

# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Friday, April 13 - April 19, 2007 Volume 2, No.15

## Debate Becomes a Q & A

**No on V proponents don't show up; both moderator and facilitator receive intimidating telephone calls earlier in the day**

By Katina Dunn



Photo by Jacqueline Truong - Measure V Debate at Sierra Madre School Auditorium

"Ladies and gentlemen, if there is anybody in the audience who is a proponent against Measure V, you are welcome to take the stage..." Debate Moderator James Macpherson of the website Pasadena Now asked the audience more than a dozen times last Thursday evening and received no reply. An estimated 135 people attended the debate at Sierra Madre School auditorium. Proponents of the Measure were Council Member Kurt Zimmerman, Mt. Wilson Observer Managing Editor Susan Henderson and Resident Scott Hood. Henderson told the audience from the stage that former mayor Glenn Lambdin had initially agreed to appear and would bring other No on

V representatives. She said Lambdin told her he changed his mind during Monday's Chamber of Commerce presentation, however, she was still hopeful he would attend the debate. Lambdin had also asked for a debate during the community communications period at a recent city council meeting. Last Monday, when reached by telephone, Lambdin did not say anything on the record. Instructor Erica Ramirez of the Model U.N. Youth in Government Program at the Pasadena YMCA ran Thursday's Q & A, with students and Instructor Tzeitel Paras. Macpherson and Paras both said they were contacted by various No on V supporters earlier Thursday before the debate. (continued on pg 3)

## Campaign Funding Update

No On V vs. Yes On V

\$170,922	\$29,000
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The California Realtors Association (CAR) has poured more money into the No on V "Committee to Preserve Sierra Madre, a Coalition of Residents, Property Owners, Taxpayers, Realtors and Small Businesses to Oppose Measure V" according to filings of California Form 460. The CAR total contribution is now \$90,150.00, the Building Industry Association of Southern California (Diamond Bar) contribution totals \$40,000. The California Building Industry Association (Sacramento) contribution is \$10,000. The Sierra Madre Land Company (Skilled Nursing Facility) has donated \$3,500. So far, 6 residents have contributed to the campaign, none of them former or current mayors. Treasurer is Cary Davidson of Reed & Davidson, which represents the Building Industry Association.

The Yes on V committee is operating at a deficit of at least \$13,500. That figure includes the recent fundraiser featuring Grammy Award winning artist Billy Childs which netted about \$5,000. Treasurer Ivette Dostalek said more fundraisers are scheduled in the coming weeks to cover the cost of attorney fees, including \$23,000 for Strumwasser & Woocher (for defending the recent lawsuit challenging ballot arguments which was filed by former mayor Glenn Lambdin, who was represented by attorneys for the Building Industry Association. An estimated \$8,000 was also spent on attorney Chris Sutton, who drafted the Measure V Initiative. So far, an estimated 175 residents have contributed to the campaign, according to Dostalek.



Welcome to new Lieutenant Larry Giannone, with the crime fighting attributes of a bone-crushing handshake and nose for outlaws. "My prior chief always said I could smell out a crook," said Giannone. He comes from an award winning career of 28 years in Monterey Park, and lives nearby with Diane, his beautiful wife of 30 years, and two daughters. His first day on the job, Giannone took a moment with a formidable skateboard bunch from Sierra Madre School. From left, Tyler Huff, Cody Bignell, Trent Buchanan, The Lieutenant, Cory Huff, Danny Vidimos and Jon Guzman. - Photo by Katina Dunn



Photo by Hood - Faulkner Art Exhibit at City Hall

Provocative collages are on view by James Faulkner, member of Sierra Madre's Arts Commission and graphic designer for this year's Mt. Wilson Trail Race held Saturday May 26 at 7:30 a.m. The son of Artist John Faulkner, James studied at art colleges in England, San Francisco & Pasadena's Art Center College of Design. Visit [www.faulknerdesign.org](http://www.faulknerdesign.org)



Photo by Chris Bertrand

A World Away - The fragrant Wistaria in bloom can still be experienced in the peaceful setting of Mater Dolorosa Retreat at 700 N. Sunnyside Ave. Fr. Patrick J. Brennan serves as director of the gardens. Call (626) 355-7188 for more information on the gardens.



### INSIDE THIS WEEK

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### Planning Commission Approves CUP for Congregational Church

By Dean Lee

An undecided City Planning Commission ended with a split vote April 5 favoring granting a conditional use permit (CUP) for the expansion of the Sierra Madre Congregation Church's New Life Center although the center cannot be built without first amending the City's General Plan.

The sudden approving vote came only after denying Commissioner John Hutt's plea for a continuance on the 3,349 square foot center. Hutt said he had serious concerns over a condition that only granted the CUP upon approval of a General Plan amendment for rezoning something that still needed go in front of the city council. Assistant Planning Manager Jay Hill said later that what makes an amendment different than a normal variance was that the city can only do four of them a year. Last year the city did none, he said. Hutt said the church has no long range master plan, and he is (continued on pg 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.

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# Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

Friday:	Sunny	Hi 70 - 80s	Lows 50s Windy
Saturday:	Partly Sunny	Hi 60 - 70s	Lows 50s
Sunday:	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

- 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 - 7:30 PM - Conference Room
- 25 - All-America City Rally - 6:00 PM - Sierra Madre School
- 27 - Arbor Day
- 27 - City Hall Closed

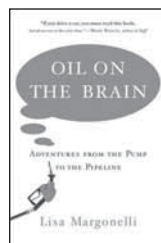
For more information on these and other City programs, call 355-7135 or visit [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com).

## BiblioFile

with Jeff Brown

### Oil on the Brain: Adventures from the Pump to the Pipeline

by Lisa Margonelli



In the last few years, we all have "oil on the brain" at some point, because of higher gas prices, and global warming. We have all called our dependency on it into question.

The U.S. uses 600,000 gallons of gasoline every minute, 21,000,000 barrels a day. In 1987, 1 gallon took a car 27 miles now only 25. China buys 1 million gallons a day to make products sent just to us. 1 gallon of gas has 29 ounces from U.S., .7 from Canada, .5 from Saudi Arabia, 4 from Nigeria, .2 from Algeria plus others. Los Angeles drivers use 400 million gallons a year just sitting in traffic!

Where does all this gas come from? What is the history of oil production, from whale oil to now? Why does the price fluctuate and who sets the price? What is it like for countries whose whole economy is based on oil? What happens at our mysterious Strategic Petroleum Reserve? What about the huge profits of oil companies? Are we being taken advantage of? Margonelli answers these questions and more.

Writing in a descriptive easy way, Oil on the Brain is a smart, illuminating and sometimes funny account of the oil industry, the people, economies, and pipelines that bring us petroleum. She discusses her experiences in a well researched story between the years of 2003 to 2006, when she traveled one-hundred thousand miles following the path oil takes from the local gasoline station making a few cents on a gallon of gasoline (station profits come from the sale of cigarettes, fast food and candy) up through the chain of the distributors, the refiners, to the big oil companies.

She visits "wildcatters" in Texas, the oil pit at the New York Mercantile Exchange, and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in the Gulf of Mexico where Margonelli wiles her way into the graces of insiders to report on the huge petroleum network. She then travels to Alaska, Venezuela, Nigeria, Chad, and finally the Persian Gulf. Filled with rich history, industry stories, and politics, Margonelli's book brings an appreciation of the complicated and tenuous process that we take for granted. She writes in the chapter Gas Station: Chasing The Hidden Penny,

"Gas stations are collections of incidental items, impulses, and routines that seem in themselves to be inconsequential but aggregate into a goliath economy when multiplied by the hangers of 194 million licensed American drivers. Corn nuts, for example, are part of \$4.4 billion in salty snacks sold at gas station convenience stores yearly, nearly all impulse buys. The hopeful purchase \$25 billion in lottery tickets. And the faint smell of gasoline near the pumps? In California alone, the amount of gasoline vapor wafting out of stations, as we fill our cars, totals 15,811 gallons a day, roughly the equivalent of two full tanker trucks."

Lisa Margonelli is currently an Irvine Fellow at the New America Foundation. She has written for the San Francisco Chronicle, Discover, Jane, Wired, Business 2.0, and was the recipient of a Sundance Institute Fellowship. This book is interesting and timely reading.

**"The Big Island, Kauai and Maui:**  
Friday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

**Travelers & Collectors Series**  
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)

**Heirloom Tomato Seminar and Super Sale**  
Friday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Lecture Hall A  
The Arboretum  
301 N. Baldwin Ave.

### What's Up at Hart Park House?

**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 14, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**  
**FORM AND DISFUNCTION**  
The world of pop artist Terri Lloyd.  
Poster signing, Q & A, Music by Chris Burgan  
Wine & light appetizers  
The Courtyard at 88 N. Fair Oaks in Pasadena  
Majestical Roof at (626) 844-8886

**Saturday, April 21st from 6:30 p.m.**  
Bingo promptly at 7:30 p.m.  
Legendary Bingo  
Benefit for Sierra Madre Rose Float Association  
The Sierra Madre Recreation Center at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Admission: \$20 donation at the Door.  
Pizza, Beer/Wine, Soft Drinks & Prizes  
Call (626) 355-7005

**Saturday April 28 and Sunday April 29**  
Theodore Payne 4th Annual Native Plant Garden Tour  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
See 30 Great Los Angeles Gardens  
Attend seminar on butterfly gardens  
Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$20  
Visit [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org)

**Saturday, April 28, 11:30 am**  
Centennial Year  
Sierra Madre Woman's Club Fashion Show  
"The Fashionable Sierra Madre Woman - Then and Now" Tickets \$20  
(626) 355-6225

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

**Farmer's Market**  
Every Saturday  
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Going for greens at Lili's herbs, fresh flowers, honey, and fresh baked bread. Menudo & tamale stand.  
Bring the kiddies.  
PHS parking lot  
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

**Café 322**  
Singing is good for the soul - every Sunday Sing  
Along Opera & Broadway  
Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends  
322 Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

**Beantown**  
45 N. Baldwin  
Ice Cream & Capuccino  
(626) 355-1596  
Friday April 13, John Joseph  
Saturday April 14, Windy Ridge

**Lucky Baldwin's**  
21 Kersting Court  
English Breakfast  
(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

### Bailey Canyon Cleanup

SMEAC will hold its annual spring Bailey Canyon Park cleanup, a week and a day ahead of Earth Day on April 22. We invite everyone to join us on the 14th, starting at 8 a.m. There will be refreshments, cold drinks, and lots of fellowship. 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.

## Creative Arts Group Fundraiser:

### Art of the Garden

By Donna Packer

Garden lovers will again be invited to stroll through some of Pasadena's finest residential landscapes on the 2007 *Art of the Garden* tour presented by Creative Arts Group. The April 22nd tour will showcase the work of some of our best landscape architects and designers including Mark Bartos, Mark Berry and Bob and Nord Eriksson.

This year's gardens are notable for the synthesis of landscape and architecture. Widely divergent homes require gardens that are harmonious with a particular residential style. This year a Monterey Colonial, a Madison Heights Tudor, and a Georgian Traditional are among the architectural styles represented. In one design, a French Country manor, completely replaced a modest mid-century home. The landscape was redesigned and transformed to balance the very different residence. As a structure changes, the landscape needs to evolve to enhance the architectural style.

As important as the architectural compatibility, the garden must function to meet the needs of the owners. Southern California's outdoor lifestyle at its finest is represented with an array of outdoor dining and living spaces including kitchen gardens, formal and informal dining terraces, kitchens, fireplaces, pools and spas. Two gardens which were designed for families with children include a fairy garden and railroad garden as well.

Marrying function with form, sweeping lawns, terraced slopes, redwood groves, rose gardens, pergolas, arbors, fountains, gracefully curving beds of perennials and shady bower gardens soften and adorn the classic architecture of these residential estates.

The *Art of the Garden* tour is Sunday, April 22nd from 10:30-4:30 pm. For more information or to order tickets, please call Creative Arts Group at (626) 355-8350.



## Roy Roams' 91024

### Dear Chip and Bart,

Sorry we never did lunch. I regret missing that one at McCormick & Schmick on February 28 about the ballot box measures and "the work the BIA is doing to prevent their ballot box success." You must be doing a bang-up job. I have been so busy fending off all these women, I can hardly catch my breath!

There must be at least 12 of them. It all seems like one big blur of red lipstick. The lipstick blur is always talking on the cell phone or in person. They tell people I am an axe murderer and how Sierra Madre will just slide into a sewer if hundreds of condos aren't allowed to be built right now.

You can imagine how exhausted they must be! I am sure they are on rotation, because they are telling people this 24/7. Yesterday, they were telling senior citizens the firefighters will have no gas money if Measure V passes!

Bart, don't forget your promise at Alverno, during the centennial birthday party. You said you would tell me your vision for the city after Election Day.

Let's re-do lunch. I have a taste for some downtown specific ham.

-R.R.

### More Highlights from That Fateful Sierra Madre City Council Meeting October 25, 2004

Community Communications before the council's vote to create the Downtown Specific Plan:

Resident Bill Tice: "We see Costco and Wal Mart and the other stores..."  
Mayor Rob Stockly: "Yeah, but, the good news Bill is, they don't want to come here...they don't want to come here. Because its - you know, we don't have the marketplace."

Council Member John Buchanan: "It's a mutual disaffection, too. They don't want to come here and we don't particularly want them here... it works well."

### The Buchanan Conundrum

The Mayor urged attendees of last Tuesday's council meeting to "not engage in discussion about individual staff members or council members" which might give outsiders "the wrong perception."

So we held our breath waiting for the Mayor to withdraw his Star-News endorsement of one of those self-proclaimed "smutty" websites which regularly thrashes those who challenge the status quo at city hall. Coincidentally, the Mayor also spoke out on behalf of free speech.

Does it seem that some who sit on the dais deem these websites useful in controlling the behavior of some citizens who are exercising the right to... free speech?

# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

## Zap Me

I am about, I'm afraid, to sink to irredeemable depths this week. Will you forgive me? It will be easier for you if you don't happen to share my peeve regarding writers writing about writers writing (as if the whole world cares about the trials and tribulations they experienced producing the very work being presented to you). Do you know what I mean? Entire fiction novels about fiction novelists having a difficult time writing fiction... Screenplays about screenwriters struggling to write screenplays... There was a movie that came out a few years ago. Called "Adaptation," it was written by twin brothers, and it starred Nicolas Cage as twin brothers writing a screenplay. This is the kind of thing I am talking about. It should be outlawed. (Speaker Pelosi? Can you put this on your calendar?) If you are a novelist or a screenwriter or a playwright, you can, from now on, (according to the law about to be championed by Speaker Pelosi) only ever create characters that are not involved in any sort of creative writing activity.

Your characters must be nice smelling small business owners manufacturing soaps and chapsticks in their garage, or importers of vending machines filled with stuffed animals, or city-employed arborists with chronic back pain, or frustrated 17-year olds in synthetically furred Easter Bunny suits in front of Polaroid cameras. Do you understand these requirements? Failure to comply will result in a non-lethal (but noticeable and painful) shock to be administered by an understated collar (available in three colors) to be worn whenever such composition is occurring.

Now that I have staked out my uncompromising position on this issue that I obviously care deeply about, please enjoy the remainder of this column, which you may be surprised to learn, is all about the trials and tribulations I experienced while producing this very column.

Why, Household Gods of Column Writers?! Why oh why?! Why must you abandon me in my hour of need? Why, in one short week at the beginning of April do you allow every single organization with the potential to generate environmental news to take unique, groundbreaking, newsworthy action? Do you not consider that I, the humble producer of this very column, am responsible for approximately 650 words each week? Do you not care that the words I produce are meant to be at least vaguely "environmental" (unless I get special permission to write about field trips or middle school football games) and relatively "current."

Every week something new and funny and insightful and environmental. And, do you intervene to suggest to these organizations that if they kind of spread things out a bit Kyle McClure will have some nice juicy topics to write about for the next month? You do not.

Here is the International Panel on Climate Change with its second report in its series on Global Warming, "Impacts, Adaptations and Vulnerability," which informs us (in language that is surprisingly dull and boring given its blockbuster style ramifications) that we can expect more infectious disease outbreaks, hunger, drought, wildfires, extinctions, and flooding. This report even shares the great news of forecasted dramatic decreases in deaths caused by hypothermia. Then, the United States Supreme Court issues its ruling that carbon dioxide is actually a pollutant and despite the fact that President Bush maintains that he is invisible because see, look, his eyes are closed, the Environmental Protection Agency does have the authority and the responsibility to regulate its emission by cars (I even wrote about this back in December when the court was hearing arguments... it was a fantastic column. You probably saved it. See. Look. There it is on the fridge, mom).

Then the Ansari Foundation (the same one that awarded the prize for the tourist-friendly space ship) announces that it will give millions of dollars to whoever can create a commercially viable 100 mpg automobile.

All of these prime topics. All in one week! That's like a month's worth of columns all smashed together. OK zap me.



The Mark Strickland "Indomitable Spirit" Exhibition of Paintings at Learning Works! Friday, April 20 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - 90 N. Daisy Ave., Pasadena Strickland chose this space because it is an educational program for at-risk teenagers and youth. "The human being is spirit," said Strickland, who was at Learning Works! recently, hanging his art. "Nietzsche said we are spirits struggling to live in flesh." Strickland will be travelling to an exhibit in Dachau in November, where his paintings of children will be presented at Versöhnungskirche, the church next to the gas chamber used in WWII. "These paintings have to do with the world and tyranny," said Dylan Cobb, a sophomore at PHS who was studying in the warehouse as Strickland arranged his large murals on the walls. "They're fighting for something," said Julio Salcedo, a senior at PHS, who was also looking at the paintings. "There is something out there that they need to fight for." Salcedo commented that experiencing such paintings "actually gives you more motivation. Don't miss the reception for this profound Sierra Madre artist. Visit [www.markstricklandart.com](http://www.markstricklandart.com)

**DEBATE** (continued from pg 1) Macpherson said he was contacted numerous times during the day by female No on V supporters. When asked why, he replied "I think that was about the people trying to discourage the teacher and students from participating," he said. Macpherson said he was asked if he had the flyer with the teacher's name on it, and "I had blissfully forgotten it," he said. Paras said the women had "somehow" found her at work, and requested the names and contact numbers of participating students, which she did not provide.

The Mt. Wilson Observer had invited both the local Kiwanis Club and the Pasadena Star-News to co-sponsor the debate. Kiwanis Club spokesperson Hank Landsberg said last Friday there were too many events going on to co-sponsor the debate, and Kiwanis was offering its own forum Tuesday April 6 during the afternoon. The Star-News did not respond to emails and telephone calls to Editor Larry Wilson and Opinion Editor Steve Scanzullo. The Observer also invited the League of Women Voters (LWV) to run the debate, and was told it had already taken a No on V stand on the issue, an action which some community members now say is controversial. Council member Kurt Zimmerman said supporters of Yes on V had never been contacted by the LWV for arguments or position papers.

Ten days before the event, Henderson contacted No on V consultant Chip Ahlswede of Flint Schubert Public Affairs with the invitation. Henderson also contacted No on V supporters Lambdin, Kathy Childs and Jackie Knowles. The Observer also contacted Mayor John Buchanan, who said he was busy, and Mayor Pro Tem Enid Joffe, who said she didn't want any confusion about her elected office and advocating for a position. Joffe's name has lately appeared on No on V mailings, and Joffe recently attended a No on V "press conference" in front of Webb-Martin Realty, which the Mt. Wilson

Observer and the San Gabriel Valley News were not invited to.

The evening of the debate progressed smoothly, and many residents said they were grateful for an opportunity to hear the issues. "It was well done, they tried their best" said artist David Darbyshire, whose paintings are on exhibit at the Creative Arts Group downtown. "The kids were neat." As for the absent other side, Darbyshire said "I don't believe they could have made a case."

"The moderator was very professional," said attendee Debbie Sheridan. "He had a very difficult job considering nobody showed up on the other side. The students took their job very seriously," said Sheridan. A couple residents said their questions were not answered, though Macpherson told the audience if questions were similar, he would just choose one of them. The students gathered questions and asked them on stage, behind the podium, assisted by Macpherson. Macpherson was strict on the timing of the answers for the Q & A, and warned Zimmerman a couple times he was not to exceed the time allotted for his closing statement.

The debate for Thursday, April 5, was announced by Observer columnist Stefan Bund at the City Council meeting March 27. Briefly, the date shifted to Friday due to a Planning Commission meeting, then back to Thursday due to Good Friday and the erroneous date was printed inside the Observer's March 30 edition, prompting a flurry of telephone calls.

On Monday April 2, The Observer delivered bright green flyers to every address in Sierra Madre with the correct date of Thursday April 5. The Q & A can be viewed in full at [www.pasadenanow.com](http://www.pasadenanow.com)

About \$75 was raised from concessions for Sierra Madre School.

**COMMISSION** (continued from pg 1) uncomfortable with that. "I think this is putting the cart before the horse even though it's a good cart," Hutt said, adding later, "so they could do the construction and then get a general plan amendment and then a master plan." He then asked, "what if we find out their master plan doesn't meet the physical construction?"

City Planning Manager Matt Marquez answered "I think the condition of approval requires submittal of the general plan amendment within 60 days of approval of this conditional use permit."

The New Life Center lies at the church's north end and is part of a series of larger projects currently underway at both the north and south church campuses. According to Marquez, the southerly portion of the site has a general plan use designation of both commercial and institutional, while the northerly adds a designation of residential medium/high density to the property.

Hill said earlier that the same problem exists for the Skilled Nursing Center next door and other city staff said it made sense to bring all the properties into compliance at one time.

Marquez said that would not happen and any staff recombination drafted by his department would only specify the church property.

The amendment would make the entire church site zoned institutional, taking out the residential medium/high density component and making it uniform with other uses in the downtown, the commissioners said. "Even though this site does not require density to be looked at, I think that's a loaded word," said Chairperson Gina Frierman-Hunt. "Well in this town at least."

The amendment concerns grew so great that at one point the Planning Commission asked that the involved risk be presented in writing and signed by the applicant parties. Council Member Don Watts said the church's great interest in both the Downtown Specific Plan and Measure V was that if the measure passed, it could not ask for another amendment so easily.

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**ARMED RESPONSE**

**Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK**  
From Caroline Brown

Rain and drizzle last weekend came one week following a week when the news was filled with reports on fire in the hillsides of Hollywood and Hesperia. The contrasts are great but the fire danger is real. Maintaining a vigilance is required of every homeowner in the "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone." Provide a defensible space around your residence by following the guidelines of the State Fire Safe Council. Log on to: [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org)

The Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council is participating in the Southern California chapter of the Society of American Foresters meeting on April 20 and 21 at Nature Friends Club House in Sierra Madre Canyon. The meeting is open to all who share an interest in forestry, fire safety, open space and water conservation. E-mail [jlopez@lacofd.org](mailto:jlopez@lacofd.org) for registration information.

The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be May 14 at 7 P.M. in the City Council chambers.  
Call 355-9350 or 355-1182 for information.

## BIA Scoops Council on Dirt Website Measure V Author Chris Sutton Speaks During Community Communications

By Katina Dunn

Council Members Kurt Zimmerman and Don Watts took issue with the state's Department of Housing and Community Development at last Tuesday's council meeting. A letter signed by the Deputy Director of Housing Policy Development, Cathy Creswell, regarding the effects of Measure V on housing element requirements, appeared on the Dirt website before it was delivered to city council members, Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman said he telephoned Creswell, and she told him the subject of the letter had been requested by the Building Industry Association (BIA).

The letter is addressed to "Dear Mayor Buchanan & Members of the City Council," and was written April 6, the same day it appeared on the Downtown Dirt website run by Beth Buck, a payee of the NO on V Committee as a consultant. Janet Huston of the state's public affairs office said she would look into the matter and call this newspaper back. A message was also left at A Buck or Two Productions.

Buchanan began the discussion by saying the housing element would have to be revised if Measure V passes. "I'm a little fearful we're going to be in a backlog," said the Mayor. Zimmerman said the letter "was prompted by the BIA" and he said that Creswell apologized to him for providing the letter outside of its intended recipients.

"It has nothing to do with housing," said Watts. "This is the purest, most abject form of corruption." Later, Watts added

"The BIA is pushing this agenda at the state level on small cities... this doesn't sound much like a conspiracy. It's in black & white."

Buchanan answered "I'm trying to factor this into our long term planning."

Before the agenda items, Community Communications stretched for two hours as residents spoke out on the topic of Measure V. A few residents said it was "a shame" that No on V supporters did not attend the recent debate held at Sierra Madre School. Fay Angus said that was "a bad, bad decision."

Six residents spoke out against the

measure, including Miguel Perez who, with another resident, read from a long list of "hundreds" of names of No on V supporters. Perez' wife, Lisa Spigai-Perez spoke out against this newspaper, along with Margie Simpson and Liz Ingram. Ingram called the Observer "a propaganda rag" and went on to say that Council Member Joe Mosca "is the very best council member we have."

Speaking in favor of Measure V were 24 residents, including a blind woman who said the CLIMB facility for the blind on Sierra Madre Blvd. would have to move out of the city if traffic and density increased. Resident Carol Parker said the election is about "greed" and "big money with big developers." Debbie Sheridan listed the 43 properties in the downtown area that have sold in the last few years.

Leslee Hinton approached the podium to first warn of mosquitoes and West Nile Virus and the dangers of stagnant water. Her father was the first West Nile victim at Huntington Hospital two years ago, she said, where he was treated for encephalitis. She went on to say that mailboxes and Yes on V signs were destroyed in her neighborhood and a rock was thrown through a vehicle window. Hinton said she notified the FBI.

Measure V author and attorney Chris Sutton said he has appeared before many city councils in the past 31 years, witnessing the same debates. He said that a year ago in Yorba Linda, opponents spent \$300,000 to defeat a similar measure.

"After it passed, miraculously, a council that was split on the measure, suddenly, unanimously supported it once the voters had spoken," he said. "And suddenly, those forces that supported the pro-development side in Yorba Linda, simply went away. And simply, everything has been peaceful and calm in Yorba Linda since June of 2006..."

Sutton said that the threats of lawsuits dissolved in Yorba Linda. "The person who wrote the opinion that my measure was invalid, was Michael Colantuono (former Sierra Madre City Attorney of Colantuono & Levin) hired by the city of Yorba Linda. He wrote these terrible things about how it was going to be struck down. And what happened?"

## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, to Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 195 calls for service.

### Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>:

8:30 AM - Vandalism/Graffiti, 611 East Sierra Madre Blvd. A City Maintenance employee reported black marking pen graffiti to the men's bathroom by the tennis courts. The vandalism was discovered that morning, but it was unknown when the damage occurred.

### Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>:

12:40 PM - Petty theft, 400 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. A resident reported a "Yes on V" sign missing from the front yard of his home. The sign was last seen at 10:00 AM Thursday, 4/5 and discovered missing that afternoon at 12:30 PM.

5:11 PM - Petty theft, 100 block Mariposa Ave. A resident reported several political signs missing from her street.

7:26 PM - Vandalism/Graffiti, 200 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. A resident reported a male Hispanic vandalizing the MTA Bus stop with graffiti. Upon officers arrival a male Hispanic admitted to the damage. He was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for booking.

### Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>:

4:10 AM - Vandalism/Graffiti, 300 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. A patrol officer reported vandalism to the west side of a commercial building. The graffiti, black spray paint letters approximately 12 feet x 5 feet is believed to have occurred between Thursday late PM or Friday early AM hours..

8:03 PM - Grand theft, 600 block Brookside Lane. A resident called to report packages stolen from her front porch. A package from FedEx containing American Eagle clothes and a package from UPS containing a Garmin GPS. The packages were taken between 10:33AM Thursday, 4/5 and Thursday, 4/5 6:30 PM. The loss was valued at \$1650.00.

