



# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Friday, April 6 - April 12, 2007 Volume 2, No.14

## Jim Mierzwiak warns, "Residents Beware"

*Last Week's Tally Includes 30- Something Thefts in a Sierra Madre/ Arcadia/Monrovia Crime Spree. Call (626) 355-1414 to set up a Neighborhood Watch program on your block.*

By Susan Henderson

### Typical Property Crimes

Jim Mierzwiak has lived in Sierra Madre for over 40 years and says he cannot believe how this town has changed. Last February 26 around 6:30 pm as he was preparing to leave for a trip, he sat his luggage in the driveway so that his son-in-law, who was arriving momentarily, could load them into the car. He turned and walked back to just inside his doorway, stooped down and gave his granddaughter a hug and a kiss. He then walked outside to greet his son in law.

That took about 3 minutes.

As he opened the car door, which was now in the driveway, he was asked, "Where's your luggage?" At first he thought it was a joke. "Stop playing," he chided. "I'm serious," said his son-in-law. "Where is it?"

Mierzwiak looked around in astonishment. "It was right here in the driveway. Right here." They looked to no avail.

About a month later, on March 29th, Jim had a new car delivered. Sometime between 11:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. the next morning, his car was burglarized and his briefcase stolen. That same evening, directly across the street, one of the neighbor's cars was burglarized and one of their vehicles was stolen.

Several blocks away live Jackie and Howard Ruben. They moved to Sierra Madre eight years ago from Alhambra, a city they say is becoming "overcrowded." They have been married 51 years and have lived in the San Gabriel Valley most of that time. In fact, Howard remembers taking the Red Car during World War II. One afternoon in mid-March, (continued page 4)

*"You will find angling to be like the virtue of humility, which has a calmness of spirit and a world of other blessings attending upon it." By Izaak Walton, The Compleat Angler*



Photos by Jacqueline Truong  
Above right: Sierra Madreans at the Huck Finn Fishing Derby last Saturday; Brian Eustace and son Sean, 8 camping out.



## "Traffic Calming" Solutions for Hermosa Street Await Further Review

By Katina Dunn

Traffic control solutions for Hermosa Street were sent back for further review at the last City Council meeting held March 27. Residents objected that the new painted lines of red, white and yellow had no effect on slowing down speeding cars.

Resident Robert Hall said the new painted lines are "ridiculous" and changed Hermosa "from a city street to a boulevard."

Then-City Manager John Gillison said the city could do nothing without the formal recommendation of a traffic engineer. If the city acted without a traffic engineer, it could be at risk for liability, he said.

Gillison said 3-way stops are not effective at controlling speed. The Halls presented photographs of 3-way stop signs at intersections in Pasadena, South Pasadena, Monrovia and Arcadia. Mr. Hall said cars speed at 50 mph, and produced a photo

of a flipped-over SUV from an accident last summer.

"That's unacceptable in a neighborhood," he said.

Resident Paul Hovsepian was also concerned. "I'm sorry Mr. Gillison. You guys don't pay attention to the people and the people are telling you what they want. You told me Joe," said Hovsepian to Council Member Joe Mosca. Hovsepian said he has asked repeatedly "What about Hermosa? What about Hermosa?" Nothing has happened.

"We can't find a traffic engineer who will sign off on stop signs..." said Gillison. "We brought in a second traffic engineer and he didn't recommend stop signs either." He said the average speed on Hermosa is 33 miles per hour.

Cynthia Hall insisted that more action be taken. "They're still going to kill people, or pets... I guess until someone dies..."

In a later interview, Richard Yee, Transportation Engineer with the City of Pasadena, said if there are too many stop signs, drivers will ignore them and just speed through. There are about 20 different options available to regulate speed, he said. Speed bumps and speed limit enforcement are effective mitigation measures, he said. There are 300 speed bumps in Pasadena, used everywhere except on emergency response routes.

In Pasadena, the process begins with a formal request in writing by residents requesting traffic mitigation. Then, neighborhood meetings are scheduled in which analyses and mitigations are discussed, said Yee.

Solutions are then chosen by a consensus of 2/3 of the property owners affected, said Yee.



Andy Martin and son Victor, Age 6.

### INSIDE THIS WEEK

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## The League of Women Voters: Did Pasadena Area League Diminish Its Credibility Over Measure V?

By Susan Henderson

For more than 85 years, the League of Women Voters (LWV) has stood as the model for unbiased, issue advocacy. Its mission statement says "The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase the understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."

Some citizens now question its credibility due to a local chapter's very public endorsement of No on Measure V (continued on page 3)

## AUCTION

APRIL 15

**Charming Updated Mountain Cabin**  
660 Alta Vista, Sierra Madre

Get away from it all! Completely updated original 1635 sq. ft. cabin. Dual master bedrooms, modern bath, central heating/air. Set back from street, surrounded by ancient live oaks. Privacy and seclusion. Just miles from Old Town Pasadena. Tucked against the base of Mt. Wilson at the top of the hill, this is the last buildable lot before the National Forest begins. City lights views for miles.

Open House Saturdays 1-4.

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# Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



## City of Sierra Madre April Events

- 6 - City Hall Art Show Opening, James Faulkner - 6:00 PM - City Hall
- 6 & 7 - Best Used Book Sale - Public Library
- 9 - Fire Safe Council - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 10 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 11 - Cultural Arts Master Plan Meeting - 5:00 PM - City Hall Conference Room
- 11 - Community Arts Commission Meeting - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 12 - Alcohol Beverage Control LEADS Training - 11:00 AM - Council Chamber
- 12 - Chamber Mixer - 5:30 PM - Public Library
- 13 - City Hall Closed
- 13 - Travelers and Collectors - 7:30 PM - Council Chambers
- 16 - Community Services Commission - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 17 - Special Election
- 18 - Tree Advisory Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 19 - Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 20 - Friends of the Library Cuisine and Wine Tasting - 7:00 PM - Alverno Villa
- 24 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 25 - Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 PM - Conference Room
- 25 - All-America City Rally - 6:00 PM - Sierra Madre School
- 27 - Arbor Day
- 27 - City Hall Closed

For more information on these and other City programs, call 355-7135 or visit [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com).



HERE'S THE PLAN... WE ASK FOR A PET BUNNY THIS EASTER, THEN WE LET IT EAT ALL THE BROCCOLI IN THE GARDEN THIS SPRING!

## What's Up at Hart Park House?

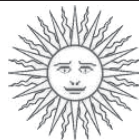
### Tax Help with Don Bruner

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 Rancho  
Lunch at Karl Strauss Brewing Co.  
\$43 per person.  
Reserve Space Now  
Call Commissioner Theresa Daley  
(626) 355-7427



Saturday, April 7  
Noon to 5 p.m.

## The Blessing of the Animals

An Olvera Street tradition since 1930  
Los Angeles historic marketplace  
(N. Spring, Arcadia and N. Alameda streets)

Friday,  
April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

## Heirloom Tomato Seminar and Super Sale

Lecture Hall A  
The Arboretum  
301 N. Baldwin Ave.

Friday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

## Travelers & Collectors Series "The Big Island, Kauai and Maui"

by Jack & Barbara Ludt  
Sierra Madre City Hall  
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
(626) 355-7186 or visit  
[www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us)

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

### Café 322

A good Sunday for singing Opera and Broadway  
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.

It's the berries - and Lili's herbs, fresh flowers, honey, and fresh baked bread. Menudo & tamale stand. Bring the kiddies. The Tomato Man is gone until November - by the time his June crop is ready, another farmer has his spot at the market.

PHS parking lot

2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

### Beantown

45 N. Baldwin  
Order an ice cream cone  
(626) 355-1596

Friday April 6, Michael Quest  
Saturday April 7, Hoover Hill Rounders

### Lucky Baldwin's

21 Kersting Court  
(626) 355-1140

### Mary's Market Barbecue

Friday April 13th at 6 p.m.  
With Jesse - the favorite chef!

Slow-cooked beef ribs, tri-tip and chicken  
Veggie platters, too

Meet New Manager Henore Letourneau  
561 Woodland Drive  
(626) 355-4534

## REMEMBRANCES

### John Walgamott, 87, Former President of Horseless Carriage Club



Photo courtesy of Walgamott family.  
John and his wife in their Model T

and restored many old cars including a 1913 Model T. He drove the Model T in the first opening day of Disneyland - and the same car was driven in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade, according to his daughter, Phyllis.

After John moved to Sierra Madre in 1964, he held a "barnraising" on his property to build the Buckhorn Saloon, a charming space built with salvaged pieces from other estates, according to his son, John Jr. The saloon was used for many carriage club parties, and the vintage cars of guests were often seen parked on both sides of Grandview Avenue.

"John was a great neighbor," said Jerry Cremins, who lived across the street, and recalls the time John fixed his roof after part of it was eaten away by raccoons.

After the death of his first wife, John visited his son in

Bellevue, Washington, to help out on a home remodeling project. There, he met his second wife, Barbara Standish. Together they enjoyed 29 happy years of marriage in Sierra Madre. Barbara created many of the authentic costumes she and John wore during tours with the Horseless Carriage Club. The couple also enjoyed many years travelling in their camper and motor home.

John survived the deaths of his parents, six siblings and his first wife, Mary. He is survived by his wife Barbara, of Sierra Madre, daughter Phyllis Howard (Jerry) of Arcadia and son John (Libby) of Anacortes, Washington. He is also survived by stepdaughter Connie Edwards (Pete) of Bellevue, Washington; stepson Tom Standish of Seattle, Washington, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Remembrances may be made in John's name to the Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters Association (SMVFA) Department at PO BOX 911, Sierra Madre, 91025.



### Bennett Puterbaugh, 82, Native Son of Pasadena

Bennett Puterbaugh was born in 1924 and lived most of his life in the San

Gabriel Valley growing up in Pasadena. His mother was a rider on a Rose Float in 1917 and was also good friends with Dextra Baldwin, a relative of Lucky Baldwin. He served with the Merchant Marines in WW11.

Puterbaugh worked for the Pasadena Star-News as a pressman for 40 years. He built his own home on a beautiful hilltop on the edge of the National Forest in Altadena in 1952 and lived there with his wife Mae. They had 5 children and 2 grandchildren. He was a superb woodworker and carver. He loved riding motorcycles, working on his cars and home and taking the kids hiking on the wonderful surrounding trails. He died last Saturday, March 31, of natural causes at the age of 82. He will be missed!!

Visit Our Remembrance Pages and Sign the guest book for family & friends

## "For Such A One As This"

Riveting Presentation of  
The Greatest Story Ever Told  
Full Orchestra - Choir - Professional Cast

Two Nights Only

April 1, Palm Sunday - 6 p.m. &

April 6, Good Friday - 7:30 p.m.

