a decline in the funds from the state for Vehicle Licensing Fees (VLF). Although the state's budget has increased the fees, that increase will not be passed on to municipalities as it has in the past. The following charts provided to the council from staff give a clearer picture of where the city is now.

General Fund UUT Maintenance of Effort

	Base Year:	Current Year:	Increase/ (Decrease) Current over Base Year
	Unaudited FY 07-08	Projected FY 2008-09	
REVENUES			
Property Taxes	\$ 3,091,949	\$ 3,145,399	\$ 47,450
Utility User Taxes	\$ 1,167,061	\$ 1,567,776	\$ 400,715
Sales Tax	\$ 220,605	\$ 190,192	\$ (30,413)
Franchise Fees	\$ 389,193	\$ 410,000	\$ 20,807
Other Revenue Sources	\$ 1,766,047	\$ 1,568,902	\$ (197,145)
Total Revenue	\$ 6,634,855	\$ 6,882,269	\$ 247,414

General Fund Maintenance of Effort

	Base Year:	Current Year:	Increase/ (Decrease) Current over Base Year
	Unaudited FY 07-08	Projected FY 2008-09	
EXPENDITURES			
Administration	\$ 1,366,860	\$ 1,723,697	\$ 356,837*
Police	\$ 2,635,399	\$ 3,044,521	\$ 409,122
Fire	\$ 474,464	\$ 520,985	\$ 46,521
Community /Personnel	\$ 306,590	\$ 307,970	\$ 1,380
Public Works	\$ 239,561	\$ 287,663	\$ 48,102
Library	\$ 743,638	\$ 784,655	\$ 41,017
Total Expenditures	\$ 5,766,512	\$ 6,669,491	\$ 902,979

* \$300,000 is carryover funds for the General Plan and Housing Element.

General Fund Revenues (in thousands)

Revenues :	Audited FY 2005-06	Audited FY 2006-07	Unaudited FY 2007-08	Proposed FY 2008-09
Property Taxes	\$ 2,757	\$ 3,064	\$ 3,082	\$ 3,116
Supplemental Taxes	\$ (316)	\$ 144	\$ 10	\$ 29
UUT	\$ 943	\$ 1,139	\$ 1,167	\$ 1,568
Sales Taxes	\$ 171	\$ 223	\$ 221	\$ 190
Franchise Fees	\$ 193	\$ 390	\$ 389	\$ 410
Other Taxes	\$ 331	\$ 257	\$ 314	\$ 243
Charges for services	\$ 200	\$ 175	\$ 98	\$ 097
VLF/Property Taxes	\$ 728	\$ 771	\$ 829	\$ 850
Other Gov't Agencies	\$ 67	\$ 98	\$ 60	\$ 80
Licenses and permits	\$ 78	\$ 92	\$ 112	\$ 85
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 234	\$ 127	\$ 137	\$ 102
Investment income	\$ 357	\$ 251	\$ 142	\$ 91
Miscellaneous	\$ 350	\$ 307	\$ 74	\$ 21
Total revenues	\$ 6,093	\$ 7,038	\$ 6,635	\$ 6,882

Revenues:	Change in 06-07 over 05-06	Change in 07-08 over 06-07	Change in 08-09 over 07-08
Property Taxes	\$ 307	\$ 18	\$ 34
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 460	\$ (134)	\$ 19
UUT	\$ 196	\$ 28	\$ 401
Sales Taxes	\$ 52	\$ (2)	\$ (31)
Franchise Fees	\$ 197	\$ (1)	\$ 21
Other Taxes	\$ (74)	\$ 57	\$ (71)
Charges for services	\$ (25)	\$ (77)	\$ (1)
VLF/Property Taxes	\$ 43	\$ 58	\$ 21
Other Gov't Agencies	\$ 31	\$ (38)	\$ 20
Licenses and permits	\$ 14	\$ 20	\$ (27)
Fines and forfeitures	\$ (107)	\$ 10	\$ (35)
Investment income	\$ (106)	\$ (109)	\$ (51)
Miscellaneous	\$ (43)	\$ (233)	\$ (53)
Total revenues	\$ 945	\$ (403)	\$ 247

Sierra Madre Kiwanis will feature "Around The World In 2585 Days by Pat and De Alcorn at their weekly luncheon meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 12 Noon. The Alcorns will speak on their amazing sailing adventure. The Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club meets at the Masonic Temple 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. The event is free and open to the public. Lunch will be served at 12 noon. The cost of lunch for Non-members is \$11. For Reservations Call: 355-6786



Around Monrovia

by Pat Ostrye

Coming Soon

Election Day and Volunteer Luncheon!

Here we are, the first day of Spring and so much going on. Probably one of the top stories for Monrovia, as Spring sets in, is the Municipal Election on April 14th. Because many seniors don't venture forth after dark, the New Horizon Senior Club is hosting a Candidates' Forum on Tuesday, March 24th, in the Community Center at 10:15 am. All of the candidates have happily consented to participate and give a five-minute synopsis of the whys and wherefores of their candidacy. It will be worth their while too, with at least 60 in attendance, surpassing the merits of the usual "coffee hour". When I first ran for the City Council in 1974 with Bob Bartlett and Eric Faith, we had 25 coffee hours in February alone, totaling about ten constituents who weren't already our close friends trying to "swell the crowd".

City Clerk Linda Proctor will monitor the forum and City Treasurer Steve Baker will also be on hand. Both Linda and Steve are running for re-election, unopposed. We take advantage of Steve's singing talent every chance we get so, hopefully, he will lead the singing of God Bless America to open the meeting, following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Right on the heels of the election, is the Annual Volunteer Luncheon, April 16th. This is of very special interest because it is hosted and served by the hierarchy of our City government, for all volunteers who have given at least 52 hours of service to the community over the past year. What could be better than being served by the police or fire chief, the city manager or any one of the fine department directors?! Also there will be awards presented to outstanding members among these celebrated volunteers. The administrator of the Volunteer Center, keeping track of those hours, is Patti Tellez.

While on the subject of Volunteerism, The Volunteer Center of San Gabriel Valley has announced that the Foothill Unity Center in Monrovia will receive the Spirit of Humanitarianism Award for its contribution to Health and Human Services at the Annual Spirit of Volunteerism Recognition Luncheon to be held on Wednesday, June 17th, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, at Almansor Court in Alhambra. Joan Whitenack is Director of Unity Center, assisted by Betty McWilliams.

I've just received a press release from the Rotary Club of Monrovia, saying that their club, in conjunction with African Enterprise, a local Monrovia service organization, and the Rotary Club of Pietermaritzburg (South Africa) have joined forces to provide Edu-kits to children in the greater Pietermaritzburg area. The Rotary Clubs have donated the equivalent of \$13,000 US to fund this project, to the utter delight of the youngsters receiving the kits.

P.S. to last week's column re: the Aztec Hotel. It is a regular hotel, no longer just residence, so if you have family members visiting, you may want to look into it and enjoy the 1924 ambience! postrye@netzero.com

Schiff, Radanovich Introduce Bipartisan Resolution Recognizing the Armenian Genocide

Washington, D.C. - Today, Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA) announced the introduction of a resolution recognizing and commemorating the Armenian Genocide. The resolution calls on the President and the U.S. Government to properly recognize the atrocities that occurred in Armenia beginning in 1915, and which resulted in 1.5 million deaths, as genocide. Rep. Schiff authored the resolution with George Radanovich (R-CA), Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Mark Kirk (R-IL).

"The facts of history are clear, well documented, and non-negotiable. One and a half million Armenians were deliberately murdered in the first genocide of the 20th century. If we are to lead in the effort to stop the genocide in Darfur and prevent future atrocities, we must be willing to condemn genocide whenever and wherever it occurs," said Schiff. "It has never served our national interest to become complicit in the denial of genocide, and it never will. While there are still some survivors left, we have a compelling moral obligation to speak plainly about the past."

Last week, Rep. Schiff and the other coauthors of the resolution wrote to President Obama lauding him for his principled record of recognizing

the Armenian Genocide. The letter asked the President to make a strong statement of genocide recognition on April 24th - as President Reagan did more than 20 years ago.

"The Affirmation of the U.S. Record on the Armenian Genocide" resolution has the bipartisan support of 77 original co-sponsors in the House of Representatives. It calls on the President to "ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding" of the "Armenian Genocide" and to "accurately characterize the systematic and deliberate annihilation of 1,500,000 Armenians as genocide."

The Armenian Genocide has been recognized by more than 20 nations including Canada, Italy, Sweden, France, Argentina and Russia, as well as the European Parliament. Rep. Schiff is the co-founder of the Democratic Study Group on National Security and a member of the House Appropriations Committee, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the House Judiciary Committee.

Here represents California's 29th Congressional District, which includes the communities of Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, East Pasadena, East San Gabriel, Glendale, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena and Temple City.

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Every Wednesday 3pm-7pm
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New KPCC Facility To Be Finished by December

By Dean Lee

Although KPCC President and CEO Bill Davis said Wednesday that a new building on Raymond Avenue, set to house the radio station, would be completed by December he also still had no date when they would be completely moved in and off the campus of Pasadena City College something that originally was to happen in 2002.

Reading a memo, PCC radio instructor Jeff Rudisill said, "I just wanted to get on the record a memorandum from July 20, 2001."

He continued, "It is not clear at this point exactly when Southern California Public Radio will abandon the station. The current estimate suggests they will be out of the space by January/February 2002."

Rudisill said his department has been anticipating the space to train students as radio operators which later could serve as interns at KPCC something that interested PCC's Board of Trustees. This year the station has had 16 interns a number the board suggested could be increased.

Rudisill has also overseen the operation of student run KPCS Lancer Radio, a small campus station broadcasting on 88.9 FM, he hopes to see expand.

Board member Jeff Baum said he wanted to give a word of endorsement for the work Rudisill did with Lancer Radio saying he had a young man from his district that went through the program. "He is now focused and working at a local radio station," Baum added.

Davis said they would be leaving all the KPCC studios in place and suggested that they would be used for students.

"There will be some sort of use for the students so that they are able to use those," he said. "In addition to them serving as a backup transmission facility should there be an earthquake or another natural disasters event."

Southern California Public Radio is required to have at least one

operational KPCC studio left on the campus according to the school's agreement. The PCC Board of Trustees holds the FCC license for the station.

Davis also later said the processes of moving would be gradual starting immediately after the new building is complete late this year which among other things will house a new public forum that can hold 250 people. He said the city had just approved the zoning permit earlier that night for the new addition which includes the forum. "We have had the permits for the existing building at 474 south Raymond," he said.

Davis boasted that KPCC is the third most listened to public radio station in the country saying that their last three month ratings by Arbitron showed 620,000 weekly listeners.

