

## Lt. Stephen Abernethy: Sierra Madre's Million Dollar Man



Photo Courtesy Sierra Madre Police Department

By Susan Henderson

The numbers are amazing: 500,000+ hours of service to the City of Sierra Madre, and that figure doesn't include his off duty hours. More than \$1 million in grants for our police officers. In his 24 years as a Sierra Madre Police Officer he has made a difference

in many lives. On December 27, 2006, Steve will be retiring from the Sierra Madre Police Department.

Born and reared here, he is a true Sierra Madre treasure. He attended Sierra Madre Elementary School, Sierra Mesa School, Wilson Middle School and Pasadena High School. This town is truly his first love, having left only briefly to live in Monrovia as a young adult. Stephen has a Masters Degree from Cal State Long Beach and holds five out of six possible POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) Certificates.

Coming up through the ranks with the SMPD, Stephen will retire as Lieutenant Abernethy. During his tenure, he was also head of the SM Police Officers Association for nine years. He is to be credited for soliciting and managing grants for the department in excess of \$1 million and writing the first MOU (operating manual) for the Department.

Stephen was voted Officer Of The Year in 1984 and used to dominate the Officer Of The Month Awards.

Abernethy's knowledge of Sierra Madre is irreplaceable. His experience includes working with 38 Councilpersons; 16 Mayors; 7 City Managers, 8 Police

Chiefs; More than 90 Police Officers and Reserves, and 40 Dispatchers (partial listing).

Married to Cynthia, who handles Estate Sales, Abernethy has also raised the bar for husbands. Every month since they have been married, and for the eight years prior to their marriage, Stephen sends Cynthia a greeting card. Every month!

His experiences in this town have ranged from shootings to managing wayward cougars, with affectionate memories of being with friends at the Beer Garden on the Fourth of July. There, he says, "many of the people I've dealt with over the years come back to thank me."

As for his plans after retirement, "to have some fun, travel, I don't really know." Whatever it is, we hope he doesn't go too far.

Say hello - or goodbye - to Lt. Stephen Abernethy at his retirement party Thursday January 4 at the Woman's Club from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

RSVP to Code Enforcement Officer Lisa Volpe at 355-1414. Tickets are \$25 each.

### Stephen Abernethy At A Glance

Wife of 115 Months:	Cynthia
Mom:	Rosemary at Arnold's Hardware
Dad:	James Franklin Abernethy
	3 Term Sierra Madre Mayor (deceased)
Granddad:	Alson Edward Abernethy
	Mayor of Pasadena 1952
Best Bowser:	Gracie the Weimaraner
Hobbies:	Plays Coronet, Trumpet, Guitar.
Collects:	Post Cards & SM Campaign Signs
Travels:	32 Countries; 48 States
Happiest Day No. 1:	When Chief Betts hired him
Happiest Day No. 2:	When he retired.



Photo By Jacqueline Truong

### Kayce & Kendra's Winter Wonderland

Tim Osti decorated all the homes near his own on Auburn, just north of Sierra Madre Blvd. Osti made a world of holiday delights for all the kids he knows, with tiny trees for them to decorate. The collection includes a bonsai-like Sequoyah Redwood, which he acquired 19 years ago when he married his wife, Ana.

"I feel so blessed growing up here and being able to live and work in Sierra Madre," said Osti. The Wonderland is named for his granddaughters. There are candy canes, snowflake lights and crooning carolers on the sound system.

There is also Abby's Memorial Tree, which has ornaments bearing the names of loved ones. Residents are welcome to hang a remembrance ornament on it. "The holidays are a joyful time, but also a troubling time if you've lost somebody," said Osti. Come and see The Wonderland, one man's heartfelt gift to the city.



Photo By Jacqueline Truong

This beautiful hummingbird has secured her seat at the Rose Parade on the Sierra Madre Float.

## On The Brink: Two Opposing Strategies Inch Forward Initiative Date Set as High Density and Traffic Issues Loom

By Katina Dunn

Supporters of high density projects in the downtown area have spoken for weeks about the importance of delaying the vote on the Voters' Empowerment Initiative also known as 2-30-13.

Building plans have been submitted to City Hall, awaiting approval. The City Council voted Tuesday 3 to 2 to plan

on an election April 17 - possibly consolidating with the school board election for Arcadia Unified School District - and paired that with commissioning a study of the initiative.

"We've had a study," said Council Member Kurt Zimmerman. "It's called 'What Sierra Madre Looks Like Today' and that's why I live in Sierra Madre."

The council could have called a special election

in March.

"I did tell a friend 'you might want to get some popcorn and watch the city council meeting...'" said Mayor John Buchanan early in the evening.

The last council meeting of the year went on past 1 a.m., with two breaks called to relax agitated citizens.

Confusion by some residents centered on the restrictions in the (Continued on Page 4)

### 3 Charged With Assault on Teen

Two more people were recently arrested in connection with the assault on a 17 year-old Sierra Madre youth last week in Memorial Park. Although five adult arrests were made, only three were charged in the vicious attack. They are Ryan Swender, 18 of Arcadia, Richfield Chang, 24 of the El Sereno area of Los Angeles and Marvin Chang, 18 of Monterey Park.

Swender has been charged with attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and two counts of

terrorist threats. His bail was set at \$1 million and he was released three days after his arrest. However, Richfield Chang remains in custody. Bail has been set at \$1.5 million dollars. He is also under a Department of Corrections hold. The third defendant, Marvin Chang is also still in custody with a \$1.5 million bail. Both Changs have been charged with Attempted Murder and Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Three others that were initially arrested have been released. They were Emily Chang, 19 of Monterey Park, Daniel Shih 18, and Dane Ensley, also 18 of Pasadena. (Continued Page 3)

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Coffee House Approved For Congregational Church Page 3



Photos by Jacqueline Truong

Scrooge strolls Pasadena, where he finds Tiffany's utterly extravagant. (Full Story Page 3)



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# Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2



Friday:	Clear	Hi 60s-70s	Lows 40s-50s	Windy
Saturday:	Clear	Hi 50s-70s	Lows 40s-50s	Windy
Sunday:	Clear	Hi 50s-60s	Lows 40s-50s	40% Chance - Showers
Monday:	Clear	Hi 60s-70s	Lows 30s-40s	
Tuesday:	Clear	Hi 60s-70s	Lows 30s-40s	

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



## Citizens' Datebook

Wednesday, December 20th  
Tree Advisory Commission 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 21st  
Senior Commission 3 p.m.

Thursday, December 28  
Library Board of Trustees 7 p.m.

Please check with City Hall for changes and/or additional information.  
(626) 355-7135



## Sierra Madre Christmas Tree Lot

283 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
next to Arnold's Hardware  
Monday - Thursday  
3 to 10 p.m.

Friday - Saturday  
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Sunday from noon to 8 p.m.  
(626) 355-5552

Percentage to Sierra Madre  
Firefighters Association  
Delivery Available

"Guaranteed to be more fun than Home Depot!"



## Roy Roams' 91024

### Milt's Lot

Roberta Goldberg thanked members of the City Council Tuesday for their unanimous agreement to purchase her father Milt's property to use as a children's park. The property was purchased for \$550,000 with funds restricted for open spaces and will be paid in three payments over three years. Mayor Pro Tem Enid Joffe recused herself from the vote because she is a family friend. Thanks to the Goldberg's for allowing this favored spot among kids to become an official park.

### A Special Hello to Lois

Greetings to Ms. Lois Herron, who called to say that she loves reading our newspaper which friends thoughtfully mailed to the former Sierra Madre resident. Ms. Herron - who is 90 years-old - lived in Sierra Madre in the 1950s. She has fond memories, including swimming in the cold water of the Canyon Pool and listening in on the uproar when Safeway proposed building a market on Baldwin Avenue that stretched all the way from Sierra Madre Blvd. to Montecito.

Although she no longer resides here, she still loves this "wonderful little town."

### Sincere Well Wishes for Bob

Famed German Shepherd trainer Bob Penny is recovering from a recent heart attack. Just last week at Beantown, people were praising Penny's finesse with dogs while watching the parade of canines go by the café.

### Age Faster with Stereotypes

Secrets to living longer and healthier include, of course, nutrition and - freedom from stereotypical thinking. Senior activists are protesting stereotypes of seniors in the media as "old, fat, feeble minded..." and other unflattering traits. Those stereotypes do nothing to foster ageing well. This and other topics at the Senior Commission meeting December 7.

New rain gutters are installed at Hart Memorial Park House as part of the

ongoing Cinderella project. Plus, thanks to The Senior Commission for more than 270 free flu shots given recently.

