



THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Friday, March 16 - March 22, 2007 Volume 2, No.11

\$119,850 vs. \$10,327

Outside Interests Pour Thousands into No on V War Chest



The recent filing of California Form 460 by "the Committee To Preserve Sierra Madre, A Coalition of Residents, Property Owners, Taxpayers, Realtors and Small Businesses to Oppose Measure V" shows \$119,850 raised from January 1, 2007 to March 3, 2007. The treasurer is listed as Cary Davidson of the law firm Reed & Davidson, 520 S. Grand Avenue in Los Angeles. Reed & Davidson also represent the Building Industry Association.

Payments have been made to:

A Buck or Two for \$9,500, run by Beth Buck and Ross Buck, who are registrants of the Downtown Dirt website (The site was originally registered by Miguel Perez, who handed it over to Buck last September, although one website - godaddy.com, still listed Perez as the site's registrant a few weeks ago.)

Cardinal Communications Strategies for \$3,732.55 (continued on page 3)

Yes on V Supporters Wage Grassroots Campaign Against Big Money



So far, about 276 residents have contributed a total of \$10,327 in support of Measure V, which goes before the voters on April 17. Sierra Madre Residents for Responsible Development (SMRRD) raised the money from June 1, 2006 to March 3, 2007. Its treasurer is Ivette Dostalek.

Payments have been made to:

Attorney Chris Sutton for \$5,096.00
Century Screen in Monrovia for \$970.00
Colby Poster Printing in Los Angeles for \$714.00

Mt. Wilson Observer for \$1,400.00 for ads

Office Max for printing for \$800
Café 322 for \$250 for town hall meeting
ELFS Answering for \$96

Contributions for supporters of Measure V came from:

276 donors, mostly residents with the exception of a couple neighbors in Pasadena.

- by Katina Dunn

A Sweet 100 for The Woman's Club



By Susan Henderson

The Sierra Madre Woman's Club celebrated 100 years, which coincides with the city's centennial. More than 100 guests attended the Club's Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social last Saturday. The afternoon included the remarkable talents of 14 year-old pianist Vincent Johnson, who filled Essick House with spirited ragtime selections. The music was perfect as the guests were greeted by President Dixie Coutant and Historian Phyllis Chapman in period costumes.

For those who chose to enjoy the outdoors, the air was filled with soft jazz and blues performed by Sierra Madre resident and guitarist Jane Fuller, accompanied by Mike Gallegos. Jane plays regularly at Café 322. Dapper Jeff Lapiques and bowser, Patches, attended with the lovely Diane Sands. Sierra Madre Press Corps stalwart Terry Miller brought his beautiful mother-in-law in his sporty British roadster. Mayor John Buchanan stood in the doorway for a photo with real PC - Phyllis Chapman.

Chamber Mixer 2007 Good Company



By Katina Dunn

Genevieve Stubbs walked through the rooms of the Woman's Club during its Chamber of Commerce "Mixer" last Friday, showing the dozens of albums filled with press clippings and photographs depicting decades of stories.

A story herself, Stubbs was (continued on page 3)

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Pat Birdsall reminisces about St. Patrick's Day; Chris takes a look at Essick House

12 Play Ball!

Opening Day for the SM Girls Softball Association "We teach them to win with honor and lose with dignity"



A History of The Pacific Electric Railway which included this Sierra Madre Red Car (pictured left), was the topic of discussion at the Sierra Madre Woman's Club 100th Birthday Party. Dr. Bill Meyers gave an in-depth look at this historic period of California's history. Story Page 3



Photo by Lynda Ott-Albright

Diamond Cat's Katrina Palffy beats the tag by B-52's Megan Derick in the SMSGA 12U Opening - Story Page 12

Sierra Madre Election Watch: What Is Measure V?

By Susan Henderson

A special election will be held on April 17th of critical importance to Sierra Madre Residents. Measure V is also known as the 2-30-13 initiative or The Voters Empowerment Initiative or The Downtown Height and Residential Restrictions Initiative. The Mt. Wilson Observer will attempt to provide as much objective information on the measure as possible. For the next three editions, we will ask both the proponents and opponents of the measure to provide you insight on their views as to why they either support or oppose the measure. We hope this will assist you when making your decision at the polls. Each side will be asked to

answer the same question from their viewpoint. We will accept and print the responses as submitted. We are asking the participants to refrain from personal attacks in their responses and to address the question at hand as specifically as possible. If no response is received no response will be printed. One response will be permitted from each group, Sierra Madre Residents for Responsible Development, (SMRRD) proponents, and The Committee To Preserve Sierra Madre, A Coalition of Residents, Property Owners, Taxpayers, Realtors and Small Businesses to Oppose Measure V or their respective designee.

The questions are as follows:

(continued on page 3)

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2



Friday:	Sunny	Hi 70 - 80s	Lows 50s
Saturday:	Sunny	Hi 70 - 80s	Lows 50s
Sunday:	Sunny	Hi 70 - 80s	Lows 50s
Monday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60 - 70s	Lows 50s
Tuesday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60 - 70s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



Citizen's Datebook



City of Sierra Madre March Events

- 16 - City Hall - All Day - Closed
- 19 - Community Services Commission - 6:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 20 - All-America City Steering Committee Meeting - 5:00 PM - Wistaria Room
- 21 - Submissions Due for the Summer Wistaria Vine - 5:00 PM - Community Recreation Center
- 21 - SMTVJ Community Programming Committee Meeting - 6:30 PM - Wistaria Room
- 21 - Tree Advisory Council Meeting - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 22 - City Web Site Evaluation Community Focus Group - 7:30 PM - Public Library
- 24 - City Web Site Evaluation Community Focus Group - 10:00 AM - Public Library
- 27 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 28 - All-America City Rally - Webb Martin Bunkers
- 28 - Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 PM - Conference Room
- 30 - City Hall - All Day - Closed

For more information on these and other City programs, call 355-7135 or visit www.cityofsierramadre.ca

This is a replica of the information posted by the City for the Citizens of Sierra Madre provided in this paper as a courtesy to the community by The Mt. Wilson Observer.

Courtesy Notice

Subject: Draft Downtown Sierra Madre Design Guidelines

"The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, that the planning commission will be reviewing and discussing Draft Downtown Sierra Madre Design Guidelines. The Commission is being asked to provide direction and feedback to staff regarding these draft guidelines that would potentially apply to the architecture and design of downtown buildings; the Commission is not being asked to make a final recommendation or decision at this time.

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING
OF MEETING
Special Planning Commission

Thursday, March 22, 2007 P L A C E
City of Sierra Madre

Meeting
City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

(meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.)

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.

OAK CREST
INSTITUTE
SCIENCE
<http://www.oak-crest.org>
2275 E. Foothill Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107
(626) 817-0883

Please Join Us!

Friday March 23rd, 2007
4:15pm - 6:30pm

"Spring REU Celebration"

A Semi-Annual Celebration of Cutting Edge
Environmental and Medical Chemistry Research
Conducted by
Community College Students
at Oak Crest Institute of Science



4:15pm -- 4:30pm Informal reception
4:30pm -- 6:30pm Student Research Presentations
(Optional tour of Oak Crest after student presentations)

RSVP to Sayuri D. Hanna (s.hanna@oak-crest.org or 626-817-0883) by 3/22/07
If you forget to RSVP but are able to join us anyway, please do!

Ample street parking available

What's Up at Hart Park House?

Tax Help with Don Bruner

Every Wednesday
through April 11
1 to 2 p.m. at
222 W. Sierra Madre
Blvd.
Call (626) 355-7394

Thursday, April 19

Flower Fields of
Carlsbad Ranch,

Lunch at Karl Strauss
Brewing Co.

\$43 per person,
Reserve Space Now

Call Commissioner
Theresa Daley
(626) 355-7427



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Café 322

Broadway and Opera Favorites.
Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends
322 Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

Farmer's Market

Every Saturday
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Lili's herbs, Cara Cara oranges, artichokes, The Tomato
Man, fresh flowers, honey, and fresh baked bread.
Menuudo & tamale stand
PHS parking lot
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Beantown

45 N. Baldwin
Order a Smoothie
(626) 355-1596

Lucky Baldwin's

21 Kersting Court
Have breakfast and watch soccer
(626) 355-1140

Sunday, March 25

All Day Long
Wistaria Festival at Memorial Park
Art, Food and Camaraderie

Saturday March 31 from 1 to 3 p.m.

The Majestic Roof - artist boutique
Host Actor James Duvall: Top Dog Show
Dog Expo featuring Christina Bernal with Flea Bag
Clothing
Free and open to the public
The courtyard at 88 N. Fair Oaks Ave. Pasadena
For more information contact Yvonne Russo at
(626) 844-8886.

Saturday March 31

Huck Finn Fishing Derby
7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Derby
12:30 to 4 p.m. Family Fishing

Sunday April 1

7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Family Fishing
Camp & Derby: \$45 up to 4 kids
Family Fishing: \$10 per family, or \$6 per person
Call (626) 355-5278

Roy Roams' 91024

PHS Principal in Lion's Den

Dr. Derek Evans, principal of Pasadena High School, said Wednesday he tried to have the controversial CIF championship basketball game last Saturday between the Fairfax Lions and PHS Bulldogs forfeited or played again. The game, which ended in a Fairfax victory of 54 to 51, is being investigated by CIF officials. Evans is also appealing his complaint of "gross negligence" to L.A. Unified Superintendent David Brewer III.

Evans said Fairfax school administrators arrived late to the game, and did not provide security from the school or LAUSD. He said riot police directed PHS parents, grandparents and alumni to exit gates which were locked - they could have been pinned against those fences by police. "I said to myself, they would move the people up against the fence. It would be a disaster," said Evans.

People were angry because they bought tickets and weren't allowed inside, said Evans. Meanwhile, Fairfax fans were entering the gym from another entrance. Inside the gym, PHS coach Tim Tucker was denied the "White Board" he had asked for, and the Bulldogs were not allowed into the locker room at halftime for seven minutes. "The coach had to talk to the team, on the bench," said Evans.

After hours of diligently working with the crowd and riot police, Evans himself was not allowed into the gym.

"Look on the bright side," said Evans of the Bulldogs. "They gave them a run for their money. They were hot stuff and they only lost by three points. If there weren't all those bad calls..." He added that the score is likely to stand because the errors were made by adults and the Fairfax kids shouldn't have to suffer.

