



THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Friday, May 4 - May 10, 2007 Volume 2, No.18

Housing Mandate Revisions Denied: SCAG Targets 800 Acres of Sierra Madre Hillsides - SCAG Staff Member tells Sierra Madre that if building in the hillsides is not suitable, then "you should upzone the flatlands."

By Susan Henderson

Despite the best efforts of Sierra Madre Councilman John Buchanan and City Attorney Sandra Levin, the Regional Housing Needs Assessment Appeals Board denied Sierra Madre's request for a revision in the city's mandated housing allocation. The request was filed in March of this year after the city council rejected RHNA's proposed mandate of 138 new affordable housing units and 471 new jobs in Sierra Madre over the next 10 years. An appeal was also filed at that time in the event the revision was denied.

The city requested a revision of 71% of the proposed allocation which would have reduced the number of affordable housing units from 138 to 40. That figure would have been more in line with the proposed allocation of San Marino. San Marino, a city with larger land mass and a slightly higher population than Sierra Madre, is only scheduled to build 26 new units.

The delegation prepared to defend the city's request for revision also included Matt Marquez, Director of Development for Sierra Madre and Don Hopper, Sierra Madre's Interim City Manager. Councilman Joe Mosca was also present, however, due to his position on another Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) committee, Mosca recused himself from testimony before the Appeals Board. Local realtor Sandy Siraganian also filled out a speaker's card, but withdrew her request to speak.

When Sierra Madre was called to present its case, the Sierra Madre delegation appeared surprised when SCAG staff

distributed a letter to the board. "Bart Doyle submitted this letter from Housing and Community Development for your review," the staff member told the board. After a quick glance, several members of the committee could be heard questioning why the document was presented. Chairman Jon Edney of Imperial County responded. "I don't see the relevance in this. We're not going to touch it."

Council Member Buchanan proceeded to lay out the case for Sierra Madre to reduce its allocated housing mandate. Specifically, Buchanan brought the Board's attention to the fact that Sierra Madre lacked available land for development. Buchanan cited that of the 3 current undeveloped properties, they would only yield 10 affordable housing units at best.

Buchanan and Levin also questioned SCAG's determination that all of the Sierra Madre hillsides were available for residential development. According to Buchanan, approximately 120.5 acres were purchased with Proposition A money and are state protected open space; 192.77 acres are protected as conservation easements; 29.73 acres are protected for reservoirs and spreading basins and that there are 28.29 acres of debris basin. They also pointed out that much of the unprotected acreage exceeded 40% in slope.

The Board was also questioned about the discrepancy of allocations based upon size, noting that other cities of similar size had allocations less than Sierra Madre's. (San Marino, population 12,945 has only been allocated 26 new units to build versus Sierra Madre, population 10,578 has a mandate of 138 units.) (cont. pg. 4)



Photos by Katina Dunn
Phyllis Chapman (above)
Anne Vaughan (right) with
granddaughter Ava Walters at
the Woman's Club Luncheon
Last Saturday.

"We find a delight in the beauty and happiness of children, that makes the heart too big for the body."

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council members Mike Kinney and Caroline Brown at Nature Friends Club House, which hosted the Southern California Society of American Foresters meeting. Story Page 3
Photo by Katina Dunn

Middle School Vandalized

By Susan Henderson

On Sunday, Sierra Madre Middle School was the latest target of vandals in the area. According to Sierra Madre Police Chief Marilyn Diaz, "On Sunday, April 29, 2007 at approximately 5:50 p.m., the department received a call reporting smoke from a classroom." Officers responded and found that several classrooms had been extensively vandalized. "This is the latest in a series that have occurred at both campuses in the past year," says Diaz.

Diaz reported an arrest of a male juvenile suspect. The accused, a Sierra Madre resident, was booked on felony vandalism and released to his parents. The investigation into the matter continues.

School resumed on Monday. Two of the vandalized classrooms could not be utilized by students because of the incident. The full extent or dollar value of the damage had not been determined at press time.

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime should call the Sierra Madre Police Department at 626-355-1414.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Volunteers Wanted

Gather Signatures for

Equitable Police Salary Initiative

This is not a tax, it would be a budget item

May 5 & 6

May 12 & 13 May 19 & 20

May 26 & 27

Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. Sundays at 9 a.m.

Meet at Sierra Juice Company, across from Kersting Court.