### Hurry Up & Wait

The rest of the names were drawn for Senior Housing and there was some tugging about when notification should expire for accepted applicants who have not responded by the deadline with a yes or no.

Of 46 units, 44 are eligible for occupancy in the drawing. Out of 33 names drawn October 5, only 12 sent in applications after notification. Project Director Gary Braverman said his "gut feeling" was to wait. "Working with seniors, I understand things get misplaced or forgotten," he said. Some tough commissioners were ready to clamp down on the deadline, though. Braverman stood his ground. "I do want to follow up with another call," he insisted.

### Plan C for Pasadena Print Reporters

TV and Radio people attended last week's press conference by Planned Parenthood in Pasadena - but no newspaper reporters attended. The news was that Plan B - or the "Morning After Pill" - is now available over-the-counter for women 18 years of age and older. The package costs about \$35. For questions by citizens or reporters, call (626) 798-0706.

### Son of The Flag Flap

Media in Sierra Madre will be allowed to use the lovely city flag to accompany listings of city meetings, Council Member Don Watts said the idea is "basically you as a citizen would like to show your public spirit" and resident Fay Angus said "I think we can rally around this flag." The image of the flag is not intended to appear as an official city document, or endorsement of any particular media.

### Sincere Apologies to Rick Simpson

The devoted Congregational Church volunteer abandoned plans for the entertainment complex which required 50 parking spaces for a coffee house and news stand - and no floral shop!

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Keep Your Voice Alive & Sing  
Sundays with the Opera Greats

### Café 322

From 6:30 p.m.

Pianist Danny Guerrero with  
Domenico Zangeri, Norma Guerrero,  
Mario Storace, Mark Almy, Diana  
Briscoe, Mario and Edalyn Lalli and  
more. Free admission.

322 Sierra Madre Blvd.

Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

### Farmer's Market

Every Saturday

8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Grapes, apples, pears, nuts and Lily's  
Herbs & Greens. Local honey and  
fresh baked bread. Menudo & tamale  
stand. PHS parking lot

2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

### Beantown

45 N. Baldwin

(626) 355-1596

Sunday, December 24 at 7 p.m.

### Santa Claus on The Fire Truck

Sierra Madre City Hall All children will  
receive a holiday stocking  
Courtesy of Sierra Madre Fire Fighters  
Association

### Save These Dates!

Saturday, December 30 at 9 a.m.

### Capture the Flag

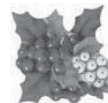
Sierra Vista Park near Heasley Field  
All Ages

Sponsored by the City of Sierra  
Madre Community Services  
Commission's Healthy Parks Program

Tuesday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m.

### Trails, Tall Tales and Timber

By Terry Terrell, mountain historian  
Sierra Madre Historical Society  
Sierra Madre Woman's Club  
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
For more info, call Phyllis Chapman  
(626) 355-3928



## LIBRARY DISPLAYS SEASONS GREETINGS FROM SIERRA MADREANS

During the month of December, the Sierra Madre Public Library's display case features holiday cards sent from the village of Sierra Madre over the years. These include hand made cards, photographic cards, and cards designed by artists Margaret Cash, Alfred James Dewey, Catherine Snell Tuttle, and Marvin Weese. Photographs depicting Sierra Madre holiday traditions such as Santa's visit to City Hall and the Noble Jefferson tree are also displayed for the community to enjoy. All materials are from the Sierra Madre Historical Archives Collection. Special thanks to volunteer Jeanne Frederick for helping to select materials and install this joyful display. The public is welcome during the Library's open hours: Monday through Wednesday from 12 noon to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 12 noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre. For further information on Library services and programs please visit the Library's web site at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us) or call the Library at (626) 355-7186.

## Remembrances

### Donald Mathias Kelly, 82, Lawyer and Explorer



(Photo courtesy of the Kelly family)

Donald Mathias Kelly was born in Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, Canada on December 29, 1924 and died November 27, 2006 in Sierra Madre, California. Survived by Gretchen, his beloved wife of 55 years; son and daughter-in-law Terry and Alison; grandsons Ian, Conor, Morgan and Colin; sisters Katherine Kelly and Claire Bennett and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Upon graduation from high school in 1942, Don joined The United States Marine Corps serving in the South Pacific until 1945. He moved to Riverside, California in 1952,

and graduated from U.C. Riverside. He worked for the State of California in various capacities including clemency investigator for Governors Pat Brown and Ronald Reagan.

After attending Southwestern University School of Law, he retired from state service and commenced the practice of law in January 1975 in Los Angeles and Pasadena until retirement in 1991.

He served on the Board of Trustees of the Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library from 1979 to 1987, including four years as chair. At the time of his retirement from that Board, Marylyn Barnes published the following:

"But it is the manner of this man. A lawyer, Don Kelly is an excellent leader, a clear thinker with a penetrating ability to get to the heart of the matter. It is his sense of humor, his love of jokes and anecdotes that set him apart."

Don was an avid reader, enjoyed woodworking, and loved the outdoors throughout the Southwest but in particular the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains where he enjoyed fishing, camping, hiking, and exploring ghost towns, mines and Indian encampments. He was quick-witted, never forgot a joke, and was a shameless punster.

A private ceremony will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library, P.O. Box 334, Sierra Madre, CA 91025; or the Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

## 2006 Sierra Madre Citizen Of The Year Nominations

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce seeks to honor one individual citizen for his or her accomplishments or project(s) that have been of benefit to the community of Sierra Madre in 2006. Members of the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, as well as citizens, civic and service organizations are invited to submit nominations.

To qualify for nomination as Citizen of the Year, nominees must be residents of Sierra Madre of any age, sex or race and may not have received any remuneration on the accomplishments or project(s) for which they are being nominated. Members of the current Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce are not eligible.

All nominations must be received in the Chamber office by December 15 at noon. A nomination form is attached and can also be found at the Chamber office, The Bottle Shop, Savor the Flavor, City Hall and the Library.

The award for Citizen of the Year will be presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation Dinner to be held at the Santa Anita Turf Club on January 26, 2007.

Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce  
78 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA 91024

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Celebrating Five Years

Matinee 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm

[www.pasjazz.org](http://www.pasjazz.org)



# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

## Ecology Update

### Border Security

The Secure Fence Act of 2006 is a wonderfully meaningless piece of legislation. Signed into law in a press conference just two weeks before the mid-term election (even though it had been approved by Congress a month earlier), it was supposed to remind us how hard our Republican representatives were working to keep our borders (and their seats) secure. It didn't really work all that well, did it?

But it is not surprising that nobody was impressed with this new law. Yes, it "authorizes" construction of hundreds of miles of additional fencing along our southern border. It "authorizes" more vehicle barriers, checkpoints, and lighting. And, it "authorizes" the increased use of cameras, satellites, and unmanned aerial vehicles (Join the Border Patrol! Fly remote control airplanes!).

Interestingly, the law does not provide funding for any of these purposes, or require that any steps actually be taken to bring about its provisions. (In the spirit of this law, Congress, I would like to take this opportunity to authorize the elimination of traffic on the 210. Do I need to hold a press conference?)

There are many reasonable objections to the building of a border fence between the United States and Mexico. Even if you set aside the fact that it is just kind of stinky, you are still left with the reality that it won't actually do much to stem illegal immigration. According to the journal Public Policy, two existing parallel fences that run through the most heavily populated part of the border in San Diego County are "routinely" crossed in "less than one minute."

As one Border Patrol Officer explained, "The fences were never meant to be more than a filter."

Other objections to the

are all likely outcomes of a new border fence. Cost is another factor that has some people cringing. It will take an estimated 4.2 billion dollars to complete the construction authorized in the Secure Fence Act.

But that money could also be used to buy, I don't know, a few hundred thousand libraries. So here's the thing. If we honestly think that we are going to solve illegal immigration without coming to terms with issues like global trade inequity, massive U.S. farm subsidies, and our demand for cheap strawberries at Super Target... if we think that all it's going to take is a fence in the desert, it had better be an impressive fence.

I'm talking 5<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese. They didn't let piddling concerns about money or the environment stand in the way of their security fence. Sure it took them 1,200 years, but they got it done. And not only did it keep the Mongolians at bay, eventually it turned into a tourist attraction. Today the Great Wall of China generates hundreds of millions of units of "People's Currency" each year.

So, if it's a fence we need, then, that's the kind of fence we should be building. None of this corrugated leftover bridge pieces nonsense - we need a great wall with watchtowers and smoke signals and panda bears in bamboo forests. So we can sell T-shirts and snow-globes to tourists in the year 3206. Either that or, thanks to global warming, we'll be sneaking south across the border to find halfway decent jobs picking strawberries and oranges.