He also said they are the first and only public station to have a Washington bureau covering

Southern California Public Radio, which oversees KPCC, was also able to acquire 90.3 KPCV in Coachella Valley last year. Worried the board asked about the station being identified as a "public service of Pasadena City College" at the top of each hour. Davis said the tagline was used on KPCV and 89.1 KUOR at the University of Redlands, also owned by them, but not as the station's top of the hour legal ID.

Board member Hilary Bradbury-Huang had also asked about labor practices and the hiring of non union workers building the new Raymond building.

"All of the trade that were hired on this are meeting Pasadena's own minimum wage standard," Davis said. "All are in good standing with the California Contractors Licensing Board." He added that at least two of the four major trades were union.

Davis also said KPCC had raised \$20 million in contributions last year just shy of their goal \$27 million.

Monday Night's Council Meeting Highlights

Buses on Colorado Boulevard – The council will consider awarding a contract to Manuel Brothers Inc. for installation of street light luminaires, traffic signal cabinets, transit bus loop detectors and other equipment in preparation for Metro's Rapid Buses to run along Colorado Boulevard. This high-capacity transit system, which already runs in Los Angeles, provides more frequent services with fewer stops and operates on a three-way automated communication and feedback system along the physical routes plus a sophisticated algorithm in Los Angeles that produces a balanced traffic signal synchronization between Metro buses and vehicular traffic flow.

Trees – The council will consider temporarily suspending the removal of all healthy public trees for four months beginning Monday to give staff time to complete a review of all streetscape and specific plans for consistency with the Master Street Tree Plan and city environmental plans. Exclusions would include dead or dying trees,

trees that pose an immediate public health or safety hazard, trees that block visibility of traffic signals and traffic signage where pruning wouldn't be enough, and individual trees already slated for removal the requests for which have been reviewed already by the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee. The council will also consider directing the city manager to move forward with implementation of the Playhouse District Streetscapes, Walkways and Alley Plan as it relates to planting.

Election Results – The city clerk will provide final results of the March 10 City Council election and will announce that Chris Holden received the majority of votes in District 3 and Victor Gordo received the majority in District 5. He will announce that there will be a runoff election in District 7 between Terry Tornek and Margaret York because no candidate received 50% plus one vote.

Information provided by Pasadena PIO Ann Erdman.

The council meets at 6:30 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Art Night Draws Thousands



The streets of Pasadena came alive Friday with the 21st semi-annual ArtNight Pasadena, an enchanting evening of art, culture and entertainment that spanned the globe.

The event was a dynamic mix of the traditional and trendy with 14 participating cultural institutions that opened their doors for free including Pacific Asia Museum, Norton Simon Museum of Art, Pasadena Museum of California Art and the Pasadena Museum of History among others.

ArtNight Pasadena is an ongoing partnership of the city of Pasadena's Cultural Affairs Division and local cultural institutions. The event is sponsored by the Pasadena Arts & Culture Commission.



Public Art Discussion Packs Meeting

Arts and Culture Commission Chair Dale Oliver bluntly asked the Pasadena Center Operating Company Wednesday night if they still advocated for no public art in the Civic Auditorium's grand plaza after about two dozen people spoke defending two large sculptures planned there.

"At this juncture in terms of helping us, assisting us,

moving forward and going back to the city council, if you could communicate in the very near term it will help form the process we are about," Oliver said. "The question we would ask is, does the PCOC continue to have the view that there should be no public art in the plaza area adjacent to green street?"

Many at the hour long meeting were thrilled over the commission's vision statement which they said reflected Pasadena well.

Rochelle Branch, the city's cultural affairs manager, read the statement, "The public art program at Pasadena Center will reflect Pasadena's unique

character by honoring a path leading toward a future with art that is lively, inviting and provocative,"

Many also thought that fit the plan to put the steel "Thinking Caps" sculpture by renowned artist Dennis Oppenheim a series of three hats, including a baseball cap, sun hat and a fedora, in the plaza although that has now been scrapped. Also nixed were two light sculptures by Berlin-based artist Hans Peter Kuhn. The commission will have one

more meeting before moving recommendations to the city council. Wednesday's meeting only took public input which



will now be reviewed. Almost all of the comments favored the commission's art plan as presented.

Pasadena Marathon Set For Sunday

Having a second go at it, and with little publicity, this Sunday's Pasadena Marathon has attracted an estimated 1,000 more participants than last year's canceled event — of which only half of the original racers re signed up according to event organizers. The only problem this time round is a slight possibility of rain.

And all though the rescheduled race does not have an official press release, little has changed since one was issued last year. The release did however state that the city had requested a registration cap of 8,000 participants something that now looks to be more like 9,000.

The inaugural event includes a Marathon, Half Marathon, 5K, Bike Tour, and 3.1-mile Fun Run/Walk. Race organizers indicate that the event is geared to attract a range of participants, from elite competitors, to casual entrants.

Mayor Bill Bogaard said Friday that he will again be out to take part in the bike tour starting at 6 a.m. He had shown up early the morning of November 16, the Marathon's original

date, to ride the first time only to find out in had been canceled. At that time he said he was not part of the meeting held hours before the start in which the decision was made to cancel because of bad air quality due to Southern California wild fires.

The full marathon and half marathon both start at 6:30 a.m. They are to be followed by the 5K and the Fun Run/Walk both of which start at 6:50 a.m. Racers should start to cross the finish line in front of Pasadena City College between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Israel Estrada, Executive Director of Pasadena Forward stated that the Pasadena Marathon is distinguished from comparable events due, in part, to the physical characteristics of the city. "Because Pasadena is geographically small, participants will have the unique experience of running through all parts of our city, including beautiful residential neighborhoods and vibrant commercial districts. We're also excited to show off some of the many cultural landmarks for which Pasadena is so well-known. Without doubt, it's going to be a



truly memorable race."

There will also be a race start and finish line festival with food and live music provided by the Los Angeles band CORE, the festival at PCC is free and open to the public.

Free participant parking is available at the college. Additional parking within walking distance is available at Caltech. Other parking within cycling distance of the start is available at Fuller Seminary. The Westin Pasadena offers free shuttle service to PCC and back to the hotel for hotel guests.

Metro also provides transportation to Pasadena via Metro Gold Line service. For assistance with planning your trip to Pasadena City College, visit

the Metro Trip Planner at www.metro.net or phone 1-800-COMMUTE.

Pasadena Forward also announced that Tiffany & Co. will serve as the Awards Sponsor of the inaugural Marathon presented by Kaiser Permanente.

"Tiffany & Co. is known for its excellent craftsmanship, and we are honored that the company will be the Awards Sponsor for our inaugural event," Estrada. "This is a relationship that we hope will grow in the coming years as the Pasadena Marathon gains in popularity."

Additional information about the Marathon, including all course maps, can be found at www.pasadenamarathon.org.



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know? Our Threatened Mediterranean Habitat

By SMEAC Member, Nan Kaeser

Did you know that you live in one of the most threatened habitats in the world? It's true! We, Californians, live in a Mediterranean climate or habitat. Mediterranean climates are characterized by just a few months of rain in the winter followed by 6 or more, dry, hot months. The plants and animals living in these habitats have adapted to this weather pattern. Ever wonder why so many of our native plants have silver colored leaves? Why many plant leaves are tiny or so waxy, or covered with tiny hairs, or why some stand up straight instead of lying down? These are some of the many ingenious ways our natives have adapted to this Mediterranean landscape.

The Mediterranean areas of the world produce 20% of the Earth's vascular plants (those with leaves, roots and stems) but make up just 2.2% of the land surface of the Earth. Besides California, this special habitat is also found in northern Baja, Southern Australia, Chile, South Africa and of course, around the namesake-Mediterranean Sea.

Because this climate is so delightful, people love living in them. Therefore, 40% of all Mediterranean habitats have already been destroyed for human uses. Only 5% of this imperiled landscape has been preserved. For every 8 acres of Mediterranean habitat lost, only one has been saved. Compared with tropical rainforest this is tragic. For these Rainforests, the ratio is 2 lost to 1 saved.

Besides the sunny climate that people love, these habitats have fertile soils good for ranching and farming. Think citrus, avocados, olives and wine. And for those who can't live in these areas but can visit, there is tourism. So, more stress on these imperiled ecosystems.

The Mediterranean habitat is typified by dry grasslands, studded with oak and shrub lands adapted to long dry months by conserving the little water they acquire during the short, rainy season. Some of these multitudes of adaptations are small leaves for less moisture loss, evergreen leaves as it takes more energy to grow new ones each year, hairy leaves or shiny ones to provide shade or to retard evaporation.

Our own Mediterranean region, including Baja California, produces more native plant species than are found in the central and northeastern United States and all of Canada combined. Our portion of the world's Mediterranean habitat produces more than 4300 native plant species, but far more people live in our area than any of the others. California's Mediterranean habitat covers just 1% of the US but contains 10% of the population! Ponder all these facts and you begin to understand why our special habitat is so endangered.

What can you do to try to protect our much endangered habitat? You can grow native, drought tolerant plants (and be saving water at the same time). You can work against approving more developments in pristine areas. You can go to [mediterraneanaction.net](http://www.mediterraneanaction.net) to learn more.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

Brought to you by: Sierra Madre Environmental Council (SMEAC)
P.O. Box 85
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085



Fire Safe Council "Announcements and Observations"

The FREE curbside "Chipper Day" program for all residents living in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone is underway north of Grandview. For information or a registration packet call 355-0741 or e-mail the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council at smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com. The program provides a savings of up to 20% on the costs of

chipping and removing the chips from your property. This program will continue until June or when we have exhausted our grant funding, whichever comes first. Do not miss out on this opportunity to protect your home from catastrophic loss to wildfire.

The next meeting of the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council will be April 6, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the City Council chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, March 1, 2009, to Saturday March 8, 2009, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 277 calls for service.

Sunday, March 1st:

5:47 PM – Arrest, Driving Under the Influence, Michillinda Ave. and Sierra Madre Blvd. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist showed symptoms of intoxication. The motorist failed the field sobriety tests and was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. The motorist was transported to Pasadena police jail facility for further testing, booking and housing.

6:31 PM – Arrest, Court Order Violation, 300 block of Grove Street. Officers were summoned to a call of a disturbance. Further investigation revealed the neighbor causing the disturbance violated the conditions of a restraining order. The neighbor was arrested for the court order violation and transported to Pasadena police jail facility for booking and housing.

Monday, March 2nd:

3:41 PM – Arrest, Suspended or Revoked Driver's License, 100 block of N. Mountain Trail Ave. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist was driving with suspended or revoked driver's license. The motorist was arrested for the misdemeanor violation and was later released, on a written promise to appear.

