

Sierra Madre Bans Smoking in Outdoor Patio Areas

By Dean Lee

It was reasonable to say that the city council had made up its mind Tuesday night to restrict smoking at all outdoor eating and patio areas, even before they heard over two hours of public comments, both for and against a ban.

Prior to voting unanimously in favor of the ban, Council Member Joe Mosca suggested even tougher restrictions - going so far as banning smoking on all public sidewalks and at all public events similar to a recent ban in Pasadena. The council agreed enforcement should not take place immediately recognizing the need to educate the public about the new restrictions.

Mosca also suggested the council take into consideration "unintended consequences." "One of those consequences could be that moving some people, smokers, to other areas that may not be any more desirable," He said. "So I think that is something we should have on our radar that we ought to look at in the future."

Council member John Buchanan said smoking must be treated as a health issue. He also later suggested a buffer zone between areas of smoking and nonsmoking. "Secondhand smoke is of course a serious public health problem," he said. "That exposure to it, whether indoors or out doors, none the less creates an ingestion of that smoke which is unhealthy and even if an individual puff of cigarette smoke in an outdoor seating area is not the immediate cause of somebody's cancer it is a cumulative contributor to it."

Buchanan said the only real issue for him was the scope and how to construct an ordinance asking questions like, "do we include Kersting Court?"

None of the council members sided with those that saw smoking as a right. Many speakers, in their 20s, argued that statistics by the American Lung Association applied indoor smoking data to outside issues. Calling themselves comrades, some smokers in the city, started a Facebook page called "Stop the Sierra Madre Smoking Ban." They claim that there is "no statistically significant studies exist that

demonstrate health risks associated with exposure to outdoor second-hand smoke."

Day One, a community-based nonprofit organization centered on advocacy efforts against the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, agreed, noting that have the right to breath clean air.

Mayor Kurt Zimmermann said he could not let comments made by the Facebook group pass. "Those service men who fought and died for the United States, and in particular those service men who fought and died in WWII, were not fighting and dying to preserve our right to smoke," he said giving a quick history lesson on what the military did during WWII, liberating Europe. Zimmerman was referring to posters put up in front of Beantown showing a serviceman in uniform that read, "the average smoker." Zimmerman was also of the opinion that health issues alone should lead them to restrictions.

Council member Don Watts called the ban an issue of civil liberties vs. common good. "I understand why, because we all use the public sidewalks," he said. "Where the public has the right to enjoy a healthy environment." Watts added that any ordinance should be self enforcing. "I think people are courteous enough to actually obey and respect other people who are dying around them." Watts also said smoking was, as addictive, as any "hard" drug and smokers should be looked at as needing to get off that addiction.

Watts said he did not think the city had a big enough budget to have city staff going around town forcing people to put out cigarettes. "I think it can be done by people running their businesses," he said explaining it would be no different than having to clean up dirty dishes.

Mayor Pro Tem Maryann MacGillivray moved for the passage of the ordinance and directed staff to work with restaurant owners and the public of the new provisions in the municipal code. She suggested a moratorium on citations until a 90 'educational period' was completed. The motion was seconded by Buchanan and was unanimously passed.

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. 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?

No Resolution Yet For Congregational Church Council Continues To 'Reconsider' Amendment

by S. Henderson



The Old North Church built in 1890 is part of the Sierra Madre Congregational Church. SMCC built a 'Kids Port' on the west side of the facility after receiving a Conditional Use Permit in 2007. Photo By D. Lee

On February 24, 2009, the Sierra Madre City Council approved a request from the Sierra Madre Congregational Church (SMCC) for a General Plan Amendment. The application for this request had initially been submitted in 2007 however, no action was taken on the matter until February, 2009 when this council voted unanimously to approve a general plan amendment and designate certain parcels of land owned by the church as institutional. Such an amendment would make the zoning for the property and the general plan designation the same. The vote in favor of the amendment was 5-0. (The properties in question have been owned by the church for well over 30 years.)

What happened next has left many in the church and the community perplexed. At the March 10th meeting of the council, Mayor Pro Tem Mary Ann Macgillivray asked for a reconsideration of the February vote. Mayor Kurt Zimmerman, responding to inquiries from other council members as to why a reconsideration was necessary, indicated he had "new information". One of the items that was of particular interest to the Mayor was the church's use of the term "Jr. High Building" in their draft Master Plan. There was also innuendo that the Church had not followed proper procedures when obtaining a Conditional Use Permit in 2007 and had constructed a building without authorization. Staff was directed to look into the matter and the item was added to the March 24th Council Agenda.

At the March 24th meeting, staff provided the council with a detailed report which indicated that the amendment "satisfied a condition of approval from a CUP issued in 2007 which permitted the Church to construct their rear addition". The report also indicated that approval would create the consistency needed to bring the zoning and general plan into compliance with the law. As for the use of the property, the city's staff report indicates that under the 2007 CUP, classrooms and assembly space are allowable uses.

The Real Problem?

According to Mr. Pete Zimmerman, Chairman of the Trustee's of SMCC, "We have done everything that the city has required us to do. We submitted our application for a General Plan Amendment (GPA) in 2007. We were given written authorization to proceed with the construction once the application for the GPA was submitted. We submitted it well

within the 60 day timeline. We were advised, in writing, that we could proceed without the 'prior' approval of the amendment." In staff's most recent report, they acknowledged that the application for the amendment was submitted in 2007 and not processed until 2009. The documents were submitted , along with an \$8,400 fee to staff no longer with the city.

Change Long Overdue

While many speakers at both council meetings have raised questions regarding the Church's future plans, none of the issues raised have anything to do with the GPA. In 1997, Ordinance 1153 was passed changing the zoning of certain properties from a variety of residential and commercial zones to institutional zones. In many cases, changing the zoning required an amendment to the general plan. These changes not only affected the Congregational Church, but also St. Rita, Alverno, The Passionist Father's Retreat, etc. The ordinance was created to bring the city's zoning and general plan into compliance with state law. It did not go into effect until October, 2001, however, as it was never published as legally required. (It was discovered in 2001 that the city had failed to publish legal notices for 8 years or more.) The Ordinance specifically includes parcel maps for the properties owned by the Congregational Church that are in question now.

"We are told the property is not to be used as a school but you have desks".

Mayor Zimmerman

Master Plan Speculation Widespread

In addition, an extraordinary amount of concern has been expressed by MacGillivray, K. Zimmerman and Don Watts regarding the Church's Master Plan. Master Plans are documents which assist with "the orderly development of your community", said Peter Zimmerman on Friday. They are a work in progress. That statement echoes similar Master Plan descriptions made by the City Manager and Development Director regarding other plans.

The issues regarding what SMCC intends to do with the properties has reached a level reminiscent of the 'Downtown Specific Plan' days. As recorded in the official minutes of the City of Sierra Madre, both the Mayor

and Mayor Pro Tem appear to question the Church's integrity as it relates to whether or not SMCC intends to build a school. According to the minutes adopted by the council, on March 10th Mayor Zimmerman stated, "We are told the property is not to be used as a school but you have desks". Mayor Pro Tem MacGillivray stated, according to the minutes, "most churches don't have classes, gyms, etc.". And yet, almost every Church in Sierra Madre has classrooms for Sunday School and other educational purposes. SMCC Church representatives have denied any plans to build a school. Peter Zimmerman noted that the Master Plan the Mayor was questioning was also submitted prior to the passage of Measure V and he assured the Mayor that the Church will abide by any existing laws.

While the requests for more information on the Church's future plans continued, City Attorney Sandra Levin attempted to bring things back into focus. "Land Use is not dependent on the Master Plan". She instructed the council that while an Institutional designation requires a Master Plan, the Plan is not needed to submit a GPA.

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SANTA ANITA DERBY THIS SATURDAY



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Enjoy live music from Mark Farner, formerly of Grand Funk Railroad, presented by KLOS. Plus, check out the Hawaiian Tropic Bikini Pageant.



DERBY T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY

All fans will receive a **FREE* Derby Day T-Shirt**. This year's T-Shirt boasts the official 2009 Santa Anita Derby program page on the back. It's a spectacular day of racing and the T-Shirt is a perfect souvenir to take home absolutely **FREE**.



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Read The Paper Online At: www.mvobserver.com

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

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 *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.




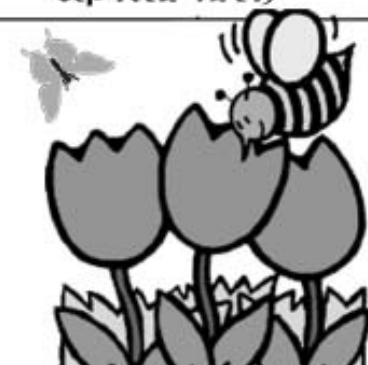


Mark those calendars for Friday, April 3rd, from 3:00 to 7:00 pm and Saturday, April 4th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to come visit us at the library: 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre. Need help with directions? Call (626) 355-7186. The Friends operate the Best Used Book Store. Reasonable prices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

WACKY, WOOLY, WILDLIFE AT SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY

Chinchillas, iguanas, and hedgehogs, oh my! On Monday, April 13, at 3:30 p.m., The Wildlife Company will kick off National Library Week at the Sierra Madre Public Library with “Habitats and Adaptations,” a 45-minute interactive program for youth. Volunteers from the audience will have an opportunity to get up close and personal with a variety of small, tame, exotic creatures. Experienced trainers will showcase various animal “ambassadors” from across the globe, and describe how they adapt to survive in an ever-changing world. For more information contact Meegan Tosh at (626) 355-4672, or visit the Library’s website at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

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 Piazzolla 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 Juilliard 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
 <p>HAPPY EASTER</p>	 <p>Rhythm and Rhyme 2nd Annual Jazz and Poetry Festival</p>	1	April Fool's Day & Farmer's Market	2	Senior Commission Meeting 3:00 pm Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm 	
		8	Farmer's Market	9	Barks & Books at Sierra Madre Library Children are invited to read to gentle and friendly dog visitors	
<p>EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12TH</p> 	 <p>City Council Meeting Council Chambers, 6:30 pm</p>	14	15	16	Third Thursday Book Club 18 Legendary Bingo at the Rec Center Doors Open 6:30	
			Farmer's Market	Farmer's Market		
			22	29	 <p>April 2009</p>	
			Farmer's Market	Farmer's Market		

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 chartreuse 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.

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Every Wednesday 4pm-7pm

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

Free public on Mariposa.

Freedom Concert Honors the Men and Women who Protect our Country

This will be such a fulfilling evening where we can honor the men and women who protect our country and community.

Dates: Saturday, April 4th, 2009

Doors open at 7pm; Concert begins at 8pm.