Reverse Osmosis

If you rewind a videotape, does it show the exact opposite of what happened? Oddly enough, this appears to be the case with the *Pasadena Star-News* - its front page coverage Monday March 12 of the Sierra Madre city council meeting held Tuesday, March 6, says the opposite of what really happened. Check the videotape and see for yourself.

On videotape, you will see and hear City Manager John Gillison being very helpful during that March 6 meeting regarding solutions for those job seekers around Memorial Park, a few of whom were accused of sexual harassment. Gillison was so helpful that Council Member Kurt Zimmerman offered to join him in exploring some solutions. However, Gillison is quoted in the *Star News* saying the meeting's end result was "a great big nothing."

Passport to Pasadena

We hope you enjoy our new Pasadena page, which offers our readers and advertisers even more coverage. This evolved from our regular reports on our Pasadena Unified School District.

BiblioFile with Jeff Brown

Echo Park (Harry Bosch) by Michael Connelly

Echo Park is Michael Connelly's 12th Detective Hieronymus "Harry" Bosch novel in this wonderful series.

In 1993, Bosch was assigned the case of Marie Gesto, a young lady who disappeared on her way to a riding stable. Her body was never found, no suspect was ever identified, and the unsolved case continues to haunt Bosch (an LAPD detective working in their Open-Unsolved Unit). In 2006, Raynard Waits is driving a van in Echo Park at 2 a.m. when he is stopped by the LAPD. Trash bags are discovered in his van that contain the remains of two victims. In an effort to avoid the death penalty, Waits wants to deal and confess to the murders of nine other individuals - including Marie Gesto. But Bosch isn't convinced that Waits murdered Gesto and

things go terribly wrong.

Connelly, a former crime reporter, knows both the squad-room and the newsroom, and once again assembles a formidable group of adversaries and characters, including Bosch's partner, Kiz Rider, Assistant District Attorney Richard "Ricochet" O'Shea, his friend and former lover, FBI profiler Rachel Walling. And a powerful, well-connected defense lawyer.

Set in Los Angeles, from Sunset Boulevard to Beachwood Canyon and Echo Park, it's very atmospheric and a great ride through Los Angeles. Echo Park is also available on Audio with some great jazz backgrounds by Miles Davis, Monk, Coltrane and others. The writing is high quality and suspenseful. Enjoy.



The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

Your Primary Source of Information on Global Climate Change

I have here in front of me a report that I printed from an internet website, www.usgcrp.gov/usgcrp/links/ipcc.htm#wgl1, to be exact.

The "ipcc" in that epic web address (it's in there... keep looking... there it is!) stands for "Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change." The report itself is a "Summary for Policymakers" called "Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis" written by a whole bunch of IPCC scientists/ Star Wars cantina patrons with crazy names (Fortunat Joos, Zenlin Chen, Taroh Matsuno, Richard A. Wood), this report caused headlines early last month when it was released - "Report Predicts Fiery Explosion of Death and Destruction," "Hotness... Get Used To It" and "We Told You So, We Are Smart."

When you read those headlines (they were in lots of papers, really, lots), you probably did one of two things. You either a) put down the mortar and pestle you were using to grind your own organic coffee, walked outside, petted your hybrid, and whispered sweet nothings into its side mirrors (you did know that your car's side mirrors are its ears, didn't you?) Or b) you are functionally illiterate, didn't really understand what you read, went outside and used the newspaper to wash the windows of your SUV, before spending the afternoon spraying weed killer onto your lawn and (just for fun) into the storm drain across the street. Then you burned some extra tires you had lying around behind the garage.

See that? I'm teasing. I am sorry that I created extreme, negative (goofy or ignorant), caricature stereotypes of people based (in part) on the cars they drive. We all know that cars, like ring tones, say nothing about a person's true self, and that columnists in small-town newspapers who try to make jokes at the expense of others are the real goofy ignoramuses. No matter what reports they print off of the internet.

Speaking of which, you should print this report. And read it. It is kind of written in science--science. But it's only 18 pages long. Keep in mind it was created for "policy makers," who are just normal people like us, only more popular and richer, and more morally compromised. So the report is relatively accessible.

There are special paragraphs in boxes and there is lots of bold print to help you figure out what to pay attention to. Also, there are many charts and graphs with lines going up at crazy angles (global average

temperature, atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, sea level) and even some of the lines going down at crazy angles (snow cover in the northern hemisphere).

It is all very entertaining. But the main reason I want you to read this report (or at least flip through it and say "hmm" or "ahh" periodically) is that it is my strong desire that your primary source of information on global climate change is not someone who is running for political office or trying to convince you to spend your money (or both). Please ignore Hillary Clinton and British Petroleum. You don't need them to tell you what you think about the causes of global warming.

You have Jens Hesselberg and Matilde Rusticucci. They don't need anything out of you at all, really. They are simply attempting to rub your face in the fact



that "global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide... have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750," and that "Arctic late summer sea ice disappears almost entirely by the latter part of the 21st century," and that "Most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid 20th century is very like due to the observed increase in anthropogenic (produced by humans) greenhouse gas concentrations. If you are a policymaker, they want you to make some policy about that right quick. But don't take my word for it. Read it yourself.

finalized ran for city council.

In April, 2006 those candidates were elected in the largest voter turnout in Sierra Madre's history. On June 13, 2006 a "recommendation to review, discuss and select from among the suggested alternative wordings of Resolution 06-040, to place the Downtown Specific Plan on the ballot for a vote of the people" was brought before the council. It was defeated 3-2.

Proponents of Measure V moved forward with the formation of Sierra Madre Residents for Responsible Development and subsequently collected sufficient signatures to place Measure V on the ballot.

The city council scheduled (For additional information on the evolution of the measure please refer to the City of Sierra Madre's website at www.cityofsierramadre.com and this newspaper's archives at www.mtwilsonobserver.com.

You will also find the complete text of the initiative, the arguments pro and con and analysis on both websites.)

MEASURE V (continued from page 1)

1. For the March 23rd Edition: What does Measure V do for the residents, homeowners, property owners and business owners of Sierra Madre?

2. For the March 30th Edition: What is your assessment of the measure's impact on the city's finances and quality of life?

3. For the April 6th Edition: There are two controversial development projects pending in Downtown Sierra Madre. Please defend your position on Measure V as it relates to these projects.

We encourage readers to also submit letters to the editor on this issue.

History of Measure V: In 2005, some residents in Sierra Madre became concerned with the advancement of high density development in Downtown Sierra Madre and the actions of the sitting City Council. In April, 2006 a slate of new city council candidates who campaigned on the premise of allowing citizens to have a vote on the proposed Downtown Specific Plan before it was

OUTSIDE MONEY (continued from page 1)

Schubert Flint Public Affairs in Sacramento for \$19,909.29

Accrued Expenses to Reed & Davidson LLP would total \$4,454.57. Reed & Davidson is the same law firm which represented former mayor Glenn Lambdin in his recent lawsuit against Measure V supporters on the language of the initiative.

Accrued expenses to Sign Strategies in San Clemente for \$4,113.84

E Communication Advantage for \$588.25

Contributions for opponents of Measure V came from:

Building Industry Association in the amount of \$35,000.00

Labeled "Loans Received" from the California Association of Realtors in the amount of \$59,200.00

National Association of Realtors in the amount of \$25,000.00

Only four residents made donations. Their combined total contribution was \$550.



March 2007-Centennial Events Calendar

- March 2-March 31, Woman's Club Display at Library (month long), Sierra Madre Library Display Case, Contact: Sierra Madre Woman's Club, 626-355-4908/355-7739
- March 25, Wistaria Festival, 9am-5pm, Throughout Sierra Madre, Contact: Chamber of Commerce, 626-355-5111
- March 28, All-America City Delegation Rally, 6pm, Location: Webb-Martin Realtors, Contact: Community Services Department, 626-355-5278
- March 30, Huck Finn Camp Out, Location: City Yards Settling Basins, Contact: Community Services Department, 626-355-5278
- March 31, Huck Finn Fishing Derby, 7am-4pm, Location: City Yards Settling Basins, Contact: Community Services Department, 626-355-5278
- March 31, Sierra Madre Public Works Open House, 1pm, Location: City Yards & Water System, Contact: City of Sierra Madre, 626-355-7135

"It Isn't Just Enough To Remember The Old Days"



Sierra Madre Woman's Club President Dixie Coutant introducing Dr. Bill Meyer

By Susan Henderson

These words were spoken by Dr. Bill Meyers to a mesmerized crowd at the Sierra Madre Woman's Club during its 100th birthday party last Saturday. Dr. Meyers made a presentation on the history of the Red Car in Sierra Madre as part of the centennial festivities.

With captivating detail, Dr. Meyers took the audience on a historical tour of the Red Car Line from its inception in 1901 until the system was replaced with buses and freeways in 1961. The Red Car Route extended as far as what was then called Balboa (Newport Beach) and connected Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties. The Sierra Madre Line ran between the 6th Main Station Los Angeles, to the Wilson Trail Terminal which was located at the end of Mountain Trail Avenue.

The railway system was built by Henry Huntington who has been credited for bringing Southern California together through his acquisitions of land, utilities and transportation. His Pacific Electric Railway used electricity to provide mass transit services at a low cost to riders. The railway extended to every beach in the area, including Santa Monica and Long Beach.

The Railway at its peak ran over 1,150 miles of track with 1,000 cars. 1944 marked the highest ridership: over 109 million passengers.

The Sierra Madre Line transported about 300,000 passengers annually prior to World War II. This line gave easy access to the hiking trail up Mt. Wilson. Special trains were run for school kids bound for the mountains on nature study expeditions. (continued on page 4)

GENEVIEVE (continued from page 1)

compelled to "reinvent" herself after the death of her husband and mother, so she came east from Glendale in 1998. "I moved to Sierra Madre because of what I heard about the town. How much people helped each other and it was so family-oriented," said Stubbs. Her favorite things to do are hiking, volunteering at the Woman's Club, visiting the library, watching the Fourth of July parade, going to the show at the Sierra Madre Playhouse with her granddaughter, Tania; and accompanying her grandsons Stephen and Jonathan to the parks and swimming pool.

She says people keep a town alive by getting involved.