Tuesday, March 3rd:

12:56 PM – Theft of Identity, Van Nuys, CA. The victim discovered that someone fraudulently used the information on his ATM/Credit Card and purchased a computer at a Radio Shack store in Van Nuys. The reported loss was \$1,285.17.

4:35 PM – Grand Theft Auto, 1900 block of Vista Ave. The victims reported their silver, 2003, Honda, Accord, was stolen from their driveway. The theft occurred between Monday, 3/2/09, at 10:00 a.m. and Tuesday, 3/3/09, at 4:00 p.m.

6:48 PM – Arrest, Unlicensed Driver, Baldwin Ave. south of Orange Grove Ave. The motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. Further investigation, revealed the driver was unlicensed

to drive. The motorist was arrested for the misdemeanor violation and was later released, on a written promise to appear.

Wednesday, March 4th:

6:43 PM – Arrest, Unlicensed Driver, Baldwin Ave. and Orange Grove Ave. The motorist was stopped for an equipment violation. Further investigation, revealed the motorist's driver's license was expired. The motorist was arrested for the misdemeanor violation and was later released, on a written promise to appear.

Thursday, March 5th:

7:25 AM – Arrest, Suspended or Revoked Driver's License, Sierra Madre Blvd. and Lima St. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist was driving with suspended or revoked driver's license. The motorist was arrested for the misdemeanor violation and was later released, on a written promise to appear.

Friday, March 6th:

1:49 PM – Auto Burglary, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. The victim parked her car in the parking lot at about 12:30 p.m. The victim returned to her car at 1:45 p.m. and found that someone smashed the front passenger door window. The suspect(s) took a bag, which contained personal belongings from the interior of the car and fled. The loss was valued at approximately \$25.00.

Saturday, March 7th:

4:42 AM – Arrest, Outstanding Criminal Warrant, 100 block Esperanza Ave. Officers responded to a call of a suspicious vehicle. Further investigation revealed that one of the people involved with the suspicious car had an outstanding warrant from San Bernardino. The man was arrested and transported to Sierra Madre Police Department for booking.

12:14 PM – Arrest, Suspended or Revoked Driver's License, Sunnyside Ave. and Montecito Ave. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist was driving with suspended or revoked driver's license. The motorist was arrested for the misdemeanor violation and was later released, on a written promise to appear.

A Weekly Spotlight on Sierra Madre Volunteers *Focus* John Johnson Ph.D. in Volunteering

A designer...a printer...a computer guru. John Johnson does it all under the title of Marketing Tools -- with Our Town Printing as a subsidiary. In the phone book it's "Our Town Printing."

Talking with John about his volunteer life is like reading a list of Sierra Madre activities for the whole year. He has participated in all from the first activity of the year through the final pre-Christmas event called Candlelight Walk.

"On the verge of a quarter century of volunteering my time and resources to Sierra Madre have filled my life with a multitude of friends, laughter until I cried, and I ate some of the best food I ever had," John said.

He added, "At times you wonder how a city so small can have something going on every weekend throughout the year. I believe it has something to do with 'family'."

John said that so far as size, Sierra Madre is really a small community. "Some say it would take 30 minutes to walk from one side of town to the other. This may be true for some community members but for those who volunteer it can take the better part of a day to go from the library to Mountain Trail."

Since John is a "professional volunteer," can he explain the basic ways to volunteer? He answered: help organize and produce an event in town. Donate money to the sponsors of an event. Bring your family and friends to every event, spend your money on the food and items for sale.

"Sing the songs, laugh at the jokes, celebrate the moment, become a member of the larger Sierra Madre family," John said.

He explained that the Wistaria Festival (March 15 this year) is one of his favorite volunteer events. "In 1994, during the 100-year

celebration, 42 organizations/agencies and over 640 volunteers made the event so successful the committee was able to donate \$10,600 to Sierra Madre Search and Rescue, Fire Department, Chamber of Commerce, and provided for a Wistaria Vine Assessment and Maintenance Fund.

John Johnson was born in Paw Paw, Mich., and raised in Battle Creek. He came to California because, at the time, only Cal State L.A. and the University of Rhode Island "were the only two schools offering an entrepreneur degree. I opted for the warmer of the two climates."

He learned computer-ese in college and printing in Sierra Madre when he managed Abacus, formerly located in Sierra Madre.

While going to Cal State L.A. to finish his degree, John drove through Sierra Madre on an exploration of the foothill communities. "Sierra Madre closely resembled a few of the communities where I used to live in Michigan." He explored the town: Monument to the Unknown Boy Scout, the cannon in the

park, no stop lights, and plenty of churches and schools.

I decided to move to Sierra Madre from Pasadena in late 1985 because the town has character and wonderfully devoted citizens I now call family. I started volunteering in Sierra Madre for the 1986 Fourth of July parade...and that was just the beginning."

John concluded, "Yes, volunteering is work. But the work turns to fun and will benefit you in so many ways you cannot imagine. Make life-long friends, teach this heritage to your children and leave Sierra Madre a better place than you found it."



Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, March 8, through Saturday, March 14, the Police Department responded to 926 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, March 8:

Units responded to Foothill and Dexter around 4:26 a.m. in reference to a solo traffic collision. The vehicle had collided into a tree but no one was located at the scene. An area search was made and the 23-year-old male Hispanic driver was found walking down the street. A field sobriety test was conducted, and it was determined that he was operating the vehicle while intoxicated. The man was arrested for DUI without incident.

Around 6:26 a.m., officers saw a possible stolen vehicle leave the Motel 6 parking lot and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. The male Caucasian or Hispanic driver failed to yield and a pursuit ensued. The suspect driver ran several red lights and traveled between 70-75 mph on city streets. He later drove onto the eastbound 210 Freeway traveling between 90-125 mph and was weaving in and out of traffic lanes. The pursuit was subsequently terminated by the 57 Freeway.

Monday, March 9:

A commercial burglary occurred at the County golf course maintenance yard located at 210 West Huntington between 8:00 a.m. on March 8 and 5:00 a.m. on March 9. Unknown suspect(s) broke into the facility and removed power tools and mechanical equipment totaling almost \$7,500.

Around 6:00 p.m., a commercial burglary occurred at Victoria's Secret located at Westfield Mall. Four male Caucasian or Hispanic suspects entered the store; two acted as lookouts while the other two concealed over 70 bras into bags. The suspects then all left the store together with about \$3,000 in merchandise.

Tuesday, March 10:

Units responded to Longden and Eighth around 12:45 p.m. in reference to an assault and robbery that occurred around midnight on March 3. The victim advised that he was on the horse trail when a male African-American transient confronted him and tried to start an altercation. The victim wanted to avoid a fight so he walked away. The suspect then struck him with a blunt object in the abdomen, punched

him several times in the face, and stole his bicycle. The victim went to the hospital and was treated for broken ribs and a collapsed lung.

Wednesday, March 11:

A strong-arm robbery occurred at 556 Las Tunas around 8:30 p.m. The victim was waiting to enter the locked building when a male suspect approached from behind and grabbed her purse. He then ran to a waiting dark blue or dark green, four-door vehicle driven by another suspect. Officers conducted an area search, but the suspect vehicle was not found.

Thursday, March 12:

Between 9:30 p.m. on March 11 and 6:30 a.m. on March 12, a commercial burglary occurred at Merrill Lynch, 801 West Huntington. Unknown suspect(s) smashed a rear window to enter the location and stole a flatscreen television.

Friday, March 13:

A known female subject with an outstanding warrant was seen exiting a vehicle at Santa Anita Inn, 130 West Huntington, around 1:50 p.m. The 46-year-old Caucasian was contacted and a search subject to arrest was made. White crystalline substance, resembling methamphetamine, and syringes were found on her person and inside her vehicle. She was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

A commercial burglary occurred in the 2100 block of Canyon Road between 4:00 p.m. on March 12 and 6:30 a.m. on March 13. The house is under construction and unknown suspect(s) may have used a key to enter the location in order to steal a \$2,400 paint sprayer.

Saturday, March 14:

Shortly before 2:00 a.m., units were dispatched to Baldwin and Woodruff in reference to a traffic collision. A 22-year-old female Asian driver struck two parked vehicles and a brick and wrought iron fence. Officers detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage on her breath, and a field sobriety test revealed that she was operating the vehicle while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. During the booking process at City jail, a baggie containing a white powdery substance resembling cocaine was found in her pocket. She was charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance in prison, DUI, driving with a suspended license, and traffic accident.

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PUSD President Selinski: 'This Is The Direction Of The Future' By Teresa Baxter

The Pasadena Unified School District's elections were recently held with incumbent Scott Phelps holding his seat in a victory over Terri Darr. Ramon Miramontes defeated Charles Nelson for the seat that was vacated by Esteban Lizardo, Elizabeth Pomeroy went unchallenged in taking over Mike Babcock's seat and Ed Honowitz ran unopposed.

These are exciting times for PUSD President Tom Selinski. With many promising new programs being implemented Selinske is optimistic that the new board members will be of value in moving forward with the direction that the school district is taking.

Most recently, the district has approved the launch of a dual immersion program at San Rafael Elementary School, a program that will begin in September. Dual immersion will target kindergarten and first grade students in which two or three classrooms will be devoted for English/Spanish immersion and one classroom for English/Mandarin.

PUSD Facing Possible Layoffs By Teresa Baxter

Shelly James, the chief human resources officer for the Pasadena Unified School District, took the first step towards announcing the possibility of impending layoffs that the district may have to decide on as soon as May.

Recently, the Los Angeles Unified School District came into the spotlight with their layoff notices that occurred on Mar. 13, "Pink Friday", which was the deadline for LAUSD to issue preliminary pink slips to their district's teachers.

According to Resolution 2001, the resolution to decrease the number of certified employees due to a reduction in particular kinds of services, it was recommended by James that the district consider laying off a total of 48 full time school staff.

"This is not a good time for schools, particularly this year," said James. "It gives a new meaning to 'March Madness' and it has nothing to do with basketball in my office."

James specifically suggested that the district could eliminate a certain number of counselors, a coordinator of special projects, an opportunity room teacher, and several classroom teachers. Teachers with special credentials or training that is difficult to recruit will be retained, she said.

"If you look at most other countries, especially Europe, two languages are a requirement. This is a global economy, so for us to be playing a leadership role we have to make sure that our students are great communicators," he said. "If the program proves to be successful we will expand the curriculum appropriately."

The multiple pathways option is also on the agenda for further exploration. According to a presentation given to the board, a pathway is a program of academic and technical study centered on a California industry sector. The multiple pathways strategy offers hands-on learning opportunities to prepare students for real-world success. High school students pursue a pathway over multiple years and graduate prepared for the full range of post-graduation options-which can include two or four-year college, certification programs, apprenticeships or formal job training.