Venue: Pasadena Convention Center

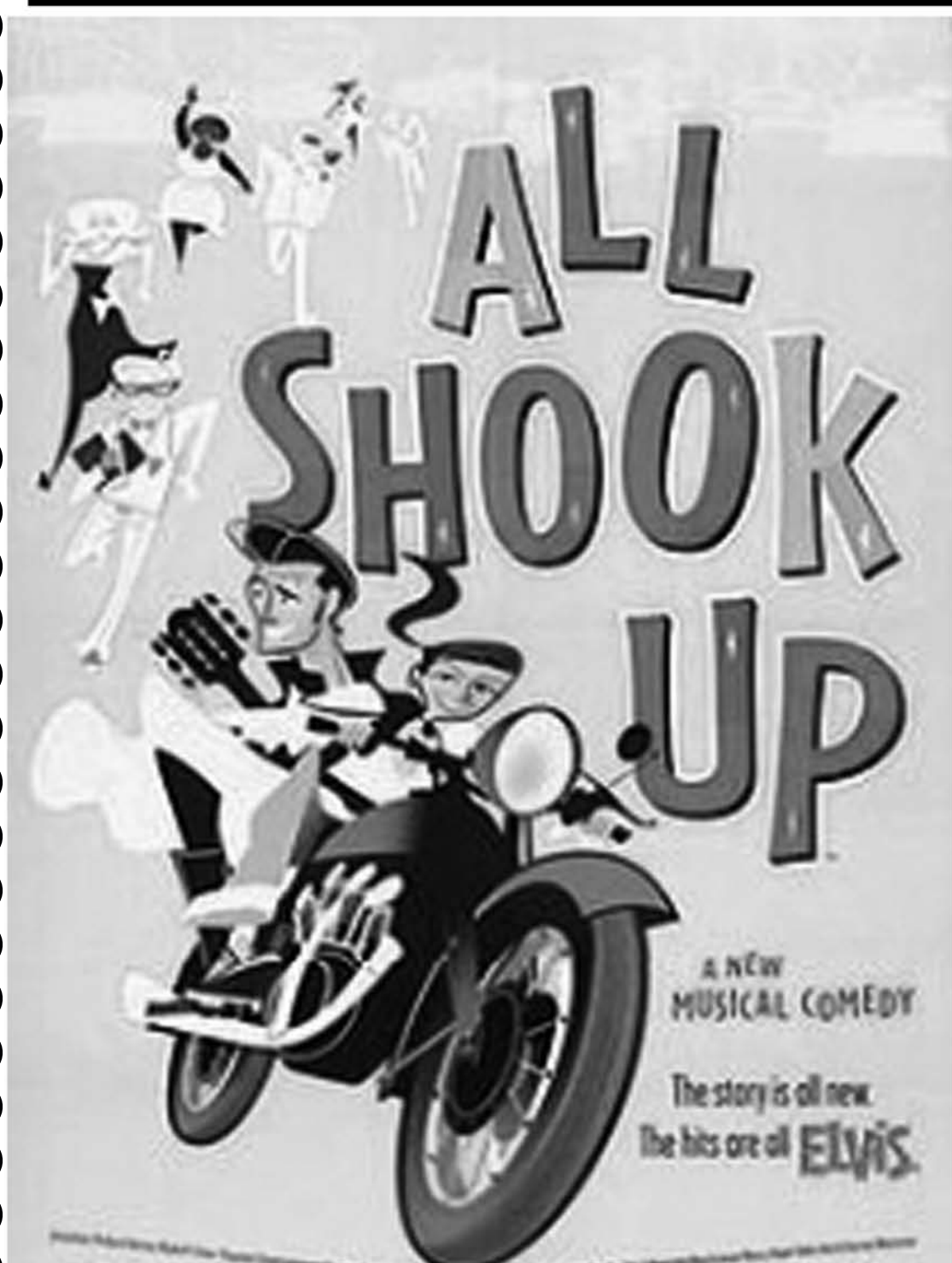
Address: 300 East Green Street, Pasadena CA 91101

**JOIN US FOR A FUN
NIGHT OUT!**

The Sierra Madre Kiwanis will hold their monthly dinner meeting at the Thai Restaurant on Sierra Madre Blvd., Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

Join us for a wonderful evening of great dining and good company. For Reservations Call: 355-6786

**Students From Pasadena, Blair and Marshall
High Schools and Center Stage *present:***



PERFORMANCE DATES★

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FRIDAY★ MARCH 27★ AT 7★30 PM
SATURDAY★ MARCH 28★ AT 7★30 PM
SUNDAY★ MARCH 29★ AT 7★00 PM
TICKETS★ ADULTS★ \$10.00
CHILDREN★STUDENTS★ \$5.00

**Pasadena High School Edwards Auditorium
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107**

It's Now Or Never!

This musical is based upon a book by Joe Di Pietro and features Elvis hits such as Love Me Tender; One Night With You, Heartbreak Hotel and more. Juliette Miller, is the Director of Pasadena High School's production of All Shook Up and David Miller, Orchestra Director, promise a fine production of this musical based upon Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. The musical takes place in the Midwest in the 1950's. The story features confusion and mistaken feelings. This plot set to music featuring singing and dancing by the students brings a performance with gusto and memorable scores. Don't miss this program! It's a winner!

-Kindred Lansdown

Director: Juliette Miller, Music Director: Lavone Barnett-Seetal
Orchestra Director: David Miller, Choreographer: Allison Hooper
Acting Coach: Dominic Catrambone, Technical Director: Mark Lansdown

Garden Tour

April 19, 2009
10:30 am – 4:30 pm

Showcasing exquisite gardens
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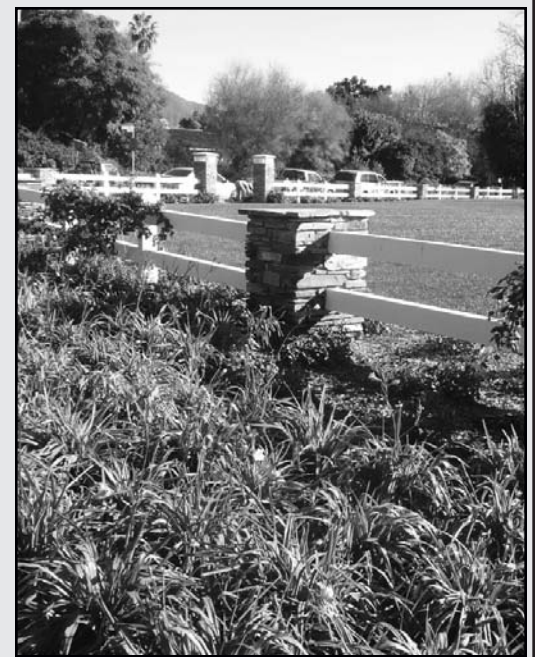
Creative Arts Group
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CAG Tour Stop No. 2

Clougherty Garden

This California Ranch home is on the cutting edge of the environmentally-conscious Green Movement. The most striking feature of this corner lot is the vast expanse of lawn. What seemingly mocks water conservation efforts is actually man-made. This is not your grandmother's artificial turf, however. Upon closer inspection this ground cover has the appearance of a living, breathing albeit flawless lawn. Along swath of daylilies borders the property with roses climbing the perimeter fence. A Bluestone walkway leads to the crescent-shaped courtyard entry to the home. Two Crape Myrtles under-planted with blue-flowering Statice flank the entrance and Roses and Azaleas ring the edges of the low wall encircling the open-ended courtyard. The walkway continues to the east side of the house and opens onto a paved patio with a fireplace. Succulents, Aloes and cacti including a large Organ Pipe cactus surround the bluestone pavement and a Palo Verde tree softens and shades the desert landscape. The artificial turf continues into the backyard providing a large play area for the owners' grandchildren. A border of Callistemon (Bottle Brush), Asparagus Ferns, Sago Palms, Nandina and Pineapple Guava provides contrasting textures and interest. In keeping with



the Green values of the owners, large solar panels on the roof generate enough electricity to slash energy costs 40-50%. A pool and spa are anchored by a large boulder wall which has a waterfall and slide for the children. A nearby fire pit provides warmth on cool evenings and Palm trees add a vertical accent to the hardscape. An outdoor kitchen with BBQ, refrigerator and granite counters allow outdoor entertaining at its finest.

Around Monrovia by Pat Østrye STATION SQUARE IS COMING

It looks as if Station Square in Monrovia will finally become a reality, with the first phase of the development possibly getting off the ground before the end of the year, according to my latest issue of the Monrovia Insider, published by the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce. This will be the largest redevelopment project in Monrovia's history and has been in the planning since the mid-1990s, covering the rezoning, environmental and traffic studies and General Plan revisions, as well as a series of public meetings.

The 80-acre development is centered around the area of Myrtle Ave. and Duarte Rd. and will feature a future Gold Line light rail station plus renovation of the historic Monrovia Depot. Plans call for a two-building apartment complex of nearly 700 units, combined with 25,000 square feet of retail space and a 450,000-square-foot office building, with an adjacent parking garage. Also included in the planning will be open space and park land. What a great time for all of us "sidewalk superintendents" as the project unfolds!!

Along with the Monrovia Municipal Election on April 14th, there will also be a "changing of the guard" at the Monrovia Unified School District as Superintendent Dr. Louise Taylor steps into retirement after 29 years of dedicated service

to Monrovia's children and the community. "Celebrate Louise - A Taylor-Made Legacy" will take place on June 4th and include a keepsake Tribute Book, dedicated to Louise's achievements and friendships, for each guest. The net proceeds from the publication of the book will be donated to the Monrovia Schools Foundation. Debbie Collins and Kris Mariconda are co-chairs for the event, with invitations going out in April. For information on how you may get involved with the Tribute Book, call 626-471-2009.

Speaking of "changing of the guard", Mayor Rob Hammond's Farewell Dinner is scheduled for Friday, May 1st, with those invitations also in the mail shortly.

One more reminder: Time is running out, make your reservation for the annual gala luncheon sponsored by Quota International of Monrovia/Duarte, to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Monrovia on April 8th. Net proceeds for this spectacular affair will go for scholarships and hearing-aids for deaf youngsters, aid to the deaf and abused women/children and generous donations to local community philanthropic projects. For information and reservations, Mary Ann Mayer, 359-8052, \$35 per person. Charlotte Schamadan is chairperson for the event. postrye@netzero.net.

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following for their support of the 2009 Wistaria Festival



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Bob and Nel Solt
Dan and Dana Dorrance
For opening your property and your vine to us, (and others) not just the day of the event, but for all the preparations leading up to it.

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Bronze Sponsor - Gail Franconi, Coldwell Banker, Arcadia
Bronze Sponsor - Jan's Towing, Annette Osterhaus
Bronze Sponsor - SCE, David Ford
Bronze Sponsor - The Gas Company, Helen Romero Shaw
For being good partners

Wistaria Committee

Chair Bill Coburn
Halcyon Koerber
Lisa Spigal-Perez
Mario Lail
Sue Levoe
Carol Canterbury
Susan Henderson
Rosemary Morabito
Janette Ledea
Bill Peters
Janet Peters
Sue Lamb
Chuck Kamchamnan
Ron Brandley
Susan Clifton
Tiffany Bailey
For sitting through months of meetings

Vine Docents

Co-Chair Halcyon Koerber
Co-Chair Lisa Spigal-Perez
Phyllis Chapman - Historian
Glenn Putnam
Amy Putnam
Beverly Clifton
Anita Thompson
Colleen McKemon
Georgette Dunlay
Shirley McGillicuddy
Pat Karamitros
Bill Thompson
Judy Kendall
Margaret Switzer
MaryLou Caldwell

Vine Docents (Cont.)

David Hartman
Aurora Varela
Jan Reed
Pat Alcorn
Kelly Hartman
Jean Coleman
Gretchen Kelly
Ellen Munoz
Heldi Hartman
Sue Lamb
Paige Terry
Kariene Englert
De Alcorn
Bill Peters
Bronze Sponsor, Calaway
Judy Skiff
Enid Joffe
Janet Peters
Gail Gutierrez (SMRFA Princess)
Linda Saurenman
Hilda Pittman
Laura Cipolla (SMRFA Princess)
Ann Palmer
Terri Cummings
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Emmett McGuire
Steve Prefontaine
Steve Paszek
Mary Bickel
Rosemary Burnett
Sheila Woehiner
Joy Barry
Melinda Monachino
Betsy Abbe
Vickie Ann Barwick
Marie Paszek
Nina Bartoli
Madison Hopkins
Jeanne Peterson
Bob Burnett
Joe Mosca
For teaching, coordinating, guiding, and directing
Bus Docents/Bus Line
Co-Chair Carol Canterbury
Co-Chair Sue Levoe
Jeanette Feeney
Fallon Garcia
Sebastian Garcia
Bob Schulman
Sue Stapp
Cherie Coakes
Judy Webb-Martin
Roya Miller
Sandy Schulman
Jennifer Howes
Ryan Howes
Joel Ingram
For remaining patient despite long lines
City Folks
Mayor Kurt Zimmerman

City Folks (Cont.)

Mayor Pro Tem Maryann MacGillivray
Council Member John Buchanan
Council Member Joe Mosca
Council Member Don Watts
City Manager Elaine Aguilar
Director of Comm. And Personnel Services Elisa Weaver
City/Festival Liaison Susan Clifton
James Carlson - *delivery of two port-a-potties mid-event, how'd you do that?*
Susan McConnell
Chief Marilyn Diaz
Chief Steve Heydortf
SMPD
SMVFD
Dept. of Public Works
For your help with permitting, approvals, operations and logistics
Ticket Booth
George Maurer
Elaine Aguilar
Katie Coburn
Marie Senese
Sue Lamb
Jay Senese
Bill Peters
Janet Peters
For ably selling tickets and handling will call
Information Booths
Sue Lamb
Snookie Greger
Mama Pete
Jan O'Day
Geri Frasier
Shella Pierce
Bonnie Garner
Leo Brodovsky
Tunde Law
Amber Blow
Joohee Lee
Nina Huang
Christine Lenchies Hinkel
For helping people to find what they were looking for
Park Volunteers
Chair Susan Henderson
Fred Thomas
Jim Moran
For keeping it all under control...
Set-up Volunteers
Ron Brandley
David Brandley
For taking charge and preventing chaos in the early morning rain.