The Woman's Club has been a comfort. "They have become my good friends," she said of the members. "I've never belonged to a group that had so much respect and admiration for each other, because of how they treat each other."

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ARMED RESPONSE



Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown

The second week in March brought fire news from four areas around the southland: Canyon Country, Moreno Valley, Corona and Anaheim Hills. Sunday morning driving, from Sierra Madre toward the freeway, people might have thought they were looking at fog and the coastal marine layer, but it was smoke from the Anaheim Hills fire to the southwest. How did this fire start? An abandoned car, left in a ditch, possibly stolen. We had a fire start like this on Chantry Flat Road December 26, 1999. Not only have drought conditions set us up for a very hard fire season, which is starting unusually early, but the freezing temperatures of a few weeks back have killed a chaparral plant that will add to the hazardous fuel load. The same frost that wiped out California agricultural crops also killed off Laurel Sumac, a plant found in our foothills. Fuel

moisture is precariously low, perhaps the lowest since the early 1920's.

The residents of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Areas in Sierra Madre are encouraged to remove all dead brush from their property, limb bushes up from the ground two and a half feet to remove ladder fuels, trim dead branches from their trees and bushes. We must keep up a constant effort against this constant fire hazard.

The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be April 9 at 7 P.M. in the City Council chambers. In the meantime, go to the state website: www.firesafecouncil.org for important fire protection measures for you home. Also, www.firecenter.berkeley.edu/people/Quarles for a link to "Vulnerable parts of your home." For information call: 355-9350 or 355-0741 or e-mail us at: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com

Mountain Clymer

By Kim Clymer

Thoughts After The Pack Station
Kim Clymer used to own the pack station in the San Gabriel Mountains. Now she is involved in other pursuits, including wrestling with philosophical issues and writing. Part 1 of 4

Simplicity

This is a concept that scares the hell out of most people these days. We are spoiled...we are extravagant...we are self-centered...we are lazy. We have been brain-washed to believe that we cannot survive without all of our modern conveniences...that life as we know it will cease to exist if we have to get off of the sofa to change the channel, or if we have to spend any more than 5 minutes preparing a meal, or heaven forbid, that our home doesn't smell like the fragrance counter at Nordstrom's.

Corporate America has us wrapped around their little fingers, trained to follow their lead as easily as we would an instructor at Arthur Murray's Dance Studio. They say "buy" and we say "how many and how much?" We trust them as if we were children and they were our parents or teachers...never mind that they are motivated only by greed and the bottom line. They know

how to woo us...they play on our fears and insecurities...our laziness and our vanity...and often on our desperation. We are their lemmings and we are inches from the edge of the cliff...and we're still walking...looking at the world through company-issued, rose-colored glasses...all of us too caught up in the quest for "more" and "newer" and "better," and "faster" to see what lies in front of us if we continue on this path.

Simplicity is definitely not something to fear. My eyes were opened to the pleasures and value of simplicity when I moved to the mountains and spent time in the cabins of the Big Santa Anita Canyon. Experiencing life there forever changed me by giving me a taste of how life used to be, and by making me aware of how far removed we have become from truly experiencing life as it was meant to be lived...close to the Earth and close to others.



City Expects Paramedic Service in April

By Katina Dunn

During a surprisingly brief city council meeting Tuesday, Assistant Fire Chief Steve Heydorff and Paramedic Coordinator Greg Christmas gave reports on the city's long awaited paramedic service. About 30 applicants have been offered paramedic positions on a part-time basis, with about a dozen more to be interviewed.

Half of the applicants are from Los Angeles County and the rest from north and south of Los Angeles. Christmas said the residents would be pleased at this new team. "These are skilled and seasoned people who have applied who are also firefighters," said Christmas. "You'll be very happy with our paramedic service."

During "Community Communications," residents squared off for and against the Measure V initiative on the April 17th ballot. Jackie Pergola of Webb-Martin Realty said realtors in general fight against many wrongs, including predatory lenders, and try to qualify more people to buy homes. "We are not conspiring against anyone," Pergola said. "We are here to protect, to help and to inform the property owners of Sierra Madre."

Josh Moran, another Webb-Martin realtor, took issue with a handful of writers who are on staff and who have been published in the Mt. Wilson Observer. "I don't spit and sputter... like Joe Scalzo," said Moran. He also took Stefan Bund, David Smith, Hail Hamilton and Susan Henderson to task for their stances on "the Bogeyman of Development." He said "We have the utmost love for this town at Webb-Martin."

Fay Angus said there are "many, many outside interests" looking into our town. "I do not think the

vote can be bought," she said. "When you get a slick brochure, please remember where the funding is coming from. This is financial bullying of the common man... the grassroots groups are trying to preserve our town."

Resident Mary Carney requested volunteers for the Wistaria Festival on March 25, and urged volunteers to contact the Chamber of Commerce.

Paul Hovsepian requested a group prayer for the safety of the hillsides in this high risk fire season. Mayor John Buchanan suggested that be a subject for a moment of silent reflection at a future council meeting.

Mrs. Butler objected to the enforcement of the city's noise ordinance by police threatening to shut down her son's 16th birthday party. In advance of the party, Mrs. Butler said she had notified the police department as well as all her neighbors. "Allow some of us to have some joy," she said.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, March 4th, to Saturday March 11th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 206 calls for service.

Wednesday, March 7th:

2:44 AM - Theft from vehicle, 200 block Ramona Ave. A woman called and reported her I-Pod, wallet, several credit cards, a Colorado T-shirt, cash and car registration was stolen from her parked car. The loss occurred, 3/6 between 8:30 PM and 11:00 PM. The loss was estimated at \$330.00.

9:42 AM - Auto burglary, 300 block North Lima Ave. A resident called to report his car window smashed, his black LL Bean bag, wallet, driver's license, and cash were stolen. His car was parked on his driveway and the stolen property was in plain view. The loss occurred between 12:01 AM Wednesday, 3/7 and Thursday, 3/7. Estimated loss \$90.00.

Thursday, March 8th:

8:01 AM - Vandalism, Memorial Park. A city worker reported black marking pen letters, GMC written on the wall of the men's bathroom. The vandalism occurred with in the last 24 hour period. Estimated removal cost was unavailable.

10:32 AM - Grand theft, 400 block West Montecito Ave. A contractor reported tools missing, tool box, plumbing wrenches (Ridged, Channel Locks), Milwaukee from his job site. The total loss of tools was estimated at \$1235.00.

Friday, March 9th:

6:40 AM - Petty theft, 500 block West Laurel Ave. A resident reported cash and her car's ash tray stolen from her unlocked car. The car was parked Thursday, 3/8 at 6:00 PM and the loss was discovered at 6:30 AM.

11:08 AM - Petty theft, 500 block West Laurel Ave. A resident reported costume jewelry stolen from his house. The theft occurred between 8:00 PM Thursday, 3/8 and 8:30 AM 3/9 Friday morning. The loss was estimated at \$25.00.

RED CAR (continued from page 3)

Dr. Meyers remembers the Red Cars as a young child. His grandmother was the first woman mayor of South Pasadena and in 1951 took young William to ride on the cars before the route was discontinued.

As presented, the Red Car also provided a valuable lesson on how we should approach technology and development trends in the future. The system, which was electric and thus energy efficient and environmentally

friendly, was eventually replaced with freeways and buses to meet the demands of the population. Ironically, however, the trend for cities has been to develop 'light rail' systems in an effort to reduce pollution and reduce gasoline consumption.

When the last Red Car ran through Sierra Madre on October 6, 1950, people cried. The conductor, Red Dowding, wore his original Pacific Electric Railway uniform, despite the fact that the company had been bought out by the Metropolitan Coach lines and ultimately by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Red Dowding was the father of Woman's Club member Lillias Eubanks.

In 1981, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the city's founding, Mama Pete aka Marjorie Peterson was responsible for bringing an original Red Car back for the city's celebrations.

The Port of Los Angeles has refurbished and restored to service a Big Red Car for the public in San Pedro. You may also ride them at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, California.

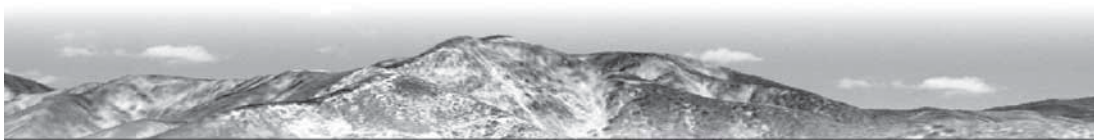
Meyers admonished listeners to remember the history of the Red Car and its' demise to avoid making the same kind of mistakes in the future. "You are knowledgeable voters of our society," he said when discussing the dismantling of a system that was environmentally sound and efficient. "It's up to you," Meyers said.



Photo courtesy of the Orange Empire Rail Museum
The Pacific Railway Red Car circa 1908
in Sierra Madre



Photo courtesy of the Orange Empire Rail Museum
Discarded Red Cars stacked at Terminal Island



The Mt. Wilson Observer PASADENA

"A Perfect Ending To A Wonderful Day"

New PUSD Superintendent Edwin Diaz visits for schools on his first day.



Superintendent Diaz and PHS Principal Dr. Derick Evans

Monday marked the beginning of a new era for the Pasadena Unified School District. On that day, Edwin Diaz former head of the Gilroy school district took over as superintendent of schools. Diaz took the time to visit four of the five city high schools, Blair IB Magnet, John Muir, Marshall Fundamental and Pasadena High School.

During his visit to PHS where he had the opportunity to introduce himself to faculty, students and parents, Diaz noted that his PHS visit was, "...A perfect ending to a wonderful day." Diaz was accompanied by Board Members Pete Soelter and Ed Honowitz. Soelter introduced Diaz as a man of thoughtfulness, integrity, commitment, and loyalty. Diaz told parents, "My first priority is to look at all of our students and make certain that their instructional needs are met." The PHS Jazz Band and Choir provided several musical selections for the event.

Photos and Story by Susan Henderson



The PHS choir captures the attention of Honowitz, Diaz, Evans and Soelter.

"Sunrise" Housing Project Plans Draw Immense Crowd

"You have to have basis for an appeal, or are we just throwing in our Hail Mary's?" Council Member Sid Tyler on Pasadena's draft of Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

By Dean Lee

Monday night's Pasadena City Council meeting was standing room only as the council discussed a number of affordable housing issues including appealing the Draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) for the city and the Ambassador West Project - a massive site of 200 senior living units plus 48 assisted living units of which some would be affordable housing. An additional 70 condos (25 of affordable housing) will be available for a total of 318 units.