"We have to give students enough content knowledge, but we can do it in a more

creative way," he said. "The multiple pathways plans to approach learning in a more engaging and relevant way that will motivate students to be excited about their education and career path."

By offering multiple pathways, schools encourage students to select from a variety of themed programs in any of California's 15 major industry sectors- including finance and business; health science and medical technology; building and environmental design; engineering; and arts, media, and entertainment.

As for the new faces that will now be serving on the board, Selinske said that the focus will now be to build on the progress that has been made up to this point.

"I think that the board and the Superintendent share the value that whatever we do must sustain these programs, rather than having them come and go," he said. "It's in everybody's interest to help our children be successful so they can be prepared for college and a career."

Superintendent Edwin Diaz stated that the district has continually tried to avoid handing out layoff notices by relying on retirements, resignations and normal transitions in order to do any reduction of staff during a budget reduction.

"Unfortunately, that will not work this year now that we have to make another reduction of cuts," he said. "No decisions have been made, so what this resolution will do is provide us the option to make reductions in these areas if it's determined necessary."

Board member Ed Honowitz brought up the untimely fact that the layoff proceedings coincide with a recent recruitment fair seeking job applicants for the 2009-10 school year.

"I would like to see the staff further give information to help the public understand how we simultaneously are having a job fair on one hand, and laying the staff off on the other," said Honowitz. "It sounds counterintuitive."

The job fair purposely was set up specifically for positions opening in the next school year in only the math, speech and language, science, and English departments. There are also a number of classified openings that need to be filled, said James.



A Little Goes a Long Way!

It's important for people to take time for themselves. With all the worries of the world, I've found that it's easy to lose focus of our own personal lives. In order to maintain balance in life, it's necessary that we set aside some time to reflect and relax. I don't know about you, but I have a pretty busy schedule. Between my high school classes, college classes, chores, and friends and family, it seems as if I haven't got time for anything else. Many people live similar lives. Living day to day with jam packed schedules and constant interactions with others. Increased stress level and lack of sleep can result from too much activity. This will eventually begin

to have a negative impact on the body.

You may be thinking, "I don't have time to just sit around and reflect and relax." This could be true. You may not have time for that as of right now, but you can definitely make time. You'd be surprised at how much time you can save on a daily basis just with proper planning.

This reflecting and relaxing doesn't mean taking a 1 hour nap. Rarely people have extra beds in their offices or classrooms, and finding a solid hour with peace and quiet is equally rare. What to do? Take five minutes. Only five minutes where there will be no interruptions and

simply breathe. Don't think about anything you have done or will do. Just focus on breathing. Sounds simple enough, right? Its not. It's very difficult to control the various thoughts going in and out of your head, but it is possible.

If you're at school or work, I don't recommend closing your eyes and sitting cross-legged like many people do when they meditate. The stares could become a little distracting and you want to keep a good reputation. However you decide to relax, I guarantee that your day will seem to go a little smoother. In this case, a little goes a long way!

Local Students Make the Grade

The following students made the spring 2008 academic Deans' List at Azusa Pacific University. They are honored for semester grade-point average of 3.5 or above. These students are joined by 1,475 receiving the same honor.

Kimberly R. Berglund is a Sierra Madre, CA resident . Berglund is a graduate of Alverno High School and the daughter of Mrs. Kay E. Berglund. Berglund is a Psychology major.

Kjersti R. Housman is a Sierra Madre, CA resident . Housman is a graduate of La Salle High School and the daughter of Mrs. Lisa Housman. Housman is an Applied Health major.

Rachel E. Johnson is a Sierra Madre, CA resident . Johnson is a graduate of Westminster Christian Academy and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Johnson. Johnson is an Art major.

Nicole A. Moriguchi is a Sierra Madre, CA resident . Moriguchi is a graduate of Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Moriguchi. Moriguchi is an Applied Health major.

Rebekah H. Robison is a Sierra Madre, CA resident . Robinson is a graduate of Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Robinson. Robison is a Cinematic Arts

major.

Sarah R. Robison is a Sierra Madre, CA resident . Robison is a graduate of Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Robison. Robison is a Pre-Nursing major.

Brittany M. Taylor is a Sierra Madre, CA resident . Taylor is a graduate of Homeschooled and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randall L. Taylor. Taylor is a History major.

Azusa Pacific University is a comprehensive, evangelical, Christian university located 26 miles northeast of Los Angeles. A leader in the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, APU is committed to God First and excellence in higher education. Offering more than 60 areas of undergrad aduate study, 26 master's degree programs, and 7 doctorates to a total student population of more than 8,500 on campus, online, and at seven regional centers across Southern California, APU has been recognized as one of U.S. News' Best Colleges for six years running and by Princeton Review as one of the Best in the West. APU graduates are known for professional excellence, the highest ethical standards, and their desire to make a difference in the world.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

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

Arcadia High School

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

Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

Barnhart School

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

Bethany Christian School

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

Carden of the Foothills School

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

The Gooden School

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

LaSalle High School

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

Monrovia High School

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

Norma Coombs Alternative School

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

Odyssey Charter School

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

Pasadena High School

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

Pasadena Unified School District

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

St. Rita Catholic School

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School

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

Sierra Madre Middle School

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

Weizmann Day School

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

Wilson Middle School

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

Pasadena Unified School District

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



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TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Japon Bistro

To advance to the next sentence you must first answer a timeless question. Do you know the difference between Sushi and Sashimi? (Answer at the end).

The difference, my friends, is the difference between the potato to the Irish, and the bread to the French; both are dietary staples. Here in the San Gabriel Valley we have a wide selection of Sushi restaurants, which range from forgettable to tantalizing. One of my favorites is Japon Bistro in the heart of Pasadena. There are some intangible and obvious elements that make this a hospitable home for me. Owner Clarence “Koji” Wong goes down to the fish market at least four times a week to select many of his specials that morning. Koji showed me pictures of himself and a huge Blue Fin Tuna, which only made me hungrier. So what is Japon Bistro? Koji explains it is a Japanese Fusion Restaurant. Part Sushi Bar, part Japanese, part Sake Bar: thus Fusion. Did you know that in Japan visitors have been asked to return their passports for asking for French Fries with Sake? I know the Russians love their Vodka, the French their Wine, and the Irish their Whiskey but don’t go messing with the Japanese and adulterating their Sake with some menial appetizer! Maybe you don’t believe me? Well, give it a try next time you are in Japan. Just remember that samurai warriors are not noted for their elevated sense of humor.

Japon Bistro. Opened in 2003, Koji is often found at the front to engage a friendly hello. There are no happy hour specials or buy-one, get-one-frees that other sushi res-

taurants may offer, but here you get what you pay for, and more. Koji tells me that the fish at his restaurant is always fresh and prices are very competitive. For me, I always head to the Sushi Bar and start off with the Tuna Hand roll (\$5.50). Master Sushi Chef “Ichero” is, as the kids say, the “Bomb”.

Here are a few of my favorite dishes: Seared Albacore with ponzu sauce (\$12), Tuna and Seared Albacore Sashimi Salad (\$9), Salmon Skin Handroll (\$5.50) and the drunken Rock Shrimp (\$10). Logon to www.japonbistro-pasadena.com for additional menu items, plus updated prices. The menu offers all of your traditional favorites: California Rolls, Dynamites, Sea Urchin, and many more. If you dig a little deeper and experiment at Japon Bistro, you’ll be very pleased.

Why go? Japon Bistro offers a real, comfortable setting and friendly service, so do yourself a favor and don’t be in a hurry at Japon Bistro. The restaurant has been described as romantic, and is perfect for a special occasion and, as a bonus, they offer plenty of items for kids or the vegans.

What to Avoid? Parking, my suggestion is to do one loop in front of the restaurant and then go directly behind the restaurant and park in the lot. Yes, there is validation available.

Answer: Sashimi is the Fish by itself and the Sushi has rice.

Japon Bistro, 927 E. Colorado, Pasadena., (626) 744 1751.

Question: What are your favorite Sushi Spots? Email me...thechefknows@yahoo.com

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Premier Pasadena Restaurant Features Original Girl Scout Trio of Desserts

Tagalong Truffles...what a treat. Elements Kitchen, a premier caterer and restaurant in Old Town Pasadena, is currently featuring a unique trio of desserts inspired by Girl Scout Cookies and one local Girl Scout’s entrepreneurial spirit.

This Cookie Season, San Marino Cadette Girl Scout Nicoletta Baffo is reaching her selling goals with business savvy and a creative style of her own. This young cookie entrepreneur approached Elements owner and chef Onil Chibas about purchasing Girl Scout Cookies and suggested several dessert ideas for his menu that incorporate the iconic cookies. Intrigued with the concept, Chibas decided to support Baffo with a cookie purchase and use the tasty treats on his menu. Chibas and his dynamic culinary team subsequently created the “Girl Scout Trio of Desserts.”

“Every chef loves a challenge,” said Chibas. “The whole concept of creating this dessert is very Elements...we like to take something familiar - and in this instance fun - and give it an inventive flair.”

The delectable dish features Thin Mint Cheesecake, a Samoa Ice Cream Sandwich, and Tagalong Truffles. The Thin Mint Cheesecake showcases Los Angeles’ #1 selling Girl Scout Cookie. The Thin Mint is a wafer covered with a smooth chocolatey coating and natural peppermint. The ice cream sandwich is made with homemade ice cream and Samoas, tender vanilla cookies covered in caramel, rolled in toasted coconut, and striped with a rich, chocolatey coating. The Tagalong Truffles are made with Tagalongs, cookies topped with peanut butter and chocolate, and sea salt.

★ CHEESECAKE CUP ★

Ingredients:

- 1 box of Trefoils Girl Scout Cookies
- Instant cheesecake pudding mix (check the box for extra ingredients)
- 12 oz. Cream cheese (softened)
- Strawberries
- Chocolate syrup

Directions:

Crush half box of Trefoils. Mix softened cream cheese and cheesecake pudding until smooth. Layer crushed cookies and cheesecake pudding in a cup and repeat layering of ingredients. Garnish with strawberries (or your favorite berries) and 2 full Trefoil cookies. Drizzle with chocolate syrup.

“I was hoping for one dessert. Instead, they came up with three recipes for a dessert trio plate,” Baffo said. She was excited about this cookie purchase because it helped her move closer to her goal of selling 300 boxes of cookies. Plus, she also has an interest in cooking and baking. Chibas said realized that there’s more to a box of Girl Scout cookies than the savory sweets themselves. “What impressed me about Nicoletta is that she came to me with

a plan, an idea for creating a dessert using the cookies as ingredients. I thought it was a clever, intelligent way to approach a business owner. She showed me she is an entrepreneur,” Chibas said.