Pasadena First Church of The Nazarene  
3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Pasadena 91107

Information/Directions: 626.351.9631  
[www.paznaz.org](http://www.paznaz.org)



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Invite Friends & Neighbors To Share The Experience With You



# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

## Meteor!

My problem is that out of the long list of looming environmental disasters, none really serves the purpose I am looking for. Soon there will be no viable fish populations in the oceans, which are becoming increasingly polluted and deoxygenated. More and more "dead zones" are appearing each year, and the jellyfish and bacteria are taking over. It won't be long before all of the planet's petroleum will have been burned up in Mitsubishi Outlanders and Subaru Legacies and every single atom of the carbon that used to be buried safely under the sand of Saudi Arabia will be floating around in the atmosphere reflecting sunlight and helping to melt polar icecaps. Owens Lake is as dry as a bone (well, not counting the water the City of Los Angeles is required to spray from extensive and expensive irrigation systems to help control the nasty, lung destroying, dust pollution that blows around up there) and the Colorado River doesn't even reach the Gulf of Mexico anymore.

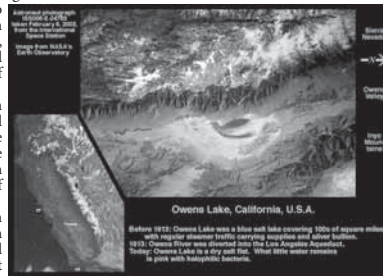
Soon we will be constructing oil drilling rigs in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Our National Forests are being clear cut. Our National Parks are snowmobile courses in the winter and motor home parking lots in the summer, and thanks to the Bush Administration, the Endangered Species Act itself is about to be listed as "endangered."

Unfortunately none of this provides me with even one teeny little scrap of a justification not to finish painting my house. Partly because of timing, and partly because of geographic location, I simply can't get away with using any of this as a reason to keep myself planted on my couch rather than outside on a ladder scraping, spackling, sanding, priming and painting my poor sad peeling house, which has been way too many colors for the past 9 months. This is why I am excited about the new report that has been issued by NASA.

It says that some 100,000 asteroids and comets regularly pass between the orbits of the earth and the sun, and that about 20,000 of them come close enough that they could smash into earth and do some serious damage to Toronto or Tulsa or Sioux Falls. But even better, more than a thousand of these asteroids and comets are actually large enough to end most life on earth if they were to fly into us. Now that's the kind of


environmental disaster I am looking for! Something like what happened to the dinosaurs 65 million years ago – the huge impact of a mile-wide meteorite that destroys everything except cockroaches and crocodiles.

This NASA report is way handier than the Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, 2029 news that's been floating around for a few years now. You have heard about this? On that auspicious and confidence-inspiring date, a 320-meter wide meteor is going to pass so ridiculously close to earth that we are all going to have to duck at the same time. It will be 18,600 miles away from us (that's closer than your TV channel satellite). Some scientists think that this close brush with earth will change the



trajectory of the meteor just enough that when it returns in 2035 for a second pass, it will actually hit. Other scientists disagree or are too busy studying things like the skulls of dire wolves or the habits of desert ants to care.

But come on, 2029? 2035? Those are like three and four house paint jobs away. That just won't cut it. So, thank you NASA for your latest report. Those 100,000 objects hurtling toward us through space are just what I need to be watching basketball inside on this sunny (yet cool) weekend afternoon. I'm not about to be out there putting the finishing touches on the trim of a house that's going to be destroyed anyway. No way.



**APRIL**

TBA – Steamers Coffee Tasting at Sierra Madre Congregational Church  
 6 – 7 – Used Book Sale and Friends' Historical Display at Sierra Madre Public Library  
 7 – Easter Egg Hunt at Memorial Park  
 14 – Civic Club Centennial Luncheon and Chinese Auction at La Salle High School Cafeteria  
 15 – Sierra Madre Community Nursery School's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday at Sierra Madre Community Nursery School  
 20 – Centennial Friends of the Library Cuisine and Wine Tasting at Alverno High School  
 22 – Creative Arts Group Garden Tour, various locations  
 23 – Redlands Chapel Singers at Church of the Ascension  
 25 – All-America City Delegation Rally, Sierra Madre Elementary School, Lower Campus, 6 pm  
 29 – Healthy Family Fun Days: Overnight Camp-Out to Orchard Camp with Search & Rescue

CENTENNIAL PINS are now available for \$5 each at various shops in town.  
 CENTENNIAL CALENDARS listing commemorative events throughout 2007 in the community have been sent to every home in Sierra Madre. Additional copies of the beautiful commemorative calendars are available at the library.



LEAGUE (continued from page 1)  
 an area newspaper and on printed flyers.

Recently, the Mt. Wilson Observer contacted the League to sponsor a public debate on Measure V. The LWV has monitored debates across the country as a way of educating the public, particularly on controversial issues.

Sierra Madre resident Jackie Knowles declined via telephone message machine, saying "Unfortunately, the League of Pasadena has now taken a stand... I don't even think trying another League from another area would work."

Knowles is the LWV representative for Sierra Madre.

Ray Bennett, LWV Operations Chair, indicated that Knowles had brought this matter to the board and the board voted to endorse No on Measure V at her direction. "Jackie Knowles brought this to us, and we voted," said Bennett. Chapter President Sandra Hauge

said "We don't always have both sides present," when asked why proponents of Measure V were never asked for their position or research papers.

Hauge did, however, publish the LWV endorsement in the Pasadena Star-News on March 28, 2007, urging a no vote on the April 17 ballot in Sierra Madre because it would "weaken our system of government," "does not encourage citizen participation in the decision-making process" and described initiatives as "a costly and inefficient process."

Hauge went on to say that the LWV board made the endorsement without everyone actually reading the initiative. She indicated that board member Michelle White, Chair of Affordable Housing and Social Policy, "expressed concerns that the initiative would prevent low income housing from being built in Sierra Madre" and that Robbie Davis, Chair of Voter Service Committee, also supported a No endorsement.

Hauge said that although she thought both White and Davis had read the initiative, she and other board members had not. "I didn't read it, I don't think they read it..." said Hauge.

White and Davis had not returned telephone inquiries by press time.

"I think they have lost their credibility with this non-action, because they didn't do their homework. They didn't study both sides of the issue," said resident Tommy Ann Miller, who read the LWV declaration in the Star-News.


"I have been flummoxed by the whole thing," said one League member, who asked that her name not be used. She said no members of the board live in Sierra Madre.

She also said that No on V mailers now tout the endorsement from League of Women Voters along with the Arcadia/Sierra Madre Association of Realtors. "Those are the only business and community organizations listed,"

she said. "I find that the board gave permission to allow their name to be used. I don't really like to see the League's name mixed in with this... I'm just totally confused by the whole thing. I think they slid over quite a bit of valid information on this. They're misleading. Some members I know are not very pleased about it," she said.

"The League endorses rather reluctantly," she said. "They don't rush in."

Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(4) regulation 1.501(c)(4)-1(d)(B)(b) says that to maintain its non-profit status, endorsements must represent, "... a particular position or viewpoint if it presents a sufficiently full and fair exposition of the pertinent facts to permit an individual or the public to form an independent opinion or conclusion."



**The Hottest Handbook in Town**  
 Verbatim Excerpts from California Association of REALTORS  
 "Strategies for Fighting the Slow Growth Movement at the Local Level"

- Develop strong relationships with local government officials and staff.
- Attend local civic events hosted by allied industry groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and Building Industry Association.
- Participate on local commissions and task forces

All of the above will allow you to influence the kinds of proposals that are considered, and may help detour an issue before it gets to the ballot.

- You can influence the debate about local issues by having REALTORS sit on local commissions and task forces.
- Participation in these forums is the best way for REALTORS to get involved in the dialogue early and counter the influence that local government staff and opposition forces may have over elected officials.
- "Strategies for Defeating Growth Measures on the Ballot"

- REALTORS have played a very low-profile role, although still instrumental behind the scenes, in order to avoid the perception that a campaign was REALTOR/developer-driven.
- "Success Stories"
- Business community, including REALTORS should not be visible in the campaign.

That's sort of it – in a nutshell. There are many sensible REALTORS around, however, who aren't necessarily bent on taking over the world.

**The Sierra Madre Handbook 2007**

Although many local civic groups have been infiltrated by No on V activists, some civic organizations are becoming tainted by a few activists who are reportedly threatening people into how to act, think or vote.

The more these threats are made public, the sooner they will stop. Take names, people.

Earlier council meetings show Sierra Madre council members promising community decision making in downtown development. Maybe they meant it, and then forgot.

**Council Member John Buchanan to Bill Tice, October 25, 2004**

During Community Communications, resident Bill Tice says he walked around the city with his own informal poll of a downtown plan. This is the meeting where the city council decides to approve creating a Downtown Specific Plan.

Council Member John Buchanan: "Bill, Bill, like the mayor (Rob Stockly) has said now a couple of times, this is setting the ground rules for other people to decide what they're going to do with their property and they're going to do it within the limits imposed by the community... it's the community deciding what the development standards are... it really is Bill Tice's wanderings write large... it's the same concept."

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**ARMED RESPONSE**

## Fire Safe Council

From Caroline Brown

Living through a brush fire bearing down on your foothill home is a life-changing experience. Following a season of watching your fellow Southern California hillside communities battle against this yearly catastrophe you breathe a sigh of relief when the "fire season" is over. It is usually expected that you have some months to wait for the start of the next fire season. This year is different. All the fire experts are raising the alarm that the season has already started long before the hot, dry summer months and the following fall Santa Ana wind conditions. Our state is in desperate need of winter rain when spring arrived last week. Snow pack is low and will not supply much run off for filling reservoirs. Water for firefighting purposes and irrigation needed to keep the "defensible

## TIP OF THE WEEK

space" green around hillside homes will be in desperate short supply. With some spring rain you get a postponement of the fire season but you do not get lessening of the dried brush that has been building up with the end of last year's growing season. You have to go out and cut out the dry brush and forge your "defensible space." The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be April 9 at 7 P.M. in the City Council chambers. Please go to the state website: [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org) for important fire protection measures for your home. Also: [www.firecenter.berkeley.edu/people/Quarles](http://www.firecenter.berkeley.edu/people/Quarles) for a link to "Vulnerable Parts of Your Home" and [www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry/BrushManagement](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry/BrushManagement) PlantIDGuide.ASP for information on plants to use or avoid in our "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone." For information call: 355-9350, 355-1182 or 355-0741 or e-mail us at: [smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com)

## Mountain Clymer

By Kim Clymer

### Thoughts After The Pack Station Part 3 of 4

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.