The housing project is the largest in the city's history.

The council swayed back and forth indecisively about approving the new 450,000 square foot Sunrise life/care complex at the city's west end after developer Dorn Platz got in a heated dispute over property lines with church goers from Harvest Rock Church, ending in a threat by Harvest Rock to sue, dragging the city in with it.

"Apparently, very directly, I hear no decision is going to be made tonight," Mayor Bill Bogaard said. "I don't hear you saying that we shouldn't continue taking public testimony for those who wish to give it."

The standoff ended with the council deciding to put the matter off until April 2, even though Dorn Platz's attorneys made a plea with council members saying they would pay for any litigation that occurred.

The council then took a sudden turn saying they needed more time to review everything including a number of minor traffic concerns and the placement of a loading dock among other things. Mayor Bill Bogaard said that he had not been given enough time to read a 100 page document about the site given to him that day.

A number of residents came forward in support of the senior center saying it was badly needed. It would allow longtime residents to stay in the city, they said.

"I don't think I need to tell you, I haven't much time, so pass this for us," one 80-year-old woman said in a sweet tone as another told the council "Please doesn't forget about the seniors, this is a wonderful opportunity don't pass it up."

A number of Maranatha High School officials also threw their support behind the project saying it was a great opportunity for high school students and seniors alike.

The Worldwide Church of God had sold the Ambassador Auditorium and other structures to Harvest Rock Church and Maranatha High School, part of which did not have a clear showing of ownership, Harvest Rock lawyer Robert Silverstein said.

Silverstein also said that Dorn Platz had illegally deeded itself, during a lot line adjustment, 7,000 square feet of the church property without the authority to do so and that the city was responsible by issuing a Certificate of Compliance in 2006 for that adjustment.

Before dealing with the Ambassador West Project, Bogaard asked that the council deal with all other city business, which included, appealing the Draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) something many council members said they were confused about.

In the end they directed staff to draft an appeal but said they wanted it clear that the number of affordable housing for "low income - 448 units" and "very low income - 705 units" would not go down which left some in the audience still puzzled.

"You have to have basis for an appeal or are we just throwing in our Hail Mary's?" said council member Sid Tyler. "I'm not going support the motion not knowing what it stands for."

Council Member Paul Little asked who the Southern California Association of Governments members were making the (RHNA) decisions to the response "we know one of them is a South Pasadena Council member." Which he replied, "Right there we have a problem."

Residents said that as long as the number did not go down they were ok with it but "they would be watching," they said.

Others questioned, "why the rush?" meaning that there was much more then what the council was willing to say with a Friday deadline.

At the beginning of the six hour long meeting, Bogaard designated the Month of March as "Red Cross Awareness," honoring long time Red Cross Disaster Action Team leader Ed Barley. He also designated this week as "Girl Scouts: Make the World a Better Place Week," as scouts made a reminder that they are now selling cookies.

PCC Wins Award For Documentary

Pasadena City College took the Bronze Award at the 28th Annual Telly Awards for the documentary-style production of the PCC Artist in Residence 20th Anniversary Video.

The second-place win in the low-budget production category marks the second time PCC has received the prestigious award, which honors outstanding local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs. PCC was awarded the Silver Telly in 2005 for the project "Digital Storytelling."

"The video department is delighted to be recognized by such an outstanding organization," said Sherine Adeli, PCC

Video Producer. "The artist in residence video project was a collaboration of many individuals, and represents 20 years of a distinguished program."

In 1987, Pasadena City College launched an ambitious program to bring prominent artists for a weeklong stay on campus, where the artists interact closely with students, faculty, and the community. The award winning video commemorates this program.

Adeli, PCC dean of Visual Arts and Media Studies Alex Kritselis, and instructors Lindsey Jang and Rachel Fermi as well as others within Visual Arts division, collaborated on the 20-minute video.

LAPD Welcomes Bulldog Fans To Lion Country

By Katina Dunn

Scores of parents and administrators of Pasadena High School never made it inside the gymnasium during the CIF basketball playoff game last Saturday between Fairfax High School's Lions and the Bulldogs at Fairfax High School on Melrose Avenue in Hollywood.

Even PHS Principal Derick Evans and School Board Members Pete Soelter and Ed Honowitz didn't get in. Instead, the group of PHS fans were greeted by police officers in riot gear carrying tear gas rifles as a helicopter above waved a spotlight on them.

"First it was the helicopter - flying around, shining the light on us like we were a bunch of refugees," said parent Phyllis Lansdown. "That was the first encounter. Then it looked like two lines of ten came running in with all the riot gear on. No announcement from the school. They started lining up to block us. After that, no more than 20 minutes later, it seemed like they had the whole LAPD there. They had their batons. They had their plastic headgear on. I saw two police with rifles. I could not believe it. It was just wild. I bet they were very surprised. We were not the crowd they expected." Lansdown said there were about 250 from PHS, including athletes, alumni, parents, grandparents, small children and coaches. "I don't know if its Homeland Security mode," she wondered about the police. "I heard in LA if you're at a picnic the same thing happens."

Her son, James, a trumpeter in the PHS Pep Band who was inside the gym, updated his parents via cellphone as they stood in line for almost four hours waiting to get in to see the game, which began at 7 p.m. "The majority of people started getting there 3:30... What can I say, other than it was just - they could have given the fans a little more respect," said Phyllis Lansdown.

"When L.A. Unified comes to Pasadena to play in the Rose Parade, is this the way we greet their students?" Phyllis' mother, Zee Herbert, told her daughter.

PHS Music Director David Miller said the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) should have held the game in a larger, more neutral arena. He also said there were empty seats on the Fairfax side of the gym.

Miller described the evening as "ridiculous," "horrible" and "absurd." Starting off the evening in the gym, Miller said officials at Fairfax were conflicted about giving the go ahead for PHS to play "The Star Spangled Banner," which the pep band played anyway, after orders of "Play" and then "Don't Play."



LAPD SWAT brought out their finest to greet unsuspecting students & fans from Pasadena



Miller was told the Fairfax Band was in its first year, so instead, there was a hip hop DJ with speakers "so large you could have lived in them" and the DJ played songs throughout the entire halftime.

Miller said Fairfax was not prepared (continued on page 7)



THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER



Editor
Katina Dunn
Managing Editor
Susan Henderson
Art Director
Marco Carreno
Photography
Felix Orona
Buddy Windsor
Jacqueline Truong
Steve Padilla
Linda Ott-Albright
Contributors
Dean Lee
Stefan Bund
Stanley J. Forrester
Paul the Cyberian
Madeline Miller
Kyle McClure
Pat Birdsell
Bob Eklund
Caroline Brown
David Smith
Rich Johnson
Chris Bertrand
Peter Dills
Student Correspondents
Pasadena High School
Alverno High School
Oak Crest Institute of Science

Editorial Cartoonist
Ann Cleaves
Web Master
Gary Miller
For Advertising Inquiries contact:
MASTROMEDIA, INC.
626-355-2737
JULIE PUTERBAUGH
626-836-6524
DOROTHY JIMENEZ
818-314-9417

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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.

OPINION

SALE PENDING

By Susan Henderson



sale (n): public disposal to the highest bidder; **pending (preposition):** while waiting.

Well, citizens of Sierra Madre, now you have the facts before you in black and white. They cannot be disputed. It's official. As reported in this paper on numerous occasions, there is an attempt to develop the City of Sierra Madre according to the wishes of the Building Industry Association, California Association of Realtors, The National Association of Realtors and the Arcadia Association of Realtors. That has been confirmed by the Campaign Finance report filed with our city clerk. The down payment has been made and the sale of Sierra Madre is now pending. *That is, unless you do something about it.*

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out why these organizations in particular would be willing to invest over \$119,000 to defeat an initiative that simply says "let the residents decide." Any reasonable thinking person must ask themselves, what's in it for them? The money isn't tax deductible and they are not charitable organizations.

If they were so interested in 'saving Sierra Madre' they could have donated or loaned that money to the city for their Police. No, it isn't about helping anything but the inside of their pockets.

And, you should be able to see that all of the allegations against this newspaper are just lies. Our most vocal critic, Beth Buck with her downtown dirt website and her husband Ross, have received over \$9,500.00 from these outside funds through their company, A Buck Or Two. For some people, bashing the truth for a nice fat check seems okay.

Editorial

Pay Back

It is always disconcerting to hear from those who might snatch our legacy away from us that we are a worthless, ungrateful bunch of butt sitters and they - the legacy snatchers - have toiled and sweated for years on an infinite number of committees, benevolent organizations and chain gangs.

Disconcerting, because, whenever that is said, it is usually time to pay the bill, isn't it?

Time to pay up for all those years of sacrifice and glory-seeking that we didn't ask for.

Many of us were brought up learning that charity is a private endeavor, a good secret to keep in one's heart that also spares the recipient any embarrassment for having less or needing more than others.

Also, and does this need to be said? Great deeds are done and who needs to know? Giving is its own reward.

It is distasteful in the extreme to be measured by any pack of people who climb hierarchies of benevolent organizations so they may snatch crumbs of glory from other hard working volunteers, benefit from networking connections for their own enterprises, or delay the momentum of an organization due to fumbling of one kind or another.

To be thrashed publicly by those who bear this showy, empty and rigid standard for volunteerism is an experience that can only be described as "eh?"

You can be sure when you start hearing talk that you are unworthy that the worthy and the mighty are readying to swoop down and snatch what they believe is rightfully theirs - and that could very well include what is yours. Your peace of mind, your property values, heck, even a whole town.

They are entitled because of all those years of hard work they have put in. It is time for pay back.

Another thing, what about all that hypocritical rhetoric about integrity?

How much integrity is involved with The Committee to Preserve Sierra Madre - a Coalition of Residents, Property Owners, Taxpayers, Realtors and Small Businesses? Where are these people? Well, according to the financial reports, this group has only 4 financial "residents" whose combined contributions are \$550.00. How interesting.

It is amazing how devious and underhanded opponents of Measure V can be. You've heard the stories about the character assassinations and attempts to stop this newspaper. A woman named "Colleen" called our advertising consultant to inquire about his relationship with us because he is running for school board. Does running for office preclude a person from earning an honest living, or should a person rely on the generous 'contributions' of special interest groups?