Like many local Girl Scouts, Baffo is learning valuable skills and has set a personal selling goal. Her troop is saving their cookie proceeds over the next three years to help pay for a trip to either London or Maui.

Entrepreneurship is what the Girl Scout Cookie Program is all about. It teaches girls business skills like budgeting, marketing and sales; provides opportunities to explore new ideas; and creates avenues for making a difference in the community. Plus, a portion

of each \$4 box of cookies goes to local troops and Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles to fund programs and services for 45,000 girls in the community, many from lower socioeconomic families.

More than 26,000 Girl Scouts from the new Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA), which encompasses all of LA County and parts of San Bernardino and Kern counties, will be out in the community selling cookies in front of grocery stores, banks and other businesses now through March 29. Looking for cookies? Customers can visit www.girlscoutsLA.org and use the Cookie Locator search engine to find their nearest cookie booth. Elements Kitchen, located on Fair Oaks Avenue in Old Town Pasadena, offers full service catering, boxed lunches and dinners, and a daily menu with food offerings great for take out dinners or dinner parties. The company just celebrated its fourth anniversary. Their menu features new and innovative American Cuisine dishes and old familiar favorites. Flavors ranging from Southwest to Asian to Caribbean can be found in combination with classic European preparations. Freshly baked pastries and baked goods, along with the limited-time “Girl Scout Trio of Desserts,” round out a unique culinary selection.

MountainViews-Observer**Publisher/ Editor**
Susan Henderson**City Editor**
Dean Lee**Director Of Sales & Marketing**Ann Luke
(626) 325-3111**Art Director**

Allison Kirkham

PhotographyJacqueline Truong
Lina Johnson**Contributors**Teresa Baxter
Pat Birdsall
Bob Eklund
Jeff Brown
Stuart Tolchin
Kim Clymer-Kelley
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Trish Collins**Editorial Cartoonist**

Ann Cleaves

Webmaster

John Avery

Advertising Inquiries
Contact:**ANN LUKE**
626-325-3111**PATRICIA PLUNKETT**
626-818-2698

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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.



By Hail Hamilton

Advice to President Obama

By Hail Hamilton

Eight weeks is not enough time to judge a new president. But it is time enough to make some observations. If I sound overly critical it's because I am concerned about the nature, magnitude and urgency of the challenges facing the new administration. Here's some advice I have for President Obama:

- I support the recent omnibus stimulus bill, but I don't think it's nearly enough to fill the more than \$3 trillion hole in our economy. Even after its passage the economy continues to rapidly decline. What is needed is more federal spending not less and that money should be directed at rebuilding our decaying infrastructure and to financially strapped states, cities and school districts. We should be stimulating consumer demand by creating new jobs for Main Street—not creating new wealth for Wall Street.
- The Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan should be ended now—redirecting money from one failed state to another is money that could be better spent at elsewhere. Moreover, the whole Global War on Terror should be reevaluated. The current tactics and strategies are not working. We have more terrorists aligned against us today than we did on 9-11. Furthermore, by stretching our military so thinly abroad, we are limiting our resources to defend the nation at home against threats like the escalating drug war in Mexico that is spilling over our southern border.
- All “enemy combatants” should be charged, tried, sentenced or released. And this should be done in open federal court with all the safeguards the Constitution provides. Those that are guilty of plotting against the United States should be incarcerated in federal prison. Those that are not guilty should be immediately released and sent home. Gitmo and all the other US-sponsored “detention camps” should be closed and torn down. Their very existence is a black mark on our name as a free nation and leader of the free world.
- The Patriot Act should be immediately

repealed and thrown on the junk-heap of history where it belongs. There is no place for such draconian measures in a free society. It doesn't matter what the crisis may be, the Bill of Rights is the great bulwark against tyranny. It also doesn't matter that past presidents have tried to elude the Constitution while “defending” the nation; the oath they take upon becoming president is to “preserve, protect and defend” the Constitution, not to circumvent it.

- Federal and international laws against committing war crimes and crimes against humanity should be strictly enforced. Anyone in the previous administration, regardless of their rank, who ordered, encouraged or in any way allowed the use of torture against persons in the custody of the United States or held overseas at our request should be investigated and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. I would begin with George Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, John Ashcroft, and Alberto Gonzalez.

- Universalsingle-payerhealthcareshouldmean just that—all Americans should have access to state of the art healthcare. This doesn't mean “socialized medicine;” it means that the cost healthcare would be paid from our taxes like Medicare and Medicaid. Money would no longer change hands between health providers and patients. More importantly, the cost of illness would be spread among the whole population. Quality healthcare is just too expensive and access to it too limited to continue with the current system.

- Finally, the looting of the Social Security Trust Fund by the federal government to help “balance” its budget must immediately stop. Cooking the books on the backs of retirees and the disabled is both wrong and misleading. The fact is that Social Security has run a surplus every year since it began in 1936. The problem is that ever since the Vietnam War the government has been increasingly “borrowing” from the fund to help pay for other programs and not paying back the money it borrows. It's time to put a lock on the Social Security Trust Fund box.

My advice to President Obama could be more, but I think my few recommendations are a good start. Mr. Obama were elected on a platform of change. You promised a new American revolution. It's time to deliver.

**Stuart Tolchin On..LIFE LET'S PRETEND**

A couple of months ago I had a very short conversation with a recently appointed Judge. He made the comment that adjusting to his new position involved a surprising difficulty; he actually had to examine his own thoughts and come to his own decision as to what was right and what was wrong. It is the difference between being an advocate and being a judge. As an advocate, one's position is already determined and arguments are advanced to support that position. One need never decide the rightness or wrongness of the ultimate position, as that is the job of somebody else—now he is the “somebody else”.

To an extent, most of us have been advocates for most of our lives. Our positions on most issues are predetermined by attitudes that were formulated long ago. Frequently we are not even aware of the factors that influenced these attitudes. We live out our lives robotically, taking the same positions and making the same kind of decisions over and over. This habitual behavior exists in every area of our lives. We pick our significant others, our friends, our jobs, our homes, our clothes, our vacation spots, our political parties, actually everything in our lives according to these core premises that, in fact, we may have never even noticed, much less examined.

When something new happens, such as being appointed Judge or, for example, the appearance of a huge economic crisis, it is an appropriate time to reassess our values in order to make responsible choices in this new situation. What do I mean by responsible? Not a bad question. I do not mean decisions that help us to make more money, unless we have examined and considered the personal significance of monetary wealth. I do not mean decisions that will most help others,

unless we have examined our most basic self as to the importance and value of helping others. I do not mean decisions that are the most fair, or just, or humane, or compassionate, or Green, or consistent with religious beliefs, or politically correct, or socially approved by whatever group that one imagines gives social approval; I mean something else.

Already I have come close to using all of my allotted space. Quickly, without anyone else noticing, let's pretend that we can do anything and everything that we want to do. More important, let's pretend that in association with these activities, real or imagined, we can have any feeling or attitude we choose to have. It's easy—let all of us pretend that we are dreaming and be mindful that we are in control of all of the characters (including ourselves) and their sensations and their feelings in the dream. Are we the center of attention, are we admired or feared, are other people important to us, where are we living, who is there with us??? There are many things to notice and the questions go on and on. Follow that dream and experience it and learn about yourself. Finally, come back to our agreed upon present and notice how you are living now and what is it that usually receives your attention. In terms of your feelings and attitudes, what are the similarities to your dream and what are the pronounced differences?

I think this little exercise might potentially be of great help to us all as we learn to readjust our lives to this new economy and this new world. I'm going to go into my own dream with the intention of sharing what I've learned with the rest of you—that is, I'll share the dream, after some consideration of whether or not that is what I want to do. Why not do the same thing, and at least notice how comfortable you are with sharing that dream with someone else—even yourself.

Ideas For the Future of Sierra Madre

Rich Johnson

(BCP) Good morning.
(RJ) Let's jump right in. How much do you know about our little burg, Sierra Madre?

(BCP) Well, I've done my homework. And I have come up with some startling facts and startling conclusions that frankly, may startle you.

(RJ) Okay, so startle me, I guess.

(BCP) Here, take a look at the declining sales generated from those pesky little retail businesses. These figures prove to my satisfaction that no citizen of Sierra Madre really wants storefronts on Baldwin Avenue and Sierra Madre Boulevards.

(RJ) I find that hard to believe.

(BCP) Believe me, in my estimation, they're a blight on the city.

(RJ) If that's true what should we do?

(BCP) I recommend leveling the entire downtown area and replacing those antiquated businesses with provable revenue generating projects.

(RJ) Wow, that's a bold stroke. What do you have in mind?

(BCP) First, take a look at the Southeast corner of the downtown intersection. I believe there is a meat and produce market there now. I suggest the city replace the market with a multi-storied Federal Detention facility. You know, for hardened criminals. Sierra Madre would certainly be stimulated with significant federal funds, particularly since no other city wants a prison.

(RJ) Hmmm. Interesting idea.

(BCP) And while we're focusing on prisons, you should turn that vacant old Senior Center into a halfway house for hardened criminals (that we think might have been rehabilitated.)

(RJ) But there's a public park right across the street.

(BCP) So what?

(RJ) Okay, continue.

(BCP) The northwest corner should house a 10-story park and ride structure. People from all over the San Gabriel Valley could come park in Sierra Madre and be bussed back and forth to the Gold Line.

(RJ) Wouldn't that cause a lot of traffic congestion?

(BCP) Yeah, okay, a little congestion in the mornings and evenings. Speaking of congestion, how about a Wal-Mart at the top of Baldwin Avenue?

(RJ) You have truly original ideas. Any more?

(BCP) Two words really work for me.

(RJ) What two words would that be?

(BCP) Legalized Gambling. The new detention facility will undoubtedly bring in hundreds, if not thousands of people of, shall we say, questionable morals and character. Sierra Madre can capitalize on their vices and rake in the dough-rey-me. What could be better?

(RJ) Wow, well I'm beginning to think I've heard enough.

(BCP) Hold on. I'm not finished. Our team has looked at all your existing businesses. When I think of them occupying valuable square footage I just cringe. For example you have an eating establishment called the Corfu Mediterranean Restaurant?

(RJ) Yeah, they have great food.

(BCP) Hey, if you want hummus and moussaka, go to the Mediterranean? And I tried to speak directly with local florist Leonora Moss. Instead of her, I got some bearded guy. And the Center for Well Being is moving to Sierra Madre Blvd across the street from Corfu. Are they related to Being Town?