11:54 PM - Auto burglary, 322 West Sierra Madre Blvd. A Pasadena resident reported the rear drivers' side window smashed and several items stolen from the back seat of the car. The car was parked in the rear lot of Cafe 322 Friday 4/6 at 10:00 PM. The loss was discovered at 11:45 PM. The loss included two Coach purses, one brown and black/gray, one brown carry bag, a Canon camera, bills and statement. The loss was estimated at \$870.00.

## Crime Prevention Tips

- \* Park in a well-lighted area.
- \* Close all windows, lock all doors.
- \* Activate any theft deterrent device you may have.
- \* Put packages or valuables out of sight before you reach your destination. Purses, briefcases, laptop computers, and other expensive items in view invite theft.
- \* If you park in a commercial lot or garage, leave only the ignition key with the attendant.
- \* Do not keep the vehicle title in the car. If left in car, thieves can use the document to sell your car if stolen, or to impersonate you when they are challenged by police. Owners who leave keys, registrations and other identifiable material in their vehicles may return to their residence only to find that they are the victims of a burglary.
- \* If you have a garage, use it. Lock both the vehicle and the garage.
- \* Consider using microdot technology to trace your valuables in case they are stolen: <http://microidtech.com/> Sierra Madre police officers can check suspected stolen property for the presence of your personalized microdot number.

Marilyn Diaz, Chief of Police  
Sierra Madre Police Department (626) 355-1414  
[mdiaz@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us](mailto:mdiaz@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us)



Photo by Susan Henderson - Sierra Madre Resident Howard Rubin's home pictured above was recently burglarized. He now locks everything.



Jim Mierzwia sent in photos of his brand new auto that thieves broke into while it sit in his driveway.

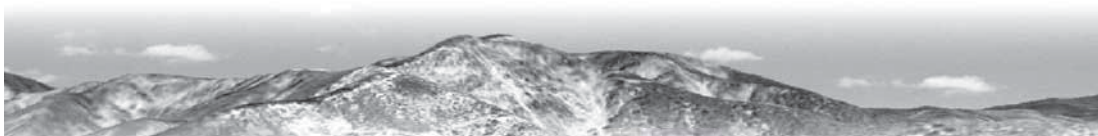
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# The Mt. Wilson Observer PASADENA

## Desiderio Project Becomes Water Under The Bridge

By Dean Lee

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> class Patrick Nevers stood dumbfounded at midnight following Monday night's long City Council meeting in which the council suddenly unanimously favored plans that will demolish the 50-year-old Desiderio Army complex under the Colorado Street Bridge.

"What just happened," Nevers asked looking around like a lost child for anyone to answer. Nevers is currently stationed at the site with over 30 years of military service. Nevers said, as he looked at the approved plans that did not show the Army's current complex, that the site had a long history and was once a hotel as well as a hospital before an Army Base. Nevers' emotional comments were drowned out by all the sudden loud commotion surrounding the immediate pullout of two proposals - first, by the Arroyo Seco Foundation and second, the California Art Club. Both said it was too costly. Only Habitat for Humanity said they were still moving forward with plans for the project although council member Paul Little did plead with the other groups saying "to sleep on it," trying to reassure them they were not being "kicked out" although earlier, Little made clear his idea of opening the site up for use by the city's fire and police departments. "They just took away our home," said Elaine Adams the executive director for the California Art Club. "You just saw what they did, we can't afford to build what they want." The city's Deputy Director of Planning and Development, Stephanie DeWolfe, explained two proposals; one voted on Feb. 5 and one subtitled last week as a compromise between groups at the request of the council. The Feb. 5 proposal showed nine housing units face to face with a courtyard between them, and a new Arroyo Center off to one side. The other lined the houses in a row to allow for use of the existing structures for the main center, DeWolfe said. The council favored the first proposal. Little said he was the only one throwing support behind a third idea of letting the city fire and police use the site for what he called, "a perfect fit." Little also said he thought it was obvious they were not going to come to any consensus with the groups. Little continued saying his only

question for the California Art Club was a simple yes/no answer whether they could afford to build, to which Peter Adams, the art club's director, tried explaining but was cut off in mid sentence by Little. "All I want is a yes or no," Little told him. Adams then replied "No," as a number of the club's supporters gasped and council members shook their heads.

"You can sit down now," Little demanded of Adams and his wife. Elaine Adams said it was too early to know what ramifications would be from all this and they did not plan other locations. Habitat for Humanity's executive director Sonja Yates said they were happy with the council's discussion saying it was the way to go by not changing the council or planning commission's early focus in February of open space and affordable housing. Council Member Chris Holden said, "I think we need to stick to our original goals of open space and affordable housing and work with the Arroyo Seco Foundation if they can't open a center there with whatever we could assist with." Earlier that night during public comment, one Pasadena resident asked the council to look into both the California Art Club and Arroyo Seco Foundation's 990 non profit tax forms calling them both ragtag groups working on shoestring budgets. She said the forms are easily found on the internet. At the request of Steve Madison, representing the site's district, officer Reginald Desiderio, whom the site is named, will be honored with a monument and plaque. The council directed city staff to come up with something in remembrance asking that the Desiderio family be



Photo courtesy of the City of Pasadena  
Rendering of the recently approved project to replace the old Desiderio Reserve Army facility.

involved. Madison also expressed he was in favor of keeping the existing buildings although he voted in favor of demolition. Nevers said the Army had no intention of moving before 2010 when a new Army location in the city of Bell was complete.

### Commentary

## Peter Dreier on the PUSD Board

Many great things are happening within the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) by principals, teachers, students, and parents. But there is widespread frustration with the dysfunctional School Board. The missing ingredient? Leadership.

The April 17 run-off between Bill Bibbiani (the lone incumbent running for re-election) and Bob Harrison offers voters a real contrast in styles. On March 6, 53.5% of voters voted to oust Bibbiani. The vote reflected significant dissatisfaction with Bibbiani's failure to listen to parents, teachers, and community residents, or to provide positive leadership on such issues as the budget, school closings, student achievement, and collaboration with local governments and key institutions. Unfortunately, Bibbiani is caught in the past. His 35 years in the PUSD bureaucracy has become a liability rather than an asset. He consistently disregards public input and new ideas. He recently said, "I don't need to hear public comment...I know what the public wants." When the Board sponsored six public forums to get parent input on the school budget, Bibbiani refused to attend any of them. Bibbiani recently voted to put a charter school in the empty Noyes site in Altadena without giving community residents an opportunity to meet with PUSD officials and voice their concerns. Even residents who supported the charter school think that the Board, including Bibbiani, wasn't listening. Neighbors of the empty Linda Vista School feel the same way. And parents at Longfellow School say that Bibbiani, who is the Board liaison to the school, has never come to meetings to discuss their concerns. Bibbiani voted against Head Start, which many PUSD parents rely on. He also voted against an almost \$500,000

grant from a private foundation for programs to provide extra reading mentors for under-achieving students. Thankfully, other Board Members voted for the grant and the program has been a huge success in raising test scores. Last year, Bibbiani and his colleagues hired a consulting firm to conduct a management audit of the school district. When the firm recently released its findings, he distanced himself from its conclusions - that PUSD's management and technology need a serious overhaul, that Board Members need training about "best practices" and collaborative decision making, and that our schools need more support from the district's central administration. As Richard Kahlenberg wrote in his recent report, One Pasadena: Tapping the Community's Resources to Strengthen the Public Schools:

"The good news is that PUSD has more potential to improve its schools, especially the academic achievement of its low-income students, than perhaps any other community in the country given the incredible resources within Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre. The question is whether community leaders in the PUSD area will rise to the challenge." Bob Harrison can help us rise to that challenge. He is the owner of a successful, community-oriented business, the Green Street Restaurant. He is an involved PUSD parent; three of his kids graduates from John Muir High and two are there now. He has served as president of his church and as a Little League coach. As volunteer president of the nonprofit Pasadena Educational Foundation, Harrison has helped raise millions of dollars to provide grants for teachers, computer labs in schools, art and music programs, and college scholarships for students. Indeed, Harrison has done more for our

public schools as a community volunteer than Bibbiani has done as a School Board member. Harrison has practical ideas for improving PUSD, reducing the achievement gap, making each school special, turning PUSD's diversity into an asset (for example, by creating a dual-language immersion school), increasing partnerships between the schools and the area's great institutions (such as Cal Tech, the Art Center College of Design, Huntington Library, Pasadena Playhouse, and Huntington Hospital), giving parents and teachers a stronger voice, channeling more resources to schools, and making the budget more accessible and the School Board more accountable. Harrison's leadership skills - and his experience as a trained mediator - will help translate these ideas into action. This kind of leadership has been missing on the School Board. All of us - whether or not we have kids in public school - have a stake in having a strong healthy public school system. With Superintendent Edwin Diaz beginning this month, we have an opportunity to make dramatic progress. The School Board should be a partner, not an obstacle, to that mission. It's time for a change. People who want change are supporting Bob Harrison for School Board on April 17. Peter Dreier teaches political science at Occidental College and has two children in PUSD.



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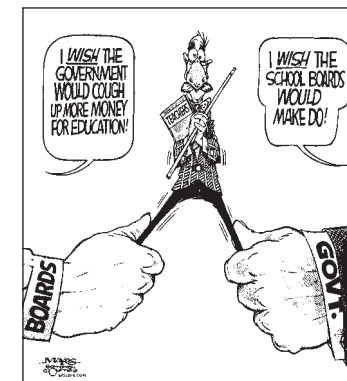
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# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

## OPINION



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Member

### 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.

## So Nice to Be Flogged by You

The Mt. Wilson Observer has not received many letters from No on V proponents. We asked Hank Landsberg of the Kiwanis Club to contribute a column representing No on V for this issue. We have also asked Council Member Joe Mosca to contribute an opinion piece regarding the people's vote on downtown development. Last week, the Pasadena Star-News took a position for No on V. The Mountain Views newsmagazine has consistently taken a No on V position. San Gabriel Valley News editorials reflect the No on V position. The Sierra Madre Weekly (SMW) does not take editorial stands per se; however, its Sierra Madre reporter has been described by the owner of the No on V Dirt website as her protégée. The local obscene websites are especially No on V. Last week the Mt. Wilson Observer endorsed the Yes

on V position in an editorial. Due to the fact that we have received so few letters to the contrary, this position seems to be clearly what the public is thinking. Counting local media, that's 7 to 1. Still, opponents of the measure cannot tolerate this one editorial voice for Measure V. They must have it all, and that fits nicely with the whole greed thing going on here. Some No on V people have threatened those with connections to this newspaper, via anonymous telephone calls and even personal visits. One of the greatest things newspapers can do is tell the stories of what is going on, without fear. We intend to continue doing so. This newspaper was founded to tell community news, and give a voice to the voiceless. We discovered the voiceless of Sierra Madre during the April 2006 election. A record turnout voted

against the status quo. People wanted a say in what happens to their downtown. The struggle continues to this election April 17, 2007. We are dedicated to serving Sierra Madre and Pasadena - both cities share the same school district. You are probably aware that public school district coverage has been scant and abysmal for the last decade. How has that affected the paths of so many children and their futures? How many cities have disappeared because of inadequate news coverage? More voices must be expressed here, silence is not an option. Every threat and every misguided attempt at intimidation remind us that we are here. So, flog on my friends, you will not stop us now or ever.

## Around The Town With Sir Eric Maundry



"It is not the function of our Government to keep the citizen from falling into error; it is the function of the citizen to keep the Government from falling into error." U.S. Supreme Court, *American Communication Association vs. Douds*, 339 U.S. 382, 442. "I do not believe in the collective wisdom of individual ignorance." Thomas Carlyle

Spring is definitely in the air. You can smell it in the newly budded flowers that grow so abundantly in our still beautiful city, and see it in the delicate green magnolia leaves that have only recently begun to show. But with Measure V up for approval next Tuesday, the political climate here is as hot as a mid-August afternoon. Let's jump in, shall we? I am beginning to fear that the (paranormal) may be playing a role in the unexplained disappearances of certain Measure V opponents. We're speaking here about the distinct possibility of alien abductions. Two recent events witnessed by your's truly have only added to my sense of foreboding. Having heard about a large "No On Measure V rally" to be held at Memorial Park a few Saturdays back, I decided to stop by and witness the event. But when I arrived only 8 people were present, and of those few most were real estate agents visiting from other cities. What happened to our local No On V people? Then, on April 5, a debate on Measure V was held before more than a hundred concerned citizens at Sierra Madre Elementary School. And while the 3 proponents of Measure V spoke most eloquently about the virtues of this vital initiative, those seats reserved for the opposition remained eerily empty throughout the evening's program. Where did they go?

The thought that 5 former Sierra Madre mayors are now being helplessly dragged alongside Comet Hale-Bopp and into the dark empty maw of space is almost too horrifying to contemplate. And while there is a possibility that many of those opposed to Measure V may have left the planet, back on terra firma some things remain firmly planted in the realm of the mundane. Apparently the controversial blog *Downtown Dirt* has begun to stringently screen out those who might wish to post views antithetical to those held by the Ann Coulter wannabes calling the shots there. Anyone now wishing to register on this site must answer questions as to their intent and purpose for doing so, along with name, phone number, and number of pets living at home. Am I really the only person who is reminded of the theme song to the beloved '60s TV show *Flipper* every time the name Joe Mosca is mentioned? I would not be doing justice to the sense of outrage I felt upon reading Steve Lopez's LA Times article "Sierra Madre Fears For Its Treasure" if I didn't discuss it here. To me Lopez's piece read like something out of James Ellroy's searing expose of Southern California corruption "L.A. Confidential." Big developers and powerful real estate interests descend upon a small L.A. County town, pump in huge sums of money to crush what is essentially a benign campaign to control local development, all the while getting into bed with some truly sleazy elements to further demoralize and degrade the townspeople. I heartily advocate your getting a copy of Ellroy's book. What is happening now in Sierra Madre is hardly new. That's it for this week. Time to don the smoking jacket and fez, and prepare for this evening's libations. Drop me a line why don't you? [sir.eric.maundry@yahoo.com](mailto:sir.eric.maundry@yahoo.com) Cheers!