Others have called our advertisers and threatened them. Would you be surprised to know that based upon alleged inquiries from residents of Sierra Madre, Steve Tobia, publisher of the Mountain Views, called our offices last week to inquire about who this paper's financial backers are?

It is always true that if you 'follow the money' you can find out what is behind anything. This newspaper is financed by two Sierra Madre moms, something we have disclosed from the very beginning. However, these self proclaimed 'preservationists' have not been so honest. It is only when the election is a little more than a month away and the law dictates that they disclose who has been providing them financial support, do they come forward.

These people are not involved to protect this town or your home. They are involved because of the money or the cronyism or both.

So I hope you are ready for this. Fasten your seat belt. You are about to see the best that money can buy from the Opponents of Measure V. I just hope you can see the forest through the trees without cutting the forest down. And I really hope that your vote and conscience cannot be bought. For complete information on Measure V - go to www.mtwilsonobserver.com

Will the Real Committee to Preserve Sierra Madre Please Stand Up?

By David Smith



When I first started writing my columns for this paper, I had no idea of what I was getting involved in. I just happen to subscribe to the Wall Street Journal, because it's the best newspaper there is, and because it lets me know sooner than any other source when there's trouble on the horizon. I began to notice that articles in the Journal were describing a lot of what I was seeing in the politics of Sierra Madre. So I started writing my column, applying the articles in the Journal to the situation we're currently facing.

The machinations of global business are incredible. Machiavelli and the Borgias and the Medicis are rank amateurs in our modern world, especially where government and business interact. Little did I realize just how close to home these machinations have come.

A front-page article in this newspaper sums up what I'm saying quite well. A \$119,850 war chest has been created to stop the residents of Sierra Madre from having a say in the future development of their community. \$119,200 of that came from the California Association of Realtors, the Building Industry Association and the National Association of Realtors.

Does anyone seriously believe that the developers and realtors donated all this money "to protect and preserve our city"? Does anyone really believe they're donating money for a charitable cause? Gimme a break!

This is an investment, made in anticipation of a return hundreds of times greater.

And how is this money going to get spent? It's going to public relations firms that boast they can manipulate a community into doing whatever the client desires, by, say, telling us these realtors and developers want to "preserve" our community. You can see an example on the "Vote No on Measure V" lawn signs.

Back when I was a kid, and Hitler's rise to power was still fresh in the American consciousness, we called it the "Big Lie." They're going to see the "Big Lie" in action in the next few weeks.

You are about to witness an attempt to talk you into an act of self-inflicted impotence and financial loss.

Do you want to see what I'm talking about? Go to www.daviescommunications.com/real_estate.html and read "Real Estate Practice Overview." They say it better than I can.

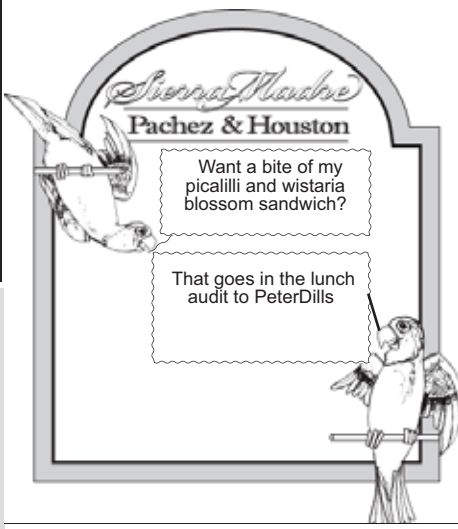
I'm now beginning to realize how much money is involved in the Measure V issue, tens of millions of dollars, at the very minimum, maybe a whole lot more, money to be lost by homeowners in the equity of their homes, money to be gained by realtors in sales commissions and by developers in windfall profits. And make no mistake there is a definite connection between the loss and the gain.

Bring the condo glut to Sierra Madre; degrade the quality of life in this community and home values are going to decline with it.

The conflict we're having comes from the amount of money involved in the development of our downtown. The question is how well can three members of our City Council handle the enormous responsibilities and pitfalls that come with decisions involving so much money?

That's what Measure V is about. It's a safeguard. It removes improper influence from the decision making process, and creates greater transparency in our city government. Developers will have to let us all know what they're up to, and what they plan to do to our community.

Together, we can make these important decisions. This is our last chance to maintain control over our community. If Measure V fails, then the community we now know and love will be lost forever. For your own sake, don't let that happen.



Letters To The Editor

An Open Letter to Joe Mosca

Mr. Mosca:

I voted for you, because during the Candidates' Forum that took place in city council chambers, when you were asked if you were in favor of a public vote on the Downtown Specific Plan, you said "Yes."

I regretted voting for you at the June 13th city council meeting, when you voted "No" on the resolution for the citizens' right to vote on the Downtown Specific Plan. Both your "Yes" and your "No" are on tape and disc. Because of your reversal, I signed the petition for your recall. Shortly after, my name appeared, along with others, on an obscene web site.

I realize that you have not been in Sierra Madre for very long, so you might think that all of this is business as usual in this town. It is not. Some of your supporters have taken the public discourse to a new low with poison websites. In the past there have certainly been political disagreements, arguments, and even

recalls, but there has never been such reprehensible personal attacks, sexually graphic slanders, pornographic references, and so much hypocritical mud-slinging.

In the promotional material you recently mailed out, you asked for our input, and you emphasized how much you are doing for seniors. I ask you to protect the seniors in this community who are generous enough to participate in the political process. Protect them from being subjects on obscene and vitriolic websites. There is a service that will monitor web sites and force the removal of references to individuals, for a fee of \$30 per reference. For people who participate politically, and then are horrifically slandered, you should pay for the removal of references created by your supporters.

At \$30 per reference, for you to make amends to Fay Angus alone would cost you thousands of dollars.

Mr. Mosca, please remember that all this happened because you said you would vote "Yes" and then you voted "No."

Teryl Willis

Another View

Characterizing Joe Mosca's voting record as "pro-development" and inconsistent with his campaign promises is unwarranted and misconstrued. Here's why.

He did in fact vote to give residents the chance to vote on the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP). Moreover, the city council unanimously supported Mosca's resolution to put the DSP to a citywide election after more public input to mold it into a workable plan that protects the character of our village. Mosca wanted a plan he could support and felt it made no sense to ask for voter approval before an environmental report. He feels the plan needs to complete the process of public review and debate in the planning commission and city council.

Unhappy that the council did not support an earlier public vote proposed by Councilman Kurt Zimmerman, a vocal segment of the community countered with an initiative. It is now Measure V, a zoning amendment that requires voter approval of projects over two stories. Dubbed the Voter Empowerment Act or 2-30-13, it goes to a citywide vote on April 17, a month after the school board election.

When Measure V was submitted to the city council as prescribed by law, the majority of the council responded without delay to call an election. Zimmerman and Councilman Don Watts voted no because they preferred adopting the measure as an ordinance.

Both were elected with Mosca in the April 2006 election.

To vet the initiative as objectively as possible, the same majority called for a study to be completed by an outside consultant within 30 days. Mosca understands it would be irresponsible to adopt an initiative ordinance without study and debate. The consultant's report, introduced at the city council meeting Tuesday night (Feb. 27), sheds light on implications of the initiative. Now if only the electorate can take time to read and digest the 85-page report!

Because Mosca did not side with Zimmerman and Watts on the DSP and Measure V decisions does not make him "pro-development." Nor does blaming him for the cost of the study and election make any sense.

Mosca did not promise to vote with any bloc. He does his homework, listens to all constituents, not just a few, and weighs the facts before voting. That's why more than 100 people stood in silent tribute to him at this week's city council meeting. They believe he has been an exemplary councilman in his 10 months on the job.

Wearing "I'm for Joe" buttons, they rose as an exclamation point to Kathy Childs' statement that a recall in November would be a waste of time, energy and money that should be pored into issues still on the table - from keeping the pool open to paying our safety officers and a strategy for financial stability that Mosca is developing.

Jacqueline Knowles



The British Are Coming! The British Are Coming!

By Rich Johnson

I can't believe it's already 2007 and we've made no plans for the impending invasion by Great Britain.

Oh be assured, it's inevitable. Look at the history of our nation. The British have invaded the United States in every century. Why should the 21st Century be any different?

They snuck up on us in the 18th century. They got away with calling us the colonies just because most of us were from England. Okay, we were willing enough to let them think they were in charge. That is until King George III decided he wanted us to pay for his silly little wars. This all came to a head when, you remember, they added an exorbitant tax on tea. And luckily, there just happened to be a shipful of tea in Boston Harbor. We could make a statement. We snuck aboard dressed as native Americans (sorry) and tossed the tea bags over. By the way, tea is not as good if it is brewed in salt water. Most people called this act the Boston Tea Party. Many in Boston called it the Boston massacre or Boston, Mass for short. (Thank you Richard Armour)

We managed to beat the British back with the help of the French. (I think that was the last time they helped us in battle)

Moving on to the 19th century the British struck again in and around 1812. You see they had a problem with a general named Napoleon. They were at war with France (who wasn't?) and were running short of sailors. So, they stopped and boarded our ships and kidnapped

American sailors who looked English. Add that to the fact the British, using an embargo, stopped us from trading with the French. Well, it didn't take long for the shortage of French toast and French fries to infuriate us Americans.

The early part of the war was fought mostly at sea. The British actually invaded the U.S. in August of 1814. They captured Washington D.C. and set fire to the Capitol and the White House. The most famous victory in the War was Andrew Jackson's stunning defeat of the British in the Battle of New Orleans. So the war had been over for two weeks. We showed them.

The British realized a full frontal assault of the U.S. wouldn't work. They would have to take their time, strategize and devise sinister plots to invade us in the 20th century.

The British devised a pernicious plan to sneak over and enlist young Americans. They landed on February 8, 1964 in small raiding parties of 4 and 5 men teams. The first squad went by traditional American names John, Paul, George and Ringo. They quickly captured the American airwaves and soon all hell broke loose. We sent in our best: Jan and Dean, Dick Dale and the Deltones, the Shangri Las. They were crushed like bugs. In fact, the only really successful defense was by a general in Detroit named Berry Gordy. He launched the now famous Motown defense and held them at bay. Thank you Berry. It was a Supreme effort.