### Transcendent Comfort

Each home is furnished to its own level of comfort...most are very cozy and cushy, but there are a few that provide only a cot, a blanket and a chair or two...just the barest of necessities. I have had the pleasure of being a guest in many of these cabins. I have cooked in their kitchens, and managed cleanup without hot and cold running water. I have read by the light of a kerosene lantern and chatted over a candlelit board game or jigsaw puzzle. I have sat snuggled in a blanket in an overstuffed chair by a fireplace sipping hot chocolate to keep warm. I have bathed in the frigid waters of the stream without dying of exposure (or embarrassment) and have had to test out most of the restroom facilities available in the canyon at one point or another...none of them were as bad as the ones I

remember cleaning with a toothbrush at Girl Scout camp as a kid. I have curled up on the cushion of a too-short window seat, and fallen asleep to the sound of rain in the trees and on the tin roof and the creek rushing by...wrapped in a musty old blanket and the scents of smoke from the oak firewood burning in the stove, wet leaves, pine trees, and hundred year-old walls. Glade will never get that into a can or plug-in. At worst, any reduction in comfort level or convenience in these situations was a minor annoyance...at best they were an opportunity to experience a heightened awareness of being alive...a connectedness that could never be obtained with wires and a headset. Peace...tranquility...warmth...heart...life. Something that few get to experience these days...something everyone should. Learning not to fear simplified living and to become aware of its pleasures could be the key to us becoming more environmentally responsible.

## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, to Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 234 calls for service.

### Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>:

7:11 AM - Theft from vehicle, 300 block Wisteria Way. A resident reported the trunk of his unlocked car ajar and his baseball equipment strewn about the street. Pair of men's Tifosi Sunglasses and six empty CD cases was missing. The theft occurred between 10:00 PM Wednesday, 3/28 and 7:00 AM Thursday, 3/29. The loss was estimated at \$60.00.

9:16 AM - Theft from vehicle, 600 block Oakwood Lane. A resident reported finding her car's glove box open and several items missing: a Liftmaster garage door opener, Mercury insurance card, Motorola cellular telephone charger, Lexus owner's manual, vehicle registration and an emergency flashlight. The theft occurred between 5:00 PM Wednesday, 12/28 and 9:30 AM Thursday, 12/28. The loss was valued at \$113.00.

1:48 PM - Theft, 400 West Sierra Madre Blvd. An out of town visitor reported leaving his Hitachi camcorder on the rear bumper of his parked car, but upon his return it was missing. The crime occurred Thursday between 1:00 PM and 1:05 PM. The camcorder was valued at \$400.00.

### Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>:

7:34 AM - Auto burglary, 100 block Colony Drive. A resident reported the left rear passenger window of his car smashed and two briefcases stolen. The cases contained \$2000.00 cash, \$200.00 in Washington Mutual Travelers checks, a US Passport, two credit cards, a Washington Mutual checkbook and a blue Polar Shear jacket. Total loss estimated at \$2630.00.

8:23 AM - Grand theft auto, 100 block Colony Drive. A resident reported her Jeep stolen from her driveway. The theft occurred between 10:00 PM Thursday, 3/29 and 7:00 AM Friday, 3/30. The Jeep was found a few blocks away on San Gabriel Court with the keys in the ignition. Evidently the keys to the Jeep were taken from her husband's unlocked truck. Two Blackberry phones, a pair of Coach sunglasses and a pair of Quick Silver sunglasses were stolen. The total loss was estimated at \$825.00.

2:34 AM - Petty theft, 400 block North Baldwin Ave. A resident reported his Yes on Measure V sign was stolen. The sign was last seen 3/29 Thursday at 10:00 PM and discovered missing at 8:00 AM Friday.

**BEWARE** (continued from page 1)  
their home was burglarized. Thieves entered the property through a side gate which led to the backyard, and the house through an unlocked sliding glass door.

The intruders helped themselves to a number of valuables including Mr. Ruben's briefcase. An observant neighbor noticed a black SUV that didn't belong in the neighborhood and reported it to police. Within hours, the burglars were caught in Monrovia after they had broken into another home.

A local doctor said he and his wife returned home around dinner time. They left their car in the driveway unlocked with valuables inside. Thieves broke into the car and took everything.

These are just a few incidents of the large number of property crimes in Sierra Madre.

Last weekend, 30 to 40 thefts were reported in a swath of Sierra Madre, Arcadia and Monrovia. The residential and commercial burglaries and auto thefts are mostly narcotics related, according to Sierra Madre Police Chief Marilyn Diaz and Arcadia Detective Michael Castro.

Residents are becoming the victims of parolees and drug addicts who are looking for items that are easy to sell.

Although everyone acknowledges that we live in a different day and time, the fact that these types of crimes are happening in Sierra Madre is particularly unsettling. Mierzwiak and his companion, Pepper,

want to warn other residents.

"I want you to write 'Residents Beware - Lock Up Everything' right on the front page so that people pay attention," said Mierzwiak.

He also hopes that citizens will reinstate the Neighborhood Watch Programs on each block and enforce parking restrictions (there is no parking on the streets in Sierra Madre between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. without a city permit.)

He realizes that most residents of the city dwell on the way that Sierra Madre used to be. "That's all changing now," he said. Mierzwiak also expressed disappointment and frustration when remembering that the citizens voted down adding additional street lights.

The Rubens share those concerns. "We moved here because Sierra Madre was a quiet, safe little community, now we have to lock up everything. I have locks and keys on everything now," she said.

Police say residents have to be more diligent. "Don't leave valuable property visible in your car. It takes a thief less than 5 seconds to break in, take what he can find and be gone," said Detective Castro.

"If you see something suspicious, please call us," said Sgt. Keith Abbott of the Sierra Madre P.D. Chief Diaz encourages residents to go onto the city's website and learn about the new microdot technology to help identify property.

Mr. Ruben, who was an LAPD Crime Analyst for seven years, sums up his feelings about moving to Sierra Madre: "I feel like Rick in Casablanca. I was misinformed," he said.

### Bailey Canyon Cleanup

Saturday, April 14 at 8 a.m.  
SMEAC will hold its annual spring Bailey Canyon Park cleanup, a week and a day ahead of Earth Day on April 22. Many years ago, SMEAC "adopted" this park below the debris basin dam, developing it from an almost barren hillside to a pleasant little "learning" park. Now, members and friends gather twice a year, spring and fall, to weed, prune, clean and generally tend the area for all to enjoy. We invite everyone to join us on the 14th, starting at 8 a.m. There will be refreshments, cold drinks, and lots of fellowship. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there! SMEAC will have some extra tools available, but if you have your own, please bring them (well labeled with your name and/or mark) as well as your gloves. Any questions, call Midge Morash at (626) 355-7606.

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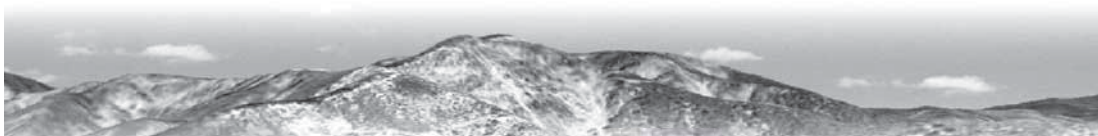
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# The Mt. Wilson Observer PASADENA

## Galletly Good to Go On Ambassador West's 318-unit complex

By Dean Lee

Without a mention of a lawsuit, everybody shook hands and chuckled like old friends as the Pasadena city council voted Monday night favoring the go-ahead to build a 450,000 square foot complex to include 200 senior living units plus 48 assisted living units along with 70 condos in a two building six story development project at the city's west end. The Ambassador West deal also includes 12 "very low" income, eight "low" income and five "moderate" income affordable housing units as well as a 2.1 acre open public space area developers referred to as the Great Lawn in lieu of paying a \$4.2 million Residential Impact Fee.

"Once again we recognize the major accomplishments and compromise made by the projects team," Mayor Bill Bogaard said. "And also recognize those who have been supportive along the way and we wish the best of success in moving forward."

But not before first downsizing the colossal Sunrise Senior Living complex 10,000 square feet with an eight foot setback, at the request of councilmember Steve Madison, over a property line in doubt. Developer Dorn Platz got in a heated dispute at the March 12 meeting with church goers from Harvest Rock Church.

The feud ended with a threat by Harvest Rock to sue, dragging the city in with it.

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 March 12. Harvest Rock

Church, Maranatha High School or The Worldwide Church of God made no comments at Monday night's meeting saying they were only there to answer any questions of which the council had none.

But that was not the case with Dorn Platz as the developer's President, Greg Galletly hardly got a breather as the council opened then closed then re-opened public comment four times, motioning and seconding, just to hear from Galletly.

The council tailored all questions clearly favoring the development asking at one point if Galletly could work with the eight foot setback and 10,000 foot reduction? "Basically you would end up redefining that courtyard and would end up with an L-shaped building, a smaller courtyard in the center so it's entering off Green Street but there is plenty of room to keep the footage the same," Galletly said defending the proposal only slightly before agreeing.

Also in defense Galletly told the council the project's designers had not maxed out the acreage or requested any density bonuses. He also reminded them 73 percent of the site had been designated open space, with flower gardens, streams as well as keeping 83 percent of the trees on the site.

"What we wanted was a site that worked well," Galletly said. "Not to look to see how we could max out and what we came up with did not need any bonuses so we went with it."

There was no opposition to the project with the exception of council members Paul Little and Joyce Streater, who voted against granting a conditional use

permit after Bogaard asked that it be separated from voting on the project in general.



Photo courtesy City of Pasadena  
Aerial View of the Ambassador Site

## Charter School Pleas for Location

### Meetings delayed four times; mysterious email dislodges school

By Dean Lee

Students and staff of Rhythms of the Village charter school along with PUSD board member Ed Honowitz and 25 parents gathered Saturday morning upstairs in Pasadena's drab Housing Authority building to sing, dance and socialize, welcoming the coming of the new charter school in September. But not before asking Honowitz where the school's location might be?

Honowitz's answer, "We're not sure yet," put a sudden stop to the lighthearted atmosphere prompting Rhythms' main staff to stipulate their position requesting the former vacated Linda Vista elementary school as their first choice.

The school's choice is so fiercely opposed by the Linda Vista community that PUSD staff had told the Rhythms'

personnel not to show up to the March 13 PUSD board meeting for fear of their own safety. At Saturday's meeting, members of the school's staff called The Linda Vista Annandale Association "border line racist." At the board's February 27 meeting it offered placement of three charter schools as sole occupants, leaving Rhythms of the Village's location undetermined; setting up a separate date, to decide March 13. Although, once again the board put off the decision until April 12 and then on Saturday Honowitz asked to delay again.