## Welcome New Converts

By Susan Henderson



Welcome - transitive verb: to accept with pleasure;

After watching the news a few nights ago, I was astonished

to discover that some of our favorite people have finally seen the light. Yes, those outspoken, ill spoken, oft spoken critics of Measure V now walk in halogen.

Now I understand where they were coming from. They got it all along. They just did not want to be ordinary and confess that Yes on Measure V was the right thing to do in front of a few people. They needed a big audience. Okay Dokey.

In order for them to admit that we need to protect our town, they must have a camera, a microphone and a large captive audience. Oh well, it doesn't matter how you got here, welcome! For those of you who did not see Ted Chen's coverage of Sierra Madre on KNBC - TV 4, you missed a treat. In front of the lights, action and camera, two of No on V's biggest supporters - in terms of talk and no moola with their names on it - two of NO's biggest supporters, Miguel Perez and Beth "leader of the downtown dirt" Buck said, "we all want the same thing." Hallelujah! Who would ever have known? Perez and Buck and the rest of the downtown dirties want to make certain that the influence of developers and real estate brokers doesn't control the future of Sierra Madre! Amen! Don't you just love a good confession? Wow. What an epiphany. If all they wanted was a stage to confess their sins,

we could have provided them with one a long time ago. Hold on - we did give them a stage last week didn't we? None of them showed up. Oh, I forgot, it has to be a big stage with a big audience. Well, I guess we will have to call out the networks again for the rest of the show. Since our pals now know what we want regarding Measure V, maybe we can get them to see more light when it comes to lying, manipulating and hypocrisy. Speaking of hypocrisy, I understand that one of the pillars of the Congregational Church, Margie Simpson, implied, without any foundation whatsoever, that this paper was secretly funded by "outside interests." I want to tell Mrs. Simpson and everyone else for the fiftieth time, The Mt. Wilson Observer is owned by Deux Amis Publications, Inc., a privately held California Corporation with two stockholders, Katina Dunn and Susan Henderson. The newspaper is funded through our personal funds, subscriptions and, despite the dirties' best efforts to discourage them, advertisers. You may recall that when Mr. Simpson felt he had been mischaracterized by comments in Roy Roams' column several months back, this paper was gracious enough to clarify all statements made. Therefore, Mrs. Simpson, we shall leave considerable space in our next edition for your apology and correction. Anyway, I've gotten off the track. I want to extend my sincere welcome to the two, and possibly more, former No on V supporters, who must certainly be voting YES ON MEASURE V since they want the same thing we do - to preserve Sierra Madre. Welcome, it is indeed a pleasure to have you.





# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

## ELECTION SUPPLEMENT

### Don't Always Need The Issues To Know How To Vote



By Michael Mares  
**A Sierra Madre citizen who will vote "Yes"**

We do not always need to know the issues to know which way to vote. That is, merely look at who supports or opposes an issue and their advertising tactics, and the decision can be very clear. For example: THE VOTE "NO" CROWD: Realtors and other business support this view (and oddly enough, previous mayors too) (they have a business purpose to vote No – for profit), and they use false metaphors such as "preserve" to mislead the voter (when the opposing view actually preserves the community, instead of this No crowd.) Nothing about "Business" in this world is about preserving and nothing in this view is about preserving. It is about development according to the views of businesses rather than of the people. Read the fine print (and ignore the false organizational names created to mislead the reader) and the only co-signers of any literature are realtors and businesses. This view wants business development regardless of the view of the local citizens. This view's advertisements intentionally fail to mention that PROFIT is their primary goal. They also use a common political tactic of using false and misleading metaphors and misleading facts about their opponents. THE VOTE "YES" CROWD: The everyday citizens of Sierra Madre support this view. They promote normal everyday language and philosophy that any individual can

agree and relate to, which is also consistent with the foundation of our U.S. Constitution; that is, this view desires the people make decisions, rather than businesses or a governing body that is not for the people.

Our U.S. Constitution demands that the government must be "of the people," "by the people" and "for the people." Read the fine print and the only co-signers of any literature are people of the Sierra Madre community, of which I am one.

While I am also a businessman, I am also a principled Christian to never allow my business practices to overshadow the good of the people and the community.

This view is not opposed to development but wants the people to decide what is or is not appropriate. Nothing misleading exists here; this "Yes" view merely wants the government to be "of the people, by the people and for the people."

If you want realtors and businesses (or Joe Mosca and the government) to dictate life for you, then vote No (or with some sincerity and humor, I ask you to move to Cuba, Iran or the Soviet Union to live a similar government-controlled life). In addition, from what I read, Joe Mosca does not seem to be for the people, and his recent political mailer misses the critical point that people want to preserve their community. (please, also "Recall" Mosca based upon his failure to be for the people.)

Nonetheless, Vote "Yes" to Measure V if you want Sierra Madre to be "of the people, by the people and for the people" – just as our U.S. Constitution advocates.

Remember – both views allow for development, but only one view (the "Yes" view) allows the people to decide. Let us ask a question: What's more costly – the cost of an election for the people to decide, or the wrong decisions of government that will result in permanent structures and buildings and traffic that does not reflect the views of its local citizens?

The recent bumper sticker speaks appropriately well: "Don't Turn Sierra Madre Into L.A." Vote "Yes!" on Measure V April 17!

Please Vote "Yes" and allow individuals and yourself (rather than misleading realtors and businesses) to decide what is best for your community.

### Why I'm Voting No on V

By John Hutt

While the goals of Measure V are laudable, it falls short of its mission. In the end it would make things worse, not better. Measure V is full of loopholes, problematic provisions and ambiguities that would lead to regrettable downtown development and increased litigation costs for the City.

Ignore the wild claims and mudslinging of some on both sides of Measure V and focus on the measure itself. Measure V does two things: first, it amends the General Plan and zoning code to regulate height and residential density in the downtown area, and second, it requires a citywide vote to change such regulations. That's all it does, and it does so poorly. It doesn't require any setbacks, preserve view corridors, limit building mass, encourage good design, preserve historic buildings, limit commercial development, or allow for project-specific voting.

Height: Measure V limits height in downtown to 30 feet to two stories. Sounds simple, but it's not – because how height is measured is as important as numerical limits. Measure V incorporates an outdated system of measuring height, loopholes and all. For example, Section 511 of Measure V allows "basements" in addition to two stories, so long as at least half of the basement is less than six feet above grade. To the normal eye, this looks like three stories – because it is. To me, this is the biggest loophole in our entire zoning code – and Measure V would permanently enshrine it in our General Plan and zoning code absent a vote of the entire City to change it. The flipside is that Measure V does not allow any deviations from its height limits, no matter how standard. This is contrary to Section 17.36.100 of our zoning code which limits structures to 30', but allows an additional 12' for appurtenances. This provision has been in the code since at least 1988 and probably since the town adopted zoning in the 50s. It is also the norm for commercial zoning codes. So if you want to rebuild your historic facade or church steeple, add architectural features to provide interest to the roofline, have an elevator for handicap access, or simply put air conditioners on the roof, too bad. None of these are allowed under Measure V, not even with a variance. Density: Measure V limits residential density in the downtown to 13 residential units per acre. This is the base density under the General Plan for multi-family developments. Seems reasonable enough, but the devil hides in the details. Both the General Plan and zoning code provide for increased density for good design. Measure V does not. Additionally, both the Land Use Element and the Housing Element of the General Plan encourage residential development in downtown, with the Housing Element contemplating residential densities of 20 to 30 units per acre on East Montecito Avenue. What would this level of density look like? Drive Sierra Madre Boulevard and you will see. Most of

these apartment buildings and condos predate the 1996 General Plan, and are in excess of 20 units per acre. The inequity of Measure V is illustrated by a project that the Planning Commission recently reviewed. It proposed three residential units on a standard lot on East Montecito. 13 units per acre equates to 2.9 units for this lot, which Measure V would round down to two units. A nearby resident complained that the project was too dense because it exceeded Measure V's limits, but failed to mention that her condo complex has a density of 21.8 units per acre. **Inadequacy of Height and Density as Regulating Tools** So Measure V has some problems, inequities and loopholes in the way it regulates height and density. I could live with this if it resulted in superior downtown development, but it doesn't. Quite the contrary, Measure V would result in squat, boring buildings. Although Measure V limits building height, it doesn't limit building mass or scale, nor does it require buildings be set back from property lines or preserve views. It limits the number of residential units, but it does not limit their size, nor does it place any limits on commercial development. Nor does Measure V have any provisions to encourage or require good design or historic preservation. Here's an example: compare the recently developed project on East Montecito to the Old North Church. Sitting on the eastern property line of the Montecito project is a windowless, thirty-foot high wall that extends the entire length of the property. This is allowed under Measure V. Alternately the Old North Church is set back from its property lines, its overall mass compared to its site is less than the Montecito project, and it affords views of the mountains. Nonetheless, it would not be allowed under Measure V because its steeple exceeds 30 feet. Proposed Projects & Potential Litigation. Some claim that Measure V would stop the proposed Howie's Market and Skilled Nursing Facility projects. It tries to, but fails. Measure V purports to regulate all new construction; however, state law generally requires developments be evaluated based on the rules in place at the time of application. Applications for both projects have already been submitted, so if the City tries to apply Measure V, expensive litigation will likely follow. Additionally, by reducing the density allowed under our state-approved General Plan Housing Element, Measure V would put the City in violation of state law. Moving density to neighborhoods outside downtown may be necessary to avoid conflict with the state. Summary, I urge voters to ignore the hoopla surrounding Measure V and analyze its text. If you do, I believe you will join me in concluding that, though well intentioned, Measure V is a flawed proposal that will do more harm than good. There are many other aspects of Measure V that the space graciously afforded me here does not allow me to address. If you would like to discuss these issues, please call (355-7600) or email (johnhutt@earthlink.net).

John Hutt has served on the Planning Commission for more than three years, where he served as Chair for one year. He has also served as Chair of the Cultural Heritage Commission, and works as a real estate developer.

#### Letter to the Editor of the Pasadena Star-News:

On April 17, 2007, the residents of Sierra Madre will be voting on Measure V, the 2-30-13 Initiative. Measure V encourages responsible development and economic growth by giving Sierra Madre's voters – not politicians, bureaucrats and developers – the final word on downtown development.

The opponents of Measure V have raised nearly \$167,000 – more than 99% of this money coming from out-of-town development and realty associations including the Building Industry Association of Southern California and the National Association of Realtors. This enormous amount of money from outsiders is funding a slick "No on Measure V" campaign that is intended to mislead and confuse. Sadly, after reading the Star News' "Measure V Just Hysteria," editorial, it is clear that even this newspaper has succumbed to the pro-development spin.

Contrary to the editorial, Measure V does not require that every project in the downtown be put to a vote in a special, citywide election. Instead, Measure V requires voter approval at a "regularly scheduled" election for mega-projects exceeding its reasonable height and/or density limitations. If the editor had actually read Measure V – instead of listening to its opponents – he would have seen that it states precisely that in Sections 512 and 1400. A complete copy of Measure V can be found on the City's website at [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com). Second, the editorial's claim that Measure V does not provide a procedure for voter approval of individual projects is flat wrong. Again, if the editor had actually read Measure V, he would have seen that it sets forth such procedures in Sections 512 and 1400. These procedures include an ordinance proposed by the City Council and approved by the voters. In addition, both the attorney who prepared Measure V and other attorneys recognized as elections law experts in California have confirmed that the Measure allows the voters to approve or reject individual projects.

Third, the editorial's observation that Measure V is "about a squabble between a few small factions in town" is belied by more than 20% or 1688 of the registered voters that signed the petition to place the Initiative on the ballot. Obviously, they did not trust our City Council to make land use decisions that are in the best interests of the community. And, can you blame them? In the last three years, our City Council has adopted ordinances that allow for the construction of multi-story and high-density condominium complexes in the busiest part of our town, and wasted more than a \$200,000 on a downtown specific [development] plan that has yet to be completed and has only detractors.

Fourth, the editorial's pronouncement that even the opponents of Measure V – including developers proposing to construct 3-story condo complexes in the downtown – want Sierra Madre, "to stay as it is," is laughable.

Finally, it is irresponsible for the editorial to simply ignore the analysis prepared at the behest of the City, which concluded that Measure V is consistent with policies in the City's General Plan, would generate much needed revenue for the City, and would be good for our local businesses. That analysis of Measure V can also be found on the City's website at [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com).

Kurt Zimmerman, Sierra Madre City Council Member

Vote on Tuesday April 17 Measure V and PUSD School Board Elections  
Polling Places:  
**Congregational Church**  
160 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
**Episcopal Church of the Ascension**  
25 E. Laurel Ave.  
**United Methodist Church**  
695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

### The Mt. Wilson Observer says:

SIERRA MADRE SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007	
MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS	
V Shall an ordinance be adopted to amend the City's General Plan and zoning ordinance to establish the following limits on new construction in the Central Core Area of the City and to require voter approval for any exception to these limits: two stories and thirty feet in height and thirteen dwelling units per acre except as required by the state density bonus law for certain affordable housing projects?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

"A lot of U.S. Citizens have died for our right to freedom of speech and our right to vote." - Gary Hood



The "No On V" folks sure like to send out lots and lots of slickly produced mailers prepared for them by highly paid Los Angeles advertising agencies and political consulting firms. And they certainly do seem to enjoy posting anonymous attacks under assumed names on internet websites and blogs.

But when hundreds of your friends and neighbors showed up at Sierra Madre Elementary School on April 5 hoping to hear the two sides of the Downtown Development Issue discussed in honest, open and free debate, the "No On V" folks couldn't find it in themselves to even show up.

For those attending the debate, all they got that night from the "No On V" crowd were 3 empty chairs.



So what is it they are hiding from?