Music/Entertainment

Volunteers
Chair Mario Lail
Steve Vargas
Dave Culwell
Tim Tutweller
Midge Matheson
Sierra Madre Sue Behrens
Ron Longo
Michael Zubla
Sean McCue
Michelle Beauchesne
Murphy's Flaw
Len Michael
Too Many Guitars
Mellow D's
Horses on Astroturf
Scotty Scotty and the Hankies
The Sheds
Ron & Veronica Ota
The Aluminum Marshmallow
DC3
Jazz Duo
Kay Martin
Three Superstitions
Mercy Powell Jazz Quartet
Tim Tutweller
Reno Jones
Crown City Blues Band
Adam Wood
Deerheart
Jessica Felman
Scott Hildebrandt
Jenni Alpert
Big Joe Hurt
Banna Beag Mail
Les Amis
Vin Fizz Flyers
Charcuterie
Lunch Salon
Colbert Salon
Murphy Architecture
For keeping things properly tuned
SM Emergency Communications Team
Harry Brumer
Mary Camey
Dave Felt
John Gollighugh
Dave Gross
Tim Li Marca
Robert Ross
Susan Ross
Sharon Spinner
Merry Sudyam
Fred Wesley
Allen Wolff
For your assistance with logistics and communications
Barricades
SMPD
Jim Moran

Barricades (Cont.)

Chief Steve Heydortf
Ron Brandley
David Brandley
Steven Yellich
Ray Loesch and Boy Scout Troop 110
Teresa and Michael Murphy
Kate Emerson and Payton
Davina Duncan and Brianna
Eric and Tracy Jost
Naomi and Melissa
Trevor Robinson
Brian Lenney and Bethany Youth Group
Claude Shannon
James Shannon
Ryan Asbury
Mary Palano
Leo Rein
Kwanis
De Alcorn
Mark van Cleave
Pat Birdsall
Joe Pergola
Arcadia Key Club
Elaine Yao (Key Club Coordinator)
Hanson Ton
Elaine Bang
Josephine Bang
Hanson Ton
Jinnee Lee
Catherine Lee
Stephanie Huang
Carpus Tin
Mikey Liu
Regina Fang
Kristy Hsu
Roger
Bill Harvey
Priscilla Harvey
Hannah Doumit
Emma Dangard
Louise Deltz-Henderson
Jan Scalise
Ann Ingles
Bill Ingles
Ann Marie Atwan
Torl Dutcher-Brown
Stephanie Hardin
Jay Copli
Pasadena PD Volunteers
For staying alert despite long periods of inactivity
Organizations
Sierra Madre Police Dept.
Sierra Madre Fire Dept.
Civic Club
Sierra Madre Woman's Club
SMECT
Kwanis
Arcadia Key Club

Organizations (Cont.)

Sierra Madre Bright Ideas
Sierra Madre Search and Rescue
Rotary Club
Interact
Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society
Sierra Madre Rose Float Association
Sierra Madre Garden Club
Bethany Youth Group
Gooden School
St. Rita's School
Alverno High School
Sierra Madre Middle School
For all your efforts, and for sharing your members
Business Contributors
Mailbox & Postal - Window Flyers, Ticket
Arnold's Frontier Hardware - Toilet paper donation
Village Auto - Parking lot use offered
SM Independent Honda - Parking lot use offered
Mike Eng - Parking lot use offered
Arcadia Party Rentals
Neil Vance Photography - Poster printing/mounting
Press
Fran Syverson
Bill Peters
Beacon Media News
MT Views Observer
Pasadena Weekly
KCAL 9 TV, Cater Lee and John
KCBS 2 TV
KFWB, AM
KOLA 99FM, Brian Casey, Patti Banner, Jill Longo and Dylan
Pasadena Star News
Staff
Tiffany Bailey
Sharon Clanton

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce extends its thanks to all of the above for their assistance in presenting the 2009 Wistaria Festival. Every effort has been made to include all those who participated, but in an event of this size, we may have missed someone. If so, our sincere apologies.

And a special thanks from the Board of Directors to Chamber President Bill Coburn!

Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Earth Hour “Lights Out” At 8:30 Pm



Nearly 300 U.S. cities will join more than 3,900 globally in turning out their lights tomorrow from 8:30 to 9:30 pm for Earth Hour. Major landmarks going dark include European Union headquarters in Brussels, United Nations headquarters in New York, St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, Birds Nest Stadium in Beijing, Great Pyramids of Giza, Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City, National Cathedral in Washington, Gateway Arch in St. Louis, and state capitol domes in Pennsylvania, Arkansas and New Mexico.

By turning off their lights for one hour, people across America and around the world will send a powerful, visual message to world leaders that they want action on climate change. Earth Hour is also galvanizing the public to get more actively engaged in efforts to secure climate legislation in the U.S. and a new global climate treaty. More than 90,000 letters urging action on climate change have been sent by Earth Hour supporters to their elected representatives at the local, state and national levels.

“Earth Hour is an unprecedented global vote for the future of our planet,” said Dr. Richard H. Moss, vice president for climate change at World Wildlife Fund, which is organizing Earth Hour. “From Indiana to Indonesia, people around the world are getting engaged, making their voices heard and telling their leaders that they want action on climate change.”

“Earth Hour is a great opportunity to raise awareness about the need for clean, renewable energy alternatives,” said Biggert, a senior member of the House Science and Technology Committee. “Our environment and economic prosperity depend on our reducing our dependence on foreign energy sources. That’s why it’s so important to promote research and development on alternatives like hydrogen, geothermal, and clean coal technologies.”

Congressman Barrow added: “This is a great example of how a relatively easy act for one family, turning off the lights, multiplied by millions worldwide, can have a positive impact by raising awareness about climate change. Maybe it’ll also remind folks to turn off lights in their houses when they leave a room or go out for the day, which is good for the environment, and good for the electric bill!”

Metro Rapid Buses Get Speedier

By Dean Lee

The MTA’s big red Rapid busses along Colorado Boulevard will soon be equipped with communication gear that will allow them to trigger traffic signals green as way to make them faster, although, before approving a bid for installation the City Council Monday night questioned the labor practices of Manual Bros. Inc., the company set to do the work.

The new Rapid Bus Priority System was estimated at \$503,000 staff said, and will include the installation of street light luminaires, pull boxes, fiber optic cable, fiber optic communication equipment, traffic signal cabinets, transit bus loop detectors, conduit and conductors, from the west city limit to Hill Avenue in front of Pasadena City College.

The priory system now operates in parts of Los



company’s bid was \$107,223 less than the estimated cost sending up a red flag for some of council members.

City staff said there was no way Manual Bros being nonunion, could get apprentices or was planning on “any new hires,” The only way to get apprentices is to be a signatory to a labor organization or represent

2007 for the 710 Mitigation Traffic Control and Monitoring System. “So how is it that they would comply with those 800 hours?”

Staff quickly said “they did not.” When asked how many hours they did complete staff said “zero,” Pointing out that it was not required by law. “So they filled out a form that said we will employ and train apprentices in accordance with the apprenticeship program,” Gordo said.

Gordo then added that the issue was not union vs. nonunion but one of adequate training. The comment was made after staff said Manual Bros was not sent apprentices because they are not union.

“I have a problem with that,” he said. “I have a problem with being told that our tax dollars are going to be spent to provide a job training opportunity for people who want to be employed in this industry and they’re not.”

Gordo said this was an opportunity to do three things, “One is complete a public works project, two hire locally to the extent that we can, three allow people to be trained in a manner that’s professional and safe,”

He said young people and those looking to get in the

industry lose.

Mayor Bill Bogaard suggested they look at a way in the future to come up with a methodology so the issue did come back up.

“So we only get contracts where an apprenticeship program is a meaningful and implemented aspect of what we do,” he said. Councilmember Jacque Robinson later asked that the issue be brought to the Economic Development and Technology Committee.

According to the staff report, “the system, based on vehicular detection technology, works as a three-way automated communication and feedback system among the bus, the traffic signal network where such bus is traveling and a sophisticated algorithm residing within the ATSAC Center in the City of Los Angeles to produce a balanced traffic signal synchronization between the Metro bus and all vehicular traffic flow within an arterial. The results are increased transit efficiency and enhanced coordination of vehicular flows through a traffic corridor.”

Funds for the project will be reimbursed by the MTA Bogaard said.

Get Up And Moving Around The Rose Bowl

Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and Michael Ross, CEO of Pasadena Center Operating Company, will lead a 3.3-mile walk around the Rose Bowl Loop at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 1, as part of Up & Moving Pasadena.

Meet at Gate A at the stadium. Free parking is available. All levels of ability will be accommodated.

Up & Moving Pasadena is a community effort to support fitness for health. Walks are scheduled the first Wednesday of every month.

Find walking tips, start a walking group and track your progress at www.upandmoving.org or call (626) 831-2980.

“City Beat”

Topics on the latest edition of “City Beat,” airing on 55 KPAS and the Internet, include an upcoming update to Pasadena’s Bicycle Master Plan, trees in public rights of way, and preparation of the city budget for the next fiscal year.

Moderator Ann Erdman is joined by Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and Mountain Views-Observer reporter Dean Lee.

“City Beat” replays Mondays at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m., Thursdays at 7 p.m., Fridays at 8:30 p.m., Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Streaming video of all 55 KPAS programming can be accessed in real time by going to www.cityofpasadena.net and clicking on City News.

On Pasadena televisions where cable is connected directly to the set, and not via a cable box, 55 KPAS can be found on channel 1.

For more information call (626) 795-5556.



Angeles and in Pasadena the system is secluded to be complete in June.

Before approving the contract Council Member Victor Gordo criticized Manual Bros, one of 12 bidders for the project, saying the company had no plans to hire local help or use apprenticeship program requirements by the city. The

to the state that you have a certified training program neither of which Manual Bros had done they said.

“I guess what I’m saying is they estimated 4,000 hours of this work was for electrical journeymen hours which resulted in an estimated 800 hours of apprentice work,” Gordo said referring to another project given to Manual Bros by the city in

Rain Puts Damper on Marathon, But Not Spirits

By Dean Lee

After a wet start, no one could have asked for better weather —as the sun broke out with temps in the low 70s— for the first ever Pasadena Marathon Saturday as over 9,000 runners/cyclists/walkers descended on the city’s 26 miles 385 yard course. And although it took two tries many said the wait was worth it.

Long time Pasadena resident and teacher, Jacques Sallberg, glided past a cheering crowd to win the full marathon with a time of 2:25:49. Chris Michael, also from Pasadena came in third with 2:47:26. Blue Benadum, of Malibu, crossed the finish second with 2:44:17, a full 20 minutes behind Sallberg.

As a running coach at John Muir High School, Sallberg said it was wonderful to win in his hometown and in front of the students he



teaches. He was also a graduate of Muir High School.

Leng Klukken won the Women’s race with 3:05:50. She is from Huntington Beach. Sharon Hanley of Thousand Oaks took second with 3:15:35 and Edith Martinez of Brea took third crossing the finish at 3:18:00.

Many of the runners took much longer to complete the race, some up to six hours, although each was given a metal as they crossed the finish line. A total of 1558 racers crossed the finish.

Runners said mile 22, along Sierra



Madre Boulevard was by far the hardest point in the race. It was the last hill before the finish line and athletes looked tired as they grabbed water from volunteers before heading back down the hill.

Cyclists said they got the worst of the rain with the bike tour starting at 6 a.m. Most of the race they were wet and could they said.

Event organizers said of the 1,100 volunteers that signed up to help with everything from handing out water, to giving out metals, about 500 of them showed up race day. Volunteers helped with everything including the pre race events they said.

Other race results

In the men’s Half marathon Manny Rodriguez of Whittier took first with 1:14:31, second went to Bernardino Ochoa of La Puente, at 1:17:30. Victor Rios, of Los Angeles came in third at 1:17:31.

Shannon Hill of Pasadena came in at 1:27:20 to take first for the Woman’s Halfmarathon. Kristen Van-Rooyen, also of Pasadena came in at 1:32:57. Lizzie Brenkus of Calabasas came in third with 1:33:15.

In the 5K men’s, Jeffrey Redfern from Los Angeles was first with 17:03. Danny Rosales of Beaumont was second with 17:13, and James Hake, of Temple City was third with 18:09.