Both sides said the Linda Vista location was so bathed in rumor and speculation that, at one point, board members openly said the charter school had backed out relying on what they

read in a local newspaper. The accusations centered on a mysterious email sent to the board saying that the charter school was withdrawing its application something Rhythms said they knew nothing about because they were asked not to come.

Honowitz did not back down and said he was misquoted in the daily paper saying, "We want to act quickly enough to preserve the child-care center." He then expanded on the idea of the day-care center as a more "palatable" tenant for the community.

The context of his statement surrounded a sudden move by Linda Vista Annandale Association to bring in All Saints Children's Center to the Linda Vista site and then having them move into the campus by August.

Honowitz said the problem was two fold, the first being that the charter school needed 14 buildings for operation compared with 4 or 5 needed for All Saints Children's Center something he said gave them the ability to not have to use any of the core buildings damaged by water and contaminated with mold. He then said the sites is unable to house

high school students, reiterating some of the Linda Vista community concerns with traffic, noise and safety.

Both sides said they thought Saturday's meeting was very productive and thanked Honowitz for what they later said was, "putting his a\*\* in the frying pan."

Rhythms of the Village had received a \$405,000 start up grant last year from the California Department of Education, which it would have to forfeit if the school does not open in September.

The Schools co-founder, Onochie Chukwurah said the school had a right to exist and was happy that the two sides had lawyers working out legal matters surrounding proposition 39. Proposition 39, passed by voters in 2000, states the district must share public school facilities fairly among all students in their district, including charter schools, when space becomes available.

## PCC's Newspaper Advisor "Tells All" at Award Ceremony

By Dean Lee

In recognition of her outstanding teaching methods, hard work and dedication to Pasadena City College, Courier student newspaper advisor Mikki Bolliger told the crowd recently what mysteries lie behind the Courier as she was given the 2006 Faculty Lecturer/Performer Award.

Bolliger's lecture, titled "Confessions of the Student Newspaper Advisor," focused on the work of students publishing the Courier each week. She stressed, with the full text of College Newspaper Censorship Bill AB 2581 on the screen behind her, the importance of a student-run newspaper.

"Some of you have come to me asking to slip something into the paper saying, they'll never know.' Oh, yes they will as I often have to say, it's their paper. They are the ones who lay it out, write the stories and everything else," she said.

She went on saying she gets calls all the time asking for someone to read back their quotes - which is against most

newspaper policies.

The college newspaper censorship bill prohibits any college, university or community college official from disciplining a student who engages in speech or press activities for their work. The bill was signed last year by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and is the first of its kind in the country.

At one point the audience gasped as she told of one student having to be pulled off a school balcony saying she wanted to commit suicide over a newspaper interview gone awry. Most of what she referred to as student "encounters from hell" were lighthearted saying her biggest problem was stopping them from quitting the paper after a nasty run-in. Some of the students now work at major newspapers, she said.

She also singled out faculty and staff who hold grudges against the paper, some as long as twenty years.

Before getting into a history of the school's news, the heart

of the Courier, Bolliger said it was difficult picking highlights from almost 35 years and over 1,000 issues of the paper.

The Courier's staff just received statewide general excellence recognition over the weekend at this year's Journalism Association of Community Colleges conference. The paper and students have earned numerous first place state journalism awards in news, feature, opinion and sports, for both writing and photography.

The paper is known as a "threat" to some, which the staff is proud to admit, she said.

Bolliger is the longest tenured journalism advisor in PCC's history and set to retire this spring. She said that now was a good time to retire and wants to get back into writing. She has not been in a newsroom outside the Courier in over 20 years she said.

"Writing stories is something I want to get back into," said Bolliger.

## Fault Sends Residents a Little Déjà Vu

By Dean Lee

Residents got an unexpected wake-up call Wednesday morning as a light earthquake, possibly located on the Sierra Madre fault, calmly shook the surrounding San Gabriel foothills said U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Kate Hutton.

The 3.4 magnitude quake centered three miles northeast of Bradbury struck at 4:27 a.m. and was preceded by a series for foreshocks all in the 1 to 1.5 magnitude range. There was also a magnitude 2.0 larger aftershock at the same location.

The quake was felt in Monrovia, Duarte and Bradbury. Geologists said typically anything below a 1.5 magnitude cannot be felt. Both Sierra Madre and Monrovia police reported no damage or injuries.

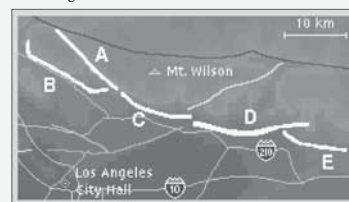
"At about 2.5 magnitudes westart

getting phone calls," Hutton said. "When you get a magnitude 3 it's fairly widespread."

Hutton referred to the quake as shallow, at a depth of 7.6 miles, and common for the area.

The Sierra Madre fault is a 68 mile long, north dipping, reverse fault and part of the larger Sierra Madre fault system capable of producing a large 6 to 7 magnitude earthquake. The fault was not responsible for the June 28, 1991 magnitude 5.8 quake that damaged large parts of the city.

The 1991 Sierra Madre quake occurred on the Clamshell - Sawpit Canyon fault, an offshoot of the Sierra Madre fault zone. The fault system runs through the cities of Sunland, Altadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Duarte and Glendora





# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

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The Mt. Wilson Observer is a publication of DeuXamis Publishing, Inc. established and copyrighted in 2006. This paper is published weekly with offices in Sierra Madre, California. All letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to: Mt. Wilson Observer, 280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. #327, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024. Phone: 626-355-2737. Fax: 626-604-4548. email: [deuXamispub@aol.com](mailto:deuXamispub@aol.com)

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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.

### Around The Town With Sir Eric Maundry



Pray tell me sir, whose dog are you?" Engraved upon a dog collar and presented to the King of England by the celebrated 18th century British poet Alexander Pope. There is so much going on in this town lately that I hardly know where to begin. The upcoming special election on the Measure V initiative seems to be front and center for most, so perhaps we should descend into the demented loci together and explore this all too torrid topic? Yes, let's do! Interesting conversation with a resident of our fair city, a young woman who has decided that she will be voting in favor of Measure V. She told me the following story. She grew up here in a small but beloved home. Her father, an engineer, raised her and her two sisters to adulthood in this house, and as such it was a place filled with the glorious memories of a happy childhood. Later, after her father had passed away, the house had to be sold.

The buyer, a developer from out of town, proceeded to all but raze the place, replacing it with the typically tasteless McMansion. We see all too much of these days. The house was resold, money pocketed, with the predator skulking off to continue his destructive mischief elsewhere. So what lesson did our friend draw from this melancholy experience? "Sir Eric, flipping houses is no longer enough for these people. Now they want to flip the entire town!" Well said, madam, well said indeed. Sierra Madre, quaint foothill city or latent municipal tear

down? The choice is yours, dear reader. But please, ask yourself this: Do you REALLY want to live in a McTown? I've been wondering as of late what exactly would happen should the developers and their feckless accomplices amongst our local politicians have their way on this issue. And what exactly would they call the looming warren of condos they would unleash upon our quaint downtown streets?

Happy Hills Homes would not only be a typically dreary choice, but would also evoke images of the odd insane asylum or two. "Bucks" Blachanan's Bedlam On Baldwin? Catchy. Grove Gargantuan Gardens? Clem's Cocoa Cabanas? I suppose we really should take a moment to discuss the strange affliction of Jim Snider and his Sierra Madre Comquat blog. Jim, a most demonstrative Mosca supporter, has lately turned to some rather nasty Gay Baiting as a way of expressing his umbrage in regard to those who would interfere with the oblique agenda of his favorite Manchurian Candidate. So how has Mr. Snider responded to the criticism? You got it, he erased the posts and shut down his blog's comments section. Jim, like most bullies, can dish it out. But take it? Apparently not. Well, Happy Hour has blessedly arrived, so that's it for this week! Boodles, please! As always I look forward to your tips and comments on the affairs and cares of still beautiful Sierra Madre. Please, send them to me at: [sir.eric.maundry@yahoo.com](mailto:sir.eric.maundry@yahoo.com)

### Deaf, Dumb and Blind

by Susan Henderson

Deaf (adj.): unwilling to hear or listen;  
dumb (adj.): temporarily unable to speak; blind (adj.): unwilling to discern or judge



Things were so much simpler in the 'good ole days.' People stood behind their convictions and were not afraid to speak publicly about them. Now, instead of speaking up and defending your point of view, the trend seems to be to just throw your rocks and hide your hands. That is, at least in Sierra Madre regarding the leadership of those who take the position No on Measure V. These people have, instead of coming forth with their opinions and defending their ideas, chosen to act as though they are deaf, dumb and blind. Or maybe I'm confused. Maybe they think that we are deaf, dumb or blind.

During the two past weeks, I have made countless attempts to have No on V supporters appear in a public debate on Measure V. This newspaper, the only one that delivers to every resident in Sierra Madre, invited them to participate in a formal debate on Thursday April 5. As of this writing, they have all decided not to attend. Rumor has it that they have orchestrated a boycott against the debate.

How unfortunate. The Mt. Wilson Observer decided to provide this public setting for both sides to air their views after asking the League of Women Voters to sponsor a debate on the Measure. The League, through its' local spokesperson (whose daughter-in-law is one of the four residents who contributed to the No on V campaign), refused to host a debate, stating that they had already taken a position.

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce sponsored a presentation of both sides of the issue but that was restricted to members of the Chamber only and was poorly attended - 20 at one meeting and 15 at the second.

The only other presentation of each side will be next Tuesday at the Kiwanis Club meeting which is 12 noon. Both sides have agreed to participate. But, as far as a public debate in which those who are not available at noon on a weekday (which would be most of the voting population), the only opportunity to hear both sides address their concerns was the debate sponsored by this newspaper.

A non-partisan moderator was selected - James McPherson from Pasadena Now - and student facilitators and their advisor were to assist with the audience questions.

The No on V supporters however, don't

want to participate. It appears that the strategy of No on V is to play both sides of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind game.

I think my mother used to call it, playing both sides against the middle.

The No on V contingency has been playing deaf. Unwilling to hear or listen from anyone who does not think like them. The have been playing dumb, hearing-impaired when convenient and they have been doing a darned good job of being blind.

They have been unwilling to see what other people want.

But hold on, that's only half the strategy.

The No on V supporters have hedged their bets that the voting population of Sierra Madre will follow their behavior. They are betting that we will play like we are deaf and not hear the real issues involved in this campaign. They are also betting that we are dumb, literally, and unable to speak up for ourselves. And sadly, they are betting that we are blind and unwilling to see the truth behind all the half-truths and lies in their campaign.