Wealthy outside developers and real estate corporations have now pumped over \$160,000 into Sierra Madre in hopes of defeating Measure V. They want to gain control over the decision making processes of our town, and they will pay or say anything to get it.

• Who are these people? •

(They don't exactly live next door...)

National Association of Realtors \$25,000  
 Building Industry Assoc. of So. California \$40,000  
 California Association of Realtors \$87,150  
 California Building Industry Association \$10,000  
 Sierra Madre Land Company \$3,500

## VOTE YES! ON Measure V

IT'S THE ONLY CHOICE FOR  
 PROTECTING OUR CITY

Visit [www.yes-measurev.org](http://www.yes-measurev.org) • or call •  
 (626) 593-5397 for HONEST answers.

Paid for by Sierra Madre Residents for Responsible Development (SMRRD) – The Committee for Yes On V \*\*\* P.O. Box 33 Sierra Madre CA 91025



# Letters & Opinions

Dear Editor

I am writing to identify the defects of the League of Women Voters after-the-fact defense of its No position concerning Measure V. Given that its board has conceded that it took a No position without even reading Measure V, it would seem that its position paper is an effort to merely justify its ill-conceived opposition for Measure V.

Specifically, the League claims that Measure V is counter to its positions on Citizen Participation, Growth and Development, Land Use, Housing, and the League position on representative government. The League's conclusions are based on some very serious misconceptions about Measure V.

Citizen Participation. The League cites its policy in favour of open government and public records and then concludes that Measure V does not encourage citizen participation in the decision making process. Aside from the mind-boggling notion that the act of casting a ballot is not the highest form citizen participation, the League's non sequitur is completely incorrect. The League mis-states the law of initiative by claiming because Measure V is a citizen initiative that any approval of a project must be done by citizen initiative. This is not true. The terms of Measure V provide for voter approval of certain specified projects. If Measure V is passed by a citizen initiative it must be repealed or modified by citizen initiative. This prevents a development-dominated city council from repealing it immediately. Compliance with its terms will require a vote on the described projects, it does not require a citizen initiative. It is disappointing that the League has either fallen for this opposition disinformation—or just fails to understand the initiative process.

Growth and Development/ Land Use. The League's policy calls for environmental assessment and claims that Measure V puts all environmental factors below height and density. This is an incorrect statement of the impact of Measure V. Measure V does not detract from the existing environmental protection laws found in the California Environmental Quality Act. In other words, CEQA requirements are not affected by Measure V at all. If a project requires a full-blown EIR, then Measure V does nothing to change that. If the League is dissatisfied with the environmental protection laws, their remedy is with Sacramento not opposition to Measure V. Projects that can actually demonstrate that they will provide a net increase to the tax base (this has yet to be done) will have one argument in their favor if otherwise subject to a popular vote under Measure V. Furthermore, the League's position statement says, "zoning by initiative is inefficient." That is very correct. Measure V is not a zoning law. It does not zone anything or alter any existing land use designation or zone. It merely takes directly out of the Sierra Madre general plan (a document prepared by citizen participation following a complete EIR process) 3 land use standards and requires a citizen vote for any project that exceeds any of those standards. What could be more democratic? Barriers to Construction of Low Cost Housing. The League somehow assumes that Measure V attacks low and moderate income housing. This is not true. Measure V is silent on the issue of housing and may not apply to any housing at all. Proponents of low and moderate income housing are free to propose compliant housing projects elsewhere in the city, according to existing zones and in compliance with the general plan. Representative Government. Without rehearsing the history of how Measure V came to be, let's just say there are at least 1900 voters right now who do not think that the current city council is representative of them or of the candidate views expressed by one during his run for office. There are certain types of government decisions that require a citizen vote notwithstanding our representative democracy form of government. Based on recent history of a local government overwhelmed by development influence, the citizens of Sierra Madre would use Measure V to keep in their own hands those land use decisions that would permanently affect the character of the town. After reviewing these considerations I remain convinced that the Leagues opposition to Measure V has squandered its reputation. None of its arguments carry the weight of authority. Contrary to the League's claims, Measure V is one simple add-on to the existing development process. Projects that exceed the specified height, density and mass must be approved by a citizen vote. There is nothing in this initiative that would eliminate, water down, truncate, emasculate, limit or alter the existing development process. If you take comfort in the environmental review process, it will continue to remain in place to protect the local environment. If you are concerned about public hearings before the planning commission for CUPs, there is nothing in Measure V that would alter that process. All building codes, zoning limitations and other land use controls (such as parking) remain in place, undisturbed by Measure V. In fact, it is inconceivable that a project could be sent to the citizens for a vote unless it complied with all other laws and was otherwise approved. Measure V is a welcome addition to the development process in Sierra Madre. By virtue of its exposure of a project to the popular vote, it will open the government approval process and allow for robust debate and demonstration of project merits—or kill off those projects that benefit only the developer.

Name withheld upon request

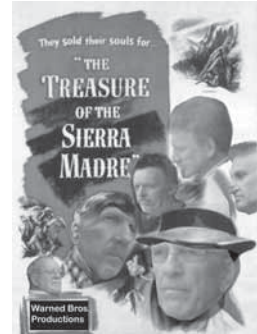
## The Treasure of Sierra Madre

By Hail Hamilton

I remember the 1948 John Huston classic in black & white The Treasure of the Sierra Madre.

The movie was an adaptation of B. Travens allegorical novel, in which two American down-and-outers (Humphrey Bogart and Tim Holt) stranded in Tampico,

makes it and is killed by bandits. Mistaking the bags of gold hidden among animal skins for bags of sand, the bandits slash open the sacks, dispersing the treasure into the wind. The bandits themselves are arrested by the townspeople, summarily tried and shot by the Federales.



The Treasure of the Sierra Madre concludes when Howard and Curtin arrive in town to the fuselage of the firing squad. The townspeople tell Howard what happened to Dobb's goods.

Mexico, hook up with an old time prospector (Walter Huston) to dig for gold in the Sierra Madre Mountains.

The Treasure of the Sierra Madre is a morality tale about greed and the destructive effects it has on the minds of otherwise good men. Howard (Huston) warns Dobb's (Bogart) and Curtin (Holt) that "gold is a devilish thing...it changes a man's soul."

Next time you see the movie think about our little town. Like the movie, the City of Sierra Madre has become a morality play about the destructive effects greed has on the minds of otherwise good people. Curtin and Howard are able to maintain their sanity. Dobb's, on the other hand, rapidly succumbs to "gold fever." We watch Dobb's descend deeper and deeper into paranoid dementia, as he becomes convinced that his partners are out to get him and steal his treasure. He even starts talking to himself: "Any more lip out of you and I'll haul off and let you have it. If you know what's good for you, you won't monkey around with Fred C. Dobb's." Finally, while Howard is away saving an Indian child in a nearby village, Dobb's shoots Curtin in the back and leaves him for dead. He then sets out for town with all the gold. Of course, Dobb's never

Howard and Curtin are taken by the townspeople to where the bags are lying around empty, blowing in the wind. Howard, laughing hysterically, tells Curtin: "Ah, laugh Curtin, old boy. It's a great joke played on us by the Lord or fate or nature or whatever you prefer but whoever or whatever played it sure had a sense of humor. The gold has gone back to where we found it."

The movie ends with Curtin telling Howard: "You know the worst ain't so bad when it finally happens. Not half as bad as you figure it'll be before it's happened. I'm no worse off than I was in Tampico. All I'm out is a couple hundred bucks when you come right down to it. Not very much compared to what Dobb's lost." The Treasure of Sierra Madre is about greed and how it destroys otherwise good people. Until this year, local realtors, developers, builders, and mortgage bankers had six straight years of record profits - Sierra Madre has been a gold mine. But apparently the million they've made is not enough. Now they have all themselves with a group of past and present politicians to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Sierra Madre by destroying our downtown. This is their shameful plan—they steal the treasure of Sierra Madre and leave the rest of us holding an empty bag. **DON'T BE A S.A.P. VOTE YES ON MEASURE V!**



Dear Editors,

Normally I prefer to remain on the fringe of City politics as I find the more one becomes involved, the more exasperating the experience. Still, after fifty years, I have a deep affection for Sierra Madre and most of the people who live here, many of whom I've known all my life. So I do feel a sense of responsibility to stay somewhat informed and vote when given the privilege. I suppose you could say I'm in the "it's not broke, don't fix it" camp when it comes to any decision that affects our City but not to the extent that I'm willing to ignore reality, other people's rights or my own sense of right and wrong. I was firmly against the Maranatha High School project for example, because the existence of a high school in that location would have had the exact kind of negative impact zoning laws are designed to prevent. And I felt no sympathy for Maranatha because as a real estate broker myself, I know that buying a property on spec, when the intended use is non-conforming, is simply attempting to plug that gap. As an alternative to Measure V, we might achieve the same ends by drafting an ordinance that requires a resident to have lived in Sierra Madre for more than twenty-five years and have donated at least twenty-five hundred hours of community service before being eligible to serve on the City Council. What Measure V really is, is just another manifestation of the age old struggle in Sierra Madre between quality of environment and commerce. The City needs revenue to operate and increasing residential, retail and commercial development increases tax revenue to the City. On the other hand, all of these things increase congestion and detract from the quality of life enjoyed by its citizens. It's ironic that many of the new-comers to Sierra Madre who paid so much for that "Special" quality, are themselves contributing to it's demise by demanding a level of service & performance from the City that can't possibly be provided without selling off the very essence of what gives Sierra Madre its unique quality.

True Sierra Madrean's understand that in order to maintain that special quality of life, we have to accept things like a high turnover rate in our police department and officers at the beginning and end of their careers, a library that is cute and nostalgic but doesn't have some of the things libraries in larger towns do, that owning a retail business in town is more about quality of customers rather than quantity and that if we want the pot hole in front of our house fixed, we may have to fix it ourselves. It's all part of the trade off and one that many other cities that used to be like Sierra Madre were unable to sustain. As I said earlier, there are many people whose opinions I respect that have come out against Measure V, many of whom have served on past City Councils. I can only believe that they have either become frustrated by the City's perpetual financial challenges or are assuming that all future elected officials can be trusted to administer the power of their office with the same integrity and loyalty to the community that they themselves brought to the Council during their respective terms in office. I've also noticed that in terms of their professions or positions within the community, many of the people against Measure V stand to benefit in some direct or indirect way by increased development and/or revenue to the city. I can understand their motives, I just disagree with them. I suppose there are arguments to be made both for and against Measure V and neither is without its flaws and potential negative consequences. I guess at the end of the day I'm more concerned about the effects on the future of Sierra Madre if Measure V doesn't pass than I am if it does. So for those reasons I have decided to vote YES on Measure V. Whatever your position on this matter, I encourage everyone to ignore the propaganda from both sides, read the actual Measure itself and make time in your schedule to vote On April 17th, because this issue is more important to the future of Sierra Madre than it appears - Jeff Dapper

So if all Measure V is attempting to do is solidify our existing Downtown height & density limits, what's all the hub-bub and whysitnecessary? Well, currently, all Commissions (including the Planning Commission) serve at the pleasure of the City Council. In this context as I understand it, should a developer submit plans to the City for a proposed project in the Downtown District that requires height and/or density Variances, the Planning Commission can only forward the proposal to the City Council along with its recommendations, but it is up to a majority vote by the Council to approve or deny

the Variances, and therefore the project itself. What this means is that the direction which Sierra Madre takes in terms of its future is, in a very real sense, in the hands of any three like-minded Council members who happen to be serving at the time. This process hasn't been much of an issue in the past because the potatoes were small and the Council was made up of friends and neighbors who quietly and often reluctantly agreed to take their turn adjudicating the City's business. But now we're talking about big dollars, the kind of money capable of swaying opinion (if not Council Member votes) and I think once we turned our elected officials into TV stars, we began to attract the kind of people running for these positions that are more interested in celebrity than the will of the majority. In other words, there is a gap in our defenses to protect Sierra Madre's small town charm, through which development projects capable of permanently changing the landscape of our downtown can slip. Measure V is simply attempting to plug that gap.

As an alternative to Measure V, we might achieve the same ends by drafting an ordinance that requires a resident to have lived in Sierra Madre for more than twenty-five years and have donated at least twenty-five hundred hours of community service before being eligible to serve on the City Council. What Measure V really is, is just another manifestation of the age old struggle in Sierra Madre between quality of environment and commerce. The City needs revenue to operate and increasing residential, retail and commercial development increases tax revenue to the City. On the other hand, all of these things increase congestion and detract from the quality of life enjoyed by its citizens. It's ironic that many of the new-comers to Sierra Madre who paid so much for that "Special" quality, are themselves contributing to it's demise by demanding a level of service & performance from the City that can't possibly be provided without selling off the very essence of what gives Sierra Madre its unique quality.

# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

## PUSD School Board

### Bob Harrison Candidate – Seat No. 4



I welcome the opportunity to address the things which distinguish me from my opponent. The contrast is exactly why I chose to run against an incumbent, specifically this incumbent. My belief is that school board members should be leaders, be able to garner confidence in those that they serve, be open to new ideas, be willing to continue to learn, and deliberate with many voices and then govern with one.

Our district faces many challenges so we need leaders who can agree on a far-reaching vision for what our schools can become. We need to build real relationships with teachers, parents, community members and the many businesses and organizations, which will help this district to reach its goals. It is not time for business as usual.

My opponent has not proven to be a good listener. In fact, he was a no-show at the six public forums held by the board prior to closing four schools. He has not demonstrated an ability to engage with fellow school board members in making good decisions. In fact, many believe he is the key piece in what will be remembered as the most dysfunctional PUSD board of the past decade. He complains that the district is wasting millions of dollars at the district office yet there is no evidence

that he has ever proposed a solution to this alleged waste (even though he is the chair of the budget committee). He has refused to attend training sessions for school boards, which is a decision completely at odds with the recently released independent management audit recommendation that each board member attend 100 hours of training. He tends to solely rely on his own experience as a long time district manager.