(RJ) Well, thank you very much Mr. Pitts, for another perspective from out there...way out there. Guards, show him to the door. In fact, follow him until he's across the border.

Well citizens, Mr. Pitts just left. Good grief! A prison? A 10-story parking structure? A Casino? A Wal-Mart? I don't know about you, but I kinda like downtown Sierra Madre the way it is. The thing is, if we want to keep it like it is now, we need to start supporting these local businesses more. Buy local (even if it's a few dollars more), and eat local (we have most every kind of cuisine here in town). Step up to the plate this week and give our local shop owners the boost they need. You can even tell them Rich Johnson might have had something to do with motivating you to buy from them. Hey, I might get a free chocolate milk out of the deal.

French Tragedy Coming to America

Gregory J. Wellborn

There is a wonderful little town in the Normandy region of France called Sandouville. Most of you probably haven't heard of Sandouville, but it is quickly becoming the poster child of all that is wrong with France's financial bailout plan. In that capacity, it may also become an early warning alarm of what's wrong with our own bailout packages.

Sandouville happens to be home to Renault's least productive manufacturing plant, running at one-third its capacity. The problem is that government supported union work rules in France are much more restrictive than what we have historically had in the U.S., and management is denied the flexibility to make the necessary changes to make the plant profitable, let alone bring it into the 21st Century.

Now, to add insult to injury, Renault must promise that no layoffs will be made in exchange for accepting bailout funds from the French government. Pity poor Renault. It is trying to stave off financial disaster, has turned to the government for funds to keep it going, and finds itself then restricted from taking the very steps that are integral to its future success.

This is the quintessential problem with government intervention in the marketplace and bailout packages specifically. The price of accepting government help usually includes prohibitions against the very things a company should do to stay competitive. Here in the U.S., we need look no further than AIG.

AIG was told several weeks ago that it couldn't wine and dine its most productive agents and customers at a glitzy resort, and now it's being told that it can't pay bonuses. What's entirely missing from the equation is whether AIG should wine and dine customers to keep them (which we want them to do) or whether it has to pay competitive bonuses to keep valued executives (which we also should want them to do).

It may seem laughable that I'm trying to justify AIG's actions in light of the current financial crisis in this country, but sometimes the truth isn't necessarily popular. The basic problem here is that you and I, as taxpayers, are being forced to invest in AIG. We're told that our hard-earned money will be taxed away and then invested into AIG. Because of this it's very easy for resentments to build.

If, on the other hand, you or I had voluntarily decided to part with some of our hard earned cash to invest in AIG, we would want the company's management to do everything they could to make a nice profit from our investment, pay us a handsome dividend and increase the price of the stock we own. If that meant entertaining key agents and clients and attracting the best managers possible, we'd be all for it.

Government interference changes the dynamic of the relationship between the investor (you and I) and company management. Because the freedom to make the investment decision is taken away, we focus on the robbery from our own pockets rather than on the potential for making a profit. Government interference also distorts managerial decisions away from what benefits the company's shareholders toward what will look best in the morning paper's headlines, which inevitably leads to poor performance.

What AIG and the Renault factory in Sandouville have in common is that management of both enterprises is in the process of making decisions which are driven by P.R. concerns rather than by investor concerns. If I'm going to invest in a car company or an insurance company (irrespective of whether it was a voluntary or involuntary investment), I want that company to grow and become the most profitable it can. In short, I want a healthy return on my investment so I can retire someday. I most adamantly do not want to own a part of any company which can't make profitable cars or can't sell enough insurance to stay in business.

If these two examples were anomalies, I probably wouldn't have bothered writing about them. Unfortunately, these are bell weathers of what the current administration has in mind.

The stimulus bill contains provisions which mandate extra benefits for workers, irrespective of the competitive environment facing the companies. It also imposes higher employment insurance taxes on employers. I promise you that fewer people will be employed as a result of these provisions.

The “buy American” provisions in the stimulus bill will reduce international trade and ignite retaliation by our trading partners. Mexico has already slapped some punitive tariffs on our agricultural exports. As trade is reduced, economic activity, jobs and living standards will also be reduced.

The proposed Employee Free Choice Act will deprive workers of their right to secret ballot elections, increase union intimidation tactics and force companies to sign more restrictive and costly contracts than fair negotiations and competitive realities would dictate. If you think it's tough for GM to make a profitable car with its higher-than-competitive-market labor rates now, just wait until you see how much money they'll lose when this bill is signed.

Our new President and most of the old guard Democrats in the House and Senate are enamored of European style government interventions. What they're not telling you is that these policies will give us European style unemployment which runs about twice as high as ours.

European style interventions will not make the American economy more competitive, will not increase growth, will not decrease unemployment and will not increase wages for workers. The decision we face today is whether we want everyone to share the gain of a growing economy or the pain of a stagnating one. It's a clear choice, and I know what side I'm on.

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 Notices

City of Sierra Madre

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

2008-2014 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

To: City-wide
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: 2008-2014 Housing Element Update / Community Workshop

The City of Sierra Madre is in the process of preparing an update to the Housing Element in compliance with State law. 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 begin with a presentation on the purpose of the Housing Element Update and overview of the process, and will provide you an opportunity to give your valuable input on Sierra Madre's Housing Element. 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?
- ✓ What sites are appropriate for future housing growth?

Following the community workshop, the draft Housing Element will be prepared for Planning Commission and City Council review, followed by submittal to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for review and comment.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

2008-2014 Sierra Madre Housing Element Update
Tuesday, March 31, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be provided.

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

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
JOHN F. PETRUTIS
CASE NO. BP115228

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JOHN F. PETRUTIS.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JACQUELINE D. MAYOU in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JACQUELINE D. MAYOU be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this

court as follows: 04/06/09 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
JESSE S. HERNANDEZ, ESQ. (BN 92708)
ANDERSON, McPHARLIN & CONNERS LLP
444 South Flower Street, 31st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2901
3/7, 3/14, 3/21/09
CNS-1537741#

File No. 09-0399246
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: OCEANO DELIVERY SERVICE, 400 S. ATLANTIC BLVD. #117, MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) GOLDEN PARTNER GLOBAL INVESTMENT, INC. 400 S. ATLANTIC BLVD. #117, MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: UTOOMO TANI/PRES. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/19/09. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on OCT. 6, 1988.
NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: MountainViews-Observer Pub. 03/23, 03/30, 04/06, 04/13/2009
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 09-0380553
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PINOY'S LOVE, H.C. 4619% EAGLE BLVD., L.A. CA 90041. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JOSE A. GASAPOS, JR., CAROLINA P. GASAPOS, 4619% EAGLEROCK BLVD., L.A., CA 90041. This Business is conducted by: CO-PARTNERS. Signed: JOSE A. GASAPOS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/17/09. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.



NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: MountainViews-Observer Pub. 03/23, 03/30, 04/06, 04/13/2009
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 09-0399658
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. PROFESSIONAL CREDIT SERVICE 2. US PLATINUM CREDIT, 17595 ALMAHURST ST. #210, CITY OF INDUSTRY, CA 91748. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) XIU ZHEN ZHOU, JERRY CHEN, 17845 CALLE BARCELONA, ROWLAND HTS., CA 91748. This Business is conducted by: HUSBAND AND WIFE. Signed: XIU ZHEN ZHOU. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/19/09. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 3/19/09.
NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize



the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: MountainViews-Observer Pub. 03/23, 03/30, 04/06, 04/13/2009
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 09-0378875
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: UNIVERSAL WHOLESALE, 4217 CARLIN AVE. #3, LYNWOOD, CA 90262. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) DANIEL ABREGO, 4217 CARLIN AVE. #3, LYNWOOD, CA 90262. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: DANIEL ABREGO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/16/09. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: MountainViews-Observer Pub. 03/23, 03/30, 04/06, 04/13/2009


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Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

Stardust Sheds New Light on Origin of Elements of Life

Using NASA’s Spitzer Telescope [an infrared telescope in space], an international research team has found evidence that some stars in the center of the Milky Way galaxy have both carbon and oxygen—two of the most important ingredients for life—in the dust that surrounds them.

“Scientists have long expected to find carbon-rich stars in our galaxy because we know that significant quantities of carbon must be created in many such stars, but carbon had not previously shown up in the clouds of gas around these stars,” said Matthew Bobrowsky, an astrophysicist in the University of Maryland’s department of physics and one of the authors of a paper published in the February issue of the journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics*.

“Based on our findings, this is because medium-sized stars rich in carbon sometimes keep that carbon hidden until very near the end of their stellar lives, releasing it only with their final ‘exhalations,’” explained Bobrowsky, who noted that previously scientists hadn’t looked for carbon around stars that were so near the end of their active lives.

As a star burns hotter and hotter, the hydrogen gas that originally made up almost all of its mass is converted, through nuclear fusion, first to helium, and then to progressively heavier elements. The hottest region in the core fuses together the heaviest elements. And these can reach the surface of the star only when its life is almost over.

“The Big Bang produced only hydrogen and helium,” Bobrowsky said. “Heavier elements like

carbon and oxygen only come from getting ‘cooked up’ in stars. Nuclear reactions in stars created the heavier elements found in ‘life as we know it.”

In the last 50,000 years of their 10 billion-year lives, sun-sized stars expel carbon atoms along with hydrogen and helium to form a surrounding cloud of gas that soon disperses into space, perhaps to eventually become the stuff of new stars, solar systems, or perhaps even life on some earth-like

planet. Much larger stars expel their heavier matter in massive explosions called supernovae.

“All the heavy elements [which astronomers call ‘metals,’ and include all elements heavier than

hydrogen and helium] on Earth were created by nuclear fusion reactions in previous generations of stars,” said Bobrowsky. “Those earlier stars expelled those elements into space and then our solar system formed out of that gas containing all

the heavy elements that we now find in Earth and in life on Earth.”

The team of scientists used the Spitzer Space Telescope to view each star and its surrounding clouds of dust and particles, called a planetary nebulae. The researchers measured the light emitted by the stars and the surrounding dust and were able to identify carbon compounds based on the wavelengths of light emitted by the stars. Looking in an area at the center of the Milky Way called the “Galactic Bulge,” the team observed 26 stars and their planetary nebulae and found 21 with carbon “signatures.”

But the scientists did not just find carbon around these stars; they also found oxygen in these 21 dust clouds, revealing a surprising mixture of ingredients for space dust.

“Stars in the center of the Milky Way are old and ‘metal-rich’ with a high abundance of heavy elements,” Bobrowsky said. “They are different in chemical composition than those found in the disc, farther out from the center.”