I don't know about you, but none of the above applies to me. If I am going to be manipulated it will have to be done by at least recognizing that I am an intelligent, rational human being with the ability to see through clever marketing. If I am going to be manipulated, it will not be because of the influence of someone else's money.

If you want to fight with me, we do it fair and square. There are no stand-in 'hitters.' You will not manipulate by convincing me that my eyes are deceiving me and it really is snowing outside.

No, the deaf, dumb and blind strategy does not work here.

If you can't stand up and engage in meaningful discussion of our differences, if you are only willing to throw rocks and hide your hands, and if you gain your strength and momentum from factions who see Sierra Madre only as a vehicle for making more money, then I know your intentions are not honorable.

Having the various REALTORS associations backing No on Measure V is enough for me, although I know not all REALTORS support this type of aggression.

The motivations are crystal clear. They are the Association of Real Estate Brokers Who Waive Their Fees When They See A Big New Project Come To Town.

They cannot distance themselves from what they do, and since they are not willing to explain to me what they are doing in this race, I am not buying anything they say.

I will be voting Yes on Measure V. After all, why in the hell would I let a piranha in the tank with my goldfish?

### Editorial

#### V is The People's Choice It's always been about the vote

Measure V does good for our city of Sierra Madre. It simply allows the PEOPLE to have a say on downtown building projects exceeding current standards. That's all.

The process does not change. Plans will still go through the Planning Commission and City Council. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will still have to be completed on projects.

If you are a voter confused by the issues, a yes vote allows you to change your mind with later votes. A no vote means just that - no voting later.

If Measure V passes, proposed Super Size Structures are decided by thousands of voters - rather than by 3 to 5 council members.

We live in a 3 X 3 square mile city of 10,000 plus people. If the majority of us want to enjoy our mountain views - without obstruction by three and four story buildings - then we will. This welcomes plenty of developers and REALTORS who share a vision of enjoyable and prosperous living, and plenty of thriving businesses, as analyzed by the positive report by Pacific Municipal Consultants, ordered by the city council.

How did we get here? Here's some city history, verifiable by videotape:

Council Member Tonja Torres said no to giving the people a vote on the Downtown Specific Plan, during her campaign for re-election in April, 2005.

Torres lost with 843 votes.

Joe Mosca said at a Candidate's Forum in March 2006:

"I'm interested in making sure we protect our small community, and make sure it stays the same, it does not change." Mosca also promised

to give the people a vote on major development downtown.

Mosca won with 1,920 votes.

In its post-election story by reporters Jennifer MacDonald and Dean Lee, The Sierra Madre Weekly dated April 13 - 19, 2006, said of the victories of Don Watts, Kurt Zimmerman and Joe Mosca: "All three wanted the plan to be put on a ballot for residents to vote on."

On June 13, new council member Mosca voted no on a resolution to give the people a vote to approve or reject the downtown plan upon its completion.

If Mosca had voted yes, there would be no Measure V.

Many begged Mosca to let the people vote. He refused, with excuses. We can't help noticing Mosca volunteering everywhere in town - yet he didn't give us the vote!

The continued disregard for the vote of the people in Sierra Madre is shocking.

Opponents of Measure V waged a campaign directed by expensive consultant Chip Ahlsweide, paid from at least \$119,000 in campaign funds from the Building Industry (BIA) and REALTOR Associations.

Ahlsweide was the scheduled speaker recently at a BIA luncheon with Former Mayor Bart Doyle advertised as "Come learn about these measures and the work BIA is doing to prevent their ballot box success!" Opponents of Measure V heaped obscene slurs via self-proclaimed "smutty" websites on citizens who spoke out for the people, as documented by the Los Angeles Times.

The No on V people infiltrated many commissions and civic organizations where they applied pressure to neighbors and business people, according to many complaints received at this newspaper. Very apropos behavior for people who don't want us to vote.

On Tuesday, April 17, vote YES on Measure V.



# Letters To The Editor

## Me, You and The 1,000 Pound Gorilla

For years I have sat at a distance, watching our City Council drifting away from what I thought was its purpose. I watched the pro-development crowd slowly find its way onto the City Council, mostly with the backing of real estate businesses. I watched city property like City Hall being transferred to the CRA. I watched our water bills doubled to help pay for new development infrastructure. I watched the allowed trashing of the old church building as the temporary Youth Activity Center, to the point it is almost uninhabitable. I watched other programs at the city languish at the expense of high priced attorneys, planners, people being awarded large salaries, and high priced consultants, in order to push through high density projects in our downtown. I watched while we were threatened with the closure of basic services if we didn't vote for a parcel tax with no limits. (Measure F). I watched as the pro-development City Manager and City Attorney taught the Council how to push through unpopular development projects. I watched them do what they were paid to do like the good mechanics they are, and move on. I watched how up-zoning the downtown happened on a quiet night at a City Council meeting in 2004, on the consent calendar (that means it did not have a true public hearing) to 3 stories and 30 units per acre. Enough was enough, it was time to try to stop this 1,000 pound gorilla that has taken over. That is when I decided to run for city council. I felt it was necessary to try to at least these people down a little and speak up about what all the people want, not just what we are told what we want. I told my supporters, as George Maurer has said, it only takes 3 votes to do anything in this town.

### Fairfield Code

I was quite offended by the mentioning of the Fairfield code of conduct and its impact on my right of free speech, yours and other citizens in this fine town in which we live. To be asked to quiet passion in the name of the Fairfield code seems to lessen what we all strive to be. I feel insulted that I and other citizens in this town have been asked to censor our freedom of speech. Our country has a long history of being passionate about politics. And bravo to Councilman Watts for supporting our right to freedom of speech, a right that I, and the citizens of the United States hold so dear. Don't be bullied into being less than who you are. Speak freely and often. The Mount Wilson Observer

### H-y-p-o-c-r-i-s-y

As just one of the many lies being told by the "No on Measure V" campaign, I am stunned by their claim that [the passage of Measure V would] "Force us to endure nearly non-stop special election campaigns, bombarding us with junk mail and phone calls...." Can anyone spell h-y-p-o-c-r-i-s-y? Almost every day I come home to another high-gloss "No on V" flyer in my mailbox, and another pre-recorded phone message. Did anyone else laugh at their PhotoShopped flyer depicting multi-story construction going up behind two small homes that are clearly north of Grandview? You would think they'd

Then I thought, what can I possibly do with the one minority vote. In the process, I found Kurt Zimmerman and Joe Mosca, willing to "walk the walk." I became heartened we could actually make a change, so I threw my support to their candidacies. As you are aware, unfortunately, it did not entirely turn out that way.... When we went in to take over the duties of the council at the legally appointed time, we were rebuffed by a council unwilling to give up its power, or even welcome us in with a handshake. Further, they stomped off to the Congregational Church to show their anger and hostility. Apparently, Kurt and I were not supposed to gain seats on the council. My guess is, it had something to do with stating we felt modifications in the zoning code in the downtown should go to a vote of the people, so that these changes will not go unnoticed again. I guess the idea of empowering the people was a little too dangerous an idea for them. The Initiative to vote for this change will go forward. The only problem is the 1,000 pound gorilla has attacked our "YES on V" with a vengeance. With the help of outside realtors, the Building Industry Association, Attack Advertisers, and a huge budget of \$119,850, the NO people figure they can confuse and slam the initiative to the point where people will start to believe they offer a better direction for the town, using scare tactics. They claim serious flaws in the wording of Measure V. So far the NO people have had nothing to offer except slick negative advertising full of misleading hyperbole. If the NO people win, no one will be able to stop them in the future, and you will see more and more excessive development with no end in sight. I can at least say I tried.

Don Watts AIA

and our council members need to have the freedom to express the passions of the citizens in this town. And we are a passionate group. It is the duty of our council members to convey the true feelings of residents of Sierra Madre in the tone it was given to them. They work for us. We have elected these citizens to fight for us. We all must be allowed to speak freely with passion about what ever topic we wish. Pure voice. Pure, uncensored, unpaid for, voice. To the Mount Wilson Observer, write boldly without fear. To Zimmerman and Watts thank you for conveying the passionate message about responsible development on behalf of thousands of concerned citizens. You do not stand alone.

Catherine Evans

try something more subtle than just blatant scare tactic methods! As if our R-1 zoning doesn't exist. I am personally offended by their assumption that I am an idiot. At least it's gratifying to see, with every new "No on V" propaganda flyer, that the developers and realtors funding this big lie are growing ever more shrill and desperate. They can smell potential profits, just as surely as sharks can smell blood in the water, and they're circling in for a feeding frenzy of greed, if Measure V fails. Don't be brainwashed by this very costly advertising blitz.

Vote YES on Measure V on April 17<sup>th</sup>!

Bruce L. Carr

## The Only Place in Town I Had Lunch at on Monday

by Rich Johnson



Writing this week's column I was prepared to share the exciting news that my column has gone international. That's right. I got a response from New Zealand. Across the International Dateline. But there has been an even greater development. Nooo, I'm not international. I'm... GLOBAL!! WORLDWIDE! I got a response from Great Britain. My head is spinning. I am delirious with joy. I am going to ask the editors to triple my, nay quadruple, my pay. I think it's only fair. I've never been good with math but I'm fairly certain 4 times nothing really adds up. What's more I'm sure Ms. Dunn or Ms. Henderson will want to interview me for the front page. Maybe they'll wait till after the election. That's okay. Enough suspense. Yes, yes I had lunch at The Only Place in Town. On Monday I invited a brilliant actress/artist Sierra Madre friend of mine, Loretta Weeks to join me for lunch. We managed to enter the restaurant undetected no doubt due to her thespian skills. I also wanted Loretta to join me so we could order more than one item and not look strangely conspicuous. I tend to often look strangely conspicuous. TOPIT, my acronym for The Only Place In Town, is not the first acronym to adorn this restaurant. My New Zealand connection told me the joint used to go by OPIT. I like mine better. Anyway, I came armed with dining suggestions from several people. Uber fire fightin' father Todd of uber fire fightin' son Thurman gave me my first suggestion. The Del Mar Salad. I

was planning to order that. It sounded healthy. But Todd left out one key piece of information. The Del Mar Salad contains asparagus. No one should eat asparagus! No one.

Next, believe it or not someone had the courage and personal fortitude to recommend meat loaf! Do you know how politically incorrect it is to even admit you like it? I realize I am outing myself, but I am a closet meat loaf fan. And so is Janelle Fisher who suggested the entree. She also recommended the breakfast burrito. Ummm, Janelle, there uh, is no breakfast burrito listed on the menu.

Mindy Halls, who should be writing menus, emailed me and I am still hungry. Her description of a avocado BLT on toasted focaccia bread was sinful. Mindy, quit your day job.