I have a different approach. I believe that one of the greatest attributes of a good leader is the ability to listen. Listening to the community, teachers, students and fellow board members is essential if we are going to engage all stakeholders in a positive course of action. I know that I am a good listener. People who are involved in the numerous organizations in which I have taken a leadership role, have also told me that I am a good listener and that I have an ability to bring together people of divergent opinions in order to make good decisions. I will push for good processes, which will allow those who are affected the most by a board decision to have direct input before a decision is made. I will push for greater accountability and transparency in our budget making processes. I will attend board training sessions as I believe that there are things we can learn from the other 1,000 school districts in this state.

It's time to bring dignity, integrity and respect back to our school board and to our schools and to replace the blaming, finger-pointing tactics of my opponent. My wife and I have five children all of whom have either graduated from or are still attending our schools. We have also operated a successful business (Green Street Restaurant) for the past 28 years. I have the necessary experience and ability to lead the effort that will transform our schools.

### Bill Bibbiani Candidate – Seat No. 4



As a former classroom teacher, a 30 year PUSD administrator and 4 year board member, my experience is unmatched. I have a long established record as an independent, outspoken voice and critic – even when I

was on staff – of the district's unacceptable (and unaffordable) bureaucratic status quo. And, as acknowledged by the Star News in its endorsement of my reelection, I have a vision for empowering schools, principals, teachers and parents to generate true school-based/school-focused reforms.

As PUSD's Director of Research and de facto chief planner prior to my retirement in 2003, and a board member, I am proud of my leading role in restoring neighborhood schools, reducing busing to its lowest level since 1970, opening McKinley, expanding Don Benito and re-opening the Sierra Mesa site to serve Sierra Madre's middle school students.

My opponent says he is (also) for "change" but has yet to offer any specifics and said in the Star News (December 16) that he couldn't find fault with any positions I had taken! However, he has long supported, and, in turn, is being supported by those members of the board who have dominated its leadership since 2001, consistently deferring to a failed administration and unworkable bureaucracy. What real change will one more board member of similar background and affiliations bring to the table?

The real task before the new board will

be to define a better balance between the Education Center and the schools and an administrative model which the district can afford – one which promotes real school-level decision-making. The current system too easily allows poorer performing schools (and administrators) to claim they are just following orders.

If the chief attribute of private and charter schools is their ability to adapt to the needs of their students, the skills of their staffs and the expectations of parents, with lower overhead costs, I believe PUSD's schools ought to be delegated a similar range of flexibility and accountability. They need more support and fewer orders.

Changing how PUSD operates by defining a new relationship between the schools and the district is a first and financially necessary step in changing the dynamics of the schools and their respective neighborhoods and constituencies. In poll after poll, the same people who express frustration with public education in general simultaneously express their belief that the schools their children are attending are doing well. We need to strengthen these ties.

I have been endorsed by the Pasadena Star news and the Pasadena Weekly.

The Star News editorial of April 6<sup>th</sup> noted that "...even with long decades of experience in the educational trenches, [Bib] couldn't be less of a conventional bureaucrat." More importantly, the range of my supporters is truly representative of the PUSD and the communities of Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre. If you want an independent voice which reflects this diversity and isn't afraid of the opinions which it generates, I would appreciate your vote on April 17.

Bill Bibbiani

[bibbiani@earthlink.net](mailto:bibbiani@earthlink.net) or 626 791-0259

### Mark Mastromatteo Candidate – Seat No. 2



I have seen how the struggles over Measure V and over our schools can pit neighbors and neighborhoods against each other. I think we all really want the same things, but I would like to achieve those through leadership and creating consensus. I am in favor of great schools and great communities and it is my belief that my leadership can help inspire, create, and sustain excellence in all of our PUSD schools.

What I have heard from voters is that PUSD needs leadership. Leadership to me is having a vision for how things can be, and then seeking out the means and creating the collaborations to reach objectives. Through my work at my son's school, my leadership has mobilized a community to take personal responsibility for the school. As a result, test scores for ALL students are way up. Volunteerism is at possibly the highest level at any school. Dozens of businesses partner with us. Teacher morale is at an all time high. Through my work with Partners In Education and Leadership Pasadena, I have inspired several new organizations to get involved in PUSD. This work has generated thousands more hours of community involvement, which has inspired more parental involvement.

Some people in this community would like you to think that the public education system is too complicated for most of us to understand. That very premise is largely what is keeping the community and the parents frustrated and on the outside of the system. I believe that a great deal of what is needed at PUSD is not so complicated, more in the realm of common sense, really, and it is the duty of our Board to help simplify matters and help communicate effectively, so that we can inspire parental and community involvement. And, as all experts claim, that IS the key to building and sustaining really great schools.

For more information, visit my website. If you have questions, please email me at [mmsmastro@charter.net](mailto:mmsmastro@charter.net).

It's time:

For a culture of openness, honesty, and respect at PUSD.

That our children are prepared for college or career – that's the job of our schools.

That "Back to Basics" doesn't mean eliminating music and arts or vocational training.

For local government and business partnerships.

To value teachers by paying them fairly and giving them the tools that they need.

I am:  
A PUSD parent. I'm always in the schools and know what's happening with my child – and yours.

A committed school volunteer, raising more than \$100,000 and generating over 10,000 volunteer hours in a single year.

Chair of Partners In Education Advisory Board.

A leader with perspective – creating positive solutions for schools throughout PUSD.

For as long as we've been a PUSD family, I've been an ACTIVE leader, creating positive solutions for schools and parent groups.

I want to make our schools better and help our kids succeed. I respectfully ask for your vote.

### Renatta Cooper Candidate – Seat No. 2



There several areas where I differ significantly from my opponent. I think that all are important, and together they present a compelling case for my election to the PUSD School

Board.

**Professionalism** - I am an educator and have been involved in some aspect of education for the past 30 years. I have a primary teaching credential in Early Childhood Education which qualified me to teach K- third grade. While I have not taught in these grades professionally I was trained to do so. My considerable expertise in Early Childhood Education is a background which no current Board member has. My knowledge is recognized locally and nationally, placing me on several important and prestigious advisory bodies. This provides me with a wide circle of contacts that I can call on to assist the district in all manner of endeavors. I am committed to lifelong learning, and have worked with young children, parents adolescents and adults during my career. I am familiar with the issues that confront public education from both a theoretical and a practical perspective. I also have a "big picture" perspective on the challenges that face PUSD. Most of our problems are shared by other districts throughout the country. Accessing other models for workable solutions should be one of our strategies.

I have a BS in Early Childhood Education, with a minor in Psychology from Towson State University, and a MA in Human Development with a specialization in Multicultural Studies from Pacific Oaks College.

**Ties to the Communities Served by the Board** - I have lived in the area for 30 years. I moved to Pasadena to attend Pacific Oaks, was charmed by the area and decided to make it my home. I

have served on the Human Services Commission for the City of Pasadena, and for First Five LA, representing the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

I have participated in numerous committees and task forces because I have always felt that it is important to make a contribution to the community you live in. My family has always placed a high value on community participation. When my son was in school I was always a member of the PTA. Two years ago I gave a presentation on my book *Playing to Get Smart* at the National PTA Conference which was held in Anaheim. I attend church in Pasadena, alternating between All Saints Church and the First AME Church.

I consider myself very knowledgeable about our communities, where they connect, and where they differ dramatically. I understand the struggles and challenges of PUSD from a current and historical perspective, having witnessed the end of the busing era struggles and the growth of private schools. I understand what has and has not worked in PUSD under the last three superintendents, far exceeding the limited perspective my opponent brings to this race. A strong public school system would unify and serve Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre. A strong school system will add value to all of our communities in both concrete and intangible ways.

**Gender and Ethnicity** - I am an African American woman. If I am not elected, the PUSD Board will lack African American representation for the first time in 37 years. This would be a tremendous step backwards for the board and for the district, considering the struggles of the past 45 years to have a board that is somewhat representative of the community it serves. It is equally important for women to participate in government, and to elect qualified candidates who happen to be women. I am clearly the most qualified candidate in this race based on my professional credentials and ties to the community. Being an African American who is credible to the second largest ethnic group in the PUSD, adds to the strength of my candidacy.

# Letters To The Editor

Dear Ms. Dunn and Ms. Henderson;

Thank you for the forum on Measure V last Thursday. It's unfortunate we weren't able to have a real "debate", but it was telling that Measure V opponents were unwilling to face the citizens of Sierra Madre and defend their arguments, rather than stuff our mailboxes and answering machines with the contrivances of marketing consultants.

We also saw how absurd the opposition talking points became when exposed to the actual language of Measure V itself. The entire audience seemed familiar with the litany - that if Measure V passes, the Hotel Shirley and Congregational Church would no doubt soon be replaced by strip malls and a CVS Pharmacy; with a low-income housing project thrown in above Grand View for good measure.

I enjoyed the evening, then came home and went through the day's mail. There I found a "Dear Neighbor" letter from Judy Webb Martin. The gist of the letter came in the paragraph:

"Measure V's height restrictions does (sic) NOT contain an exemption for rebuilding properties destroyed in a catastrophe such as a fire or earthquake. Even minor architectural projections like a church steeple or the facade on the Hotel are not exempt."

Ms. Webb Martin's paragraph is cynically misleading at best. Measure V states that repairing any damaged part of an existing building (steeple, facade, etc.) would indeed be exempt - provided the finished height is not more than what it had been before (Section 510).

Here's what troubles me: Did Ms. Webb Martin actually read the measure? Is she deliberately mischaracterizing the clear language of Measure V? Or, did she just go along and sign her name to whatever the consultant prepared and put in front of her?

It's no wonder that opponents of Measure V refuse to engage supporters in open and honest debate. They will fail to prevent passage for two reasons: First, residents who see their village as a treasure to be protected far outnumber those who see only dollar signs; and second, the opponents' hired guns fail to realize that although we live in a small town, we're not a bunch of hicks.

Howard Hays, Sierra Madre

I was looking forward to attending the debate on Measure V last Thursday night at the Sierra Madre School auditorium. Stopping by my house to check my mail, I was surprised to find a letter from J. W. Martin. The letter informed me of her vote against (or NO) on Measure V. She based it on her belief that the measure would not allow her to rebuild her historic hotel to the specifications it now has. Well, since I had read the measure, I knew that was not so and thought to explain it to her later at the debate. But she didn't show! I was also looking forward to talking to our former mayors for their reasons against the measure. But they didn't show! I was looking forward to talking to our current council members who are against the measure (Buchanan, Joffe, Mosca), having them explain why the No vote. But they didn't show!

Our public safety personnel, please explain why the No vote. Tell me it's not just to get more equipment and bigger compensation from the city. But they didn't show! I really did not expect the developers and the realtors of our town or outside interests to show. And they did not. But what the evening did show was that the No people didn't have the courage to listen to the truth that countered their misrepresentations. Please take the time to read the measure yourself. You will find it to be written only with the purpose of giving the vote to our city's residents for projects that exceed the city's general plan. That's what we all want!

From a Third Generation Sierra Madrean  
Kevin Paschall

On Monday night/early Tuesday morning every **Yes** on Measure V sign was damaged or stolen from Acacia Street and Valle Vista Drive. The only signs which were not taken were the NO on V signs. Not only did the vandals destroy the **YES** on V signs, they caused property damage by throwing a large rock through the rear window of a truck on Valle Vista Drive. They also destroyed several mail boxes. Damaging a mailbox is a federal crime. This is a violation of free speech and childish.

Leslee Hinton

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE!

The issues around Measure V are really quite simple! Everywhere you look neighborhoods and cities in our country and all around the world are being ruined by irresponsible development that has no regard for local quality of life.

Any development must be controlled by the local population or else builders will build what they will for the most profit as that is the American way. Ever since the Robber Barons the people have been trying to control that runaway impulse of unlimited expansion at any cost. The citizens of Sierra Madre felt that it was coming here and that our present local government, as most governments seem to do, would not control this. So we elected 3 new members to the City Council that promised they would give to the people a city wide vote to insure quality of life development in keeping with our heritage. Well, as you all know that has broken down. So the only answer now is for the people once again to say with as loud a voice as possible, "We want **no irresponsible building** without regard for the aesthetics and local quality of life and we have both the right and the responsibility to say this."

Of the people, by the people and for the people! That is what your vote is about, most importantly about our great small town of Sierra Madre but also a message for every town everywhere!!

J. Brown

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NICE TO SAY, THEN DON'T SAY IT AT ALL

I care a lot about Sierra Madre and I have friends who are both for and against Measure V. The reason I am writing is to speak briefly about respect for our family, friends and our neighbors' personal opinions.

My father, a kind man, highly respected local resident and former Mayor recently reached a personal milestone in his life, a couple of weekends ago, having finished his 50<sup>th</sup> "Double Century" bicycle ride in Solvang. A "Double Century" is a ride that is 200 miles in distance. My dad is 70 years old and it's quite an accomplishment even for someone half his age. He was definitely on a personal high and was feeling quite good, that was, until he came home and listened to a voicemail message. A woman called my parents' home phone and left a mean spirited REDUNDANT message about HIS political views (she had already approached him at a recent Council meeting to basically say the same thing). My dad is NOT angry at her, as I am, but his feelings are hurt at what she said. Why would someone feel it necessary to go out of her way to call my dad at home to leave an angry message just because he doesn't share her views? Come on Sierra Madre, why don't some of you people try to be civil? No matter what happens regarding Measure V or other council issues, YOU still need to be friends. YOU'RE going to have to live with each other after April 17<sup>th</sup>.

My last comment on this is if you know my family well enough to be comfortable to call on the weekend on THEIR personal home phone, then your comment of "your ego got the best of you," to my father, is wrong.

Anyone who KNOWS my father KNOWS his ego has never been an issue. Maybe you should check yours.

Lisa Brandley

Hello No on V,

I am a resident of Sierra Madre for the last 15 years. After receiving another of your mailers, (the 8th or 9th one in as many days), it started to bug me. Your "Public Safety Leaders Say No" mailer is most distressing and at best, hypocritical. If you are THAT concerned regarding "VITAL PUBLIC SERVICES," and the funds necessary to fulfill that need, I will make the following suggestions:

\* Take ALL the thousands of dollars collected/ "DONATED" by out of town realtors and developers that is left in the account.