In the Woman’s 5K, Brenda Terry of Fullerton, came in first with 21:00,



Kristin Deatherage of Long Beach was second with 21:54 and Diane McGimsey of Los Angeles came in third at 22:16.

The race was canceled in November hours before the start because of bad air quality due to Southern California wild fires.

Pet of The Week



King, an adorable seven year old, cattle dog mix is looking for a new home. This handsome fellow is even cuter in person. He likes long walks, is very well-behaved outdoors, and is a really fun dog to have around. If you can give him a home, please come meet him today!

The regular dog adoption fee is \$110, which includes medical care prior to adoption, spaying or neutering, vaccinations, and a follow-up visit with a participating vet. King qualifies for our Senior for Senior program in which a person over 60 can adopt a pet over five for free!

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A246009 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave, Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly can be found at www.phsspca.org



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know?

How Does Your Garden Grow? Part I

By Nan Kaeser

Starting a vegetable garden at home is a win-win situation. It's a great way to save money while spending time outdoors in the sun. The delicious flavors of your home-grown vegetables will far exceed those of even the best grocery store.

For your first garden it's best to start small. First, take a look at how much your family will eat. Keep in mind that vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers and squash keep providing throughout the season- so you may not need many to serve your needs. Other vegetables, such as carrots, radishes and corn produce only once, so you may need to plant more of these. Once you know what you want to plant, you can figure out how much space your garden will need. Keep in mind that you don't need a large space to begin a vegetable garden. If you choose to grow in containers, you don't even need a yard—a deck or a balcony may provide plenty of space.

No matter how big your vegetable garden is, there are three basic requirements for success:

Full Sun- Most vegetables need at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sun. If they don't get enough light, they won't bear as much and they'll be more susceptible to attack from insects or diseases. Here's a hint: If you don't have a spot in full-sun, you can still grow many leafy vegetable such as lettuce and spinach.

Plenty of Water- Because most vegetables aren't drought tolerant, you'll need to give them a drink during dry spells. The closer your garden is to a source of water, the easier it will be for you.

Good Soil- As with any kind of garden, success usually starts with the soil. Most vegetables do best in moist, well-drained soil that's rich in organic matter (such as compost or peat moss). It's best to test the soil before you begin digging. Check drainage by soaking the soil with a hose, waiting a day, then digging up a handful of soil. Squeeze the soil hard. If water streams out, you'll probably want to add compost or organic matter to improve the drainage. If the soil hasn't formed a ball, or if the ball falls apart at the slightest touch, your soil is probably sandy. In that case, add organic matter to improve the soil. If the ball holds together even if you poke it fairly hard, you have too much clay in your soil. Organic matter will improve clay soil too. But, if the ball breaks into crumbs when you poke it-like a chocolate cake- rejoice! Your soil is ideal.

Next Week: Digging Your Beds and Selecting Varieties

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

Brought to you by:
Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council (SMEAC)
P.O. Box 85
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085
our thoughts and comments are welcome...



Carmen Gonzales, CNA / Med Tech
Marjorie Thorndyke, Resident
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Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, March 15th, to Saturday March 21st, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 257 calls for service.

Sunday, March 15th:

9:53 PM - Identity Theft, 300 block Toyon Road. Citibank alerted a resident of two unauthorized purchases made at Wal-Mart. The purchases were made with in a two hour period, Sunday, 3/15/2009 between 7:37 pm and 9:35 pm at different stores. The total estimated loss is \$1,284.91.

Monday, March 16th:

5:28 AM - Arrest, Domestic battery, Vista Circle Drive. Officers responded to a call of a physical assault in-progress. Officers determined an argument escalated to a fight where a man struck another man, causing a laceration to the victim's forehead. The suspect was arrested for the crime and transported to the LA County Jail facility for remand.

10:07 PM - Arrest, Suspender/revoked driver's license, 180 South Michillinda Ave. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed the man was driving on a suspended driver's license. He was cited for the violation and released of a written promise to appear.

Wednesday, March 18th:

1:23 PM - Lost or stolen license plate, 00 block North Baldwin Ave. A motorist

reported the rear license plate from her car was missing. The license plate was discovered missing at 11:00 am Wednesday, 3/18/2009. The car was parked in the rear parking lot of Bean Town.

10:28 PM - Arrest, Suspended/revoked driver's license, 1900 block Santa Anita Ave. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. During the investigation the driver was unable to produce a picture ID. The driver was arrested and transported to the Sierra Madre Jail for identification. He was booked for driving unlicensed and suspended; he was issued a citation and released on a written promise to appear. The driver's vehicle was towed.

Thursday, March 19th:

4:10 PM - Petty theft, 400 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. R/P reports his air compressor was stolen from his apartment's carport. The crime occurred between 10:00 pm Tuesday, 3/17 and 12:00 pm Thursday, 3/19. The loss was estimated at \$200.00.

Saturday, March 21st:

11:23 AM - Theft from a vehicle, 300 block Camillo Street. Two pairs of glasses and a CD case were stolen from an unlocked pick-up truck. The crime occurred between 12:00 pm Friday, 3/20/2009 and 8:30 am Saturday, 3/21/2009. The loss was estimated at \$180.00.

Sierra Madre Congregational Church

presents

Palm Sunday Community Concert



Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5 at 4 PM

Come, hear the modern oratorio that tells the passion of God's love for all people.

Holy Week

Maudy Thursday Service - Thursday, April 9 at 7 PM.

Good Friday COMMUNITY SERVICE - Friday April 10 at 7 PM
at Bethany Church of Sierra Madre with SMCC Pastor Paul Beck

Easter Sunday COMMUNITY SUNRISE SERVICE - April 12
at 6:30 AM in Memorial Park

Easter Sunday Morning Services - 8, 9:30 and 11:15 AM
170 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre 626-355-3566

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, March 15, through Saturday, March 21, the Police Department responded to 1,016 calls for service of which 148 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, March 15:

Between 9:00 p.m. on March 14 and 12:10 a.m. on March 15, an auto burglary occurred in the 100 block of North First. Unknown suspect(s) smashed a car window and stole a purse, camera, and clothing items for a total reported loss of almost \$4,000.

Macy's loss prevention personnel advised that they had detained a female juvenile for theft around 2:00 p.m. The girl took clothing items into a fitting room, cut the security sensors with scissors, concealed them in a shopping bag, and left the store. Additional stolen property from Wet Seal, Charlotte Russe, Spencer's Gifts, and Cali-ONE were also recovered. The 16-year-old Caucasian was arrested for commercial burglary and possession of burglary tool.

Monday, March 16:

Units responded to Borders located at Westfield mall around 4:58 p.m. regarding a commercial burglary that occurred between 6:23 p.m. and 6:39 p.m. on March 15. The manager advised that she received notification that several Borders' stores were burglarized yesterday, so she checked her surveillance video. When reviewing the video, she discovered that two male Hispanic suspects stole about 50 DVD's and Blue Ray movies. The total loss was about \$2,000.

Tuesday, March 17:

Officers were called to the AMC Theaters located at Westfield mall around 8:00 p.m. regarding a man detained for vandalism. Investigation revealed that a 28-year-old male Caucasian was under the influence of multiple prescription medications and alcohol, and he began suffering hallucinations. Believing that he was being followed, he went into a family restroom at the theater and used a cigarette lighter to set off the sprinkler system, resulting in the flooding of the restroom and the main hallway. It was determined that the subject was a danger to himself so he was transported to a hospital for a 72-hour hold.

Wednesday, March 18:

The Department received several extortion reports over the past few days regarding a man

calling the victims and demanding \$30,000. He also threatened to harm the victims and their family members if he did not get the money. Because the suspect made so many calls to numerous victims throughout the area, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will be handling the cases.

Thursday, March 19:

A theft investigation was conducted at the high school, and it revealed that several male students were involved in stealing cell phones from other students' backpacks. The stolen cell phones were then sold. A 15-year-old Caucasian student was arrested for grand theft from person; a 15-year-old Hispanic and a 16-year-old Caucasian were arrested for receiving stolen property.

Around 2:17 p.m., units were dispatched to Westfield mall regarding a male subject detained by security personnel for sexual battery. Investigation revealed that a 24-year-old male Asian suspect groped 7 employees at Gilly Hicks. A private person's arrest was made, and the man was taken into custody.

Friday, March 20:

Loss prevention personnel from JC Penney advised that they had detained a female juvenile for theft around 1:00 p.m. The girl was seen concealing merchandise in bags hanging from a baby stroller. A private person's arrest was made, and the 16-year-old Hispanic was taken into custody for grand theft. Almost \$720 in property was recovered. She was later cited and released to her father who was present while she committed the thefts.

Around 7:00 p.m., units responded to the 600 block of Fairview in reference to a domestic disturbance. A male suspect was contacted but he refused to open the front door and was belligerent towards the officers. After 24 minutes, the suspect finally complied and opened the door but he continued to ignore officers' orders. The 22-year-old Asian was eventually taken into custody for obstructing/resisting.

Saturday, March 21:

Shortly after 5:00 p.m., officers were sent to Borders regarding shoplifting suspects who had returned to the store. The manager recognized the suspects as those who had stolen DVD's and Blue Ray movies on March 15. Private persons' arrests were made, and Hispanic suspects, ages 18 and 40, were taken into custody for commercial burglary.

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 Fire Safe Council will be April 6, 2009-7 p.m. City Council chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

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Alverno Spring Musical



Alverno students have been working diligently on their spring production The Wiz, a hip musical favorite with a R&B twist to L. Frank Baum's well-loved tale, The Wizard of Oz. Creators Charlie Smalls and William F. Brown wrote this high-energy 70's musical following the adventures of Dorothy,

Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion as they hip hop down the yellow brick road in search of a brain, a heart, courage and most important - a way home.

Dorothy, Scarecrow, and the Munchkins along the yellow brick road. Performances are at 7 pm on March 26, 27, and 28 at Pasadena Nazarene Church, 3700

E. Sierra Madre Bl. Tickets are \$10 pre-sale and \$12 at the door.

In the large and lively cast are: Cola Garland, Hanna Storlie, Ashley Franco, Morgan Turner, Darci Dwyer, Annela Flores, Alexis Salazar, Victoria Vega, Colleen Busser, Karisha Quiogue, Djanelle Estacion, Dominique Barr, Jenae Kitaguchi, Kylie Martinez, Karen Opara, Cassandra Arellano, Lindsay Gitter, Carolyn Bickel, Lena El-Farra, Amanda Lira, Rachael Stein, Marissa Panyawai, Cheryl Iwamoto, Mona Lufti, Jordan Turner, Sarah Paredes, Liza Pattison, Stephanie Kuern, and Gabby Bruno.

Arcadia High School's "Hope Can Cure Cancer Club" to Hold Fundraiser

April 3rd the Arcadia High School's "Hope Can Cure Cancer Club" will be hosting a Comedy Show benefiting the American Cancer Society's Arcadia Relay for Life. This is a unique and fun event that will be at the Little Theater at Arcadia High School on April 3rd at 7:00PM. "We have incredible line up for this show. Some of the guys have been on TV, and all of them have been performing in the major comedy clubs in the L.A. area. Come out and have a great time and support a great cause," said Scott Shimamoto the organizer and comedian. The line up includes: Richard Chang, Paula Johnson, Lisa Alvarado, Corey Craig, Patrick Hill, Tymon Shipp, Diane Kawasaki, Amy Ashton, Tom Vrab and Yak Manrique.

This is going to be an event not to miss, for more information and tickets contact Scott Shimamoto at scottshimamoto.com or Sarah Eagle at Sarah.Eagle@cancer.org www.relayforlife.org/arcadia

Relay for Life Arcadia June 27th-28th 2009 11am-11am

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

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

Arcadia High School

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

Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

Barnhart School

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

Bethany Christian School

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

Carden of the Foothills School

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

The Gooden School

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

LaSalle High School

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

Monrovia High School

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

Norma Coombs Alternative School

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

Odyssey Charter School

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

Pasadena High School

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

Pasadena Unified School District

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

St. Rita Catholic School

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School

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

Sierra Madre Middle School

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

Weizmann Day School

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

Wilson Middle School

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

Pasadena Unified School District

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



Earlier this month, students and staff of Sierra Madre Elementary School, along with the help of parents and community volunteers, celebrated Dr. Theodore **Suess** Geisel's 104th birthday by participating in the national Read Across America Day. All classes were read one of the many Dr. Suess stories in honor of Dr. Suess and to focus on the value and fun of reading. Pictured above from left to right:

Back Row: Gayle Bluemel (Principal of Sierra Madre School), Anita Thompson, Linda Wochnik, Shirley McGillicuddy, Shirley Wolff all from Sierra Madre Civic Club, Harriet Lyle, President of Sierra Madre Kiwanis, Halcyon Koerber and Mary Beth Finnerty, also from SM Civic Club, Doreen Thomas, Kiwanis volunteer, and Dawna Tully (Curriculum Resource Specialist). Front Row: Kristina Garcia, Charly Culwell, Scott Schwartz, Seth Barnes, Alexander Gallagher, all fifth grade students at Sierra Madre School and Lynne Holl, Library Coordinator.