Linda Thornton, the Kiwi expatriate, recommended a Chinese chicken salad named after someone named Maggie Wong. She suggested the "jerk" chicken sandwich which was probably named after someone's husband. Maybe Maggie's.

Linda also mentioned the hangover omelet. I'm not sure if the omelet is named after something that hangs over a belt, or hangs over a head the morning after a few too many belts. It contains Anaheim chili (what's that), swiss cheese and a dollop of sour cream. I thought a dollop was a religious leader. The Dollop of Mongolia.

I decided to risk it and make my own selection. I could experiment because Loretta said she would share her bacon cheeseburger. So, I went healthy and ordered something called the Sonoma Rice Bowl. I'll never forget that bacon cheeseburger.

### Yes on Measure V

In anticipation of the upcoming April 17 election, my husband and I requested absentee ballots from the City Clerk. On March 29, my husband and I received a letter mailed to our home from Opponents of Measure "V". The letter carried the "No on V" logo and was signed by Doug Hayes, Bill Messersmith, Clem Bartolai and Colleen McKernan. The letterhead indicated the association with the "Committee to Preserve Sierra Madre, a coalition of residents, property owners, taxpayers and small businesses to oppose Measure V, major funding by the California Association of Realtors Issues Mobilization Political Action Committee". The body of the letter included the following: "Thank you for applying to vote by mail in the upcoming Sierra Madre special election on Measure V.....we.....urge you to vote "No" on Measure V." I was shocked by the content of this letter. I naively believed I suppose that we live in a society where our election process provides voters with privacy and confidentiality. My request for an absentee ballot was directed to our City Clerk, not to Opponents of Measure "V". How and when did my private mailing to our City Clerk become available to the public? I understand that voter requests for absentee ballots have remained a private matter between the City Clerk and the absentee voter in ALL previous elections in Sierra Madre. Elections have been successfully handled in Sierra Madre in this manner for YEARS. However, in anticipation of the April 17<sup>th</sup> election, Opponents of Measure "V" requested access to the names and addresses of voters requesting absentee ballots. I am told this arrangement was approved by our City Attorney and the City Clerk was obligated to make absentee voter information available upon request. I find this request appalling! Is there nothing sacred anymore? What next? Will my official ballot be released upon request? Let me spare Opponents of

Measure "V" the suspense and tell you all.....I have already cast my "YES" on Measure "V" vote and the City Clerk is in possession of my absentee ballot. Done deal! According to the City's own official website, permissible uses of voter information are governed by Section 2157.2 of the Elections Code. This section provides the following:

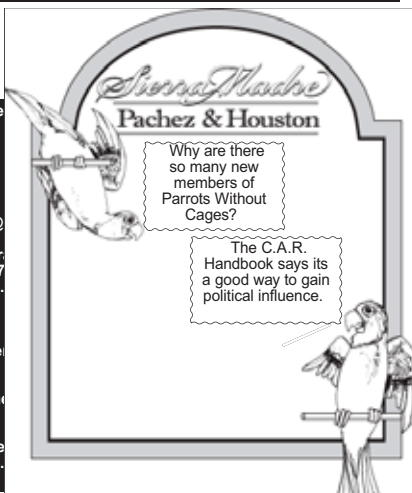
"Information on your voter registration affidavit will be used by elections officials to send you official information on the voting process, such as the location of your polling place and the issues and candidates that will appear on the ballot. Commercial use of voter registration information is prohibited by law and is a misdemeanor. Voter information may be provided to a candidate for office, a ballot measure committee, or other person for election, scholarly, journalistic, political or governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State."

I would really like an explanation as to why this particular election necessitated access to the names and addresses of voters requesting absentee ballots. This has NEVER been necessary or requested before. Why now? What was the rationale used by the City Attorney to authorize the release of this information? I don't see the loophole in the Elections Code provision above. Do you?

If you have not yet registered to vote in the April 17<sup>th</sup> election, it is not too late. The City Clerk advises that citizens may register to vote up to and including the date of the election. The voter registration form is available from City Hall or contact the City Clerk for more information. Please take the time to cast your ballot. Preserve Sierra Madre by ensuring that citizens have a say in projects that do not comply with 2-30-13. Maintain the charm and unique qualities of our village through responsible development. t Vote "YES" on Measure "V".

Dana Pelsone

If you would like to send a letter to the editor for publication, you may do so via fax - 626-604-4548, email - deaxamispub@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, Weizmann Day School and the PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## PUSD Technology Infrastructure to get Immediate Fix

by Dean Lee

Not much changed in the final version of the PUSD management audit released last week from the earlier draft audit, including a \$4.5 million one time cost and another \$4 million a year in upkeep needed to overhaul the districts' frail fragmented technology infrastructure said, Greg Gibson, president of Gibson Consulting Group. Gibson explained some of the changes, the biggest being the recommendation of renegotiating teacher's contracts to remove language concerning "site-base" decision-making, as he spoke to three local cities Pasadena, Altadena, and Sierra Madre at each of their regular city meetings last week. Gibson also gave the same presentation to the PUSD March 27. He said for schools to be "site-based" requires a teacher election although that has not been applied at any of the schools. He also said it is inconsistent with board policy requiring a single system of decision-making. There are other ways decision-making is done at the schools now to include teachers, he said. Last month Gibson outlined technology infrastructure problems saying many of the reporting tools used had been purchased before the current infrastructure could support them. He also said duplicate data systems existed, and software applications have become fragmented leading to system crashes, something he said he personally witnessed three times. "That's unacceptable; you don't see that kind of inefficiency in other districts," he said recommending all Information Technology Systems be re-assigned to the

Superintendent and taken out of the Division of Business Services. Superintendent Edwin Diaz said any changes in personnel that reported directly to him would be implemented immediately along with looking at information technology system itself.

"I just spoke with our technology department this morning to see what could be done right away, unfortunately most of what they said were only band-aid fixes," Diaz said. "How we overhaul the entire system at \$4.5 million is going to take a lot of effort and decision making from the board."

Gibson also said in the district headquarters there was a lack of current job descriptions, documented procedures, and annual performance evaluations saying this further limited accountability for decisions and performance throughout the district. Gibson did say there have been many examples of good decisions made by PUSD, the most notable being the implementation of the standards based curriculum and benchmark testing system. "The board and district focused on academic needs, analyzed data, developed options to improve, and dedicated resources to begin a successful implementation," the report reads. "This initiative represents district decision-making at its best," Gibson said.

The complete management audit is on the city's website at: [www.pasadena.k12.ca.us](http://www.pasadena.k12.ca.us).

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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

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

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

The Gooden School  
192 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-2410  
[www.goodenschool.org](http://www.goodenschool.org)

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

Odyssey Charter School  
725 W. Altadena Dr.  
Altadena, CA  
(626) 229-0993  
[www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com)

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

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

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

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

Weizmann Day School  
1434 N. Altadena Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
626-797-0204  
Lisa Feldman Head of School

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**Free Solar Car Workshop for High School Students**  
Design, build and race a solar car for Greening the Earth Day!  
Workshop Dates: April 1 & April 15, 1-5 p.m.  
Race on April 21 throughout the day

The History Center for the Arts in partnership with Pasadena City College is offering a Free Solar Car Workshop for high school students. Students will be involved in the design process and have time to test a single day race or a multi-day endurance race. High school students will be trained up with college students in the project design process at PCC. College students will mentor high school students and share their expertise in designing, engineering and building a small-scale solar car. The workshop will include all supplies (tools, materials, etc.) and parts for building the car.

April 1: 1-5 p.m. Students will learn about the basics of solar and gain experience in building a solar car.  
April 15: 1-5 p.m. Students will learn about the basics of solar and gain experience in building a solar car.

Contact Instructor: Melissa Marshall 626.792.0191 x 122, [melissa@historycenterforthearts.org](mailto:melissa@historycenterforthearts.org)

Please email the following information if you would like to participate:

- Name
- Address
- City, State
- Phone
- Email

\* We will email you a confirmation once we receive your information.

\* Space is limited. Sign up early!

\* Applications will be processed in the order they are received.

History Center for the Arts, Pasadena City College, 1434 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, CA 91107

**ALL-STAR BAND  
SWAP MEET & CRAFTS FAIR**

**APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup> & 22<sup>ND</sup>**  
AT PHS FRONT LAWN

**FUN & EASY FUNDRAISER**

Participants will be given free lawn space to sell their own garage sale items and crafts to earn cash towards their personal All-Star Account on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Unsold items will go on sale Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> with proceeds divided evenly among participants working the weekend event. Specialty items and antiques will be sold separately on eBay with proceeds credited to individual accounts.

**CAR WASH**

Here's one more way to earn extra cash on Saturday. Sign-up to work the Car Wash for a two hour-shift and receive a portion of the proceeds!

**VOLUNTEERS AND USED STUFF NEEDED**

Can't commit to volunteer all-day Saturday or Sunday or you have nothing to sell? Volunteer to work the swap meet or car wash (for a minimum of two hours) or donate your own stuff to the designated Booster Yard Sale Space to receive a share of the proceeds from the weekend.

Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> Set-up at 6 am and sale from 7 am to 1pm  
Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> Set-up at 9 am and sale from 10 am to 2 pm  
Location: Pasadena High School Lawn on Sierra Madre Avenue

Contact eBay Coordinator Katina Dunn @ 818-802-2111 to sell your valuables or collectibles on eBay.  
Contact Car Wash Coordinator Chuck Broslawsky @ 626-585-1348 to volunteer.  
Contact Event Coordinator Greg Salce @ 626-797-8644 or at [gsalce@sbglobal.net](mailto:gsalce@sbglobal.net) to participate or volunteer.

## Pasadena Conservatory of Music Summer Camp

Folk dances and songs from south and central American countries and around the world, games and rhymes in Spanish and Portuguese - for 1st through 6th grade students.

Instructor Rebecca Straayer from the Pasadena Conservatory of Music will also lead explorations of art and music with an instructor from the Armory Center for the Arts.

The Young Musicians Summer Camp

July 16 to 27

Monday through Friday, 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Pasadena Conservatory of Music,  
100 N. Hill Avenue, Pasadena.  
Fee: \$350.00

For information, email the Conservatory at [music@pasadenaconservatory.org](mailto:music@pasadenaconservatory.org) or call 626-683-3355

## Auditions

The Theater Arts Committee of First United Methodist Church in Pasadena, announces auditions for its summer youth musical program. The production, Cole Porter's "Anything Goes," will be held at 9:30 a.m. on May 19. Bring a song to sing, if you are interested in any solo work. All youth entering grade 7 through first year college are welcome to participate regardless of audition.

The FUMC summer musical program has been operating free of charge for over 25 years. Students rehearse weeknights and Saturdays throughout July with the performances taking place Wednesday through Saturday in early August. Young people are encouraged to participate and bring friends.