Photo Courtesy of EPA

construction of such a boundary are related to environmental concerns. Disruption of the fragile desert ecosystem, bifurcation of migration routes, increased erosion, destruction of wetlands (near the coast), and habitat fragmentation

### Humbugging With Ebenezer

By Katina Dunn



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

At the British pub Lucky Baldwin's, he is yelled at by the bartender - "Hey! Where's the tip?"

Actor Barry Schwam is in his sixth year playing Scrooge, a role he inhabits so deeply that he says the Charles Dickens character "is embedded in my soul."

The Sierra Madre Playhouse presents its annual version of "The Christmas Carol Story" which will draw full houses through December 23. Schwam deconstructs the character into someone far beyond the crabbed and the cheap. First of all, he says, Scrooge survived a childhood of neglect and further suffered the loss of his one true love, Isabel, who abandoned him because of his devotion to money.

"The lure of business overwhelmed him," says

Schwam. Despite what became a major flaw, Scrooge had an even greater character asset, and that is, he was willing.

"He took full responsibility for everything he did," says Schwam. "He changed. He never blamed anybody for anything. He owned everything he was. He was his own person."

After his transformation spurred by supernatural forces, Scrooge has the weight lifted off his shoulders. He is transformed "merry as a schoolboy, giddy as a drunken man," Schwam quotes Dickens. And then he quotes the bible. "When you give, be a hilarious giver," he says. "You cannot receive until you give."

Spectators also experience this transformation. A business owner told Schwam after one show he was going to give his workers big bonuses. Others come away full of the feeling of generosity towards others.

If people understood Scrooge, they would be more compassionate, says Schwam. "He's very misunderstood."

Someday, Schwam hopes to host a cable TV talk show in the persona of Scrooge. Until then, he has a video for sale titled "Scrooge Speaks on the Art of Living" for the affordable sum of \$12.99 available at [www.barryschwamm.com](http://www.barryschwamm.com).

Out of costume, Schwam presents fire safety shows for children with L.A. Troupe in Education (818) 563-3093. The shows are offered free to schools sponsored by the Children's Burn Foundation (800) 949-8898.

In costume, visit the Playhouse website at [www.sierramadrepayhouse.com](http://www.sierramadrepayhouse.com) for showtimes for Schwam and John Szura, who both play Scrooge on different matinees and nights, or call the Playhouse at (626) 355-4318.

### Planning Commission Approves Church-Sponsored Coffee House

By Katina Dunn

The Planning Commission Wednesday night unanimously approved a coffee house and news stand at 142 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard planned by volunteers of the Congregational Church. The volunteers revised their plan, which had included an entertainment complex requiring parking spaces for 50 cars.

The newly revised plan is pared down to the coffee house and news stand only, which Rick Simpson - Chairman of the Retail Committee - called "very family friendly."

His wife, Margie Simpson, said the coffee house would be "a wonderful gathering place for all stages of life." The volunteers gathered in the lobby of city hall after the vote, relieved after what they described as 14 months of struggle to bring the project to fruition.

Coffee House Manager Betty Clark of Altadena said the menu would include cappuccinos, teas and smoothies. "I'm excited we're going to move ahead

and be of benefit to this town," said Clark.

Simpson elaborated on his hopes that the coffee house would be frequented by students of all ages after school. There are already volunteers who want to participate in Story Hour for the young ones. The space would be about 2,000 square feet.

The coffee house will be active in the city's Centennial celebrations, including a tasting to determine a Sierra Madre blend of coffee. Artists from the Creative Arts Group will hang their works on the walls. The grand opening will occur in a few months.

"It's something I think people will enjoy," said Simpson.

"The DSP (Downtown Specific Plan) suggests that bottom floors be retail, and not insurance companies or mortgage companies," said Simpson. "This is one thing people want. It happens to be sponsored by the church, but it is strictly a retail operation and will be paying taxes to the city."

### Former President Jimmy Carter Draws Crowd at Book Signing

By Nora Dunn

An estimated 2,300 people showed up for former President Jimmy Carter's book signing at Vroman's on Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena last Monday.

The event was covered by all major news media and the line, well organized by Vroman's staffers and kept in good order by a buoyant throng, extended from the bookstore at El Molino to Los Robles, four blocks west. Those with tickets were asked to be in line by 5:30 p.m. as Mr. Carter has been known to show up early. Many drank coffee and shared pizza as it took about two hours for those with higher numbers on their tickets to make it to President Carter. Several Secret Service agents strolled up and down the boulevard and a helicopter circled above.

A smattering of dissenters were gathered at the front entrance to Vroman's with placards condemning the President's controversial book, "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid," and a small chorus sang and handed out Lyndon Laroucheliterature. Those in line chimed in by singing "Deck The Halls" to a round of laughter.

Once in the store everyone was screened and advised to keep their hands out of their pockets at all times. There were a dozen more Secret Service agents leading upstairs to where Mr. Carter sat at a desk. Although those with books to be signed were warned by staffers that the former president

most likely would not have time to talk to us and we would not have time to speak to him, he did indeed look at and speak to each one of us as we filed past and everyone seemed to get a word in to him.

Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalyn founded The Carter Center in 1982 to advance peace and health worldwide. They also created Habitat for Humanity. In addition to his writings, the 39th President travels the globe to promote human rights, serves as an adviser on the Middle East, and has acted as a freelance ambassador on dozens of international missions.

President Carter appeared very fit and relaxed and seemed undaunted by the amount of signatures he was required to sign. Many who clutched their autographed copies stayed in the store downstairs and chatted, most agreeing that the wait was worth it.

Vroman's Book Store stages several book signings each month. For information, go to: [www.vromansbookstore.com](http://www.vromansbookstore.com) or call (626) 449-5320.



#### ARRESTS (Cont. From Pg. 1)

All three defendants are scheduled to appear in court on January 4, 2007 in Pasadena for a Preliminary Hearing.

The victim reportedly remains in stable condition.

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**INITIATIVE (Cont. from Pg. 1)** city's General Plan of 1996 – which calls for buildings of two stories, at 30 feet high and 13 units per acre. Council Member Don Watts explained that in 2004, “additional guidelines were put in place.” This apparently

was Zoning Ordinance 17.36 and allows for 30 units per acre or more in the commercial zone with a CUP. “There really wasn’t a public hearing,” said Watts. “The City Council quietly waived readings and passed changes.”

Watts then said, “It only takes three people to control the town. I want to see a little more democracy and a little less secretiveness. I don’t want to see any construction until after the vote.”

Council Member Kurt Zimmerman was in favor of adopting a 2-30-13 Ordinance that night, due to the 1,688 votes verified by the City Clerk’s office. “It frightens me,” he said, noting that developers moving about this “window of opportunity” have “rushed to submit their plans.”

Zimmerman said plans have been submitted for the Skilled Nursing Facility with 55 dwelling units, and the Howie’s market site for 72 dwelling units. “We have an opportunity this evening to restore the community’s faith in the city council,” he said.

Zimmerman pointed out Zoning Ordinance 17.37 – which Zimmerman calls the “Moratorium Ordinance” and City Attorney Michael Colantuono calls the “Interim Overlay Zone” – with respect to R3 density limits that matches Ordinance 17.28 with

its square footage formula that calculates out to 13 units per acre.

Former Mayor Glen Lambdin spoke about the General Plan being 30 units per acre, which was contested by citizen Fay Angus who quoted Lambdin from a conversation they had when he spoke of 13 units per acre; as well as Zimmerman, who quoted from Lambdin on a website where he referred to the city code as 13 units per acre.

Council Member Joe Mosca said “We need to elevate this conversation above what Kurt has lowered it to” at which point some citizens became angry and left City Hall, shouting “Recall!” and “Where’s the EIR?”

After a break, in which some citizens did not return, Buchanan said “If you’re able to have that threshold of support for an election, let’s have an election.”

Buchanan said April 17 would be the election date “come hell or high water.”

Zimmerman asked what would happen with respect to applications of projects in the downtown area.

City Attorney Michael Colantuono said “any new use requires a CUP – it doesn’t say you can’t build it.”

Buchanan said “I feel very comfortable there will be no approval vote until April 17th.”

Zimmerman said he was still worried at which point Mosca said “Nothing’s going to happen unless it comes to city council and there is a CUP process.”

Revised Specific Plan with EIR on “Upper Limits”

The next discussion on the direction to RBF Consultants

on the Downtown Specific Plan began with Mosca and Buchanan tossing out building incentives to developers. Buchanan said an EIR should be done on the “upper limit” which would be 30 units per acre. Buchanan said RBF should look at third story setbacks for lots larger than one acre. He talked about two stories at street level at 30 feet – or 40 for architectural features – and 2.0 FAR or Floor Area Ratio – which exceeds existing density of 1.5. “We’ll have an EIR based on the upper limits,” said Buchanan.