PUSD Receives Model Preschool Program Grant

By Teresa Baxter

According to Chief Academic Officer Alice Petrossian, the Pasadena Unified School District was contacted by Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich regarding funding for a grant from the Los Angeles Universal Preschool program. Founded in 2004, LAUP is a non-profit organization dedicated to making high-quality preschool available to every 4-year-old in L.A. County.

"The district put in an application, got calls for an interview and then wondered if we would we considered, in this economic climate, to receive a grant for \$750,000," said Petrossian. "We soon found out that Antonovich was very serious about wanting a model visionary program that would serve preschools within the Pasadena community."

Vicky Greening, the preschool program specialist for the district, presented the school board with the specific measures that will take place to implement the approved project. The basic components of the program will include a three hour preschool session to be offered twice daily. There

will be a maximum of twenty students per session serving only 4-year-olds, and 10 percent of the openings will target students with special needs.

"The nice thing about how it is written is that it is going to be made available to low and middle income families," said Greening. "We currently have a lot of families in the district that can't access our preschool program."

The program will additionally integrate a research-based comprehensive curriculum due to grant and federal government requirements. There will be a full inclusion for children diagnosed with autism, and all the special education services will be provided at the designated site. There will also be an ongoing staff development that will use evidence based practices.

"The district will then get up to \$200,000 per year in operating costs. The exact amount will depend on enrollment and the education level of our teachers," said Greening. "Part of the grant will also include training by LAUP, and we are also looking to partner with Azusa Pacific University for staff training."

Mentoring & Partnership For Youth Development Annual Luncheon

The 2nd Annual Luncheon of Mentoring & Partnership for Youth Development will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Mediterranean Room of the Brookside Golf Club, 1133 Rosemont Avenue, Pasadena.

The theme of this year's event is "Changing Lives Through Mentoring." MPYD will recognize individual, community, corporate, and governmental supporters. Honorary Event Host is Congressman Adam Schiff.

Information on MPYD and this event is available at www.mpyd.org. Telephone: Tecumseh Shackelford at (626) 840-0925 for information on sponsoring a table or purchasing individual tickets.



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



By Hail Hamilton

THE ULTIMATE LAWS OF REALITY

A friend of mine found this on the Internet and forwarded it to me. I thought I'd share it with our readers. The source is anonymous but the wisdom is right on. I hope you get as much a kick out of it as I did.

Murphy's Law - (The Mother of all Laws) "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong."
Law of Mechanical Repair - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.
Law of Gravity - Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.
Law of Probability - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
Law of Random Numbers - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.
Law of the Alibi - If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.
Variation Law - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).
Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.
Law of Close Encounters - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.



Stuart Tolchin On..LIFE

Over the past month or so I have been writing that the current economic crisis is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to reexamine our life's priorities. One old friend finds this view arrogant and shallow. He feels that people who are losing their jobs and homes are not in a psychological space wherein reassessment and re-evaluation are relevant. I could not disagree more! I am of the opinion that when drastic changes abound it is an absolutely necessary time to reassess and re-examine as important decisions will soon have to be made. If one does not understand the reasoning behind one's decisions life-long regret and dissatisfaction may follow.
When I think of people for whom forced unexamined changes in life have taken away the joy in living I see the face of my grandmother staring unsmilingly out the window. This is the lady who raised me and whose chronic depression still gnaws at me. She was the first in her family to arrive in the United States from Lithuania coming in under the name of a deceased person. Somehow she came to live with an already Americanized family who on her very first day in the United States provided her with a steak fried in butter as her very first American meal. She explained to me that she had no choice but to accept this meal although it violated dietary laws which she had accepted from birth. These laws, which she believed connected with the will of God, required the separation of meat and dairy products.. In order to survive in America and to be accepted by these worldly strangers she ate, without complaint. This abomination she experienced as a weakness of herself that detracted from the remaining seventy years of her life.
Working in sweatshops, she saved

enough money to bring her brothers to America. The brothers prospered and in a generation or two the family was filled with lawyers, doctors, physicists, artists, and writers. Notwithstanding all of this unimaginable prosperity, my grandmother never felt the joy of living in this new world. The change was too sudden, too abrupt; she adapted but something forever remained missing. She never understood the pressures she faced and never was able to forgive herself. Really, the times in which she lived made reflection and understanding a luxury unaffordable to most people.
This tale of my grandmother is intended as a cautionary reminder. Today, hopefully, we better understand the importance of nurturing ourselves. As we cope with change, which we will, it is vital that we stay in touch with our own inner lives. I do not mean that we should rationalize or defend our behavior, or delude ourselves or, worst of all, become numb to our own lives and merely survive. We need to stand back and reflect upon our lives, to applaud our own strength and creativity, and above all, to understand ourselves. I believe it is this conscious internal connection that provides the energy to enjoy life notwithstanding our external circumstances. If we are too busy or too preoccupied to live our life consciously then we will require endless diversions, and stimulations to make our life tolerable; and it still won't be enough. As Alice Miller explains we must first understand and be truthful with ourselves and be free to show that true self to the world. She asserts "...every human being's central need is to express oneself, to show oneself to the world as one really is...in every genuine expression, beginning with the baby's cry." LET'S BE REAL and we'll be okay.

UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTING OURSELVES

Sign in a London department store: "Bargain Basement Upstairs."
Spotted in a toilet in a London office block: "Toilet out of order. Please use floor below."
We don't even have to leave the country to get a few funnies.
Outside a pawn shop: "We exchange anything - bicycles, washing machines etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?"
Outside a photographer's studio: "Out to lunch: If not back by five, out for dinner also."
Notice in a rural field: "The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges."
A favorite of mine over the years was this suggestion in a small town newspaper regarding bottle feeding your infant: "When the baby is done drinking it should be unscrewed and placed under a cool tap. If the baby does not thrive on fresh milk it should be boiled."

Translation: Faux Paus

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A favorite of mine over the years was this suggestion in a small town newspaper regarding bottle feeding your infant: "When the baby is done drinking it should be unscrewed and placed under a cool tap. If the baby does not thrive on fresh milk it should be boiled."

By the way, did you purchase something in Sierra Madre this week? Let's keep supporting the local merchants. Guys, again you should check out shops like Iris Intrigue, Leonora Moss, and Savor the Flavor for perfect gifts for your significant others. I'm sure I left someone out, so please forgive me. And where's my chocolate milk?

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

Where Are The Liberals?



Gregory J. Wellborn

Barack Obama is in the White House, the Democrats control the House and the Senate, but where are the liberals? I mean, of course, the liberals of olde that accused George Bush of civil rights violations because he asked our telephone companies for assistance in the terrorist surveillance program. I mean the liberals who accused the University of Colorado of censorship because they fired Professor Ward Churchill after he called 9-11 victims "little Eichmans". These are the liberals who have some credibility in claiming that they stand for the rule of law and the rights of individuals. Sadly, these people don't seem to populate the current Democratic party.
What we are witnessing today by Democratic politicians at the federal and state level is a clear and aggressive attack on the foundation of our liberties and our political system. Two key principles on which our freedoms depend are the rule of law and free speech. These aren't just quaint notions without substance. They are integral to our functioning as a free society, and they have never been more in jeopardy.

Plainly stated, the rule of law means that laws should apply uniformly to all citizens and that punishment or imprisonment shouldn't be left to the whim of a politician, judge or a mob. The passage this week of the House bill which will tax 90% of the earnings of anyone who received a bonus from a company which received a federal bailout unfairly discriminates against one group of people simply because of where they work. It guts any notion of legal uniformity and sets a precedent which endangers us all.

Consider the cases of Jonathan Clements and Jake DeSantis. Jonathan Clements is a new employee at a new start up called myFi. Sadly for him, myFi is a subsidiary of CitiCorp, and his bonus is therefore going to be taxed. Never mind the fact that myFi has nothing to do with the toxic loans or derivatives, or even with the lending or investment banking arms of CitiCorp. Because of where he works - plain and simple - he will see his bonus taxed at 90%. If he worked somewhere else doing the exact same thing, he would experience "normal" tax rates like the rest of us working Joes.

Jake DeSantis is in a slightly different boat. He was actually hired by AIG to work in its financial products division, which created many of these toxic assets that now pollute our economic system. Seems like he should be punished, right? Wrong! Mr. DeSantis was hired last March for the primary purpose of helping AIG unwind these corrosive contracts so the government wouldn't have to pony up much larger sums. The contract he negotiated with AIG (like many in this division) provided an annual salary of \$1 with the promise of a bonus as his only true compensation. What's more, the New York Attorney General's office and the U.S. Treasury Department both specifically agreed that such contracts were in the best interests of all concerned. One year later, elected Democrats in the state and federal governments have decided to essentially renig on an existing contract by taxing away any benefit that it might provide.

While each situation is slightly different, both illustrate the patent unfairness of the government's actions. What's more, if left in place, these actions destroy any semblance of protection for individuals from the whimsical wrath of politicians and mobs alike. The government's justification for this action is the employer's receipt of bailout money. Thus, they claim, the government has some jurisdiction and should be allowed to regulate or tax the specific people involved in these organizations.

The problem with this premise is that it can be used arbitrarily to apply to almost any of us. The constitution grants Congress the right to oversee interstate commerce and the airwaves. In this interconnected economy, we all -one way or the other - engage in interstate commerce. It's not too far a stretch to say that Congress could argue for the right to look at all of our compensation packages.

Now if Congress wants to tax all of us at 90%, I suppose that, while stupid, it would at least be fair; we'd all suffer uniformly. But what if Congress decides that they don't like conservative talk show hosts or investment consultants like me (I do have a job other than writing articles) who tell their clients that the stimulus won't really work? What if a future Republican Congress decides that they do not like liberal opinion writers at major, big-city, daily newspapers. All of us are supposed to have the freedom of speech to criticize politicians and government actions. But I would argue that if the government can single me out - or any of these other very specific groups - and tax us at 90% just because of who we are, then in reality we don't have any freedom of speech.

Whether we like it or not, political freedom, and in this case specifically freedom of speech, is dependent on economic freedom. The power to tax is the power to punish, and the only thing that prevents such tyranny is the rule of law - the concept that citizens must be treated equally. Some of you may think my argument is far fetched, but I would remind you that President Nixon had an enemies list and used the IRS to hound his opponents.

What saddens me most here is the total abdication of principle by self-proclaimed liberals. The liberalism I remember was more concerned with protecting the individual rights of citizens - especially unpopular ones - from government or angry mobs. I realize that everyone is angry at the state of our economy and that AIG offers a convenient target for that wrath. But principles don't mean anything if they aren't defended when it's tough or unpopular to do so. Today, as I look at the political landscape, the people I see taking a principled unpopular stand against government tyranny are conservatives. I thank God that there are at least 40 of them in the Senate and pray that they will serve as our bulwark against a further erosion of our individual rights and liberties.

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 gwelborn@mvobserver.com.

Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

Liquid Saltwater Is Likely Present on Mars

Salty, liquid water has been detected on a leg of the Mars Phoenix Lander and therefore could be present at other locations on the planet, according to analysis by a group of mission scientists led by a University of Michigan professor. This is the first time liquid water has been detected and photographed outside the Earth.

“A large number of independent physical and thermodynamic evidences show that saline water may actually be common on Mars,” says Nilton Renno, a professor in the U-M Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences and a co-investigator on the Phoenix mission.

“Liquid water is an essential ingredient for life. This discovery has important implications to many areas of planetary exploration, including the habitability of Mars,” Renno adds.

Previously, scientists believed that water existed on Mars only as ice or water vapor because of the planet’s low temperature and atmospheric pressure. They thought that ice in the Red Planet’s current climate could sublimate, or vaporize, but they didn’t think it could melt.