\* Spend some of those funds allocated for junk mail and silly messages from retired politicians, and those "concerned" citizens of Sierra Madre, to build a multi-unit 4 story project in Duarte. Move all of those mentioned above into this facility, and make sure they don't have any access to phones or computers. Spend the balance left on our "VITAL PUBLIC SERVICES," and our little town will be saved.

Seems easy to me.

Ken Perry

Dear Editor

This is a letter I sent to the League of Women Voters: Yes on Measure V will strengthen the 1996 General Plan and takes the 2-30-13 directly from the 1996 General Plan. The Opponents of Measure V list the League of Women Voter's as supporting the No position. This is a grave mistake. The outside interests that are funding the No position are from the American Association of Realtors and the Building Industry Association, outspending the local grassroots effort 12-1. This last group is in full preparation to defeat the California Environmental Quality Act, the outgrowth of a grass roots development fight as the Friends of Mammoth undertook in 1973, that has been very effective in protecting our state from hideous overdevelopment these last three plus decades. CEQA requires the citizens of California to be involved in the planning process to protect the environment. Please reconsider your NO position on Measure V. I am sure you did not have all the information that you needed if you did in fact vote to oppose Measure V.

Caroline Brown, Sierra Madre

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

# Ed

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

## Commentary PUSD Can Unify Itself, At A Fraction Of The Cost

by Stefan Bund

At last week's City Council Meeting, the audience listened to a wish list of tools needed by the Pasadena Unified School District. They included several million dollars' worth of information technology, or IT, upgrades to enable the district's teaching staff to become more integrated, share knowledge, and maintain their relationship with the district's leadership.

The list of necessary upgrades included installing effective email services, and installing Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). These demands are common across all types of industries, as leaders are made personally accountable for the success of their employees. In the case of the PUSD, officials must create a climate where constant improvement is taking place, and in order to do so, they must pull together the knowledge workers across their organization, the teachers, and build a climate where information technology connects them to their mission.

Perhaps in no preceding age have the demands for improvement been so high. Under the Bush administration, the No Child Left Behind Act enforces yearly performance improvement, putting immense new pressure on administrators and teachers to improve test scores.

School administrators view information technology as an asset that carries the capacity to transfer knowledge across the enterprise, a strategy that is shared by their counterparts in private industry. So when the PUSD sees itself as an email-integrated organization, passing information, news, and ideas along the email backbone, it naturally asks for the money to make it happen.

The PUSD, in making IT upgrades, should follow some guidelines adopted by the private sector. The major guideline right now, in an age of slower national GDP and concern with corporate profit growth, is to minimize IT expense. For a school district, keeping costs low is even more important. Here are some things

that citizens can recommend from their school board.

**1) If it's email you want, then make sure you're not paying for it.** Google is offering a complete email, document, spreadsheet, calendaring, instant messaging, and web page building suite of software called Google Apps for Your Domain, or GAYD. Schools can get this service for free. Currently Arizona State University is the first proponent of the service, having enrolled 40,000 students into the new system, to date. I have been using Google's email, chat, web page and document software for several years, with no cost, and I believe it is as functional as any product on the IT market, including Microsoft's ubiquitous Office.

**2) If it's Voice Over Internet Protocol you want, make sure you're not paying for it.** Currently skype, used by millions of individuals worldwide, is offering free internet telephony services. I run my own organization with it, and to date, we will spend less than \$100 maintaining several publicly listed phone numbers. Skype was purchased by Ebay to offer free telephony to bidders, and it used liberally in China, where manufacturers maintain low-cost services inside their global supply chains. Skype allows individual users to make a skype account, and as long as they call other skype members, their internet phone call is free. The service offers better voice quality than analog lines and will not drop calls inside of fiber optic local area networks. It also enables conference calling for many members, text chat, and video. I may have saved hundreds of dollars over the years, using skype. If we can escape having to spend inordinate amounts for things we can get at high quality, for free, it will enable us to look into bigger, more valuable packages like data mining, or video projectors in classes, plus laptops for faculty, so they can transform their classrooms into full featured digital learning environments.

## 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.

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## 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@sbcglobal.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 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Instructor Rebecca Strayer 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 or call 626-683-3355

**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 Future Center for the Arts in cooperation with Pasadena City College is offering a free solar car workshop for high school students. Students will be introduced to the design process and learn how to race a solar car. High school students will be teamed up with college students to the project design centers at PCC. College students will receive high school students and then their efforts in designing, engineering and building a solar car will be on display. The workshop will include all supplies, tools, materials, and parts for building the car.

Location: April 1 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, April 15 - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Future Center for the Arts, 100 N. Hill Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91107

Contact: Instructor, Melissa Marshall, 626-797-8644, mmarshall@pasadenaconservatory.org

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

\* We will send you an email to confirm your involvement in this workshop.  
\* Space Limited (150 participants)  
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# TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS

## Panda Inn



A day doesn't go by, when someone asks the question, "Peter, what is your favorite restaurant?" My response is always "For what type of cuisine?" There are many great restaurants in Southern California so let's narrow it down to the San Gabriel Valley. I love going to a restaurant that is friendly, clean, good food and one that I don't have to stop at the ATM first.

**Panda Inn in Pasadena.** I have been a regular there for the past 15 years. I just enjoy everything about it. Are there better Chinese restaurants in Chinatown or on the Westside? Arguably yes! But friendly, clean and good food - it's the Panda Inn for me.

**What to order?** Here are a few of my favorites. The Phoenix Chicken (\$12.25), and at \$12.75 each, the Tea Smoked Duck and the Kon Pao San Yan - this plate has beef, chicken and shrimp; all stir-fried. Another plus about the Panda Inn is that you can order half dishes for many of the entrees. Honestly, the menu doesn't differ from your favorite Chinese restaurant but I trust the Panda Inn to be consistent. Another plus is the bartender, again I use the word 'arguably'; I guess it's my political correctness settling into my reviews - the bartender Gus is a riot! Always a funny joke and he makes a great Mai Tai. Speaking of which, if you are not driving, check out the Sunday Brunch. For a little more than \$21, you can have anything on the menu 'plus' two of those great Mai Tai's. It must be good; every time I am there for brunch, I see Jamie from Rancho Restaurant there chowing-down.

Panda Inn's kitchen is ably run by Chef Huang; he is the Master Chef for all Panda Inns, but uses the Pasadena location to perfect his art. **Brief History:** Panda Inn opened over 27 years ago on what is now the parking lot; the restaurant has been renovated a few times over the years and has spawned 900 children known as the 'Panda Express'. **What to order:** The Phoenix Chicken is my favorite - sliced chicken that is crispy on the outside with a tangy sesame seed sauce. I always start with the Wonton Soup that is large enough for sharing but there are no half-orders (my only complaint). I am sure that the most popular dish is the Orange Flavored Chicken, I will let you decide. **What to avoid:** White Rice - the calories will eat you up, just kidding! There are times that the wait can be long; not as bad as the Cheesecake Factory, but, long enough. Make sure you call ahead for the wait-time.

\*\*\*Stars/\*\*\*\*Stars for Brunch

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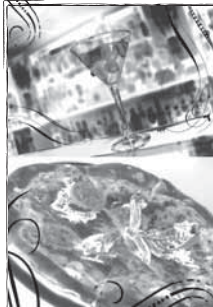
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Sat. Apr. 14 - Vocalist Deborah Ash  
Sun. Apr. 15 - Opera to Broadway  
Thurs. Apr. 19 - Blues Slide Guitar Great Big Barry Brenner  
Fri. Apr. 20 - Blues!!! Lightning Willie  
Sat. Apr. 21 - Vocalist Judy Wexler  
Sun. Apr. 22 - Opera to Broadway

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# Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

# TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

## Our Not-So-Quiet Sun



Photo by Jean Boenish

Researchers Find Global Positioning System is Significantly Impacted by Powerful Solar Radio Burst

During an unprecedented solar eruption last December, researchers at Cornell University confirmed that solar radio bursts can have a serious impact on the Global Positioning System (GPS) and other communication technologies that use radio waves. The findings were announced April 4 in Washington, D.C., at the first Space Weather Enterprise Forum—an assembly of academic, government and private-sector scientists focused on examining the Earth's ever-increasing vulnerability to space weather impacts.

Solar radio bursts begin with a solar flare that injects high-energy electrons into the upper atmosphere of the Sun. Radio waves are produced which then propagate to the Earth and cover a broad frequency range. The radio waves act as noise over these frequencies, including those used by GPS and other navigational systems, and can degrade a signal.

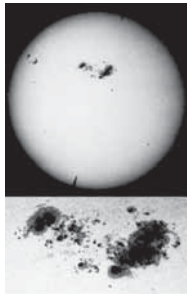
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA are partner agencies in the National Space Weather. NOAA's Space Environment Center in Boulder, Colorado, is the nation's first alert of solar activity. Forecasters at this Center observed two powerful solar flares on December 5 and 6, 2006. These violent eruptions originated from a large sunspot cluster identified by NOAA.

The December 6 flare created an unprecedented intense solar radio burst, causing large numbers of receivers to stop tracking the GPS signal. Using specially designed receivers built at Cornell University as sensitive space weather monitors, Cornell scientists were able to make the first quantitative measurements of the effect of earlier solar radio bursts on GPS receivers. Extrapolations from a previous moderate event led to the prediction that larger solar radio bursts, expected when the

11-year cycle of sunspot activity reaches its maximum, would disturb GPS receiver operation for some users.

"In December, we found the effect on GPS receivers was more profound and widespread than we expected," said Paul Kintner, Ph.D., Cornell professor of electrical and computer engineering. "Now we are concerned that more severe consequences will occur during the next solar maximum."

"This solar radio burst occurred during the time of minimum solar activity, yet produced as much as 10 times more radio noise than the previous record," noted Dale Gary, Ph.D., chair and professor of the physics department at New Jersey Institute of Technology. "Measurements with NJIT's solar radiotelescope confirmed



that, at its peak, the burst produced 20,000 times more radio emission than the entire rest of the Sun. This was enough to swamp GPS receivers over the entire sunlit side of Earth." The Global GPS Network, a set of precise GPS receivers used for a variety of scientific and real-time applications, was also affected by this solar disturbance. These applications include a very high accuracy positioning service that can provide a user's position with 10- to 20-cm accuracy anywhere in the world—on land, in the air or in Earth's orbit. There are three key points to remember about solar radio bursts, according to Anthea Coster, Ph.D., MIT Haystack Observatory. "First, society cannot become overly reliant on technology without an awareness and understanding of the effects of future space weather disruptions. Second, the December 6 event dramatically shows the effect of solar radio bursts is global and instantaneous. "Third, and equally important, the size and timing of this burst were completely unexpected and the largest ever detected. We do not know how often we can expect solar radio bursts of this size or even larger."



"What kind of blackberry was it?"

## WorkForce with Madeline

**Q:** I have a question about privacy. I don't want my current employer made aware that I'm looking around for another job. Should I mention this concern in my cover letter? What about during an interview?

**A:** This is a matter of ethics. According to my interviewer sources, confidentiality is generally respected. Recruiters are sensitive to the fact that job seekers do not want current employers to know they are considering a change. If a company is contacted, it is almost always done with the consent of the potential employee.

In addition, 99% of the time, background checks are not implemented until a decision has been made and the "sale" is near closure.

My advice is to refrain from mentioning anything about your contact concerns.

**Q:** I heard that a question often asked during an interview is, "What can you tell me about yourself?" I'm not quite sure how to answer this. Please help me.

**A:** PREPARE your answer before the interview in case this question is asked. Don't rehearse your response too many times. If you do, it will seem as if your answer has been memorized.

As far as the content, think of two or three of your qualifications which would be an asset to the company. Back up your claims with examples. For instance, if you think of yourself as a very organized person, support this by saying you have been able to effectively work on simultaneous projects with on-time completion. If you are a good communicator, back this up by describing how you brought in 39 new clients in one year through your ability to relate to people.

Limit your response to approximately one minute. If it's longer than that, the interviewer might get bored and lose interest in you. Quit before he/she starts to yawn.

Direct your questions to Madeline at [comptype2@aol.com](mailto:comptype2@aol.com) or 888-489-8372 (8 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Friday).

## Getting Good Customer Service

By Paul the Cyberian

When making the best of a bad situation it is best to be armed with all the information you can gather about the current situation. This will not calm you down during the period between crisis-awareness and effective crisis-solution, but it will also put you in the most favorable frame of mind for riding out the situation to its conclusion. If you are reading this article more than likely you'd like to know how the above-written gibberish can help you in the event of a computing crisis. If I'm successful in this little talk you will know exactly how this small bit of advice can help you.

Most computer-crash events give many clues as to exactly what has happened and if you can remember the chain of events clearly enough your machine will tell you exactly how to resolve your particular computer problem. In the event that you come to an impasse and can go no further you may have to take your problem child (computer) to some sort of computer repair shop. Most shops of this type are fairly professional and have the ability to handle any issue you present for resolution but in order to keep these solutions in the best economical light they will need your help. They will need your help in the form of a recent history of the symptoms your machine has experienced prior to becoming inoperable. When your computer begins to behave strangely it is in your best interest to document any error messages and strange behavior your machine has exhibited prior to your arrival. In the case of a dead hard drive you can tell the repair person about any clues about what happened just before the drive died. In most

of these cases a problematic hard drive will manifest itself in slow or noisy operation, sudden reboots or booting itself into modes other than normal operation when power is applied.

If your problem is of a software type (Windows errors, Spyware infection, etc.) or other problems that prevent normal operation, there will be plenty of error messages for you to document and report. Write these down and relay them to your repair person. All computer repair facilities charge some sort of Evaluation Fee before starting any repair efforts. Be prepared for this and don't let it frighten you into being hesitant about future charges. If you are not confident in the diagnosis you have received from your technician do not be bashful about paying the fee and taking your machine elsewhere. Report the findings of your previous service call to the new technician as this will give him or her valuable insight into a possible solution. It's also helpful to report any repair attempts you've taken yourself to resolve the situation.