So there you have it. Don't say you weren't warned. Who knows how they'll invade us this century? I'll take the first watch.



Memorial Park is not about Race, It's about Use

By Hail Hamilton

To begin I want to thank all those individuals at last Tuesday's Sierra Madre City Council Meeting who showed such kindness to my wife about the incident she experienced by the day laborers at Memorial Park last summer, especially Police Chief Marilyn Diaz. I also want to thank all those who have written me in support of taking back Memorial Park.

When you have the time—and believe me it will take some time—read the lengthy brief by City Attorney Sandy Levin for the meeting. Compare her citations with mine. She emphasized the FREE SPEECH and EQUAL PROTECTION rights of the day laborers. Mine is only a page a half long. I emphasized the MUNICIPAL CODE and the EQUAL PROTECTION rights of the taxpayers who pay for the park.

Listening to City Manager John Gillison and the City Attorney lecture on and on about why it's unconstitutional for the City to do anything about the day laborers and those who hire them was an insult to anyone with half a brain. Alhambra, Arcadia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, and San Marino don't allow day laborers to loiter about and solicit work in or around their parks. Are all these cities violating the Constitution? I don't think so. What they are doing is enforcing their laws.

Howard Morzov played the race card.

He said the whole day laborer controversy was a non-issue created by a "mean spirited individual who got his feelings hurt." My feelings weren't hurt; it was my wife's feelings that were hurt. What Mr. Morzov really wants is Sierra Madre to continue its plantation mentality and let the day laborers remain in Memorial Park as a cheap source of labor for a few residents and local "contractors." Kind of like the plantation slaves on Tara in "Gone with the Wind."

Cynthia Valenzuela, Director of Litigation for the Mexican-

American Legal Defense fund, the legal arm of La Raza ("the Race") also played the race card. She argued that any attempt to regulate or restrict the day laborers is discriminatory and unconstitutional and would be met with a lawsuit. Council Member Don Watts, however, would have none of this and said: "I for one will not allow the City to be held hostage by the threat of law suits."

Bill Tice recommended that the City ask the Congregational or United Methodist Churches if the day laborers could gather in their parking lots.

I think a much simpler solution is to require a city permit for all day laborers and those who hire them. This permit would include photo identification with current address and phone number. Contractors who work in Sierra Madre would also be required to show proof of a valid state contractor's license, and documentation that their employees or "subcontractors" are paying taxes, have Workman's Compensation Insurance, and that the contractor carry sufficient liability insurance to cover any injury to persons or damage to property.

They would then be issued a "Right to Work in Sierra Madre" sticker to be placed on their vehicles, like the ones required of contractors who work in San Marino.

These are reasonable solutions. They are a fair balance between individual and community rights. They are also not racist or discriminatory. Most importantly, they do not in any way violate the Constitution.



LAPD (continued from page 5)

for an event of this intensity. "If, putting it mildly, our fans were rabid - the fact that this team went as far as it did and became as good as it did made people flock to the fan base," said Miller.

Some PHS spectators in the gym, angry at what they perceived to be questionable rulings on the court, began throwing coins at the officials, implying they were bought off, Miller said. One of the officials "lost it" and a shoving match began. There was no announcer or emcee; that function seemed to be served by members of the LAPD, who spoke to the crowd with megaphones.

LAPD Spokesperson Officer Jason Lee said Tuesday no arrests were made, and the Police Air Unit and extra officers were summoned by police already at the site. "They requested assistance," he

said.

CIF Director of Communications Emmy Zack said both schools have been asked to provide a report to CIF. "We are still trying to determine where the breakdown occurred," said Zack. "It's definitely something we are looking at and will address."

There was no CIF official at Fairfax, she said, but there were 40 games that night and the CIF staff is made up of nine people.

The regional and state finals are typically routed to a common site - Fairfax plays next at Pauley Pavilion at UCLA with Divisions 1, 2 and 3 and Divisions 4 and 5 will play at Cal State Fullerton.

Because of this, Zack said the CIF will have time to work out logistics at individual high school sites for next year.

If you would like to send a letter to the editor for publication, you may do so via fax - 626-604-4548, email - deuxamispub@aol.com or U.S. Mail - 280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. #327, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024. Please include your full name and telephone number for verification. All materials submitted become the property of The Mt. Wilson Observer and are subject to editing.

Ed Alverno, Arroyo Pacific Academy, La Salle, Maranatha, Pasadena High School, St. Francis, Sierra Mesa Middle School, The Barnhart School, The Gooden School, Field Elementary, 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

Charter School goes "Homeless" as Others are "Preferred Sole Occupants"

By Dean Lee

The tables suddenly turned on one charter school as Linda Vista community members packed Monday night's PUSD meetings thanking school board members for the application withdrawal for Rhythms of the Village at the former Linda Vista Elementary School's site, something that has yet to occur, according to school board members.

Linda Vista residents immediately threw their support behind allowing All Saints Children's Center use the former site for their daycare.

"The site was not made to accommodate 400 high school students," said Sharon Yonashiro, president of the Linda Vista Annandale Association. "If you go look at it there is just no space."

At their Feb. 27 meeting, the School Board voted 4-3 favoring the go-ahead for three schools leaving only the placement of Rhythms of the Village to be decided.

The school board said Monday they are still waiting for the withdrawal notification.

About a half dozen Rhythms of the Village staff members along with parents and community leaders had shown up Feb. 27 asking for placement of the school on the former Linda Vista site, something Board Member Prentice Deadrick now said they have no interest in.

Linda Vista community members also said this was not about race although Rhythms of the Village stated that their kids come from Northwest Pasadena - an area that is 50 percent Hispanic and 37 percent African American. 70 percent of the residents also live below the poverty line they said. They also estimate that 85 percent of their students will have dropped out of traditional educational programs.

"We will not vandalize, destroy or decrease property values in the Linda Vista community," said Pat Huff on behalf of the school Feb. 27.

Huff went on to say, "indeed we intend to get to know the members of that community and work together

to lift the community up with our presence."

In response Yonashiro said Monday, "all kids at that age do those kinds of things like vandalize and what we're saying is we don't want it in our neighborhood."

In complying with proposition 39, passed by voters in 2000, the district must share public school facilities fairly among all students in their district, including charter schools, when space is available, charter school advocates said.

The charter school movement started in 1988 with the idea of making them more accountable for student outcomes by relaxing district regulations and in many cases state laws.

The board approved placement of Odyssey Charter School on the former Audubon Elementary site, NIA Charter School on the former Edison Elementary site and Aveson Charter School on the former Noyes Elementary site as preferred sole occupants. All three schools are located in Altadena.

Before voting not to allow co-location Nov 27, board members discussed a number of different location options with some school board members favoring co-locations although all charter schools officials opposed the idea.

"I think what we tried to do was be cognizant of their needs, to better understand what their programs were," Board Member Ed Honowitz said. All of the placement contracts will last one year.

"We have not finished a facilities study for our district, we don't know what the grade configuration should be etc, looking ahead five years," Board Member Bill Bibbiani said. "Locking anything in for longer than one year does not make any sense."

Placement of Rhythms of the Village could now be more difficult without the possibility of co-location, although some said the school had made it clear earlier they never wanted co-location in the first place.

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Arcadia
(626) 294-0661

Alverno High School
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(626) 355-3463

Bethany Christian School
93 B. N. Baldwin Ave.
(626) 355-3527

March 23, 2007- Pre-school grandparent's day.
March 29, 2007- Pre-school and kindergarten partner's day.

The Gooden School
192 N. Baldwin Ave.
(626) 355-2410
www.goodenschool.org
March 29-30, 2007- No school for students.

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

March 20-24, 2007- Student Emersion Project in Tijuana, Mexico.
March 23, 24, 30, and 31, 2007- Spring musical.
March 27, 2007- Students make dinner at Union Station.
March 29, 2007- Café biblio-tech (arts learning day).

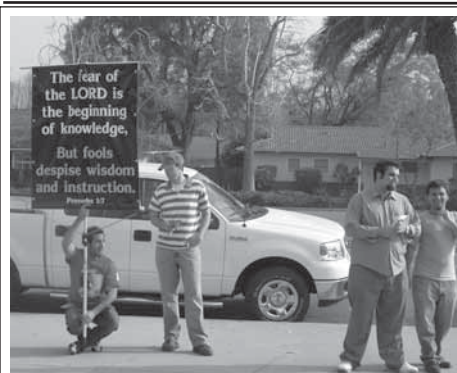
Odyssey Charter School
725 W. Altadena Dr.
Altadena, CA
(626) 229-0993
www.odysseycharterschool.com
March 30, 2007- Spring Performance.

Pasadena High School
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena
(626) 798-8901
March 23, 2007- Spring dance and career fair.
March 30, 2007- Talent show.

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

Sierra Madre Middle School
160 N. Canon
(626) 836-2947
March 20, 2007- School sight council meeting.
March 22, 2007- ELAC meeting.

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



Fire & Brimstone A sidewalk evangelical preached to Pasadena High School students last week after school. Freshman Evonne Smith said "I think it's not right for people to tell other people they're going to hell." Another freshman, Daniel Krishnan, said "I think it's B.S. I think he's contradicting himself. I doubt he's read the Koran or the Buddhist texts." PCC student Colin Chu, recruiting at PHS with his youth pastor from Pasadena First Baptist Church, said "It's freedom of speech, right? This is large scale, soap box preaching." Photo by Katina Dunn

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Students Confront Calamities of Drug Use

HBO airs documentary "Addiction" Thursday March 15 through March 30

By Dean Lee

By means of a traditional first-name-only approach used by many 12-step programs, PUSD students, alumni and parents spoke out about drugs at a Day One seminar recently. Many recounted their "personal firsthand encounters with hell..." to a room full of parents at John Muir High. Some even broke down crying.

Before a lengthy question-and-answer period, the panelists talked about broken homes, jail, and lost friends; all associated with what most referred to as a "disease."

At one point panelist Alexis explained what it took to get her to stop, the unfortunate death of another person during a traffic accident she caused while drunk. "All I wanted that night was for him to get out of the car," she said. "I was on a date like so many others, I was drinking and when I left I thought the worst would be getting a DUI, nothing bad had ever happened before, I had been with my friends a thousand times drinking and driving."

She went on, "I remember getting out of jail and my mom getting a phone call from our lawyer saying, 'the man died.'"