This analysis shows how that assumption may be incorrect. Temperature fluctuation in the arctic region of Mars where Phoenix landed and salts in the soil could create pockets of water too salty to freeze in the climate of the landing site, Renno says.

Photos of one of the lander’s legs show droplets that grew during the polar summer. Based on the temperature of the leg and the presence of large amounts of “perchlorate” salts detected in the soil, scientists believe the droplets were most likely salty liquid water and mud that splashed on the spacecraft when it touched down. The lander was guided down by rockets whose exhaust melted the top layer of ice below a thin sheet of soil.

Some of the mud droplets that splashed on the lander’s leg appear to have grown by absorbing water from the atmosphere, Renno says. Images suggest that some of the droplets darkened, then moved

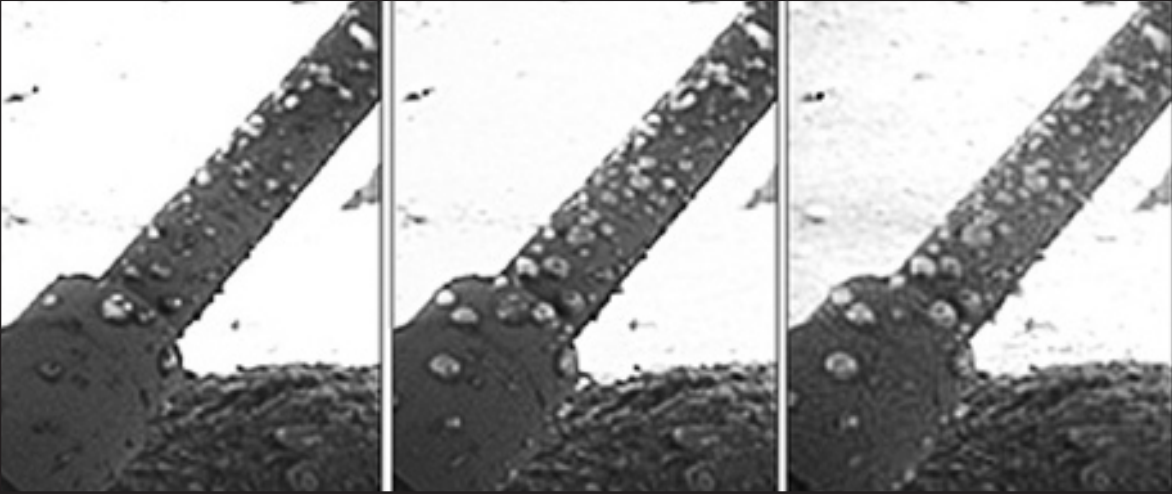
and merged—physical evidence that they were liquid.

The wet chemistry lab on Phoenix found evidence of perchlorate salts, which likely include magnesium and calcium perchlorate hydrates. These compounds have freezing temperatures of about -90 and -105 degrees Fahrenheit respectively. The temperature at the landing site ranged from approximately -5 to -140 degrees Fahrenheit, with a median temperature around -75 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures at the landing site were mostly warmer than this during the first months of the mission.

Thermodynamic calculations offer additional evidence that salty liquid water can exist where Phoenix landed and elsewhere on Mars. The calculations also predict a droplet growth rate that is consistent with what was observed. And they show that it is impossible for ice to sublimate from the cold ground just under the strut of the lander’s leg and be deposited on a warmer strut, a hypothesis that has been suggested.

Certain bacteria on Earth can exist in extremely salty and cold conditions.

Phoenix landed on Mars on May 25, 2008, and transmitted data



back to Earth until Nov. 10, when its solar panels were unable to produce enough power due to the Martian winter. Scientists are still analyzing the information Phoenix gathered.

Photos and more information at: <http://www.umich.edu/news>, <http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu>.

If you’d like to learn more, you can contact Bob at b.eklund@mvoobserver.com



Photo by Aaron Dominquez

On Line

Cloud Computing : What It Does for You

with P.J. Carpenter

The Cloud Computing Model derives its name from the way the Internet is represented in network schematics. The Internet portion of the logical connection between two separate sites are drawn as lines going into and coming out of a cloud. This simple metaphor for the Internet conceals the increasingly complex infrastructure through which many of the services we take as a given are delivered to our desktops at the click of a mouse. Typical Cloud Computing services include Hosted Web Pages, Hosted Email Service providers such as Gmail and Online Data Storage. This list is far from an all-inclusive. The evolution of this model has also allowed the end-user to do more with their computers without having to control or even understand the technology involved in the processing part of the equation. Vendors of various on-line services are able to deliver more services due to the sheer volume of the users making use of the products and services they offer. This steady flow of traffic is attractive to advertisers and is more often than not translates into increased revenue from advertising sales. Anyone who’s used any of the more popular free online email services can attest to the fact that nearly all space not used by the actual email being read or

written is devoted to some type of advertising. If a service provider has a consistent stream of visitors, often numbering in the tens of thousands daily, and just one-tenth of one percent actually buy some of these advertised products or services, that adds up to a pretty penny over time.

Three of the characteristics of this computing model that make it really attractive for end users are the fact that it tends to be Simple, Web-Based and Off Site. Its simplicity lies in the fact that the providers of these services allow a user to configure their resources in a matter of minutes in most cases and the user doesn’t have to be an IT professional in order to understand the process. Web Access to end user resources make the configuration and customization process all the more user friendly. The Off Site factor adds an additional layer of protection and service for the end user. The service provider shoulders the burden of equipment costs and maintenance as well as ensuring that user data is protected and secure. If the subscribers home computer or laptop meets with misfortune he or she will still have access to needed data just as soon as they are able to get online again. If your data is important enough that alone should be worth the subscription price.

****Computer Advisory****

Computer Security Experts are urging users to update their anti virus protection in order to protect their machines from an outbreak of the Conficker Worm. New variants of the worm have been set with an activation date of April 1st but researchers have been unable to determine exactly what effect that will have on computers already infected with the worm. Consult your anti virus protection provider for more information about this threat and how you can protect yourself.

Caring for your Companion

Vacationing With Your Pets

“How I spent your summer vacation.” If your furry companion wrote this at the end of summer, how would it read? As summer approaches, and you make plans for your summer escape, have you considered the options available to your pets?

Some, especially most cats, are best left in their own home. They are most comfortable in their regular surroundings, and are more likely to eat, drink, and act normally. Options to provide for home care include pet sitters, friends, or even the adult children of friends [often, responsible college students living at home will welcome the opportunity to have a place of their own for a few days]. Having someone live in or visit your house regularly in your absence also provides extra security for your home from vacation bandits. Always ask for references, and it is a good idea to introduce these people to your pets days before leaving.

Boarding is another option. This is especially suitable for those pets with special needs. Some dogs can be destructive, or even seek escape when their family is absent. This is a sign of separation anxiety. While this is manageable with training and adjunct medical therapy, such treatments can take months. Facilities range from the mundane to extravagant. Do your research, and tour the premises. Make sure you’re paying for care, not hype. Pets with medical needs such as those with diabetes, heart failure, or other infirmities may do best in a facility that provides veterinary supervision. This can also be a good time to pair any needed medical care, ie, Dental Prophylaxis and complete oral examination, with the stay. Be sure to ask about vaccine requirements in advance, so you won’t have to vaccinate unnecessarily if you don’t have records. Also, given our evolving knowledge of vaccines and immunity, be sure their requirements are reasonable. Generally, it is a good idea to get dogs a booster vaccination for Bordatella 2 weeks prior to the stay. This helps prevent or lessen the severity of kennel cough.

How about bringing them along? Most campsites allow companion animals, and more hotels are catering to the pet owning population,

even luxury resorts. Be sure to look into this early, as most facilities have limited rooms set aside for these special families. It’s also a good idea to find a veterinarian in the area, should you pet need medical care or you just need to board your pet for a night or two for that rafting trip.

Will you be flying? Check with your airline early, as requirements for flight vary among airlines. You’ll generally need a USDA health certificate within 10 days of your flight. If your pet is small enough, they can travel in the cabin. Typically collapsible carriers are best for this. Many airlines allow a limited number of pets per cabin, so be sure to book well in advance. If you need to fly him/her in the baggage compartment, be sure the kennel is rigid and secure. You may even be wise to fasten the door closed with a zip-tie after passing through security. Flying non-stop or direct is best. If you have to change planes, be sure to get assurance from the crew that your pet has made the connection before take-off. Many airlines even have special tags for this purpose.

Some dogs are left at home due to a malady that, while a great nuisance, is no fault of their own. Motion sickness. Good thing we’re more tolerant of this with our 2 legged family members, or I would have been boarded for most of my childhood family vacations! While natural herbs like ginger can be of some benefit, there is a new medication available which greatly curbs the nausea without significant sedation. Talk to your veterinarian if you think this may allow you to include your best friend in your best plans.

If you’re bringing your pet along, it’s also a good idea to meet with your veterinarian who may be able to advise you of special precautions to take relative to where you’re visiting. Examples include heartworm, ticks, poisonous plants, parasites, and rattlesnakes.

In all, I hope you all have safe, relaxing vacations, knowing that your furry companions are safe and happy too. Regardless of your choice of accommodations, be sure to provide your pet’s regular food.

The Oral Health Price is Right

Dr. Jack von Bulow
Temple City Dental

A while back I returned from an amazing annual dental conference experience and I couldn’t help but notice how much more inspiring those things are when a bunch of dentists aren’t doing all the talking.

It’s a curious time when there are zero cab lines at McCarran Airport in Vegas but two parking tickets on my windshield at LAX. Guess it would help if my ultimate vehicle had a spot for a license plate up front. Anyway, if the LAPD is set on pumping my money out of the economy at \$25 a pop these days, it’s back to Ontario, even if I get to see Sacramento on the way to Sin City and other destinations now unknown.

But for dental patients and even the 50% of you that stay away, now may be the best time ever to invest in your oral health and travel non-stop to the dentist.

Today, a trip to the dentist can open a preventive window of opportunity for affordable good oral health and even a higher standard of life. Everyday, research strengthens the connection between oral and general health.

Some good economic news is dental insurance programs provide earlier and more complete benefits for preventive care. And if you don’t use the benefits you buy with the premiums you pay, you lose the benefits and the money. So how many readers out there blew \$1,000-2,000 in 2008 by not seeing the

dentist?

A comprehensive exam, x-rays, and a trip to the hygienist can actually save your life (or add an average of seven years to it if you learn to manage gum disease.) One American an hour dies of oral cancer; gum disease is being linked to hypertension, heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and low weight premature births. An oral cancer exam takes five minutes, as does the charting that diagnoses gum disease. And if you’re fortunate enough to have dental insurance, the program will pick up all or most of the tab.

If you do not have dental insurance benefits, your investment would cost less than the car I rented for three days in Las Vegas. The consequences of doing nothing inevitably include increased expense, loss of chewing body parts and poorer health.

Today, dentistry has become a buyer’s market. And treatment by impersonal numbers should be unacceptable. Uncertain economic times can inspire more personalized care and better deals..like 24 month no-interest financing (that can actually create new opportunities for care you want..like Invisalign.)

So if it’s been a while, a visit to the dentist might be close to the best deal in town. And I guarantee it’ll be way more fun than two parking tickets (I’ve never been impressed by a barrel of monkeys.)

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.

PLACE OF MEETING

Sierra Madre Room

Sierra Madre Recreation Center

611 E. Sierra Madre Boulevard

Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Light refreshments will be provided.

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

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

My direct number is (626) 797-4618

john@healthinsbrokers.com

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



TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

News and notes...

Sorry to hear that The Crepevine went under, I enjoyed the intimate aura of this restaurant. It may reappear in a more economically friendly location. Not all bad news to report though. The good news for Sushi fans is that the Masa Restaurant on Colorado has reopened and has some incredible values to welcome back the neighborhood!!! Sake for 1 cent... I was eyeing the old Sparkletts bottle, fully gorged on change with visions of grandeur. Oh, what I could have done in my college days for such a passport to play. Okay, you do have to buy one at full price but still the philanthropy in such an inviting deal. Join me this Sunday at Santa Anita Race Track, I have a great tip for you. The Second Annual Uncorked Food and Wine event will be taking place, smooze and lightly booze with some of the jockeys and me, I'll be there. Call (626) 574-race for tickets. That's this Sunday March 29th at noon.