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



Photo by Aaron Dominguez

On Line

with P.J. Carpenter

Service With A Smile: Online Presence and the Courts

This week saw two legal actions in foreign courts that show how more and more of our lives are defined by our online presence. The first action occurred in New Zealand where a High Court Judge approved the service of court papers via Facebook. The case involved a family business dispute where the person being sued for the return of monies had left the country and was unable to be served in the more traditional fashion. The person in question was known to have an active Facebook account and corresponded regularly through email. The judge allowed the service via the wildly popular social networking site

in order to keep the courts action in the case from being frustrated.

A second respondent was served in the more traditional fashion as he was still local to the court’s jurisdiction. In this case the physical location of the respondent was not an issue because in the judge’s ruling his established online presence was sufficient to move forward with the service. Counsel for the company trying to recover monies stolen from them was inspired to try this approach because of a recent ruling in a second action in an Australian court that allowed the service of a couple who had defaulted on their housing loan. The couple

was informed that they had lost their home to the bank through a posting to their Facebook account.

As an online society we have grown rather accustomed to having many of our affairs handled online without too much thought as to what might happen with all of this information about us that is readily available online. The challenge our courts face now is how to define just how much of our online selves is really us when it comes to legal matters. Although the two cases listed described in the preceding paragraph happened on foreign shores they are worthy of our attention because both dealt with

the fact that an established online presence was sufficient grounds to move forward with a legal action in an online context. In the first case, the fact of an established online presence was enough to pursue a motion against a person now residing in another country. It’s not a big stretch to see how these examples might end up being the justification for similar action here in our own country.

This just might put a whole new spin on that old familiar phrase, “You’ve Got Mail”.

AREA TEAMS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE

Pasadena, Arcadia, Altadena and Monrovia community walkers go around the clock in the battle against cancer during the American Cancer Society Relay For Life. This celebration of life brings numerous groups and individuals concerned about cancer together for a unified effort to fight back against the disease.

This year, the Relay For Life will be as follows:

Pasadena May 30th-31st 9am @ Pasadena City College Stadium

Relay For Life Altadena June 6th 7th 9am @ Farnsworth Park

Relay For Life Arcadia June 27th-28th 11am @ Santa Anita Track infield

Relay For Life Monrovia April 18th-19th @ Recreation Park, Shamrock Ave

Relay For Life is a unique fundraising event that allows participants from all walks of life — including patients, medical support staff, corporations, civic organizations, churches and community volunteers — to join together to celebrate the lives of those who have faced cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease. Relay For Life reminds us that

progress has been made in the fight against cancer and that everyone who participates is making a difference.

An atmosphere of camaraderie is created with team members entertaining each other: eating, playing games, and, of course, walking for a great cause.

Highlighting the evening is the Luminaria Ceremony held after dark to honor cancer survivors and to remember those who have lost the battle against cancer. The luminaria line the track and are left burning throughout the night to remind participants of the incredible importance of their contributions.

“Relay For Life is as much an awareness raiser about the progress against cancer as it is a fund raiser,” said Sarah Eagle, American Cancer Society staff partner. “Many of the participants will be people who have dealt with cancer themselves. Their involvement is proof of the progress that has been made in reducing cancer death rates and in the quality of life following cancer treatment. The funds raised will enable us to continue our investment in the fight against cancer through educational programs, research and services to patients.”

Information about how to form a team or become involved in your local Relay For Life is available from the American Cancer Society at 626 372 9456 or 1-800-ACS-2345, or visit www.RelayForLife.org.

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. Founded in 1913 and with national headquarters in Atlanta, the Society has 13 regional Divisions and local offices in 3,400 communities, involving millions of volunteers across the United States. For more information, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.



In Honor of Women’s History Month: Clara Shortridge Foltz

By Jennifer Beck Introduction By Pat Birdsall



The last time I had jury duty I was summoned to the Criminal Courts Building in downtown Los Angeles. When I arrived, I noticed that it is now the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Courts Building. Curiosity took over... who is/was this woman? When I got home that evening I “Googled” the name and found an article in the Freedom Heroes

Clara Shortridge was just 15 years old when she eloped

with Iowa farmer Jeremiah Foltz in 1865. In 1868, Jeremiah moved his young wife and their three children to Portland, Oregon. Clara started a dressmaking business to make ends meet. She was just beginning to turn a profit when the sheriff showed up and confiscated her sewing machine to pay her husband’s debts. No lawyer would represent Clara in the case, and her anger and desperation led her to make a vow—one day, she would learn the law for herself and fight for the rights of women.

In 1875, with four children and a fifth on the way, Jeremiah moved the family to San Jose, California, which was home to a powerful women’s suffrage movement. Clara threw herself into the fight. Even when her husband suddenly abandoned her and the children two years later, she did not give up the cause. She earned money as a public speaker in support of women’s rights. At the same time, Foltz began studying on her own to become a lawyer. Unfortunately, California law stated that an applicant to join the Bar had to be at least 21 years of age, white, “of good moral character,” in possession

of “learning and ability” and *male*. With the help of a fellow suffragist, Foltz drew up the Women’s Lawyer Bill. The bill simply changed the word ‘male’ to ‘person.’ When her bill came up for a vote before the California Legislature in 1878, it met with a storm of opposition, but made it through, passing by the narrowest of margins. Foltz traveled the country trying cases. Everywhere she went she encountered prejudice from her male counterparts.

Throughout her life, Foltz fought for the underdog. She moved to improve prison conditions, and also led the movement that established the public defender systems in 30 states. In addition to pursuing her career in law, Foltz remained active in politics and the fight for women’s rights. She died in 1934.

Though the profession may have treated Foltz harshly in her day, it paid her delayed respects. In February 2002, the Los Angeles Criminal Courts Building was renamed the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor presided at the ceremony.



The Senior Spot

By Bruce Lamarche

The Stranger

This article is not my writing but something I found on the internet. I feel its implications are very important for seniors, as heads of our families. I don't know who the writer is but . . . well, read this!

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

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me good from evil and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger...he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours with adventures and mysteries. If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers.

He took my family to baseball and football. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind.

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

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home ... not from us, our friends or any visitors. The Stranger, however, got away with four-letter

The Living Tapestry Fund and Westminster Gardens Benevolence Fund

The Benevolence Fund is for eligible residents of Westminster Gardens who are unable to pay their full cost of care and have exhausted all other avenues for financial assistance. Westminster Gardens' open admission policy brings retired adults into the retirement community without the same access to financial assistance as those residents who are members of the Presbyterian Church's Board of Pensions. Residents who outlive their accumulated financial resources will require a supplementary source of income to continue to meet living expenses. The Living Tapestry Fund provides a source of funds for qualified residents to help cover their monthly fees at Westminster Gardens. Donors give to The Living Tapestry Fund to assure that each resident is able to live with dignity in this retirement oasis.

Rolling Up Our Sleeves with Duarte Youth. Last year's gang related murders in Monrovia and Duarte raised awareness throughout the region of the needs of youth. Westminster Gardens responded. Residents and staff held a Cinco de Mayo celebration last year, raising \$2,000.00 for a gang prevention program created in consultation with then Mayor Phil Reyes. Residents Andy Gutierrez and Carmel Padgett joined with Doug Edwards, school and city officials to form a team. The team developed a job description and got the City Council's and

words that burned my ears, made my dad squirm and my mother blush.

My dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol, but the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool. He talked freely (much too freely) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

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

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

His name? We just call him, 'TV'. He has a wife now...we call her, 'PC'.

What has happened to reading a good book, family game night, playing cards and talking over good coffee? Are we not choosing to become isolated from reality and from each other while watching the "tube"?

You can reach 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

School Board's approval. And the Mayor's Teen Liaison was established.

This year, three young men from both of Duarte's high schools have been working with Phil Reyes to learn about the city and serve as liaisons with their schools. They have been mentored by the Mayor of Duarte throughout the year as they learn more about the city, their school, and experience opportunities to be leaders. They have attended a variety of community events and learned public speaking skills. They continue through the school year, meeting weekly to learn more about the needs of the community and how people are making a difference.

Once these young men have completed their term as Liaisons, there will be a second opportunity provided for young people to experience serving as community representatives. Westminster Gardens is holding its Third Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebracion on Saturday, May 2nd at 11:30 until 3pm. There will be silent and live auctions, entertainment and a traditional Mexican luncheon to raise funds for Westminster Gardens and the 2nd year of the Mayors Teen Liaison. You can meet this year's young men at the Celebración. Tickets for the luncheon are available by calling Westminster Gardens @ 626.358.2569.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI: Scam Alerts

Your Auto Warranty is Expiring: This is one I have been contending with for the past couple of weeks myself...I get an automated call telling me that my automobile warranty is about to expire and if I don't act right away to keep it current, I could lose coverage. I just hang up, but have since found out that I could be sold an extended warranty. For some, the calls are ludicrous: they don't even have cars! But for others, the calls can be scary and, at a minimum, annoying. The Better Business Bureau reports a huge spike in the number of complaints against those selling auto warranties.

Stimulus for Crooks: Whether it's letters supposedly from the Small Business Administration, bogus e-mails from the Internal Revenue Service or promises of "free" advice to get government grants, frauds are exploiting the idea that the federal government is distributing economic stimulus money. These phony notes solicit personal information intended to give the bad guys access to your credit or worse- your cash. Remember, if something that appears to be from the government asks you for all sorts of personal information it's more likely from a crook trying to stimulate his or her own bank account. (To be continued)

~Helpful Hints~

Use kitchen basters to water your indoor plants. They are perfect for getting underneath dense leaves and getting water right to the soil. They are also great at removing old water from flower arrangements. Just suction out the old water and add fresh.

Another Recipe of the Month:



Chicken with Fruit Salsa

Ingredients:

*4-6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts

Salsa

* ½ cup chopped and peeled mango

* 1 orange, peeled, seeded and chopped

* 1 pear or apple, peeled and chopped

* 8 oz. can of pineapple tidbits, drained

* 2 Tbsp apple jelly

* 1 Tbsp minced and seeded jalapeno pepper

* 2 Tbsp chopped fresh cilantro

* 2 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley

Preparation: Combine mango, orange, pear or apple, pineapple, 2 Tbsp apple jelly, jalapeno, cilantro and parsley. Mix well and set aside.

Glaze

* ¼ cup honey

* 2 Tbsp apple jelly

* 2 Tbsp lemon juice

Directions:

Combine honey, 2 Tbsp apple jelly and lemon juice. Microwave on high until melted, 10-20 seconds. Stir well.