Tahra Goraya, Executive Director for Day One, a community based nonprofit dealing with problems associated with alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use in Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre, said the panelists were all chosen to show that addiction does not discriminate. She singled out Alexis as an example.

"Some of these kids you would never know - they look like, and do, come from two parent affluent families," Goraya said.

Kathy Watson, PUSD's Substance Abuse Specialist, made a similar comment during the discussion. "When you listen to the panelists, listen for similarities not the differences. Don't think, 'that's not my child' or 'my child only smokes pot,'" she said.

Another panelist, David, spoke about his life and addiction, starting with pot,

while his mom Linda listened two seats away as part of the panel as well. She later spoke about David's father, someone David said he never knew, and her former husband's drug use.

She said that she had always kept that part of her life away from all of her sons but after seeing her older sons go through drug addiction she had to intervene with David. "I had seen weed and alcohol but this 'crack' was a whole other world. I would come home from work and all drapes were closed, my husband peaking out, asking me if 'I see them?' I had enough," she said.

Arturo Araujo, a bilingual substance abuse facilitator for the PUSD's Mandatory Impact Program, told parents the program works with in- and outpatient treatment centers as well as the courts.

"It is important to note the Mandatory Impact Program is not a treatment facility or treatment program," he said. "I like to think of it as a positive epicenter for change. We really try to determine whether these are kids who have either made a bad decision or need sincere help."

Originally, the discussion titled "Reality: Kids are using Alcohol and Drugs" was to follow the viewing of HBO's documentary "Addiction," but due to technical difficulties parents ate pizza and drank soda. One parent in particular, who just found out earlier that afternoon that her daughter was addicted to methamphetamines, sought comfort from others.

"Are you ready to stop?" Watson asked the teen.

The event was sponsored by Day One, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, the Pasadena Unified School District and HBO.

The documentary, "Addiction" will air on HBO free to cable subscribers, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, then again on HBO2 at 11:00 p.m. It will also run free Sunday at 3:45 a.m. and then rebroadcast through March 30 to subscribers.

For more information on Day One call: (626) 229-9750 or PUSD's Mandatory Impact Program at: (626) 795-9541.



TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS

North Meets South



Luigi Ortega is a medium sized restaurant right across from Pasadena City College. The restaurant boasts Hoagies, Tacos, Pizzas, Salads and Pastas. Big Deal you say - many restaurants in the area offer a large menu. I get a little nervous at places with those mega menus. How can they do every thing right and shouldn't restaurants just concentrate on what they can do best? Robin's for BBQ, Domenicos for Pizza and JJ's for Steaks!!

Luigi Ortega has a wonderful story... if you know your History 101? Christopher Columbus was Italian and he went to Queen Isabel of Spain for backing of his voyage. Thus, he had a Spanish Chef... Ortega. Confused? Well, don't be! Being born in the 60's in Athens, Greece, I ordered the Athen's Salad (\$6.99). This is almost a Greek Salad but with Romaine Lettuce (History 101 B - a real Greek Salad has no lettuce) thus it's called 'Athens' and it

does have Feta Cheese and all the good stuff. I have ordered the Burritos here at L&O's and like them as well. The pizzas are medium in size and are cooked in a wood burning oven, just like CPK used to do (\$7.99 to \$10.99). The signature dishes at L&O's are the Philly Cheese Steak and the Hot Hoagie Sandwiches starting at \$5.99.

The menu gleefully recommends Cheez Whiz on your sandwich.

Sounds like a ton of calories! So I suggest to you that this isn't a place to go if you are on a diet. The dessert case is always full; they get their cakes from The Cheesecake Factory.

The restaurant itself has that bright new-car appeal to it; following the trend of other restaurants, they have at least 10 Brand New Plasma TV's always on. I like that; it gives me something to do while I am eating my food. The kitchen is open and you can sit outside. This is something you might consider on a weekend - when there is no school.

What to order. Salads are good, the Tacos and Burritos are every bit as good as any Mexican Restaurant in the area. Log onto www.lotimes.com for complete menu and prices.

What to Avoid: I really do like everything here, the pizzas are good but if you are in the mood for Pizza I could recommend several other places.

Prices: Very Reasonable

Bonus: Each table has an automatic napkin dispenser and Free wifi is available

Luigi Ortega

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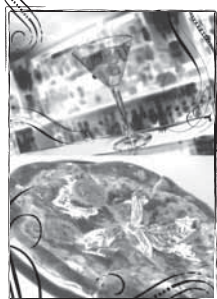
***I would drive anywhere in the city to get to this restaurant

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Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



Photo by Jean Boenish

earthquake-prone San Andreas Fault.

The land on the Pacific side of the fault (including Los Angeles, Sierra Madre, and Mt. Wilson) is not going to fall off into the sea, as some people fear, but it is bound to be subject to some shaking from time to time, as that one-inch-per-year motion builds up stresses along the San Andreas and adjacent faults.

The San Andreas runs through the heart of California for some 700 miles. It's no coincidence that the shoreline of Southern and Central California—along with Interstate Highway 5—runs in a northwest-southeast direction, roughly parallel to this fault. (Even the contrails of jet planes on the route from Los Angeles to San Francisco point to the direction of the fault line below them.)

At Mt. Wilson, rapid uplift and erosion from heavy coastal rains have conspired together to produce slopes that are rare among mountains for their steepness and difficulty of access. Indeed, John Muir, after attempting an ascent from near Eaton Canyon, declared that he had not encountered mountains anywhere more difficult to

Sierra Madre residents live at the base of a mountain that was once located 280 miles to the south, near the northern end of the Gulf of California. Moving it to where it is now did not take a miracle—just plain old plate tectonics, at work for some 18 million years.

Mt. Wilson, like most of the San Gabriel range, is part of the Pacific Plate, which is moving slowly but steadily northwestward at an average rate of about one inch per year. North and east of the San Gabriels is the North American Plate. And along the line where the two plates meet is—you guessed it—the

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Mountains That Move (Hopefully Not Too Much at a Time)

climb. The core rocks of Mt. Wilson are igneous (solidified from molten rock) and metamorphic (changed in structure, usually under heat and/or pressure). Their age ranges from 1.7 billion years down to 80 million years, or from a time when the Earth was 2/3 its current age until the age of the dinosaurs.

While these igneous rocks such as granite (often quite decomposed at the surface) are the major component of Mt. Wilson itself, the mountain is surrounded by a thick blanket of sedimentary rocks. These rocks, which can be seen on both sides of the San Gabriels in places like Little Tujunga Canyon and Vasquez Rocks County Park, are the result of massive erosion; 20,000 feet of rock has been lost from the top of Mt. Wilson over the past several millions of years.

Mt. Wilson today is the product of continual uplift due to faulting, folding, and earthquakes—and, at the same time, the incessant assault of rain, freezing, and the rush of rivers from the mountain to the ocean.

To learn more about the San Andreas Fault, come to the Altadena Library on Sunday afternoon, March 25, when David K. Lynch speaks to the Mount Wilson Observatory Association (MWOA) in a presentation based on his new book, *Field Guide to the San Andreas Fault*. Dr. Lynch, an astronomer and planetary scientist at The Aerospace Corporation, will take us on a mile-by-mile trip along the length of this geological marvel.

The Altadena Library is at 600 E. Mariposa St. in Altadena (at Santa Rosa Ave., the second stop-sign west of Lake Ave.) The talk begins at 2:30 p.m., and there is no charge. Free refreshments will be served before the talk, beginning at 2:00.

My thanks to a long-ago (1965-1972) resident of Sierra Madre, Bill Green, for the information on Mt. Wilson geology in this column.

WorkForce with Madeline

Q: How important is it to include military service on a résumé? I'm a heavy equipment mechanic who served in the Middle East as a staff sergeant. I did receive relevant training in the Army and also several service awards. I was told that since this was almost 15 years back to eliminate my military experience from my résumé.

A: I disagree with the person who told you this. Being in the military is always very impressive and should remain on your résumé. It demonstrates a disciplined and versatile individual. In your case, it shows leadership skills and career training.

Recruiters like to take the whole person into consideration during the selection process and being in the Army adds another dimension to your qualifications. Over the next few weeks, I plan on sending out more than 100 résumés. I will be including

a cover letter with each. As far as the letter, is it really necessary to put in the name and address of the company I'm applying to? This seems like a waste of time.

Your letter should always follow formal business style and should be personalized. This includes (1) your name, address, phone number, and email, (2) the date, (3) the name of the person the letter is going to, and (4) the name and address of the company you are applying to.

Also, mention the company name at least once within the body of your letter. For example, instead of saying, "I am applying for a position at your company," you should write, "I am applying for a position at Smith Jones Company." If you are responding to a specific ad, your letter should read, "I am responding to your advertisement for a marketing consultant at Smith Jones Company." Every little bit counts when applying for a job. Nothing is a waste of time.



Send your questions to Madeline at comtype2@aol.com

How's your Wii: The Nintendo Revolution So Far

Paul the Cyberian

If you can remember as far back as the pre-Christmas 2006 season (commonly known as Thanksgiving) you might recall a bit of a buzz about the new Nintendo Wii. At that point it was shrouded in more mystery than fact about all that it was purported to do. Since that time we've learned a lot more about this new gaming system and most of it appears to be positive.

The Wii controller is composed of components that can identify and graph its position in 3D space. This design allows users to control the game using physical gestures as well as traditional button presses. The controller is wireless which allows the user to mimic the physical motions for games such as tennis and golf. In this case instead of pushing buttons like traditional game controllers the user actually swings the racket or club and the console converts this motion to the display unit and the user motions control the motions of the on-screen player.

The new EA commercial featuring Tiger Woods playing golf on the Wii gives the user a chance to play like Tiger on the courses he plays (without the big checks, of course). The Golf game is one of several games under the Wii Sports banner. Other popular titles include Boxing and Baseball. There is already a fairly large library for Wii games for both single and multiple players.

The console features parental controls, prohibiting younger users from playing games with content considered unsuitable for their age level. When a Wii or Virtual Console game is attempted to be played, it reads the content rating encoded in the game data; if this rating is greater than the system's set age level the game will not load without a correct override password. However, the parental control setting does not affect Nintendo GameCube titles.