“We only have a couple large parcels,” Joffe referred to the Howie’s and Skilled Nursing sites. “I would like to consider treating these large parcels differently. There’s nothing that says everything downtown has to be treated the same.”

Joffe also suggested “Design Guidelines” in the Voters Empowerment Initiative (2-30-13) study as well as in the revised RBF study.

“In the design guidelines you have traffic implications... and a circulation plan,” said Buchanan. City Manager John Gillison added “You could do a parking management strategy for downtown right now.”

Gillison wanted to take the design guidelines and pull them out, take the current overlay and include the cumulative impacts of two projects and “move it forward” to the Planning Commission – “maybe February, March – move it through this process... I don’t see you having it before the April election.”

Gillison then suggested approaching parking management after the April election is over.

## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, December 3rd Saturday December 9th the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 263 calls for service.

### Monday, December 4th

9:24 AM – Vandalism, 300 Block West Grandview Ave. A resident called and reported her 2007 Infinity was keyed while parked in the driveway of her home. The Infinity had deep scratches to the hood, trunk lid, passenger door and fenders. The vandalism occurred between 8:00 PM Sunday, 12/3 and 8:00 AM Monday, 12/04. No estimated dollar loss is known at this time.

8:12 PM – Theft, 110 West Sierra Madre Blvd, The Only Place In Town. An employee of the restaurant reported her wallet was stolen while she was at work. The loss was a blue canvas Diesel brand Wallet, California driver’s license, \$100.00 cash and miscellaneous credit cards. The theft occurred Monday, 12/3 between 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM.

### Wednesday, December 6th

Pasadena police detectives arrested four additional suspects from the attempted murder that occurred on Friday, December 4, 2006 at Memorial Park. The suspects were: Richland Chang, MA 24, Los Angeles, Marvin Chang, MA 18, Monterey Park, Emily Chang, FA 19, Monterey Park, and Daniel Shih, MA 18, of Pasadena.

### Friday, December 8th

7:15 AM – Vandalism, 128 North Baldwin Ave, Verizon telephone building. An employee reported graffiti spray paint on the east wall of the Verizon building. The vandalism occurred between 2:30 PM Thursday, 12/7 and 6:30 AM Friday, 12/08.

8:39 AM – Residential burglary, 200 block North Baldwin Ave. A resident reported a Ping golf bag and Nike golf clubs were stolen from his backyard. A Dell computer was also stolen from his garage/office. The crime occurred between 7:30 PM Thursday, 12/7 and 7:00 AM Friday, 12/8. The total loss was estimated at \$4100.00.

3:17 PM – Theft, 1000 block Oakwood Place. A resident reported a bag of clothing donations were stolen from her unlocked car. The loss consisted of a bag of miscellaneous used clothes and two used cellular telephone. The loss was valued at \$100.00.

4:47 PM – Auto burglary, 500 block Camillo Street. A resident reported finding the driver’s side door of his locked Honda open and a Craftsman remote garage door opener stolen from the glove box. The passenger door was tampered with to open the locked door. A brown corduroy ski cap was also taken. The loss occurred 4:00 PM, 12/8 and 4:15 PM 12/8. Total loss \$60.00.

### Saturday, December 9th

4:11 AM – Vandalism, graffiti, 2000 block Arno Drive. The owner of a 2007 Bentley reported vandalism to his car. The car had red paint sprayed on the driver’s side. The damage occurred between 11:00 PM Friday, 12/8 and 4:00 AM Saturday, 12/9.

8:27 AM – Stolen vehicle, 200 block Carter Ave. A resident discovered his unlocked Honda Civic missing, 12/9 at 8:30 AM. The Honda was last seen Friday night 12/8 at 12:00 midnight parked in front of his house. The car was valued at \$3000.00.

1:04 PM – Vandalism, 128 North Baldwin Ave, Verizon telephone building. An employee reported graffiti spray paint on the east wall of the Verizon building. The vandalism occurred between Friday, 12/8 and Saturday, 12/9. The black and gray spray paint graffiti is in addition to the vandalism reported yesterday, 12/08.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Call Bonnie Colcher at (626) 355-7999.

The work is fun, and scheduled for weekends and the week between December 26th & New Year’s.



## Healthy Family Fun

Saturday, December 30, 2006  
9:00 am

Grab your sneakers, family, & friends

Capture the Flag

& come to Sierra Vista Park for a energizing Capture the Flag game.



Get Out and Get Active!



## Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown



In 2003, during one short time period, the wildfire moved East to West above Claremont, California at 8 miles an hour. When would you have started to gather items of importance to you, place them in your cars and evacuate your home? Preplanning is everything. The photos I have of the inside and outside of my home, cabinet and closet interiors and the attic, includes one photo of the TV—a hillside on fire on the news report. Preplanning is part of your preparation. Practice, too, by looking around your home and mentally evacuate the premises. Do you have an hour, a few minutes, half a day? The People and the Pets, the Photos and the Precious things. Maybe then some Paperwork. If it is all spread out, do some evacuation thinking now. File your inventory photos or video in a location away from your area.

The next Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council meeting is January 8, 2007.  
smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com

## Los Angeles Police Department Community Alert Notification

### Gift Cards Warning

The crooks have found a way to rob you of your gift card balance. If you buy Gift Cards from a display rack that has various store cards you may become a victim of theft. Crooks are now jotting down the card numbers in the store and then wait a few days and call to see how much of a balance THEY have on the card.

Once the card is “activated” they go online and start shopping.

You may want to purchase your card from a customer service person, or on-line, where they do not have Gift Cards viewable to the public.



# Ed Alverno, Arroyo Pacific Academy, La Salle, Pasadena High School, St. Francis, Sierra Mesa Middle School, The Barnhart School, The Gooden School, Sierra Madre Elementary School, Bethany Christian, St. Rita's, Wilson Middle School, Odyssey Charter School, Norma Coombs Alternative School, and the PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## The Season of Love and Tolerance

By Susan Henderson

As we enter the last month of the year, the spirit of the holidays is everywhere. It does not matter what religious or spiritual beliefs you embrace, the month of December, the month of the Winter Solstice, is filled with celebrations of Life, Good Will and Love. It's a time for us to embrace our differences and share the joy. How do you celebrate the winter holidays? Each of these very special celebrations have a common bond. They are all a very happy time which is marked by special prayers, visits to family and friends, focus on our children and, of course great food.



**December 8<sup>th</sup>** Buddhist: The Buddhist Community recently celebrated Bodhi Day or Rohatsu. It is a day traditionally honored as the day of Buddha's enlightenment by Zen Buddhists. Buddhists around the world dedicate December as a month in which they strive extra hard to throw away the outside and our attachments and concentrate on our efforts to live simply and within. According to Samten Tsomo, "Teaching our children about Rohatsu is a great way to remind ourselves of our goal of enlightenment and selfless living." The word Rohatsu is Japanese and literally means 8th Day of the 12th Month.

**December 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>** Hanukkah (Chanukah) A Jewish Community Celebration: "The narrow meaning of Hanukkah is the survival of the Jewish tradition. The broad meaning of Hanukkah, the universal meaning, is the triumph of religious freedom for all." Rev. David Bryce

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights or Festival of Rededication, is an eight day Jewish holiday which may be in December, late November, or, while very rare in occasion, early January. It is one of the most joyous times of the Jewish year. The festival is observed in Jewish homes by the kindling of lights on each of the festival's eight nights, one on the first night, two on the second night and so on. The Menorah is the most commonly recognized symbol of the holiday.



**December 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas A Christian and secular holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus, along with themes such as family, goodwill, giving and compassion. It is celebrated in most countries around the world and celebrations include a great number and variety of customs with either secular, religious, or national aspects which vary from country to country. The most widely recognized symbols are Nativity Scenes, Christmas Trees and Santa Claus.

**December 26-January 1** Kwanzaa (or Kwaanza) is a week-long secular holiday honoring African-American heritage, observed from December 26 to January 1 each year, almost exclusively by African-Americans in the United States.

Kwanzaa consists of seven days of celebration, featuring activities such as candle-lighting and pouring of libations, and culminating in a feast and gift-giving. It focuses on the personal development of the virtues of Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith.



**December 31, 2006** Eid Al-Adha -Festival of Sacrifice

Eid Al-Adha occurs on the tenth day of the Islamic month of Dhul Hijja. It is a very happy time which is marked by special prayers, visits to family and friends, gifts to children and, of course by food. It is one of two Eid festivals that Muslims celebrate. Eid ul-Adha is celebrated by Muslims worldwide as a commemoration of Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son (Ishmael) for God. Others celebrate Eid-ul Adha as it marks the end of the Pilgrimage or Hajj for the millions of Muslims who make the trip to Mecca each year. In the year 2006-2007 (Islamic year 1427 H.), the pilgrimage is expected to fall during the last week of December through first week of January.