500 E. Colorado Blvd.  
(626) 796-0157

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- VISUAL ARTS
- THEATER

DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES AT [pasadenaartscouncil.org](http://pasadenaartscouncil.org)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2007

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT MEGAN AT THE PASADENA ARTS COUNCIL AT (626) 793-8171 OR [mmacdonald@pasadenaartscouncil.org](mailto:mmacdonald@pasadenaartscouncil.org)

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## TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS



## Front Runner

From time to time I have been known to put a couple of dollars down at the Race Track. It started 20 years ago when I was delivering groceries for Jurgensen's Grocery Store. I would use my lunch hour to get to the infield and grab a hot dog and a coke and bet on the first couple of races. I still go to the Race Track at Santa Anita, but now I hang out at the Front Runner. The restaurant is only open for lunch, but the menu is sophisticated and I don't think you can even get a hot dog. Overlooking the finish line, FrontRunner comfortably seats over 500 guests for lunch. A floor-to-ceiling glass wall allows guests to view the picturesque San Gabriel Mountains while watching live Thoroughbred races. Every entrée is prepared to order from two glass-enclosed exhibition kitchens positioned on either side of the restaurant. Desserts are made in full-view of guests from a separate exhibition pastry kitchen. The 215-foot long serpentine-shaped bar, which runs through the middle of the restaurant, seats 100. Service is right on the money (get it?) I enjoy Michael and Mitch, both professionals and always a good story to tell. The seasonal lunch menu features innovative contemporary California cuisine utilizing flavors and ingredients indigenous to our region. Menu items include Chesapeake Bay Jumbo Lump Crabcake (my favorite) served with Ginger Slaw and Remoulade or Pepper Cucumber Namasu and Miso Vinaigrette; also the Roasted Pacific Swordfish with a pineapple grapefruit relish is a winner. Prices range from \$6 to \$24. **What to order:** Maryland Crab Cake, this is the real deal; they use lump crab meat, not shredded. It costs a little more but it is worth it. Desserts are all housemade - a real plus!! Heads up: There is a charge for parking, admission and betting of course. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Front Runner at Santa Anita Racetrack  
For Reservations please call: (626) 574-1035.

For complete menu and details: [www.santaanita.com](http://www.santaanita.com)

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

Watch Peter Dills every Sunday Night at 8 PM on KJLA TV...

Right after Race Replays from Santa Anita. E-mail Peter at [chilipete@aol.com](mailto:chilipete@aol.com)

The Rating Criteria:

\*\*\*\*By train or plane I would find a way to get to this restaurant

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

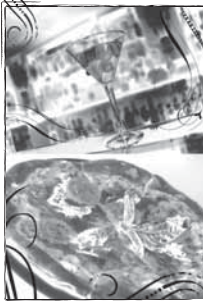
\*\*If I am in the neighborhood I would go to this restaurant

\*If I got a flat tire in front of this restaurant, I might go inside



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Sat. Apr. 7 - Chuck Manning Quartet  
Sun. Apr. 8 - Opera to Broadway  
Thurs. Apr. 12 - Adam Schroeder  
Fri. Apr. 13 - Blues!!! with Mojo Clam  
Sat. Apr. 14 - Vocalist Deborah Ash  
Sun. Apr. 15 - Opera to Broadway  
Thurs. Apr. 19 - Blues Slide Guitar Great Big Barry Brenner  
Fri. Apr. 20 - Blues!!! Lightning Willie  
Sat. Apr. 21 - Vocalist Judy Wexler  
Sun. Apr. 22 - Opera to Broadway

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# Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

# TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business



Photo by Jean Boenish

## Something New Up There

Among Earth's creatures, it would appear that wings are a popular item. In fact, the animal kingdom has more species with wings than without—a myriad of gnats, bugs, bees, dragonflies, bats—and, of course, birds. Bird anatomy is remarkably similar to that seen in dinosaur fossils, and Dr. Kenneth P. Dial, an expert in bird evolution and aerodynamics at the University of Montana,

believes that dinosaurs, in the process of becoming birds, gradually developed wings as a way of helping them scramble up and down steep inclines, until they finally decided to try the wings for soaring into the sky.

The urge to fly, soar, touch the sky, and reach out to the stars isn't confined to gnats and birds, however. The latest evidence of this is the new Airbus A380, the world's largest commercial aircraft, which made its first landing at LAX on March 19. Qantas Airways, which has purchased 20 of the European-built A380s for regularly scheduled non-stop flights between LAX and Australia starting in 2008, flew the plane in from Toulouse, France, for its first West Coast landing. The dimensions of the Airbus are awesome: Its 262-foot wingspan is nearly the size of a football field, and its height is equivalent to an eight-story building. Although the plane can accommodate 800 passengers, Qantas is configuring its fleet with three-class service and approximately 500 seats.

The A380's March 19 arrival date happened to also be a major anniversary for Laura and me, so we celebrated by going to the airport that evening and seeing the huge airplane up close, parked near the south runway. With its upstairs-downstairs rows of windows, the craft seemed to me more like a huge flying hotel than an airplane.

This was actually the third time I've been lucky enough to witness a historic "first" at LAX. The others were the first landing of a jet plane—a Boeing 707—in 1957, which had poet Carl Sandburg on board (the people who picked him up were parked next to me); and the first and only landing of the



Photo courtesy Google Images  
The A380 Really Big Bird In The Sky

Concorde supersonic transport in 1974. Speaking of "firsts," does anybody remember seeing the first orbiting satellite, the Soviet Sputnik I, in October 1957? I recall seeing it several times from Pasadena, and once from Mt. Wilson (I thought it looked remarkably bright for a grapefruit-sized object, but later learned that what I was seeing was actually Sputnik's upper-stage rocket casing, which was in orbit along with the tiny satellite). Another small step (or giant leap) skyward from the winged dinosaur is NASA's Dawn Mission to the Asteroid Belt, planned for launch in late June or July. The Dawn spacecraft will orbit asteroids Ceres and Vesta, which are among the last unexplored worlds in the inner solar system. They are the two most massive residents of the asteroid belt, a vast collection of bodies between Mars and Jupiter. Ceres is so large that it is included in the new category of

dwarf planets (along with Pluto). The alien landscapes the Dawn orbiter will reveal are expected to provide humankind with a new perspective on the solar system. Remnants from the time when planets were formed, Ceres and Vesta may hold clues to help scientists understand the dawn of the solar system. This will be the first spacecraft ever to orbit an object in the asteroid belt and the first ever to orbit two targets. Such a mission would be impossible without the use of ion propulsion, a technology that has, until now, been mainly in the domain of science fiction.

On Sunday, April 22, at the Altadena Public Library Dr. Marc Rayman of JPL will describe the Dawn mission, including its use of ion propulsion and its two exotic destinations. This program, which begins at 2:30 p.m. (refreshments at 2:00), is sponsored by the Mount Wilson Observatory Association (MWOA), a public-membership support group for the Mount Wilson Observatory. All are invited, and there is no charge. The library is at 600 E. Mariposa Drive, Altadena (at the corner of Santa Rosa Avenue).

## WorkForce with Madeline

**Q:** My best friend's father is a department manager at XYZ company. He said his company is hiring and suggested I apply. Do you think it would help if I include his name in my cover letter?

**A:** If he is a department manager, then he probably has some influence in the company, and so, yes, by all means include his name. Of course, ask him first if this would be okay. You should also ask him if he could be proactive on your behalf and speak to someone important in human resources telling him/her he knows you and to expect your application package. It would be especially nice if he could vouch for your good character.

I would phrase the letter as follows: "John Smith, a family friend and manager of the technology support department at XYZ company, suggested I forward my résumé to you regarding a programming position."

Since you know someone who works for XYZ, it would be beneficial for you to sit down with him and learn as much as you can about the company. You have a valuable connection and the information he gives you could serve you well should you be granted an interview.

**Q:** After 6 months of applying to jobs both through newspapers and various Internet sites, I'm becoming frustrated because I've had only 2 interviews with no calls back. I've been a bookkeeper for 8 years at the same company and am ready for a change. My résumé was done by a professional and I have good interview skills. Do you have any suggestions as to what else I should be doing?

**A:** Have you thought of going to temp agencies? With your bookkeeping skills, you should have no problem being placed. Often temporary jobs can last for weeks or months and even turn into permanent positions. In the meantime, you will be exposed to different environments and can make a more informed choice regarding where you might want to work.

My mother was a hospital administrator for 18 years before she and my father made a retirement move to another state. The first thing she did after settling in was to go to a temp agency. They placed her in the office of a large catering facility where she worked full-time for another 12 years until the age of 76.



Send your questions to Madeline at [comptype2@aol.com](mailto:comptype2@aol.com)

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## BiblioFile

with Jeff Brown

### Boy's Life

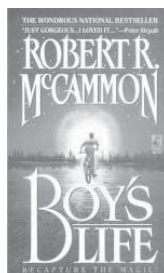
by Robert McCammon

Boy's Life is a little known masterpiece that evokes the feelings of the summer of youth and the magic of being a child. It is a mix of the fantastic with the real that produces a story full of nostalgia and wonder. Good for young teens thru adults.

The book is filled with unforgettable characters, suspense, adventure, and covers many life themes and emotions.

Robert McCammon's novel covers a year in the life of 12 year-old Cory Mackenson. Cory lives with his parents in Zephyr, Alabama in 1964. It is a comfortable, sleepy small town. Cory is helping with his father's milk route one morning when a car plunges into the lake right in front of them. His father dives in after the car and finds a dead man handcuffed to the steering wheel. Their world no longer seems so innocent. The man remains nameless until the end, but there are two clues to the murder. The story centers around Cory and his loving relationship with his dad and helping him find the answer to this crime, but that is only one element.

Cory is about to experience the summer of his life and we get to go along on the



wonderful ride. Magical events occur, serving to revive in us a sense of wonder. This story has much feeling and depth. There are powerful moments when Cory has to deal with evil, bigotry and his best friend's death. The book is also rich in details of small town America and the subtle changes to modern times.

There is Granddaddy Jaybird, an elderly European doctor, and many more wonderful characters. The ending is exciting and unexpected. This is one of the best books I have read and anyone I know who has read it feels the same. It will tug at the heart strings of any parent. It has a mystical quality about it also.

Give Boy's Life a try and hope you enjoy it as well!

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## One of a Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens...  
and the people who create them

Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

### Katy's Camellia and Azalea Forest: A floral explosion in shades of pinks and reds

Most of the year, this nearly half acre property is a play on textures and the many shades of green. When azalea and camellia season rolls around, though, this garden explodes with color. The intensity of it all takes your breath away. Owners Martin and Carolyn Eberhard estimate they assumed the care and feeding of about 75 azaleas and 60 camellias when they purchased the home in 2005. This year's burst of hot weather has popped out the most flowers, including the azaleas faster and earlier than usual. According to one report, all the plants and flowers are "early" in LA this year, except irises, for an undetermined reason.