Above all resist the temptation to tell your new service center HOW to fix your problem. In reality, if you knew how to fix it you would have done it already. And resist the temptation to cut corners where cost is involved. A cheap solution most often turns into an expensive one when all is said and done.

The more information that you're able to gather and relay to your technician, the better your chances are of a quick and effective solution. Hopefully you'll never have to actually use this advice but if you do need it one day you now have it.

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## One of a Kind:

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

Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

### Where Does This Old Craftsman End and the New One Begin?



David Blakeslee enjoys his fireplace's "secret" compartment.

It's one of those homes I've passed often, wishing for a peek inside. Lo and behold a meeting was rescheduled to this home! My lucky day, or evening, actually! I wondered how many people crossed David and Susan Blakeslee's threshold, commenting, "I always wanted to see the inside of this house!"

The many gracious homes and beautiful gardens of this block of Alegria could keep my column filled for a couple of months. This wide front yard features fun, interesting detailing like a mailbox recreating the house design in miniature, and a distinctive, contrasting exterior color palette of forest green with dark magenta trim.

A cheerful fire and huge yet gentle dogs greet visitors. I feel like I've stepped into a mountain lodge, and envision myself curled up with books. Apparently the Blakeslees do, too, as piles of interesting reading material fill tables. Theirs is also a family who revels in a dining room full of extended family and friends. Yet, back in 2001, that dining room and kitchen to prepare those meals fell woefully short of their entertaining and cooking dreams. An expansive remodel, designed by Tom

Batchelder tile interspersed with occasional outdoor scenes in relief still warms and delights diners, now graced with a new mantle. As visions of the remodel took shape, David commented to the cabinetmaker, Zsolt Simon, that try as he might, he had never found any secret compartment hidden away in the home's cabinetry. Simon enthusiastically remedied the "deficiency," incorporating the desired secret compartment into the new mantle. The original windows, with century old "running" glass, were reinstalled in the new West wall, above a band of built-ins for buffet service and china storage. The original period chandelier needed more lumen horsepower, so complementary new fixtures were installed beside it.

A favorite California interior designer, Peggy Winston, once shared that her key to a successful, engaging home interior incorporates the owner's personality, hobbies, work, etc. throughout the property. This home proudly weaves these owners' interests and loves into the very fabric of the home. But it wasn't an easy path from Blakeslee's vision to



Huge dining room perfect for large gatherings of family and friends.

completed reality.

For instance, the Blakeslees envisioned a stone backsplash mimicking their beloved Sierra Nevada mountain peaks in stone. The tile contractor, Jose Garcia, initially balked, then eventually bought into the concept. One day, David says, his enthusiasm for the "backsplash Sierras" finally took hold, and ideas from resident to contractor finally flowed back and forth. On a field of Bouquet Canyon stone jutting on end like mountain peaks, the completed product incorporates a stone hand carried down from the Bear Creek Spire at 13,000 feet, numerous fossils collected since the 70's, lapis, turquoise, copper and more, all into a tableau of their life's journey. For years, a favorite ceramic tile artwork by Elaine Cain, acquired in New Mexico hung in the back yard. Now, the piece, one I've tongue-in-cheek named "Our Lady of the Craftsman" graces an important place atop this kitchen.

The Blakeslee's joy at sharing their home and a meal with family and friends was always nearly boundless. It's clear from the size of this well-used dining room. They point out they've always entertained on a grand scale in the teeny tiny original kitchen, as often as this fabulous new one. They cite their annual pumpkin carving dinner event every October, which slowly blossomed to over 100, now that there's much more elbow room for preparation, cooking, storage and presentation possibilities. But small or large kitchen, it's still and always... joyful!

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A fabulous kitchen resulted from the 2001 remodel

Pendlebury and built by Richard Baker, called to them. Original house to newly expanded area now flow seamlessly. In fact, so expertly was it done, I was initially unaware where old ended and new began. When the Blakeslees hauled out precious old photos of the street a century ago, I did not recognize it. During the transformation, requisite high end kitchen upgrades appeared in perfect order. A gorgeous slab granite and butcher block island for meal preparation and casual dining became the centerpiece of the new kitchen. A half bath and pantry wall filled the kitchen's original footprint.

The flavor of the formal dining room remains the same, which was the goal. It merely seats a lot more people now. A massive fireplace boasting authentic

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

### Fuzzy Wuzzy...

I rarely wear black. Not because I don't like it, I actually do. I don't wear it because I have...CATS! Those of you who are lucky enough to share your lives with our feline friends know exactly what I'm talking about. Those of you who don't fancy these intelligent and independent creatures might get a better understanding of why those of us who live with them sometimes look the way we occasionally do. Sometimes we suffer from the "hirsute clothing syndrome."

I only wear black for two reasons; when it's time to do the laundry and there is nothing else in the closet, or I think I can put the garment on without one of my feline companions noticing. Ha! It's what they live for...They sleep 18 hours a day only taking a time-out for eating, a bit of play (usually about 3 or 4 a.m.) and depositing the occasional fur ball on the carpet.

In my house they must go to great lengths to accomplish the latter, because I have hardwood floors with only a few area rugs scattered about. The cats have to move fast because they must bypass the hardwood flooring and then the vinyl in the kitchen. They succeed in hitting the carpeting 99.9% of the time. Almost a perfect score!

To their packed day, they sometimes add the ultimate monotony breaker. It's called, "What is she wearing today?" If it is black or white, "let the games begin"... I have four cats. One is white, one is black, one is black and white, and one is a tabby. Obviously, they all have their assignments. If I am wearing black, the white cat gets the job. She is usually not overly affectionate, but if I am donned in black, she can't get enough of me, rubbing against my legs continuously. In the summer, the black cat is, of course, on duty. Whenever I wear white, there he is with a vengeance. The black and white and the tabby have fun no matter what the color, or the season; it's whenever the mood strikes and strike it does. Of course it's never when I'm doing something mundane, it's usually when I am on my way to a function where I should look tidy at best. It's hard to believe that some people actually think cats are dumb. Pshaw!

For those of you "dog people," you also on occasion suffer from the "hirsute clothing syndrome," but it's not an intentional thing. Dogs don't go out of their way to fuzz up your clothing. Cats do...They do it with abandon and, I must say, a certain amount of panache.



### Vote Early and Vote Often

by Rich Johnson

My first order of business is to acknowledge the considerable mental skills of a young gal named Peyton. She cleaned my clock last week in a hastily scheduled card tournament at a local eating establishment. We played "War" and she crushed me. Bravo Peyton. Now, on to the business at hand. Friends have pestered me to take a public stand on Measure V. I am prepared to make a recommendation but will hold off until next Friday's edition. Don't want to be hasty. After all, Confucius said, "Desire to have things done quickly prevents their being done thoroughly". I do, however, want to take a firm stand on one issue: *To vote or not, that is the question. Whether it be nobler in the... never mind.* Did you know that in Australia voting is compulsory. You have to do it. Well, actually they have no way of knowing if you voted because it's behind closed doors. But you do have to show up at the polling location and check in. And since you had to go to all that trouble to show up, why not vote? Maybe they offer bangers and a brewski after you vote. I'm not sure. We can scan through history and

see how one vote made a difference. Lets take a look at three: One vote decided our third president would be Thomas Jefferson and not Aaron Burr. Imagine not having the Jefferson Memorial, but instead the Burr Memorial. I wonder if Mr. Burr would still have shot Alexander Hamilton if he had been president. Could he have pardoned himself? We'll never know. By one vote we decided to honor "Seward's Folly." That was a little real estate deal wherein we picked up Alaska from the Russians for \$7.2 million. Our country at the time, thought it was a big, stupid mistake and named it after Bill Seward, the Secretary of State who brokered the deal. They called it Seward's Folly. Looking back I think it was a good deal. If I had a hat it would be off to you Mr. Folly, er, I mean Seward. Finally, by a margin of one vote the golden state, California, was invited to join the union. Those boys in Washington didn't know if they really wanted a west coast. I'm not sure it was a good decision myself. I guess time will tell. Vote, vote, vote, vote. No matter what position you take, a high turnout will tell the politicians we are serious about them paying attention to us. Oh, and remember that nice lady who saw my picture but didn't read the column. And then read the column and complained. She happened to notice that I didn't mention her in last week's column and let me know. So there you are A.D. Have a good week.

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# SPORTS

NewsFlash from The Field:

## STRIKERS! Win State Soccer Championship

Story and Photo By Tony MacIsaac, Strikers Coach

The Region 2 Arcadia STRIKERS! just captured the state title. The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) team of 12-14 year old girls from Sierra Madre, Arcadia and Monrovia won the AYSO Section 1 crown to advance to the state playoffs, and were undefeated in the 2006-2007 season and playoffs, finishing with a 24-0-3 record. At the State Championship Playoffs, the Region 2 Arcadia girls defeated Pacifica (Section 2 Champs) 6-0 in the semi-final, and Downey 1-0 in the final to win.

Throughout the playoffs, The STRIKERS! maintained near perfect defense and goal keeping, dominant midfield and relentless offensive power.

They played their style of game - patience, control and convert on the opportunities. It just goes to show how you can accomplish truly great things when you stick to your commitment to play your best, believing in your teammates and yourself and having fun while you're at it.

"To get this far, we had to first win our Region 2 Championship, one of the most competitive anywhere, back on December 9<sup>th</sup>," said Jeff Hull, Director of AYSO Section 1. "Our STRIKERS! then went on to win the Area 1C Championship a few weeks ago, making us #1 out of over 70 teams in the Western San Gabriel Valley. By winning the Section 1 League Championship, our Arcadia U-14 girls became the #1 team out of over 1,500 girls' soccer teams in our age division, besting teams from Beaumont to Redondo Beach. "Winning the State Championship makes our Region 2 STRIKERS! the #1 girls team out of almost 4,000 AYSO girls teams on the West Coast in our age division, the only 15 players out of over

55,000 that can call themselves state champions," Hull said.

Between the Section 1 Tournament Playoffs and the State Championship Playoffs, STRIKERS! scored 24 goals and gave up only 4 - that is a 20+ goal differential in only 7 games.

Throughout the whole season and playoffs, STRIKERS! demonstrated their great teamwork, sportsmanship, and friendship.

They were supported by a wonderful group of parents, grandparents, siblings and friends.

The AYSO Region 2 Arcadia STRIKERS! are: Savannah Viola, Kirstie Simone, Yanitza Berrios, Tatyane Berrios, Teresa MacIsaac, Haylee Ladesich, Kristie Tom, Courtney Conte, Rebecca Felman, Nicole Tartaglione, Colleen McWilliams, Briana Halberstadt, Taylor Giersbach, Camille Coffey, Taylor Goblen. AYSO is a national organization of all-volunteer community based soccer players and their families, friends, local sponsors, coaches, referees, and board members. The AYSO vision is to provide world class youth soccer programs that enrich children's lives. The AYSO mission is to develop and deliver youth soccer programs in a fun, family environment based on the AYSO philosophies: **Everyone Plays, Balanced Teams, Open Registration, Positive Coaching & Good Sportsmanship for boys and girls ages 4-18.**

AYSO Region 2 represents the communities of Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte and Bradbury. Registration for Fall Soccer is April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Arcadia City Hall Field.

Visit [ayso2.org](http://ayso2.org)



Region 2 ARCADIA STRIKERS! fared in Section and State Championship Playoffs:

Section 1 Championship Tournament, March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>:

Pool Play: Pool C,

4-2 over Beaumont

3-0 over Covina

2-0 over Moreno Valley

Section 1 Championship Semi-Final: 4-1 over North Redondo Beach; Final: 4-1 over Redlands

State Championship Playoffs March 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>:

Semi-Final: 6-0 over Pacifica Final: 1-0 over Downey



### View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

### Good Call Commish

The Commissioner of the NFL, Mr. Roger Goodell, has made a definitive statement that "conduct which is an embarrassment to the players, the team, and the NFL will not be tolerated." The Commissioner took strong actions against Adam "Pacman" Jones of the Tennessee Titans and Chris Henry of the Cincinnati Bengals. Jones will be out of football for one full season and Henry for a half season.

Each of the player's transgressions which caused the suspensions dealt with contact with law enforcement. Interestingly enough, neither player has been convicted of a crime based on these contacts. Jones' incident occurred in Las Vegas during the basketball All Star weekend. While at a strip club, Jones threw a great deal of money up in the air while the dancers were performing, an activity called "making showers." It seems that one of the dancers was not aware of the fact that this was just being done for show.

The dancer, unaware that Jones had no intention of parting with his money, began to pick up the bills, rumored to be in the neighborhood of fifty thousand dollars.

Needless to say, a brawl ensued and a bouncer was shot, after Jones indicated a willingness to kill the man. To date, the District Attorney of Las Vegas has not filed any charges against Jones.

Henry's problems have been the fact that he has been arrested four times in several different states in a fourteen-month period. The Commissioner took a step toward letting all the players know that they are not only football players but also representatives of the National Football League, whose actions must comport to a certain level of decency.

The League is dealing with the fact that many players have adopted the thug mentality.

Will the actions taken by the Commissioner be upheld, or will the players appeal?

Will the players take the attitude that what they do off the field is of no concern to the League?

Each player signs a contract with a promise not to behave detrimental to the League. We will just have to wait and see what the players' union decides to do. There is the argument that you are innocent until proven guilty.

A few years ago, Charles Barkley, a retired NBA player, said that basketball players are not role models, and should not be expected to be such. His position was that parents had to be the role model to their children. Of course on some level he was correct. However to hold the view that young people do not look up to the professional athletes is naive and unrealistic. Why do our children want the jerseys and the other gear of their favorite player?

The Commissioner is moving in the right direction. There is no place for the thug life in professional sport, and it is up to each League to clean up its act.

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