Sierra Madre Police Chief Marilyn Diaz praised the work done by the Pasadena teen activist group Day One Thursday, including awareness of underage drinking and the illegal selling of tobacco products in the city to minors among other things, during their annual fundraiser/luncheon in which she was the keynote speaker.

Diaz said she has been a long time supporter of the group throughout its 18 year history stemming back to when she was Commander at the Pasadena Police.

## Day One Fundraiser Aimed at Keeping Kids Safe

By Dean Lee

"From my experience I can tell you that Day One has preformed exquisitely when in participates with city government and communities," Diaz said. "In 2004 drunkenness, loitering, prostitution, drug use and littering adjacent in liquor stores plagued neighborhoods and residents in Pasadena. Day One was an integral part of the long term solution to this problem."

The luncheon drew a long list of local political heavyweights such as, Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, Sen. Jack Scott, newly elected Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, and representatives from U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff's office. Schiff was honored with the Day One Community Champion Award for his involvement with the group but was suddenly called back to Washington DC Wednesday and unable to attend his staff said.

"As the father one two young children I know first hand the importance of safeguarding the wellbeing of our kids," Schiff said during a recorded video. "And I know well the great work Day One does in helping

our youth and I commend them for all the work they do"

Pasadena Mayor Bogaard said the group was unsurpassed in bringing awareness to the community on teen issues and was responsible for the passing Senate Bill 148, authored by Sen. Scott, earlier this year designed to give cities more leverage over enforcement of city codes by requiring liquor stores to conform to zoning laws. The bill was introduced in Sacramento in 2005 after Pasadena officials recognized a problem through work done by Day One.

"What we're finding is that we have 10 to 12 liquor stores that frequently abused the licensing process and didn't maintain order around their facilities," Bogaard said. "That's what we went after with SB 148."

He also said that the bill does not pertain to stores where liquor licenses that had been "grandfather in" something he stressed is still a problem. Under current law there is nothing cities can do about this other than making people aware (Continued Page 7)

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Arroyo Pacific Academy  
41 W. Santa Clara St.  
Arcadia  
(626) 294-0661

Alverno High School  
200 N. Michillinda  
(626) 355-3463

Sunday, January 7 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Open House

The Gooden School  
192 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-2410  
www.goodenschool.org

LaSalle High School  
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Pasadena  
(626) 351-8951

Pasadena High School  
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
(626) 798-8901  
Pasadena

Sierra Madre Elementary School  
141 W. Highland Ave.  
(626) 355-1428

Sierra Madre Middle School  
160 N. Canon  
(626) 836-2947

Wednesday December 20 at 7 p.m.  
Holiday program grades 4 - 8

St. Rita's Catholic School  
322 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-9028

Bethany Christian School  
93 B. N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-527

Odyssey Charter School  
725 W. Altadena Dr.  
Altadena, CA  
(626) 229-0993  
www.odysseycharterschool.com

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## Looking Up



Photo By Jean Boenish

With Bob Eklund

summit. The float, which we named "Celestial Celebration," also included a swing with a live princess suspended from a star, squirrels and raccoons looking up at the sky with small telescopes, and a great rainbow over the top of the mountain.

As I recall, the hardest part of finishing the float was getting flowers of enough different colors to make the rainbow—especially blue ones, which were in short

the seven horticultural wonders of the world, the 250-ton vine sprawls over more than 1.5 acres and is the world's largest flowering plant. Called "Our Wonderful Wistaria" to fit the parade theme of "Our Good Nature," the float recreates the wistaria blossoms with more than 20,000 dendrobium orchids imported from Thailand. Six real waterfalls cascade over the surrounding gardens, while jeweled hummingbirds and dragonflies hover among the flowers. Never before seen in the

### Coming Up Roses

It was New Year's Day, 1988. Laura and I were watching the Rose Parade on TV, and they had just announced that the 1989 parade would be the 100<sup>th</sup> Tournament of Roses parade. Just then, the Sierra Madre float came by, and my wife, Laura, said, "Next year is the centennial of astronomy at Mt. Wilson, and Sierra Madre is right at the bottom of the Mt. Wilson Trail—I wonder if they would do a float about the first Mt. Wilson telescope."

I took Laura's idea and ran with it. First I envisioned the basic idea—a mountain, a trail, and a mule carrying a telescope. My sketch was crudely drawn, but I found an artist who was willing to work with me to refine the concept into a detailed, well-executed color drawing. The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association chose my proposed design, and we ended up with a float that portrayed a telescope on the back of a bumpy mule, being urged up a mountain trail by an astronomer toward an observatory dome at the



Photo Courtesy SM Rose Float Association

supply that year. They were found in time, though, and what a thrill it was to see the finished float with everything working as planned! The float didn't win any awards—but the year I spent working on it will always remain one of my most cherished memories.

This year, the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association will commemorate another centennial—the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the City of Sierra Madre—with a float that depicts the city's renowned wistaria vine. Ranked as one of

Tournament of Roses, lemon philodendron leaves (of a naturally fluorescent lime-green color) were flown in from Ecuador for their Rose Parade debut.

Sierra Madre is an all-volunteer organization. Volunteers of all ages are welcome, and you can add to your year-end happy memories by joining this year's float. The work is fun, and scheduled for weekends and the week between Christmas and New Year's. Call the Float Barn at (626) 355-7005 or Bonnie Colcher at (626) 355-7999.

## Titan Flyby Reveals Massive Mountain Range

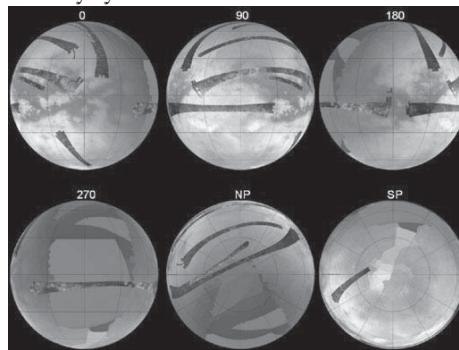


Photo courtesy of NASA

This set of composite images was constructed from the best Cassini radar data and visual and infrared mapping spectrometer data obtained from all the Titan flybys up to the most recent flyby on Oct. 25. The globe to the upper right is centered on 0 degrees longitude, and each of the other globes is labeled as to which longitude appears at the center of the disk. The two rightmost images in the bottom row are of the north and south poles of Titan, respectively. The two instruments provide complementary data, all of which is required to understand the geologic processes that have shaped the surface of Titan over the age of the solar system.

By Carolina Martinez

The tallest mountains ever seen on Titan - coated with layers of organic material and blanketed by clouds - have been imaged on Saturn's moon Titan by NASA's Cassini spacecraft.

"We see a massive mountain range that kind of reminds me of the Sierra Nevada mountains in the western United States. This mountain range is continuous and is nearly 100 miles long," said Dr. Bob Brown, team leader of the Cassini visual and infrared mapping spectrometer at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

During an Oct. 25 flyby designed to obtain the highest resolution infrared views of Titan yet, Cassini resolved surface features as small as 400 meters (1,300 feet).

"These mountains are probably as hard as rock, made of icy materials, and are coated with different layers of organics," said Dr. Larry Soderblom, Cassini interdisciplinary scientist at the U.S. Geological Survey, Flagstaff, Az.

He added, "There seem to be layers and layers of various coats of organic 'paint' on top of each other on these mountain tops, almost like a painter laying the background on a canvas. Some of this organic gunk falls out

of the atmosphere as rain, dust, or smog onto the valley floors and mountain tops, which are coated with dark spots that appear to be brushed, washed, scoured and moved around the surface."

The mountains probably formed when material welled up from below to fill the gaps opened when tectonic plates pull apart, similar to the way mid-ocean ridges are formed on Earth. Separately, the radar and infrared data are difficult to interpret, but together they are a powerful combination. In the infrared images, one can see the shadows of the mountains, and in radar, one can see their shape.

But when combined, scientists begin to see variations on the mountains, which is essential to unraveling the mysteries of the geologic processes on Titan.

Near the wrinkled, mountainous terrain are clouds in Titan's southern mid latitudes whose source continues to elude scientists. These clouds are probably methane droplets that may form when the atmosphere on Titan cools as it is pushed over the mountains by winds.

The composition of dunes that run across much of Titan is also much clearer.