If you're four year old Katy, Carolyn's daughter, mature camellias can seem a literal forest above you. She named the ten to twelve foot camellias outside the house, her "camellia forest". Carolyn couldn't resist adding to the "forest" this spring, using the best source around, Nuccio's Nursery in Altadena. Since 1938, Nuccio's has developed and grown gorgeous azaleas and camellias, adapted to the Southern California climate. Six new ones fill in gaps in Katy's forest now, including the aptly named Katy camellia.

Originally constructed as the pet project of Mr. and Mrs. William Maloney and then later Karland Johanna Sigmund, this gorgeous garden was in disarray when the Eberhards purchased just a year and a half ago. Since then many visits ensued by Danny Osti and



his trusty crew from Osti Tree Service, to uncover and revitalize the four mature oak trees that form the living foundation and framework of this garden treasure. "We bought the house for the view out to Catalina Island, and, of course, the nearly half-acre garden," comments Carolyn Eberhard. "Once the previous owner died, neglect set in. When we finally purchased, the home had been empty for a year and a half, with little or no care to the garden." Located above Bailey Canyon, many of these 50-60 year old

homes are turning over for the first time, requiring new owners to apply quite a bit of judicious reevaluation of gardens of the same ilk.

At one point years ago, the Eberhards have been



told, the daunting pruning and seasonal clearing was taken on by an untrained gardener, with near disastrous results. The young man in charge of clearing had previously lived in Central America, where burning is the solution for garden debris. Apparently, he set fire to a mountain of the garden debris, much to the distress of the neighbors and fire department.

Of great concern last year was a fungus Osti found in the four massive oaks on the property. Luckily this particular fungus is not irreversible, and often the trees can be saved. First they uncovered the trunk flare, where water built up at the tree's base. Then, injections staved off an untimely demise, and now new healthy growth has appeared. A stand of conifers got a haircut and cleaning, but the disturbance likely caused one to die from bark beetles. Osti says this frequently happens when beetles smell the sap given off by freshly cut pine trees, considering it an invitation to feast. Hence another Osti visit.

The palms and strellitza (giant bird of paradise), which can harbor rodents in their dead foliage, required the crews days of work to remove what seemed to be decades of spent fronds. Four crape myrtles, a remnant of an apparent neighborhood myrtle planting fest, grew twisted and assimilated into years of shrubby growth. After careful pruning, all are struggling in new found freedom.

c.bertrand@themtwillsonobserver.com

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# SPORTS

## Diamond Cats Outshine Bling

By Larry Hom

The Diamond Cats defeated "Bling," 7-3 in Sierra Madre Girls Softball action at Sierra Madre Elementary School last Saturday. It was the third consecutive win for the Cats, strengthening their hold on second place in the 12-Under Division, as the season approaches the halfway mark.

Diamond Cats pitcher Toria Baltazar struck out 14, and retired nine of the last ten batters she faced in a stellar effort. Baltazar also contributed on offense, driving in three and scoring two more of her team's seven runs. Katrina Palfy and Jessica Vargas both reached base twice, and scored runs. Jessica Milanez had a key base hit late in the game to drive in Devny Osuna.

After falling behind 2-0 in the first inning, Bling rallied behind a home run by Lisa Rosas in the third inning, and tied the game 2-2 when Colleen McWilliams stole home in the fourth. Rosas singled and scored again in the fifth, but it wasn't enough to overcome the deficit.



Photo by Linda Ott-Albright  
The Diamond Cats in a huddle

Bling pitcher Kathryn Haderlein mixed up pitches, using an effective change-up to keep the Diamond Cats hitters off balance. Haderlein struck out eleven, including one stretch when she fanned five Diamond Cats in a row.

## Tsunami Leads with 4-0 Record

By Ken Meyer

In 10U action at Heasley Field last Sunday, the visiting Tsunami were hoping to maintain their division lead against the Rich Girl\$. As is turned out, it proved to be a much bigger challenge



Photo by Linda Ott-Albright  
Kelli Natham of the Tsunami's

than the Tsunami girls were expecting. Tsunami pitcher Maddy Meyer had 14 strikeouts, but several walks and some timely hitting by Brooke Mann of the Rich Girl\$ led to a 4-2 deficit for Tsunami going into the last inning.

That's when Tsunami realized it was now or never and dug deep to make a game of it. Although the Rich Girl\$ quickly recorded two outs, the Tsunami's Katie Sparks and Alex Faucett walked and quickly advanced to 2nd and 3rd on steals. Kellie Natham stepped to the plate and worked a full count. On the next pitch, she slammed a laser into centerfield for a triple and two RBI's. Mickey Cappello followed with a RBI single and she later scored on another hit by Marisa Fuentes for a 6-4 Tsunami lead.

The Rich Girl\$ made a valiant comeback in the bottom of the inning and managed to close the gap to 6-5 thanks to Evan Gancedo's stellar play and base running. She was a thorn in Tsunami's side all game and led her team going 2-2, walking once, and scoring three runs. In the end, the Tsunami's pitching made the difference, as Maddy struck out the side to end the game. Tsunami Coach Don Schwartz acknowledged they dodged a bullet and heaped praise on the Rich Girl\$ team for giving them all they could handle. Despite some pitching hiccups, a few errors, and leaving nine runners on base, he was proud of the team for showing so much resolve in eking out a comeback victory. Tsunami leads the 10U division with a 4-0 record.

## Santa Anita Derby at 70

By Larry Bortstein

When the Santa Anita Derby is run for the 70th time on Saturday, two Sierra Madre residents hope to play major roles in the outcome of the \$750,000, 1



Photo courtesy Benoit Photos  
No. 5 Black Seventeen

1/8-mile race for three-year-olds. Ten horses with aspirations for the Kentucky Derby on May 5 were entered Wednesday for the Santa Anita Derby. Among them were Boutrous, who is trained by Sierra Madre's Craig Dollase, and Black Seventeen, whose rider, Clinton Potts, also lives in the town. Boutrous, who is 12-1 on the morning line, drew the No. 4 post and will be ridden by Kent Desormeaux, who has captured two runnings of the Kentucky Derby. Black Seventeen, a 15-1 shot trained by Brian Koriner, drew the No. 6 post.

In between the two of them is the 5-2 favorite, Liquidity. Boutrous is a son of 2000 Horse of the Year Tiznow and is named for Ted Boutrous, a friend of Las Vegas real estate man Mike Shustek, who owns the Florida-bred colt. He has won two of his five starts and earned \$96,780. His last time out, he was the 11-10 favorite in the California Derby at Golden Gate Fields, but finished second to Bwana Bull—another member of the Santa Anita Derby lineup—when he was blocked and forced Desormeaux to steady behind horses.

"I think Kent owes us one after that ride," laughed Dollase, 36, the father of two children with his wife Nancy, a former Santa Anita press box secretary. "I think my colt will like longer races and we're hoping he gives a good account of himself Saturday. We look at the race as being wide-open."

Black Seventeen, also bred in Florida, is a son of 1988 Breeders' Cup Juvenile champion Is It True. He has raced only twice, winning his only start last year and finishing second in his only outing this year on March 7 in a 6 1/2-furlong race. "My owners and I have dreams and we're taking a shot," said Koriner, who was originally planning to run his colt April 14 in the Arkansas Derby.,



Photo courtesy Benoit Photos  
Boutrous

This will be the first Santa Anita Derby for both Koriner and for Potts, 35, a former Maryland and Midwest racing standout who was second in the nation in victories in 2000.

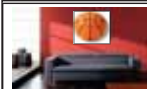
Potts came to Southern California last year with Joanne Jones, a racing commentator for Horse Racing TV, with whom he has a son, Ethan Alexander, born last June 20.

"You move to California to ride in races like the Santa Anita Derby," said Potts, a Texas native. "I'm thrilled to have a mount. I think this is a colt with a future."

## Santa Anita Derby Day 5K Run & Walk Saturday, April 7

The 13th running of the Santa Anita Derby Day 5K Run & Walk, which will take place at historic Santa Anita Park. The race kicks off the Derby Day festivities. Between 4-5,000 runners and walkers will run the 3.1 mile course originally designed by Steve Scott, current American record holder of the mile run. As they finish the 3 mile race, runners and walkers can see themselves on the giant big screen in the center of the infield! A full-on party awaits participants, who will enjoy a live band, beer garden, participative booths and food. Then it's just minutes away before the first Thoroughbred race, which goes off at noon. The rest of

Derby Day includes 10 horse races and a popular Microbrew Festival and concert, which takes place in the infield. There is still time to register for the race: One can go to kinanevents.com, or pre-register at Westfield Santa Anita on Friday, April 6 from 4:30P to 7:30P. Or runners and walkers can register on race day starting at 6:30A. The Masters (over 40) starts at 7:45A, with the Open race at 8:15A. For additional information, please contact Kathy Kinane of Kinane Events (760-434-2312 or www.kinanevents.com) or Pete Sibrerell of Santa Anita Park (626-574-6373 or www.santaanita.com).



## View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

## Most Valuable Player

The Florida Gators were just too tough for Greg Oden to beat by himself. The Ohio State University freshman could have been named most valuable player of the March Madness Final Game - Ohio State vs. The Gators of Florida. Not to take away from what Florida accomplished - the first team to win back-to-back championships in over a decade and the first school to hold both the football and basketball championships.

They are also the only team to hold a very good Ohio State team to just four out of twenty-three 3 pointers. Florida must be given its respect. The Gators truly represented a team effort. Its scoring was balanced. If an open man was available his teammate got the ball to him and usually scored. The Gators were unstoppable, their place in history was not to be denied. Congratulations, go Gators.

Greg Oden the Ohio State freshman, however, was incredible. He was impressive on both offense and defense.

In his school's losing effort he put it All Out on the Floor.

I know that the Ohio State coach wishes he had a nucleus of players that wanted a chance to get back to the finals but sadly there is only Oden and only one of his buddy Conley. These two have played together since childhood.

It does not appear that Oden will be returning to the college ranks. Barring some change in events I think the next time we see Oden in a basketball uniform it will be in the NBA. One commentator in speaking of Oden's effort stated that Florida had an answer to everything and everyone but him.

Oden cannot be shut down but the rest of the team can be, and was. Oden on the other hand was all over, he was inside, he blocked shots, he scored, and his presence was felt on both ends of the floor. There was no quit in the young man - there simply was not enough of him to handle Florida single handedly. For Buckeyes fans Oden gave us someone to cheer in a losing effort.

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