Questions: Call Officer Hasmick

Hartunian (626) 824-1353

Say Hello to Russ and Madeline Anderson
Friday, May 4
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Celebrate with Russ
2007 Older Sierra Madre American
of the Year
Hart Park House
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

1 RHNA Denies Sierra Madre Request

2 Weekly Highlights

3 Gov. Arnold & Asthma

4 Society of Foresters

5 OBSERVER PASADENA

6 Opinion

7 Letters To The Editor

8 ED

9 Peter Dills

10 TechKnowledge

11 One Of A Kind

12 Sports

Arcadia Mayor Asks Westfield For Response To Caruso's Bidding Citizen Chastises Council for Arrogance

By John Stephens

The Arcadia city council meeting last Tuesday, May 1st, lacked the intensity and attendance of the 6.5 hour marathon of April 11th - it rolled on to be continued on the 17th.

The agenda included a number of items that were breezed through, such as the acceptance of the City of Ontario into the Metro Gold Line Construction Authority - a measure that will have the Ontario airport as the eastern terminus to the burgeoning light-rail project - and the appropriation of funds for the Sunset Blvd. Widening Project.

Still, the issue drawing the most attention was the ongoing controversy over the recently approved \$1 billion Shops at Santa Anita Park to be constructed by Caruso Affiliated, the development company behind The Grove shopping center in Los Angeles.

The Westfield-Caruso debate appeared in two unscheduled instances, once from a citizen and once from the council itself.

An apologetically late, somewhat disheveled and highly articulate John

Dickey asked for the floor, despite his having not arrived in time to fill out the requisite Public Comment card. Addressing him by first name and with a distinct tone of familiarity, Mayor Mickey Segal granted him permission, waiving the bureaucratic red tape. Dickey proceeded to read from a prepared speech in which he chastised the members of the council for acting in a manner which he described as "arrogant, close-minded, and arguably illegal" in accusing Arcadia First!, an organization opposing the Caruso development, of being a "front" for Westfield and its interests.

Later, Mayor Segal delivered his own surprise when he addressed members of the Westfield concern, who were waiting for their opportunity to present plans for their very own expansion and redevelopment project for the Westfield mall - he asked if they had a response to the public challenge Caruso had issued to Westfield Chairman Frank Lowry proposing he match him in donating \$5 million to the city (cont. pg. 4)

VILLAGE AUTO CLINIC
Domestic & Foreign Repair
Bill Schlote
22 E. Montecito Ave.
Sierra Madre
Honesty • Integrity • Product Knowledge

Clarity in Real Estate
Guiding Clients to be Knowledgeable Buyers and Sellers

Lia Schlote
(626) 355-5989
lia.schlote@att.net

Rhett Schlote
(626) 355-5989
rhett.schlote@att.net

Team Schlote

8 East Foothill Blvd.
Arcadia
(626) 840-4790 cell
(626) 445-8330 fax
www.TeamSchlote.com

Dilbeck
GSM

An Independently Owned and Operated Firm

Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2



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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



City of Sierra Madre May Events

- 4 - Older American Reception - 4:30 pm - Hart Park House
- 4 - Spring Family Movie Friday - 7:30 pm - Kersting Court
- 4 - One Book One City, Wizard of Oz Costume Party - 4:30 pm - Memorial Park
- 5 - Commissioner Training - 9:00 am - Council Chamber
- 8 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 pm - Council Chamber
- 9 - SMTV3 Programming Committee Meeting - 8:00 am - Wisteria Room
- 9 - Cultural Arts Master Plan - 5:00 pm - Conference Room
- 9 - Community Arts Commission Meeting - 6:30 pm - Council Chamber
- 10 - One Book One City - 7:00 pm - Public Library
- 11 - City Hall - Closed
- 12 - Toilet Drive - 10:00 am - Community Recreation Center
- 13 - One Book One City Movie Talk and Showing - 6:30 pm - Sierra Madre School
- 14 - Fire Safe Council - 7:00 pm - Council Chamber
- 15 - City Council Study Session - 6:30 pm - Council Chambers
- 16 - Tree Advisory Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm - Council Chamber
- 17 - Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm - Council Chamber
- 18 - Spring Family Movie Friday - 7:30 pm - Kersting Court
- 19 - SMVFA Pancake Breakfast - 7:00 am - Fire Department
- 19 - Friends of the Library Art Fair - Memorial Park
- 20 - Friends of the Library Art Fair - Memorial Park
- 21 - Community Services Commission - 6:00 pm - Council Chamber
- 21 - Community Arts Commission Author's Night - 7:00 pm - Sierra Madre School
- 22 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 pm - Council Chamber
- 22 - Strategic Planning Meeting - 8:00 am - Alverno villa
- 23 - Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 pm - Conference Room
- 25 - City Hall - Closed
- 25 - MWTR Pasta Feed - 6:00 pm - Kersting Court
- 26 - Mount Wilson Trail Race - 7:30 pm - Kersting Court
- 26 - Healthy Family Fun MWTR Kids Fun Run - 8:00 am - Kersting Court
- 28 - Memorial Day Holiday - City Hall Closed
- 30 - All-America City Presentation Rehearsal - 6:00 pm - Sierra Madre Room