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# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

A DEUXAMIS PUBLICATION

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## OPINION

### We'll Turn the DSP Into the Democratic Specific Plan

By Stefan Bund



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

Tuesday's City Council Meeting potentially drew to a close a long season of unrest in Sierra Madre. With downtown property owners maneuvering at the microphone to thwart the outright adoption of the Voter Empowerment (2-30-13) initiative, the council was adjourned multiple times as participants yelled back and forth at each other. Acceptance onto a 2007 Spring ballot was a moot point; no one on the council had the power to dispute it, but the terms of acceptance were cause for hours of deliberation. First of all, the downtown dirt crowd would not go down without a fight. Publishers of rumor websites, former politico-property developers as well as owners of downtown property showed up to dispute the validity of putting future development downtown to a city wide vote. Here is a short list of their protests:

- The public will be asked to vote on planning issues; the public has no idea about planning
- The idea of democracy is good, but fails because of the poverty of the public's information
- The general plan lacks a two story limit, and a limit to the number of units per building, downtown
- The town cannot go into the 2-30-13 vote without the information it needs
- Getting the public involved in development issues is expensive

And so, the council voted to have a further study before it is legally required to provide the vote on 2-30-13. (Which requires building projects downtown, that go above two stories and 13 units per building, to be approved by a city-wide vote.)

The protest against 2-30-13 will have thirty days to construct its counter argument. But the probable analysis of an initiative that permits citizens to vote on building projects, before they are built, will likely yield the following results:

- Projects that are undesirable won't get built
- Projects that congest the downtown, and force the city to pay for major infrastructure changes, won't get built
- Owners of buildings who want to use Sierra Madre as a stepping stone and fail to serve the public's interest, will not be rewarded

But most importantly, the Downtown Specific Plan has been reduced to rubble. Instead of allowing the city to be completely rezoned, and treat the downtown as an 'overlay' for money making, 2-30-13 will allow each new building project to be considered, one at a time, by the public. And as the city matures and finds new demands, those future generations will be able to decide the direction the downtown takes, whatever that may be. The Voter Empowerment Initiative (2-30-13), by requiring city-wide votes to approve adventurous building projects downtown, safeguards the public's ability to determine the downtown's destiny.

#### Mt. Wilson Observer Mission Statement

We honor the traditions of the community newspaper and place our readers above all other concerns. We deliver local, state and national news every week. 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.

## DEAR SANTA: He Didn't Get The Memo.

### Please Send It Again

By Susan Henderson

*memo (n): a written reminder.*

He didn't get the memo, so please send it again. You know, the one that says no one person owns Sierra Madre. The one that says that the City belongs to every resident, not just the self-appointed few. Either he never received the memo, or he just doesn't get it. Sierra Madre is a city, in the state of California, in the United States of America. It is governed by 'The People and we are all equal.

If you are thinking that everyone knows that, then you did not see last night's City Council meeting. There were certainly lots of people in attendance that just couldn't understand why they weren't having their way. Especially the grand poo bah of one of the local weekly throw aways. He was particularly upset that Sierra Madre wasn't his personal private playground and that others had the right to play here, too.

Santa, please tell Mr. Tobia that his behavior is sad. From his initial reference to the KKK as an example of an organization that might request use of the Sierra Madre flag, to his tantrum hoping for our demise as a newspaper and his repeated protests he is not a competitor.

He was quick to question who owns this paper - a lesson in French might help, however the question must also be asked: Who owns his paper?

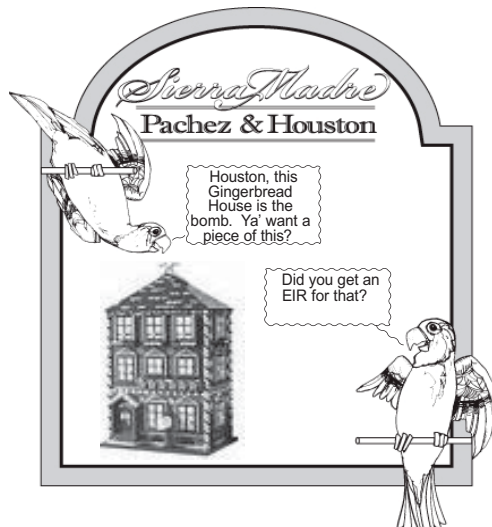
Mr. Tobia receives compensation from his 'relationships' with the city, which apparently qualifies him to appoint himself grand poo bah.

I believe you've heard the expression before, "methinks thou dost protest too much"? Well, methinks. Definitely.

Santa, don't forget to thank the council for how well they handled this matter. This includes Mayor Pro Tem Joffe who voted her conscience and Mayor Buchanan for his concerns. However, the flag is just a symbol.

The furor that some created over this simple request to use the flag with dates of city meetings is ridiculous. The flag is just a symbol. But then again, so was some of the behavior we saw on Tuesday. It is symbolic of the sense of entitlement that too many people walk around this town with.

So, please Santa, bring the memo again. I know you probably weren't going to stop by that house, but the poo bah needs the memo. It would be a gift of enlightenment.



DAY ONE (continued from Page 7)

of the problem he said.

Sierra Madre was the first city to implement the bill by enacting city ordinance 1260 providing for the licensing of tobacco retailers. The ordinance was passed by the city council Nov. 14 after Day One conducted a sting operation last year in which 60 percent of Sierra Madre merchants within walking distance from a school sold tobacco to children as young as age 14.

According to Diaz, three stores Happy's, Highlander, and Valeros, were all in violation of state law for selling tobacco to minors. She personally notified each after

the information was disclosed to police by Day One. "I spoke with the owners, not just a person there, and each one of them was surprised, shocked and dismayed," Diaz said last month. "They all assured me that they would talk to their staff and make sure they check more carefully and promised that this would never happen again."

Diaz also said that Mary's Market and The Bottle Shop refused to sell to decoys, asking for identification, and should be commended for their actions.

During the conclusion of her speech Diaz said, that along with tobacco, Day One had helped police stop underage drinking the day before Thanksgiving, at The

Buccaneer Lounge, during what she said was the most popular drinking day of the year in the city.

"It really was the cooperation of the staff at the Buccaneer," Diaz said. "My staff said they have never seen it as orderly as it was this year and I want to personally thank the owner."

Longtime NBC news anchor Beverly White was the Mistress of Ceremonies. The \$45 a plate proceeds, and donations from a silent auction, will go to help Day One youth programs such as Parenting Awareness Month held in Mach Executive Director Tahra Gotaya said.

# The Beauty Intelligencer

Sierra Madre is home to a number of expert spa and beauty treatment practitioners. Each place has its own special qualities, resources and feeling about it, just like the clients it attracts. Definitely, one never has to leave town to get the finest *au courant* look and receive the very best in care. There is no excuse not to look and feel your best, with all the expert talent available here. The following businesses also offer gift certificates and beneficial products from different beauty lines.

For good looks on the inside out, try FootsmArts Reflexology with Despina Arzouman. Reflexology is an ancient practice predicated on the assumption that the ears, hands and feet correlate to different parts of the body. The technique similar to massage of the ears, hands and feet and the resulting feeling at the end of the session is also similar to that of massage.

It's a definite, relaxing change for the better overall and this is attested by clients who return frequently for regular sessions. Arzouman is certified by the American Academy of Reflexology and a member of the practice's professional organizations. Visit [www.footsmarts-reflexology.com](http://www.footsmarts-reflexology.com) Telephone (626) 355-3414.



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Knowledge of the back is one of Jean Galbraith's talents as a therapeutic masseuse. Galbraith is a retired nurse who runs Harmony Skin Care and Day Spa. She still works at a hospital part of the week doing therapeutic massage on patients.

Galbraith created her spa to be a relaxing experience. "Once you walk through the front door you begin to immediately de-stress yourself," she said. Water fountains, soft music and scented rooms create a peaceful mood. "I want to help people put sane-ness back into their lives," said Galbraith.

Another aspect of Harmony is that Galbraith wanted to maintain her services at an affordable level. Galbraith has a full service spa for men and women featuring skin care, facials, waxing, scrubs, wraps and massages.

Makeup custom blended to your skin tone is \$45 per ounce. Galbraith also sells Pureology hair products.

Galbraith celebrates ten years in business. From December 25, 2006 to January 1, 2007, subtract \$15 for each service as a thank you.

Visit [www.harmonyspa.com](http://www.harmonyspa.com) 31 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Telephone (626) 836-1061



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20 N. Baldwin Ave.  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Yvonne Fata and Tanya Edmonds are the nurturing team behind Center for Wellbeing and now they are involved in creating Home Spa Parties – complete with décor and spa services for bridal groups, couples and birthday parties. A party for eight 13 year-old girls is one of their latest bookings.