Like most gaming systems this one has not come to be without its fair share of criticism. Early users complained of poor sound quality and difficulties with the aiming mechanism for motion-active games. There have been several releases of revamped games specifically designed to overcome these initial flaws and deliver on the Wii promise of "a new way to play".

So far the Wii has delivered just that. A new way to play.



Photo courtesy Google Images
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One of a Kind:

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By Chris Bertrand

Essick House: From 70's Eyesore to Sierra Madre Treasure

The 1914 Essick House stood forlorn some thirty years ago, in sad disrepair and ripe for demolition. Its real estate listing indicated the property was zoned for a possible 15 units. In 1972, just one night before the Woman's Club vote whether to purchase the property as a clubhouse, high winds toppled a massive deodar cedar in the front yard, destroying the massive block wall hiding the house from the street. Many members passed the disaster scene on the way to vote, but in the end, the daunting project did not deter club members. Built in the Craftsman tradition of architect John Austin, the home offered good "bones" with a 500+ square foot living room, beautiful original windows, extensive narrow strip hardwood floors and exciting possibilities for indoor and outdoor gathering spaces.

The extensive restoration involved volunteers from over fifty organizations both professional and service oriented. From age seven to well over seventy, club scouts to civic leaders to retirees all worked side by side scraping, plastering, painting, hauling and weeding. Dixie Coutant, active in the current club, comments that it was a coalescing and healing time for local groups working together toward this common goal. As always, a few driving forces emerged, without whom the project might not have been as successful, particularly Jan Maddox. The Board Room, now named for her, commends her efforts, spearheading the project from purchase through restoration.

Today, Essick House stands proudly at Sunnyside and Sierra Madre Boulevard, a testament to the foresight and hard work of the club and community to preserve this building for future generations. Many members continue to volunteer time in the thrift shop located in the former workshop and garage, around back, and in various services needed on the property. For instance, Loyal Camacho, club member as well as neighbor, has ensured the landscape is adequately watered for over a decade.

As a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization, the club sponsors community events in addition to their club meetings, including

election debates, Independence Day pre-parade open house, A November Prayer breakfast, and a Chamber of Commerce mixer. The home and grounds also offer a wonderful rental venue for weddings, corporate meetings, birthday parties, etc. Both the Wistaria thrift shop and rental incomes enable the group to maintain this historic home and donate to a long list of projects and programs.

More information about Essick House is available at www.smwc.info. Call 626-355-8586 for Essick House rentals, and 626-355-3928 for club membership information.

Do you know of an interesting home, building, garden or person who helps create them? Email me at XXXX! Thanks!



Loyal Camacho takes her club membership seriously, carefully monitoring landscape irrigation for over a decade.

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BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

When Irish Eyes Are Smiling.....

Being of Irish decent, I have always celebrated March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. With each passing year however, my St. Patty's Day celebration becomes more and more subdued. It's a natural progression that comes with the aging process... I think it called survival. If I celebrated today like I did years ago, I would already be pushing up some shamrocks.

When I was 21 (I never drank before then of course), we celebrated with everything that wasn't nailed down: Guinness, Irish whiskey, it didn't matter. We toasted the old sod and her descendants. After awhile we weren't the least bit picky, we toasted everyone and everything, mobile or non mobile.

I knew that when I cried my eyes out upon hearing "Danny Boy," that perhaps it was time to pack in my shillelagh and call it a night... Not before telling one more joke, however...

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking space. Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish whiskey!" Miraculously, a parking place appeared. Paddy looked up again and said, "Never mind, I found one."

And, an Irish blessing... "May the roof above us never fall in, and may we friends gathered below never fall out"

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SPORTS

Sierra Madre Girls Softball Association: Diamonds Are These Girls' Best Friends

"We teach them to win with honor and lose with dignity" - Coach David Albright

By Larry Bortstein

Rachel Albright is 11 and a top pitcher for the B52s, a team of girls 12 years old and under which competes in the Sierra Madre Girls Softball Association.

Younger sister Jillian, 6, is in her first year as an 8-and-under team player and still learning where she fits on the diamond.

Their participation in softball is a family affair. Their father, David Albright, 40, an architect, manages the B52s. Lynda, their mother, manages the snack bar at the association's games at Heasley Field in Sierra Madre and two other venues.

Established more than 30 years ago, the Sierra Madre Girls Softball Association, which began its 2007 season this week, is the premier girls' fast-pitch league in the San Gabriel Valley.

"We try to teach the kids not only softball skills, but also life skills," said Albright. "We teach them to win with honor and lose with dignity."

The Sierra Madre association, a member of the Amateur Softball Association, the sport's national

governing body, grew this year to an all-time high of 29 teams, encompassing about 350 players.

"The great publicity we've gotten the past year has really helped us," said Larry Hom, a retired elementary school teacher from Duarte who is in his 22nd year with the league. He currently serves as vice president and is responsible for assembling the team rosters.

Girls are divided into four age groups. The youngest group, eight years old and under, uses a pitching mound 30 feet from home plate. This distance increases to 35 feet for the 10-and-under group and to 40 feet for the 12- and-under and 14-and-under teams.

"Sometimes the distance of the pitching surface has to be changed several times in a day, depending on the ages of the girls playing in a particular game," Albright said.

The growth of the Sierra Madre organization is especially noteworthy inasmuch as Arcadia has dropped its Little League softball program in favor of joining the ASA and is fielding 16 teams this year.

"Our biggest growth has been in the youngest girls group, where we've gone from six to nine teams," Hom pointed out. "We've gone to the schools and recruited girls out of physical education classes."

Games are played Saturdays and Sundays and run continuously starting at 9 a.m. Each team will play 18 games this season.

The association accepts girls from all local cities. "We would take girls from Long Beach if their parents could get them there," Hom said with a laugh.



Photo by Lynda Ott-Albright
8U Sierra Madre Storm's Ali Sivilotti is safe at first beating out a tag by the 8Y Dalmations

SMGSA is a non-profit organization run by an all-volunteer staff. For information, go to the website smgsa@smgsa.org.

Young Bulldogs Step Up To The Plate

By Larry Bortstein

Bob Beran began his 20th year as Pasadena High's baseball coach with one of the least experienced squads he's ever fielded.



D'Mario Ellis

"We only have two returning seniors and we're going to rely on a lot of young players," Beran said as the Bulldogs, who were 2-5 in preseason tournament play last week, began the regular schedule Tuesday with a Pacific League contest at home against defending champion Crescenta Valley.

Pasadena plays its first five games at home, including league matchups against Burbank, Glendale and Arcadia in the first two weeks of the season.

"That means a lot of road games later in the season," Beran pointed out. "That's not the best possible situation."

The addition to the league of Burbank High and Burroughs of Burbank has swelled the Pacific to eight teams. The Bulldogs were fourth in last year's six-team grouping with an 8-7 league mark. Overall, they were 11-12.

From that team, the only returning seniors are shortstop D'Mario Ellis and Kevin



First Baseman Kevin Phillips

Phillips, a first baseman who also is PHS' top lefthanded pitcher.

"D'Mario, with his hitting and defense, is a good college prospect," Beran said.

"We bat him third in our lineup."

"Kevin plays first base well, but he may be a better prospect as a pitcher. He has good control, a quality everybody's looking for in a lefthander."

Beran, who shares athletic director duties at PHS with Tony Brooks, has high hopes for several of his underclassmen.

One is freshman shortstop Guy D'Auria, who has won the starting job because of his obvious strength in fundamentals.

Others include righthander Joseph Stephens, the starting pitcher against Crescenta Valley in Tuesday's game, and Nate Bernstein, who can play second and third base as well as catch.

"Nate's one of our most versatile players," Beran said. "We don't hesitate to put him behind the plate or in the infield." All Pasadena High baseball games, home and away, start at 3:15 p.m.



Pitcher Joseph Stevens



View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

When Adults Behave Badly, Children Suffer

When sports fans think that the officiating of a game is too technical, you will often hear the chant "let them play, let them play." This past week when many fans, parents and boosters of the Pasadena High School Bulldogs basketball team were left on the streets - not able to get into the gym, our chant should have been "let us in, let us in."

The Bulldogs were in the Division One CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) Southern California semi finals, their opponents were the Lions of Fairfax High School, Los Angeles. Some forward thinking official of the League thought it would be a good idea (not) to have such an important game played in the small gym of the number one seed - Fairfax High. That decision put into motion events that would not only take away from the game and the play of the young men; but also, and more importantly, it took away the emphasis from the achievements of both teams.

Each team had worked hard since the start of school to get to the semi-finals. Each team should have been allowed to play without the distraction of what was occurring outside and where their family, friends and supporters could watch them. That should have happened, but it didn't.

What did happen was the result of adults behaving badly with PHS literally being shut out and its team losing.

The conversation since has centered on the presence and actions of the Los Angeles Police Department, not on the play of the participants. (See story on

page 5). The decision by officials of Fairfax High to call the police created an unnecessarily hostile atmosphere. Any number of approaches could have been utilized, rather than calling the police. At least 50 members of the LAPD showed up in full riot gear and raucous helicopter. They, too, overacted. Rather than speaking to some of the adults in the group, the order to disperse under threat of arrest was immediately given. The police then went about the business of clearing the area. That process was not a pretty sight.

Adults, we owe the young men on the PHS team an apology, not just because of our actions, but because of our lack of action. Prior to the game we should have questioned the capacity of the Fairfax High gym to accommodate the number of people that would be attending. It is our job to protect our children, and we failed. We allowed them to go into that hostile environment and be treated like criminals.

We left the team inside wondering what was happening to their families and friends. You could say, and I will say, that the only reason Pasadena lost was because of the huge distraction created by a group of thoughtless adults.

We may have lost the game by three points, but those young men and their coaches showed their metal. They played and they played hard even though they were aware of the foolishness occurring outside. To the basketball team we salute you and promise that nothing like this will ever occur again. I for one am writing to the officials of the CIF requesting that post-season play always occur at a venue large enough to support both schools.

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Photo courtesy of Lee Flanders

Diving Champions - Two Sierra Madre brothers packed a one-two jump recently at the Springboard and Platform Winter Novice Diving Championships in Mission Viejo. Davis Flanders, 5, placed 1st in both the 1 meter & 3 meter while Cole Flanders, 7, placed 2nd & 4th. The brothers dive with the Pasadena Rose Bowl Diving Team, with coach Bobbi Fielding.

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