It is on to this week's review. I went back to Houston's to update what's happening there. As a reviewer we like to use a litany of words to describe our meals - Scrumptious, Succulent, Tantalizing, Superb, Never Better, and of course the consummate, The Best. Restaurants like to use some exalted words to describe their dishes as well. One that comes to mind is "World Famous," it is a staple in the industry. Maybe you miss Ma and Pa? How about "Homemade" to cheer you up! Heard those nasty rumors about bacteria lately? Fresh should disarm you and give you that inescapably reassurance! Just curious though, if it is homemade, seems to me the Health Department would have something to say about that. As for World Famous, when I am in Athens, Greece, will the tour bus operator ask me about those great pies at Smitty's? I will get back to you on that one.

I have dined at Houston's at least ten

times in the past year and I have to say that the overall experience has grown on me to become one of my absolute favorite restaurants in the area. I find that the food always entertains my palate and the service is stellar (another "S" word). You are warmly greeted and quickly seated, promptly brought water, told the specials, drinks soon appear from behind a magician's cape and next a puff of smoke and your food is resting before you, usually this is all done efficiently by different servers. Maybe we can get them to train the DMV?

Let's talk about the food and prices. How about for starters, The FAMOUS French Dip (\$18), this is usually the dish that I order while at Houston's. A Roast beef on a French roll is a beautiful sight that I have yet to tire from. Barbeque Ribs (\$27), oven baked and comes with fries and cole slaw, rib fans will enjoy these. Are you a sushi fan? There are many choices on the menu and they tell me they sell a lot of sushi. But why go to a steak place for Sushi? There is always one in the crowd. Prices range from (\$12) to (\$16). I suggest the Seared Tuna Roll at (\$16) if you insist on Sushi. On my next visit I will order the Lump Crab Cakes, when done right you can never go wrong with a crab cake. The desserts feature a Five Nut Brownie and an Apple Walnut Cobbler at (\$8) - both very sweet and tasty!! In surveying the wine list I was impressed with Schramsberg at (\$9) a glass and a Tantara Chardonnay at (\$9) as well.

For complete menu and prices www.houston.com

Service 4 Stars
Food 3 Stars

Make sure you make reservations, a wait is likely without. 320 S. Arroyo Pkwy. Pasadena (626) 577-6001

For additional dining discoveries check out my TV Show The Chef Knows on KJLA TV every Saturday afternoon at 3 PM !!

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

EDUCATION ON THE ROPES

A free public forum

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The students are failing. The schools are failing. And there's no money. What's The No Child Left Behind Act to do? The League of Women Voters Pasadena Area is sponsoring a free public forum examining the controversial act currently under scrutiny by Congress. The forum also will address the financial consequences of Gov Schwarzenegger's state-budget propositions on the May ballot.

The forum will be April 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Women's City Club, 162 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena. Free parking is behind the club off Madison Avenue. Simultaneous Spanish translation will be provided.

The forum will look at why the act is important; how the federal legislation left so many children behind -- in particular English learners and special education students -- and other effects on local schools, plus the kinds of changes that would achieve the goal of improving student and school performance.

Alice Petrossian, chief academic officer of the Pasadena Unified School District, and Terry Dutton, an authority on measuring academic performance, will discuss the goals of the act and how it fits in the California system of education.

A panel of school officials from South Pasadena, Alhambra and Monrovia will discuss the effects of No Child Left Behind in their districts, particularly in regard to minority students. Panelists are Janet Anderson, principal of South Pasadena High School; Dr. Debby Collins, associate superintendent, Monrovia Unified School District; Harold Standerfer, deputy superintendent, Alhambra Unified School District.

Rick Pratt, assistant director of the California School Boards, will speak after lunch about changes that need to be made to the Not Child Left Behind Act and the financial blow schools could feel from the propositions on the May ballot.

KPAS television will record the program on DVDs that will include summary translations in Spanish, Armenian and Mandarin. The League will distribute DVDs free to various school organizations representing minority students and will be available for sale at \$10 each at a later date.

An optional lunch is available for \$20 by reservation. The deadline for luncheon reservations is Friday, March 27. The number for further information is 626-798-0965.

PICNIC - A Review by Despina Arzouman



The Sierra Madre Playhouse is currently presenting a revival of the Pulitzer Prize winning play "PICNIC," by William Inge, written over half a century ago (in 1953). Director Bob Hakman, together with the cast of actors, did a great job in recreating a place-in-time when some of the 'freedoms' we take for granted today were virtually taboo 56 years ago.

As I observed the multiple romantic conflicts unfolding, and the interpersonal "push-and-pull" of sexual tensions between the male and female character portrayals (albeit in the social context of the 1950's), I wondered: "Does human nature ever really change?" This play elicited a feeling in me that also recalled the tumultuous emotions exhibited by the characters in the film "A Street Car Named Desire" (preceding this Broadway show by only 2 years). I found myself gazing at the stage and listening to every character's out-cries and reasonings as if each of their voices were one-collective-entity -- and each individual perspective represented an aspect or thought vying for my attention within my own psyche (presently or in years passed).

Then, as I pulled my attention back into current times, I realized that despite the "revolutionary" changes we've witnessed over the past five decades with regard to civil rights, "women's liberation" issues, personal freedoms, etc, the conflicts that go on between people remain relatively the same. I reflected on people I've known throughout my life, and recall witnessing familial and cultural viewpoints which have (subliminally) gotten programmed into all us by our forefathers for millennia. So, of course 56 yrs have passed with little evolutionary progress!

Humanity has e'er struggled to survive (on many levels), and we each heartily seek to find some special meaning in being alive. Yet, in our attempt to love and protect our family and those we love; we, in turn, also turn friends and neighbors into enemies. PICNIC depicted those struggles in a timeless way. Yet, it is always noteworthy to see how little emphasis

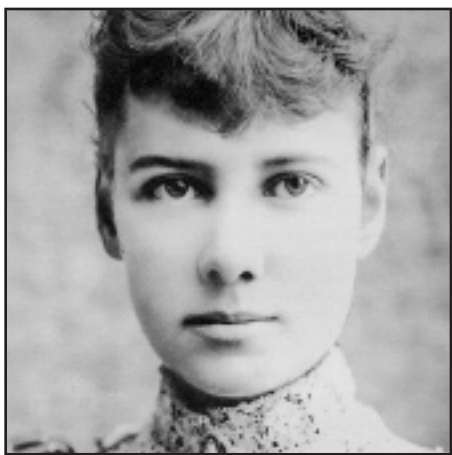
is made towards learning to really get to know one's self. The learning of traditional family preferences, and prejudices, and superstitions, gets programmed into us (or not), and often, without thinking, we go out and start judging others, or try to conform to another's programming in order to "fit in" or justify a "change." Everyone wants to belong to someone, or something, but few people ever become able to belong to themselves (i.e. "own" who they are mindfully, whilst being free from the impulses of nature). It seems so clear that while even such brilliant script writers can so eloquently document the repetitive and lifes-long interplays (and power plays) between men and women, parents and progeny, siblings, neighbors, there are more subtle repressions that get ignored. Consider someone feeling the need to suppress a personal attribute because they may be accused of not being "masculine" or "feminine" enough. That "hiding" may well fester and more likely than not, breed confusion. Perhaps we all know someone like the character Hal Carter, a lonely "outsider" who obviously has a level of sensitivity that he feels the need to suppress, but never learns to manage the tension that builds up because of such suppression. And then there is Madge Owens, the beautiful girl who is looked upon almost as if she is an inanimate adornment. How does one reckon with the fact that they are a sentient being, yet is practically ignored in that way.

Whatever is one's mindset, I think this play is worth seeing. Everyone involved in putting this production together has worked very hard and their efforts have not gone unnoticed. I sincerely laud everyone (even though their names are not mentioned herein).

PICNIC is playing through April 11, 2009 at the Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. For tickets call (626) 256-3809; Group Reservations call (626) 836-2125; or visit online at www.sierramadreplayhouse.org.

In Honor of Women's History Month: Elizabeth Jane Cochrane (Nelly Bly)

Introduction by Pat Birdsall



Last week while researching information on Clara Shortridge Foltz, I discovered a website that is actually uplifting—what a concept. It features inspiring "hero" stories from around the world. The site strives to celebrate the best in humanity... They are: www.myhero.com. The following was written by Penelope from Boise, about her Writer Hero: Nellie Bly

Elizabeth Jane Cochrane is the first known female reporter, and one of the most popular writers of her day. By going "undercover" to report on a range of subjects from slum conditions to municipal corruption, she influenced public opinion on the most significant social issues of her day. By courageous example, she helped women to win respect as journalists in their own right. Her pen name was Nellie Bly, after a fictitious character in a

popular song, and she signed all her stories with that catchy byline.

Born in 1865, Cochrane was the daughter of Judge Michael Cochrane and Mary Jane Kennedy. She grew up in Apollo, Pennsylvania and was hired as a reporter after sending an angry response to an editorial in the local paper that negatively portrayed women. Known for developing modern day reporting methods, she once went undercover at an insane asylum where she did such a convincing job of playing "crazy" that doctors, and even the police, refused to let her out. After 10 days of pleading her sanity, she was released, bailed out by her former editor. Bly spent two hours soaking in a warm bath, and then sat down to pen two controversial stories revealing what she had seen and how she had been treated in the "madhouse."

The high point in her life, however, was the impressive round-the-world trip by boat, train and horse, which she made in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes and 14 seconds. Famed publisher Joseph Pulitzer sent a special train to meet her glorious return to San Francisco, where she was greeted by fireworks, gun salutes, brass bands and a parade on Broadway.

Though she married millionaire Robert Seaman, who was 50 years her senior, she died destitute on January 27, 1922. Bly's "inside" stories resulted in a heightened awareness of societal problems, and this awareness in turn opened the way in many cases to real social change. As a woman writing about her travels around the world, she opened doors for other women to lead heroic lives and achieve ambitious personal and professional goals.

Cherry Blossom Festival Thrives in Little Tokyo

by La Quetta M. Shamblee

The impressive steel and glass of the Pavilion's Aratani Cental Hall at the Japanese American National Museum provided an elegant backdrop for the buzz of more than two hundred guests at a annual reception that has become one of the hottest tickets in town. The VIP Reception & Silent Auction marks the official kick-off for the 2009 Annual Cherry Blossom Festival of Southern California. Launched eight years ago in Pasadena by Wendy Fujihara-Anderson, the free two-day weekend festival relocated to Little Tokyo three years ago.

Each guest was treated to a most impressive and tasty array of hors d'oeuvres and sake provided by Pasadena's popular Japanese restaurant, Japon Bistro. Guests with a preference for barley, wheat and hops were treated to perfectly chilled bottles of adult refreshments sponsored by Kirin Beer. The selections were rounded out with a one-of-a-kind margarita mixed by Carnivoxo Liqueur with their signature green libation imported from France. Live music by the acoustic violin-guitar duo of he Panache Orchestra from Tokyo, Japan with "Chi" Saito & Brenda added the final detail of elegance to the evening.

California State Controller, John Chiang and the Mayor of Gardena and Assistant Sheriff for LA County, Paul K. Tanaka were among the list of public officials mingling with an A-list of owners, directors and manager of businesses and nonprofits alike. After a brief presentation to acknowledge the museum and other generous event sponsors, the upcoming event received a symbolic ceremonial green light with an official announcement of the upcoming festivities by Junichi Ihara, Consul General of Japan in

Los Angeles.

The crowd was abuzz after hearing about some of the activities that will take place on one of the four stages throughout the weekend of April 4th and 5th. Images of LA Councilmember Jan Perry on the mainstage performing a traditional Japanese wedding dance in a kimono proved as intriguing as the nonstop demonstrations on the martial arts stage. The free arts and crafts tent is a favorite activity for young children and their parents.

A ukulele band, hula dancers and steel slide guitars will be featured onstage in the Hawaiian Village. Local teachers from Pasadena and other local cities nominated by principals, peers and colleagues will be acknowledged and honored. The "Best in Festival Most Photogenic Dog Contest" is a new attraction this year. The contest is co-sponsored by Hollywood Paws, an exclusive, first-of-its kind agency that trains and prepares family pets for work in film television, commercials and print.

More than 25,000 families and children will pass through the main entrance at First Street and Central Avenue throughout the weekend. Admission is free. A food court, as well as a variety of vendors with unique clothing, jewelry, specialty gift items and activities for children will be available.