The Center for Wellbeing offers massage, facials, pomegranate peels, waxing, Balinese foot baths, eyebrow sculpting and makeup consultation. The types of massage include Swedish, Shiatsu, Heated Stone, Thai Massage which utilizes acupressure and yoga positions, Sports Massage with deep tissue work and stretching techniques and gentle Peri-Natal massage for expectant mothers.

They sell the Jan Marini line of medical-grade skincare which includes the very popular eyelash extensions at \$160 for a tube which will last six to nine months. The success of the lash lengthener is so great that Fata said she had to cut her long eyelashes.

This product is on order again, although it is now found on eBay for twice the price.

It works for eyebrows and raises immediate questions on a future formula for baldness.

Senior discounts are available for those 65 years and older. [www.centerwellbeing.com](http://www.centerwellbeing.com) 20 N. Baldwin Ave. Telephone (626) 355-2443

Annaliese and Albert Vergara of Lunch Salon specialize in "all hair all the time."

Ten stylists work out of the homey salon on Baldwin, one of the most comfy spots to disappear in and come out transformed.

Younger stylists do the "wilder" looks for teens and the older stylists cater to adult clientele – men and women. The specialty of the shop is color, and for winter, Annaliese said they are deepening color from mocha browns to coppery blondes and burgundy reds. Hot rollers give hair a soft look for evenings, and Lunch also offers a special treatment for extra shine.

For holiday gifts or everyday care, Lunch sells a complete line of Aveda products, including make-up, hair treatments such as rosemary mint shampoo and a men's shaving line. Aveda's "Pure Abundance" hair thickener powder (\$22) is hard to keep in stock.

Makeup products include shimmer accents for cheeks and décolletage (\$18); cheek and lip crème (\$15.16), and silky eye accent (\$15.16). Boar bristle hairbrushes are also good stocking stuffers (\$14 to \$30). Lunch is open Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. [www.lunchsalon.com](http://www.lunchsalon.com) 65 N. Baldwin Ave. Telephone (626) 355-1481



31 NORTH  
BALDWIN  
AVENUE  
SIERRA  
MADRE  
CA 91024

626-836-1242

There is a generosity of spirit throughout Capelli Court. It could be the world beat music playing in the background that is the happy obsession of stylist David Pietrangelo. Or the vibe of the place in general, which includes its friendly receptionist, Rita. This is a full service salon offering cuts and color by many stylists, including owners Ester Goren and Marinella Pollo; manicures and pedicures by Kristy and facials and waxing by Nancy.

Also owned by Karen Williams, the Capelli Court Salon generously extended space to The Hair Upstairs after that shop was damaged by fire and water.

It offers unique lines of beauty products, including Woody's for boys and young men. Named after the classic surfer's station wagon, Woody's makes styling gel, shampoo, soap, shaving cream and beeswax hair pomade.

Capelli Court also offers products from Pureology, Alterna, L.C.O.N. hydrating line, Catwalk, Bedhead and Redken; the medicated Nioxin line for psoriasis, thinning hair, and other scalp challenges; high tech T3 Tourmaline flatirons and blow dryers; and candles by Archipelago

Botanicals for \$19 to \$21 in scents such as orange/cinnamon/spice and lemon verbena/lavender/thyme.

51 N. Baldwin Ave. Telephone (626) 836-1242

Karin's offers hair color on the exclusive Goldwell line, Japanese hair straightening, hair extensions, and special occasion up-do's.

A former ballerina, Karin Mortellaro followed in her grandmother Ethel's footsteps – not only was Ethel Guilfoyle a dancer, but she had her hair done in the very same spot Karin is at now, only then it was called Les Girls Coiffures. Her mother, Glenda, sometimes works at the salon, when she is not dancing in the Palm Springs Follies.

Karin's salon is very entertainment oriented in clientele, serving lots of TV people and other business professionals. She has worked with the Goldwell color line for 25 years.

Salons are usually public places, so Karin offers rooms in the back for quieter, more contemplative clientele. A back wall displays a peaceful mural of palm trees, painted by her sister, Stacy. Karin says her shop "feels like family."

The complete Pureology line is sold here, as well as tubs of moisturizing Mediterranean Spa "Body Butter" made from cocoa butter and other ingredients for \$25 for more than 15 ounces.

Each month, four models are also needed for hair color demonstrations. If you are interested in participating in these demonstrations, please call Karin. 370 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Ste. G 626-355-0521

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## Can I Take It On The Plane?

Holiday Travel Advice from:  
Catherine Addé, MA Certified Travel Counselor

Since the thwarted terrorist attacks this summer, the regulations for carry on items have gone from the very strictest rules: passengers may not take any liquids in their carry on luggage to last week's relaxed requirements allowing



travel sized (3 oz) bottles of shampoo and toothpaste. This of course makes me wonder what it must have been like on board a few weeks ago: Did all 300 passengers have bad breath after flying for 16 hours on an international flight with no toothpaste? Or perhaps the airlines were handing out tiny tubes of it on board. I do know that the cabin attendants were run off of their feet passing out water to everyone. It tries ones patience to travel nowadays, yet my own travel business has not decreased, if anything, my clients seem to be booking

in record numbers and going everywhere on the planet.

So, can you take it on the plane?

As of this moment, in addition to the travel sized toiletry items, you may take medication that has your name on the prescription bottle, contact lens solution, baby formula. You can also purchase water after going through the security checkpoints. (Cha-ching!)

For the most up to the minute information however, a little research will go along way. Visit the governments' own transportation security website: [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov), call your airline or visit their website. And of course, don't forget to call your professional Travel Counselor. Have a nice trip!

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

### Deck the Halls...

I was going to suggest that there be a law against leaving one's outdoor Christmas lights up all year. I have since changed my mind. Maybe these people are onto something...retailers started putting up Christmas displays before Halloween! I couldn't believe my eyes. I know we all say that it seems to be earlier every year, but it truly does. Hearing "Little Drummer Boy" on October 29<sup>th</sup> was truly revolting. Could the Easter Bunny be far behind?

The Christmas lights left hanging really stand out about mid-July, especially the "natural" looking white icicles that folks were practically pummeling each other to get a few years ago. They were all the rage and in short supply, or so a marketing company led us to believe. I think that must be the same company that handles the Tickle-Me-Elmo account, but, I digress. They are certainly not in short supply now, they are everywhere. An absolute plethora...

The bright sunshine of July does not showcase these "natural" white icicles as well as the cover of darkness

ala Gloria Swanson's character in Sunset Boulevard.

I can relate... as can the latest fad... Yard inflatables. How's that for a Madison Avenue classification? Yard inflatables! Frankly, I don't think that they look great at night, but during the day they look much, much worse. They resemble a few politicians after the ballot count. Deflated...the potential disaster for the environment after they have fallen out of favor is probably a story for another day.

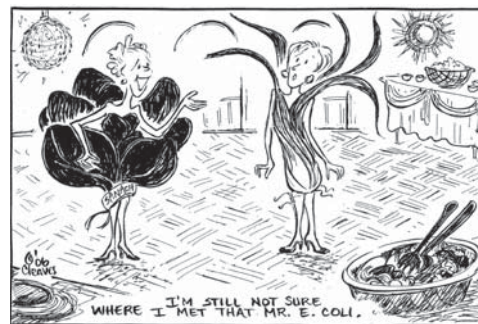
I am certainly not bah-humbugging the holidays, but sometimes bigger is not always better. Take the "After Thanksgiving Sales." They merit serious consideration as Winter Olympics events. Good grief people, how much money do you save getting up at that ungodly hour? Obviously, I am missing the deeper issue here. We are also strongly encouraged to make our credit card balances bigger; it's so easy...just swipe the card and hope that the balance can be paid off by Christmas next.

It's time to take the holidays away from the marketing departments across this country of ours and return to the concept of "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men..."

### NEWS ITEM: YAHOO LOWERS EARNINGS FORECAST



"I have a feeling we've been Googled."



"I'M STILL NOT SURE WHERE I MET THAT MR. E. COLI."

## WorkForce with Madeline

Direct your questions to Madeline at [cmtype2@aol.com](mailto:cmtype2@aol.com) or 888-489-8372  
(8 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Friday).

**Q:** I was promoted to department supervisor 8 months ago. I have two young women who assist me. They both do an outstanding job and, this being holiday time, I want to show my appreciation by getting them a gift. Being new to this, I have no idea what to buy. What would you suggest?

**A:** Certainly, that is very thoughtful of you. My suggestion would be a mall gift certificate. Keep it general as opposed to a particular store. This will give them many choices.