Brush ½ of glaze on chicken. Broil chicken 4-6" from heat for 6 minutes. Turn chicken and brush with remaining glaze. Broil 4-6 minutes longer or until chicken is tender, thoroughly cooked and juices run clear when pricked with a knife. Discard any remaining glaze. Spoon fruit salsa over chicken and serve. busycooks.about.com

~ Last week I was asked why I didn't have a recipe for Corned Beef and Cabbage to acknowledge St. Patrick's Day. My answer: There is no recipe that could ever compare to that of my friend, Esther Garcia's. Her obvious ingredients are: the brisket, spices, cabbage, potatoes and carrots. The ingredients that make it truly special: Selflessness, friendship and kindness. ~



Happy Birthday!

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

For Your Funny Bone

One evening my husband's golfing buddy drove his secretary home after she had imbibed a little too much at an office reception. Although this was an innocent gesture, he decided not to mention it to his wife, who tended to get jealous easily.

Later that night my husband's friend and his wife were driving to a restaurant. Suddenly he looked down and spotted a high-heeled shoe half hidden under the passenger seat. Not wanting to be conspicuous, he waited until his wife was looking out her window before he scooped up the shoe and tossed it out of the car. With a sigh of relief, he pulled into the restaurant parking lot. That's when he noticed his wife squirming around in her seat. "Honey," she asked, "have you seen my other shoe?" J.Feldman/RD

Quote: If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

~ Anne Bradstreet ~

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

The Santa Anita Bowling Green Club will be having beginning lawn bowling lessons each Saturday morning starting at 10 AM. Anyone interested come by the park before 10 AM. For information call Gene at 626-351-5327. FREE!

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*

April 16th- Palm Springs Follies

-SOLD OUT-If you have a ticket and have questions or if you would like to be on the waiting list if someone cancels, please call the Senior Desk at 626.355.7394.

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

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

NEW!!! Senior Stretch and Balance- A free class designed by volunteer instructor Teryl

Willis, for seniors to refresh the joints, soothe the spine, and improve balance. Come and join in some simple and gentle exercises, a little light yoga, and a bit of easy tai chi.

When and Where: Wednesday, March 4th at 11:00 AM at the Hart Memorial Park House/ Senior Center. Call 626-355-7394 for more information.

NEW!!! Wii Wednesdays- 1:00PM at the Hart Park House/Senior Center-

You've seen it on television, come try it for yourself! It's a "virtual" game that's fun for everyone. Come experience Wii bowling, golf, tennis, baseball and boxing The unique control wand imitates how you actually release the ball or swing the club. No previous experience or skill required. It's great exercise and fun to boot!

Meals-on-Wheels:

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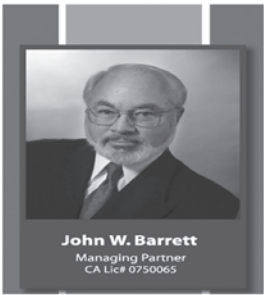
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One Of A Kind:
Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them
By Chris Bertrand
Rare 1920's Pueblo Revival Home



Designed in 1926 by New Mexico native, Herbert James Gerhardt, this Monrovia home is highlighted in two books about Monrovia architecture, Picturesque Monrovia (1929) and Monrovia Heritage: An Architectural Perspective (1996). It became known as the Wood House, not for the building materials used, but for the first owners, Frank and Helen Wood.

This 2423 square foot home absolutely captivates the eye with charm and interest from the street gate to the smallest detail. As soon as you enter, the front door and several arched doors and doorways align in a beautiful repeated pattern, while the first portion of the stairway creates an artistic statement with many patterns of riser tiles in vivid, bold colors. An interesting, arched niche appears in most rooms, a design request from the original owners, who wanted a reminder of the Middle East homes in the family's overseas missionary background.

The rooms are generous but not overpowering, yet exude a feeling of enveloping comfort. The living room's barrel ceiling and central fireplace create a strong design statement for the room without making it feel too formal. French doors bid visitors to visit the deep, half acre, park-like back yard. A den and main floor bedroom located beyond the dining room might also be configured as family room and home office, if the buyer desires.

Updated kitchen and baths still retain a comfortable period feel while providing current cooking and preparation amenities. The expansive tile floors keep the Pueblo Revival personality intact, unifying the kitchen and delightful breakfast room. Upstairs, three more bedrooms are light airy yet definitely deliver a taste of living in history. A large rooftop observation deck provides a front row seat to the stunning beauty of the San Gabriel foothills to the North.

When you step outside, the "wow factor" really clicks in. The back yard could be divided into four outside "rooms". Even before I stepped outside, the soothing music and gurgle of the large fountain beckoned

me from several rooms.

A myriad of nooks, crannies and open spaces clamor for a quiet read, a swim, gardening delight, large outdoor party, or a relaxing glass of wine by the fountain. When I wandered onto that patio tiled with a mosaic of clay tiles set in concrete, the heady aroma of citrus in bloom wafted toward me.

I got to taste a variety of the fruits currently ready to eat, including amazing tangerines, oranges, grapefruits and the biggest avocados I've ever laid eyes on. Unusual succulents bordered a pathway to the third outside "room", the pool and spa.

But wait, there's more! At this point, I haven't even arrived at the gazebo with barbecue surrounded by more fruit trees and expansive lush lawns! At each new fruit tree, I took notes, but when we reached the East end of the property, my curiosity could not be quelled. I thought I spied the largest pomello fruit in existence, but alas we all discovered it was only an errant yellow ball wafted over the fence and embedded in the tree like an overripe fruit. No new botanical discovery for me!

This jewel of a four bedroom home has been meticulously and lovingly maintained, and many system and structural updates have been done since the 1990's including foundation bolting and dual zone HVAC.

About a mile away, the vibrant and inviting downtown Monrovia provides a vital connection to what still feels like an old-fashioned town's center, with movie theaters, dozens of restaurants, a great Pavilions grocery, a wide array of services and a brand spanking new library.

338 Highland Place in Monrovia is listed for \$1,150,000. For more information about this property, contact Tink Cheney from at Coldwell Banker at 626-356-8129 or visit the property's website at www.338HighlandPlace.com



Chris Bertrand



"Leading Sales Associates Honored"

Coldwell Banker Arcadia Regional Office and Claudia Storey, Branch Manager are pleased to honor and congratulate top sales associates in the month of January.

Honored were: Tom Davis for "Most Listings Taken," Patricia Dmytrow for "Most Open Sales" and Gary Lorenzini for "Top Open Gross Dollar Producer."

Agents were also honored for "Outstanding Performance": Tom Davis, Gary Lorenzini and

Jeannie Vukovich.

"Outstanding Performance" is awarded to those associates who have had seven or more transactions within a month consisting of any combination of "Listings Taken", "Listings Sold", "Buyer Controlled Sales" and an "Outgoing Referral".

You can reach Coldwell Banker Arcadia Regional associates at 15 E. Foothill Blvd., Arcadia (626) 445-5500.



DAYLILIES
(Hemerocallis)



into stunning yellows, perfect pinks, peachy peaches and reds that really need to be seen rather than described.

As versatile as the colors, so are the sizes. Some will grow to 2', others get as tall as 4' (with claims of 5', but not commonly seen). Because they are tuberous, they will spread in time, but not very much. They are very easy to separate and transplant should you decide they have become a little too big for their original space. Once

you dig them up to move them, you should cut them all the way to the ground and let them leaf out anew. It will be only a matter of weeks before you start to see new growth.

Daylilies are generally not fussy about soil but, as with all plants, they want good drainage. They are plants that fit into every garden and do well in filtered light as well as sun. Varieties (evergreen, semievergreen and deciduous) are usually available in abundance from spring onwards. Blooming time varies depending on the variety you purchase, so read the label.

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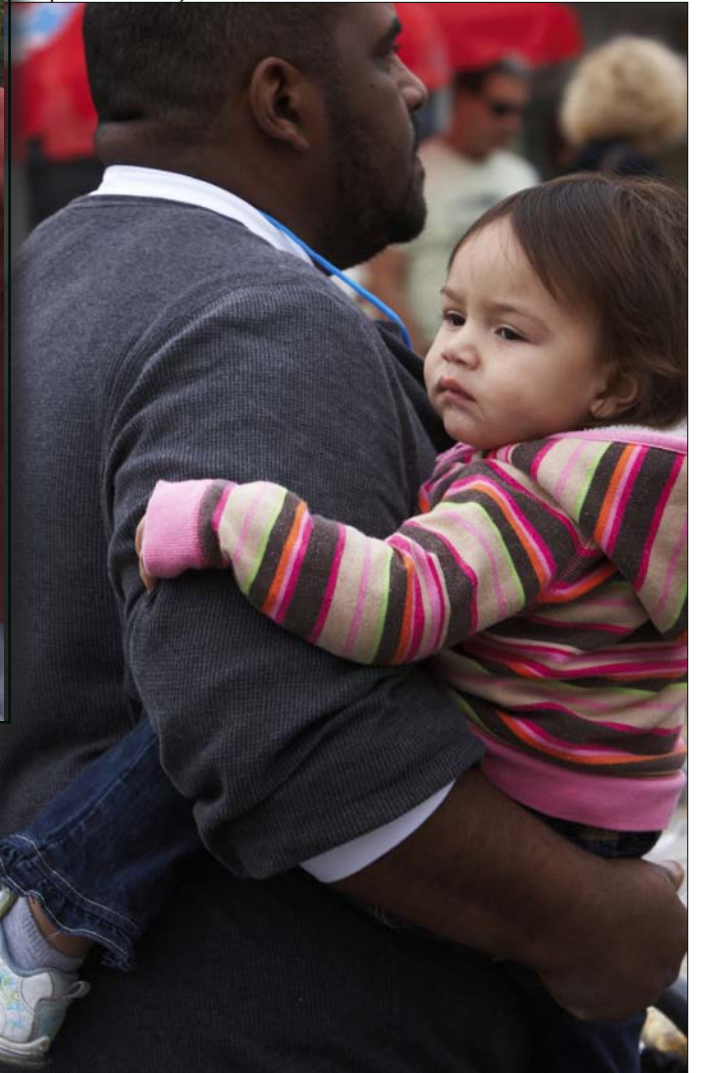
Catching A Glimpse

The 2009 Wistaria Festival at a glance through the lens of photographers Jorge Vismara, a visitor who says, "your community is a pearl in the already magnificent Pasadena area... congratulations."; Dave Felt, Sierra Madre Resident and Dean Lee and Jacqueline Truong of the MountainViews-Observer.

You can view a special online slide show and photo album by logging on to: www.mvobserver.com.



The festival was fun for young and old despite chilly weather. Above: The Balloon Man fascinates (D. Lee); Left: Visitors inspect the vine while father and daughter, below, contemplate what to do next. (J. Vismara)



Above left, Kim Clymer gives away CFLs (D.Lee) Center; Festival watchers keep warm (J. Vismara) Jamming at the Bandshell (D. Lee) above and Downtown - below (D. Felt)

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



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