Location: Little Tokyo in downtown Los Angeles. Hours: Saturday, 10:30am-6:30 and 10:30am-5:30pm on Sunday. Take the Metro Goldline from Pasadena and save on gas and the hassles of traffic and parking (www.metro.net) For directions and detailed information about festival activities, visit www.cherryblossomofsfocal.org





The Senior By Bruce Lamarche TOO MUCH INFORMATION !! Spot

Cell phones, internet, e-mail, texting, blogging . . . all this seems like too much information. Connectivity is the buzz word of today. What is your cell number? Can I e-mail you the information? Check the web for 800 versions of the same information!

All this technology can become a real stress inducer and most of it is not necessary for a life lived well. It seems that if you don't do e-mail and have a cell phone glued to your hip at all times that there must be something wrong with you. Not so! It is true that this world is leaping over itself with technological tools (or should I say toys?) Our society worked just fine for so many years with folks not being available after they got off work at 5P.M. Why do we fall for all this artificially induced stress via gadgets that allow us to be in touch 24 hours a day.

Health experts are able to chart the increase stress levels with "modern" man as he totes his electronics around all day and night. There is no down time allowed any more for those who don't deal with this onslaught. Our "flight or fight" adrenalin response keeps us on constant alert. This is bad for health. It was made for fleeing a saber tooth tiger once a month, not for hourly use. Adrenalin is actually toxic to our bodies when it is activated constantly. It causes a depressed immune system and makes you susceptible to illness.

Symptoms are showing up as compulsive behavior. Our cell phone or home phone rings and we feel compelled to answer it within the three rings before voice mail records the message and then pages with the fact that we have a message. Our computers stay on all the time and we constantly check our e-mail for . . . well, we're not sure what. The news on the TV interrupts programming for urgent coverage of a car chase 25 miles away. The news anchors cover "important" stories like the mother with eight babies as she arrives

home with two of them. We sit and watch this like zombies. Why do we let this happen to us?

The control of these stressors is really easy. Just turn them off and don't answer the telephone. Start responding to these things on your own schedule. It's the way life has been lived for a very long time and it still works.

Suggestions to regain control:

- 1) Don't answer the telephone if it's not convenient.
- 2) If you don't recognize the number on caller ID check the message later at your leisure. If you don't have caller ID, just call the phone company and have it turned on. It will allow you to screen your calls.
- 3) If you have a computer, pick a time once a day to check your e-mail and respond.
- 4) Put yourself on the National Do-Not-Call registry. You can do this on computer at www.donotcall.gov. If you don't have a computer, go to the public library and ask them to help do it.
- 5) Practice saying "NO" to people who request things of you that you really don't want to do. It's OK to say no.

Take control over your life. When you feel stressed by a situation and that "flight or fight" reaction kicks in, use it as a signal to take back control and think of why this is causing a reaction. Then take action by declining these kind of pressures. It's your life, choose to control it.

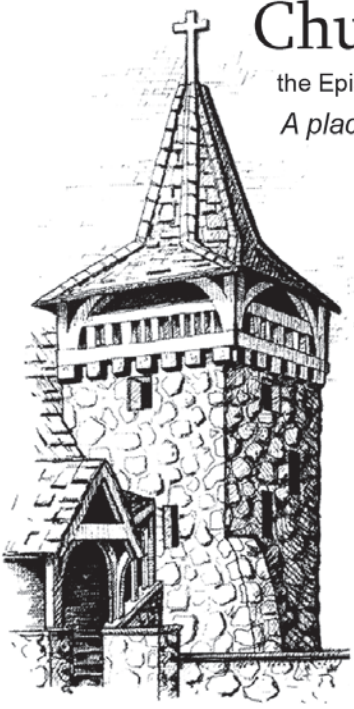
Got a question? Ask Bruce by phone-(626)335-3412 or e-mail: blamarche@verizon.net. This article is provided by Bruce Lamarche, a member of Society of Certified Senior Advisors, www.csa.us. Bruce's company, R & B Reverse Mortgage Services (Glendora) helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining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

Villa Esperanza Services Adult Day Program Open House & Community Provider Fair

Villa Esperanza Services invites you to the Adult Day Program (ADP) Open House and Community Provider Fair on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon. The open house is free and open to the public. This is an opportunity to tour Villa's ADP and to learn about community services that help seniors and disabled adults stay healthy and independent. Free blood pressure checks along with refreshments and door prizes will be available. The event will be at Villa's ADP, located at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1757 North Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91104.

"Caregivers often experience enormous stress from their responsibilities in caring for a loved one," shares Nikki Cavalier, Villa's Vice President of Senior Services. "Many family caregivers find themselves raising children while also caring for an older adult family member. Finding practical ways to cope and obtain assistance are of paramount importance." Villa's ADP is available to assist caregivers; those who attend the open house will learn about the community care options available to support caregivers such as the Adult Day Program and Care Management Program at Villa Esperanza Services. Adult day programs and care management programs offer families the opportunity for respite care so that they can take a break from the demands of providing constant care to a loved one.

Villa's Adult Day Program serves vulnerable at-risk adults and seniors along with individuals with developmental disabilities. Villa was founded in 1961 by a group who believed their developmentally disabled children deserved quality care and education. Today, Villa provides a range of programs serving a diverse disabled population of over 1050 individuals in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, including children and adults with special needs associated with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other intellectual and developmental disabilities, and vulnerable at-risk adults and seniors. www.VillaEsperanzaServices.org. For more information or to RSVP for the open house please call (626) 398-4435, ext. 18.



Church of the Ascension

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Holy Week And Easter Services April 5 - April 12

Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:15 am
Monday of Holy Week Holy Eucharist 7 pm
Tuesday of Holy Week Holy Eucharist 7 pm

Wednesday of Holy week
Holy Eucharist noon
Tenebrae 7 pm

Maundy Thursday
Holy Eucharist 7 am
Footwashing and Eucharist 7 pm

Good Friday
Stations of the cross noon
The passion Liturgy 7 pm

Easter Sunday
The Great Vigil and Eucharist 6 am
Children's egg hunt 8:45 am
Baptism and Festival Eucharist 10:15 am

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI: Scam Alerts Part 2

Congratulations! The letter or e-mail tells you that you have won a foreign lottery. You certainly don't recall entering the lottery, but hey, you won. The thing is to collect this prize you'll have to first pay your taxes and fees. Oh, by the way, you didn't really win. But you will have lost all those "taxes" and "fees."

Vacation Prize Promotions- You're told that you have been selected to receive a "luxury" vacation at a bargain-basement price. But the accommodations aren't deluxe and upgrades are expensive.

Avoiding Foreclosure- In a particularly ugly scam, companies target those who can least afford to lose their money. They target those about to lose their homes to foreclosure. The "company" claims that after being paid a fee up-front they will work with your mortgage lender to keep you living in the house. Typically, they do nothing but take your money and leave.

~Helpful Hints~

When Life Hands You Lemons...

To get the most juice out of fresh lemons, bring them to room temperature and roll them under your palm against the kitchen counter before squeezing. This will break down the connective tissue and juice-cell walls, allowing the lemon to release more liquid when you squeeze it. This also works well for getting the most out of oranges and grapefruits.



Happy Birthday!

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

For Your Funny Bone

An elderly couple had been shopping at the grocery store and the wife decided to steal a can of peaches. The inevitable happened and she was caught. Upon her court date, the judge asked her what she had stolen. "Your honor, I stole a can of peaches." The judge replied, "How many peaches were in the can?" She said, "Six." The judge then said, "I will sentence you to six days in jail." Her husband stood up behind her and replied, "Your Honor, she also stole a can of peas." - RD

~ ~ ~ ~

At the busy dental office where I work, one patient was always late. Once when I called to confirm an appointment, he said, "I'll be about 15 minutes late. That won't be a problem, will it?" "No," I told him. "We just won't have time to give you an anesthetic." He arrived early. - RD

Quote: A woman can say more in a sigh than a man can say in a sermon.

~Arnold Haultain~

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.)

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

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

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:

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



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

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See the "Senior Spot" column weekly!

One Of A Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them

By Chris Bertrand

“Mayberry” in Monrovia - Wildrose Becomes City’s First Historic District



Chris Bertrand



The Wildrose Tract in Monrovia became the city’s first historic district on March 17th, nearly a century after most of these homes were built in 1911. A crowd of proud homeowners gathered with city officials and historical society volunteers to celebrate the designation. Most of the homes on the block were constructed by the Tifal brothers, representing just a small portion of the 350 quality homes built by the three brothers here in Los Angeles.

No cookie cutter homes here! Though not fancy, this block benefits from a goodly dose of character and the stability of residents with longevity. In nearly a century, many of these houses have seen only three or four owners, many of whom have been happily bitten by the restoration bug.

Wildrose is home to manicured homes that exude pride of ownership with pleasing exterior features repeated inside, like the tapered columns. Nearly all of the homes had been buffed and polished for the event. Fresh paint, fresh bedding flowers and lots of hard work clearly showed. These folks are rightly proud of their neighborhood. Many of them now proudly display historic designation plaques today.

Words like charming and welcoming come immediately to mind. Spacious front porches sport well used furniture where neighbors actually sit and rock, chatting with the “extended family” that shares this special block. People actually talk to each other, know about each other and watch out for one another.

Residents are proud that the

landscape flows openly from lawn to lawn, which also keeps the communication lines open. When someone comes out for a breather on the porch or the front yard, they can easily chat with neighbors a house or two away.

One of my favorite features are the river rock pillars, porches and flower beds on several of the Wildrose homes, affording them a strong statement of permanence. Many of the front doors are particularly noteworthy, as well, and have been preserved or restored with loving care.

The Keelers, residents of 331 Wildrose, even maintain and operate a MySpace site for the neighborhood: www.Myspace.com/MonroviaHDI, which includes great photos of some of the historic homes inside and out.

Just a few blocks from the bustling downtown Monrovia, Wildrose feels a bit like the perfect small town America, yet it’s convenient and accessible to all of Los Angeles, with I-210, I-605 and bus service nearby.

After an exciting afternoon of dignitary visits, media and hoopla, I found many of the neighbors hanging out with an almost audible sigh of contentment... on those great front porches. It really speaks to what this neighborhood is all about!



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Overtime, your clay pots will age nicely. If you don't want to wait that long you can speed up the process yourself. Here's how:

Stir up 1 cup of lime powder (can find at your local nursery) into 2 cups of water until it thickens. Apply the solution onto the pot with a paintbrush - heavy in some areas and thinner in others (so you can get a more natural look when it eventually dries.) While the pot is still wet, with a spray bottle set on “mist” and spray some areas with water. Leave to dry, then sand it down in spots with medium-grit sandpaper to your liking.

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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 February.

PEOPLE IN REAL ESTATE

Honored were: Thom Bluemel for “Most Listings Taken,” Tom Davis for “Most Open Sales” and Peggy Fong Chen for “Top Open Gross Dollar Producer.”

Agents also honored for “Outstanding Per-

formance” were: Thom Bluemel, Peggy Fong Chen, Tom Davis, 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.



Jeannie Vukovich



Peggy Fong Chen



Tom Davis

Coldwell Banker Open Houses

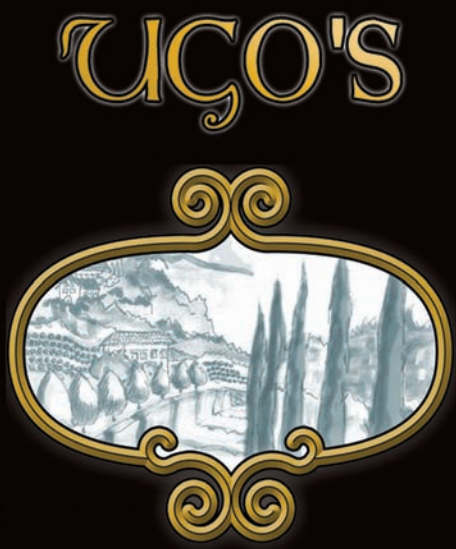
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City of SIERRA MADRE

2008-2014 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

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

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

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

What are Sierra Madre's most important housing needs?

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

What sites are appropriate for future housing growth?

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009

6:30-8:00 PM

SIERRA MADRE ROOM
Sierra Madre Recreation Center
611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Light refreshments will be provided.

FOR INFORMATION

DANNY CASTRO
Director of Development Services
City of Sierra Madre
626-355-7138
dcastro@cityofsierramadre.com

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