I conducted a survey among my friends inquiring about their favorite at-work gifts. In addition to gift certificates, these included a tote bag personalized with initials, a throw blanket in neutral colors, and a selection of gourmet coffee given to my friend who is a bit of a coffee addict.

Whatever you decide to give, accompany it with a note expressing your appreciation for the great job being done. Write more than a line or two. Thank your assistants for their eagerness to work hard, long hours put in, ability to persevere under pressure, and specific contributions. Think of it as a reference letter. A note such as this will be kept for years to come and actually can be presented in lieu of a gift, although this is not quite as much fun for the recipient.

This raises the question of what not to give. Don't give candles. I'm told that some people are bothered by the scents. They can also be dangerous around pets and young children. Perfume would not be a good choice as this represents a very individual taste. Eliminate clothing from your list because here again this is a matter of personal taste plus you may not know the correct size. Buying something in a size 16 for someone who is a size 12 could create a very touchy situation. Definitely refrain from giving chocolates to someone who is overweight. This might send a negative message. Try to stay away from coffee mugs. Most people have a cupboard filled with them. I myself have been guilty of "re-gifting" coffee mugs.

My gift survey also asked for the most useless gift received from a supervisor, assistant, or co-worker. The answers were a stuffed reindeer toy, a Santa doll, and a ceramic Christmas tree.

Hope this helps and happy holidays. .

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### Pete Siberell says - GET READY FOR LITTLE LEAGUE BALL!

Sierra Madre Little League Baseball Try-outs  
(all at Heasley Field in Sierra Vista Park, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.)

11 & 12 Year-olds	Wednesday, January 3
6:00 - 8:00p.m.	
11 & 12 Year-olds (Make-up)	Saturday, January 6
8:00 - 9:00a.m.	
7 - 10 Year-olds	Saturday, January 6
9:00a.m. - Noon	
7 - 10 Year-olds (Make-up)	Tuesday, January 9
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	
5-6 Year-olds do not have to try out.	

Sierra Madre Little League Baseball Season  
Saturday, February 24 to Saturday, June 2

For more information, go to [www.smll.org](http://www.smll.org) or call Pete Siberell, President of SMLL at 626-355-6746.

# SPORTS

## A Pony Season To Look Forward To



Photo By David Johnston

These Sierra Madre Pony Leaguers are as exciting as their namesakes.

By Dean Lee

This year's Pony/Colts League sign-ups which includes Sierra Madre, Pasadena and Altadena attracted over 70 young baseball hopefuls last week. The 13 and 14-year-olds will all tryout for one of the six teams this January according to League President Jeff Di Pane. Upwards of 70 percent of the kids that try out are exceptional players recommended by their Little League coaches and are part of their respective All Star Teams, he said.

Tryouts will be Saturday, January 6 at 9 a.m. at Dapper Field located behind the Youth Activity Center off Sierra Madre Boulevard.

The six teams, the Red Sox, Dodgers, Yankees, Cubs, Braves and the Tigers all use Major League uniforms. This is the first real baseball game for most of the kids playing by all the official rules of the game. Di Pane added that Dapper Field is only slightly smaller than the Major Leagues.

"It's kind of the real deal when your kids are out there wearing the uniforms," Di Pane said. "We're like a high

school prep league; most of these kids go on to play for local high schools, some even college and pro."

The teams will each play 23 to 26 games through the season starting in March and ending in June with double eliminations.

"With double elimination it really depends on how far you go," said Di Pane. "What's nice about this system is that every team has a chance to win because the season's scores don't count until eliminations begin."

He added, "It doesn't matter if you have the worst record during the season, you have an equal chance to be that year's champion."

Di Pane said the season is further broken down by having the first eight games considered "practice" and the next 10 as the "official" season games. The rest are playoffs. Prior to the season they have spring training.

He added that the Pony League tries to take the "parent/child relationship" found in coaching Little League out of it with some of the coaches having 20 plus years experience.

"A lot of our managers are guys that know a lot about baseball," Di Pane said.

"They really just like giving their time. They've all played ball and just keep doing it."

Former Pony players have gone on to play for professional teams such as the Giants and Angels he said. The success of the players has everything to do with the level of coaching, said Di Pane.

Di Pane had been coaching himself for about six years then later going on to be president, when two of his three boys were in the program. His third son is currently on the city's little league team and will enter into the Pony's next year he said.

Di Pane also oversees one of the only Colt teams, The Red Birds, in the region. The Colt League of 15 to 16-year-olds covers a much larger area from West Covina and Rosemead all the way to Temple City. He said one of the problems with the League is that it directly competes with the local high school teams, making it problematic to reschedule game times when they conflict.



## LA SALLE LOOKS BACK

By Larry Bortstein

La Salle High football coach Ealar Gallagher would love to have had his Lancers end their 2006 season by invoking that cry of the ancient Roman army: "Veni vidi, vici."

That's Latin for "I came, I saw, I conquered," an expression Gallagher knows well. Besides coaching the football team, he also teaches Latin at the school.

But the Lancers didn't "vici" in their last game, falling to Verbum Dei, 32-10, in the CIF Southern Section Mid-Valley Division championship game Saturday night at Centennial High in Compton.

The contest, in which the Eagles took a 20-0 lead by halftime, was played under rainy skies, creating more gloom for the four busloads of La Salle fans and alumni who made the trek.

"We probably had as many fans there as Verbum Dei had," Gallagher said. "It was disappointing that we lost, but to get as far as we did after we started the season 0-5 was a great accomplishment."

As had been their custom, the Lancers came from behind in the second half to narrow their deficit to 20-10. But in the end, two costly first-half fumbles that led to Verbum Dei touchdowns were too much

to overcome.

La Salle, which played for a championship for the first time in the school's 14-year football history, finished with an 8-6 record. Verbum Dei ended up with a 10-4 mark, including a 37-36 loss to the Lancers, the Eagles' only defeat in Camino Real League competition.

Gallagher fielded a veteran team that featured 20 seniors this year and admitted his 2007 squad will be young.

Bill Doeppel, who was a wide receiver for the Lancers this season, could succeed Matt Kohorst at quarterback. Speedy running back David Baier will be a senior next year. He scored La Salle's only touchdown Saturday night on a 35-yard run.

Other 2006 juniors expected to play major roles in 2007 are linemen Biddy Preston and Buddy Evans and wide receiver-defensive back Tony France.

Sean Tracy, a junior who began this season as La Salle's kicker but was injured and lost his job to senior Jeff Knowles, will be back to handle the punting and place-kicking.

Gallagher is hoping that 230-pound fullback Nathan Bury and 240-pound lineman Alex Jimenez, will be able to continue playing football next year on the college level.

## Laussu & Fred Ride to Victory



Photo by A.C. Custom Photo

Alverno High School Junior Gabriella Laussu was named Freshman Equestrian Champion at the Interscholastic Equestrian League's December 3 competition at the Hansen Dam Equestrian Center. Gabby also won 2nd place in flat work and third place in jumping at the same event. Riding Fred, a bay Thoroughbred, Gabby made an impressive showing in what was only her second competition as an Alverno Jaguar equestrian in the Interscholastic Equestrian League (ILS). This year, the ILS has grown to include 65 schools and over 420 riders. She will compete again on January 13.



## View From The Couch

When UCLA proved themselves to be the better team on Saturday December 2, 2006 by defeating USC, they threw the BCS into a quandary. Who should play for number one? Many believe that Michigan is the second best team in the country, and they should be given a second shot at The Ohio State University. [Have you ever noticed what the Buckeyes say? When Troy Smith was receiving the Heisman Trophy he spoke quite elegantly of The Ohio State University blah, blah, blah. This Trojan fan is still hurting a bit] If Michigan is in fact

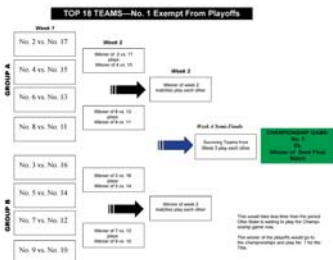
the second best team in the nation then they should have a chance to prove it by playing for the national championship. Because of this situation many have renewed their call for the bowl championship series to be an actual series.

The thought is that there would be play off games and through the process of elimination, the survivor of the play offs and the No. 1 team would play the Championship game. That sounds a lot fairer than what we have seen of late.

Here's how it could be done: If the BCS took the top 18 teams in

the nation to compete for the Bowl Championships. Excluding No. 1, who would just sit and watch the fight, the other 17 teams would compete in two brackets with winner of each bracket advancing. This would continue until there was only one team standing. That winner would earn the right to play the number one team in for the national championship. The playoffs could be completed in as few as four weeks. That would be a fair and equitable solution. I'm giving it to the BCS from the couch for free.

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