For more information on these and other City programs, call 355-7125 or visit www.cityofsierramadre.com

Roy Roams' 91024

Sasquatch for the Rich & Famous?

MTN Publisher Steve Tobia is after yet another publisher. Tobia declares without substantiation – because none exists – that Sierra Madre News publisher Salvatore Tesoro III did not pay his printer's bill. Tobia claims the husband of one of the Mt. Wilson Observer co-publishers paid it, thus becoming the publisher of Tesoro's Sierra Madre News.

You may recall Tobia mentioned the KKK at a Sierra Madre City Council meeting (November 2006), in a sly attempt at intimidating the African-American co-publisher of the Mt. Wilson Observer.

Soon to follow in Tobia's footsteps was an errant blogger – endorsed by former mayor John Buchanan – who portrayed that co-publisher as Aunt Jemima (February 24, 2007). Buchanan's endorsement is available in printouts from the Star-News (January 14, 2007).

Tobia recently took issue with Tesoro's "Enemies of the People" list (Spring 2007), perhaps because he is on it. Tesoro added Tobia to the list of names which includes sponsors of the Downtown Dirt attack website, which was run by Beth Buck, who was paid by the No on V campaign. More names on Tesoro's list appeared from mailings for the No on V campaign, run by Schubert Flint Public Affairs. The campaign, predicated on deception and confusion, was paid for by at least \$170,000 in funds provided by the Building Industry Association and some Realty associations.

Deceptions included pre-recorded telephone calls by a female Sierra Madrean to homes, stating that Measure V does not allow for a vote from the people on downtown development. Another was the oft-told comment "We all want the same thing" which, if true, would not have required a measure at all.

Tobia is all set to launch his new "All Gloss" monthly "Luxury Lifestyles" magazine in May, with a cover story that will answer "What \$52 Million Buys You in Pasadena." Let's hope Tobia keeps his lips sealed on the KKK, and that he doesn't continue accusing gentlemen of not paying their bills.

The Sasquatch, also known as Big Foot or Yeti, appears regularly in publications such as News of The World. The San Gabriel Mountain range is the ideal habitat for such a creature, as are the pages of any publication run by Tobia.



"Hands!" The Musical

Book & Lyrics by Deanne Davis, Music by David Wheatley

May 11* & 12* - 7:00 p.m.

"Hands!" The Musical is a Davis-Wheatley Production

To Be Performed at:

Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene - Lee Chapel

3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena 91107

Information/Directions: 626-353-9631

www.pfnaz.org

Our hands are God's tools today, too, and there is so much we can do with them to further God's kingdom.

And YOU! What are YOU doing with your hands!

Suggested Donation: \$10/Adults, \$5/Kids 12 and Under, Students with I.D.

AND, if you really really love it, additional donations will be enthusiastically and gratefully accepted.

Sierra Madre is Finalist for 2007 All-America City Join the Delegation by Wednesday, May 16 Register with Elisa Weaver, Chair of Delegation (626) 355-5278 Cost: \$100 per delegate. www.cityofsierramadre.com (Group rates available for hotels)

Sunday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m.

"The Journey to Oz" "MovieTalk" by Leo Braudy, English Department at USC Sierra Madre's Centennial One Book, One City 2007 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum. Watch the Film after the Lecture Sierra Madre School Auditorium at 141 W. Highland Ave. Free - For more info, call (626) 355-7186

Friday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Travelers & Collectors "Incredible Indonesia" By Sigrid, Charles, and Kurt Bausback City Hall 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sponsored by Friends of the Sierra Madre Library.

Friday, May 11

Travel the World of Music Pasadena High School Music Department Dine to an Evening of Musical Delights RSVP by Friday, May 4, call Connie at (626) 355-3596 Mediterranean Cuisine at PHS \$12 Adults, \$7 Band Members and students Prospective parents & students: A great way to get to know PHS at one of its classiest events!

Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JPL Open House Visitors will learn about JPL's exciting space missions and see robots in action. Scientists and engineers will also answer questions about the solar system, the universe and our home planet. Fun activities for kids of all ages. Free admission. 4800 Oak Grove Drive. Exit the 210 (Foothill) Freeway at the Berkshire Avenue/Oak Grove Drive exit in La Canada-Flintridge.

Saturday May 5 & Sunday May 6 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Important Safety Clinic for Dogs - Teach your bowser how to avoid rattlesnakes! Taught by Robert Kettle: Leading expert in snake avoidance training. Sierra Vista Dog Park at 611 Sierra Madre Blvd. \$55 per dog - \$50 for second dog San Gabriel Valley Chapter of Quail Unlimited (866) 206-9070

Kiwanis Club Grants

The Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club offers cash grants to students and schools. Paul Magaris Community Service Grants can be applied for by any local student or school. Up to \$300 per student or \$500 per school may be awarded to applicants who can show that a grant would benefit their education or provide a benefit to the community. Grants are awarded twice each year: in November and in May. Any individual, school, or organization who wishes to apply for a grant should contact Kiwanis Club Present Hank Landsberg via e-mail: henryeng@aol.com. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2007

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Farmer's Market

Every Saturday to 12:30 p.m. B-B-Berries. Lili's herbs, honey, menudo & tamale stand. Bring the kiddies. PHS parking lot 2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



Café 322

Sunday Nights Let's Sing Opera & Broadway Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends 322 Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

Beantown

45 N. Baldwin Coffee & Ice Cream (626) 355-1596

Lucky Baldwin's

21 Kersting Court Belgian Ale (626) 355-1140

Mary's Market

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

The Harvey Hyde Show

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Hard-hitting, high impact sports talk radio KSHP Las Vegas - 1400 AM Live! from BURGER CONTINENTAL 535 South Lake Avenue Pasadena

Thursday, May 10 at 7 p.m.

Sierra Madre Public Library Who Is Oz, The Great and Terrible? Literary Panel on "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" • Kent Baxter from the English Department at Cal State Northridge • Jackie Stallcup, who teaches courses in children's and adolescent literature at Cal State Northridge • James Kincaid, Aerol Arnold Chair in English and Professor of English at U.S.C.

"One Book, One City" is sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, the Rotary Club of Sierra Madre, the Sierra Madre Playhouse, Random House Audio/Books on Tape, James Kincaid, and Joel Shapiro. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard. For further information on services and programs please use the Library's web site at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call the Library at (626) 355-7186.

Book Sale at Sierra Madre Library

Spring Forward Into Reading

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will have a "Bargain Books Table" inside the Library from Monday, May 7, through Saturday, May 12. Science Fiction, Young Adult books, Cook Books, Christmas Craft Books and Biographies will be featured - all in good condition.

440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Monday through Wednesday from noon to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday from noon to 6 p.m., & Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit the Library's web site at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call (626) 355-7186.

AUDITION NOTICE:

Monday May 7 and Tuesday May 8 from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W Sierra Madre Blvd., Southern California Lyric Theater (SCLT) is casting William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," set in the

50's with SCLT's Doo Wop singing Greek Chorus and Dances (Fairies). A SCLT and City of Sierra Madre's Summer Shakespeare in the Park Production, Alison Kalmus Director, Shon LeBlanc/Valentinos Costumes, D. Calhoun Set. Performances: July 14, 21, 28 Aug 3, 4.

Rehearsals: May 21 - some weekday evenings and weekend days.

All Roles Open: Males and Females, 20's - 60's, any ethnicity.

Prepare a one to two minute Shakespeare monologue. Be prepared to move. Bring pix and resumes. Call 626-398-7636 or email scltgm@gmail.com

CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lee Cline, 85

The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

Science Fair II

The shrink ray laser didn't exactly work out. We had some difficulty gathering the necessary materials. And, actually, umm, identifying what those materials would be. Not to mention, figuring out how to assemble them in such a way that they would cause something to get smaller, which, by the way, we were not able to conclusively prove lasers are capable of doing in the first place. Other than that, the project went great.

Instead, we showed up at the 57th annual Los Angeles County Science Fair with a project on the use of lemon juice to keep fruit from turning brown (General Chemistry category) and another one on air pollution at schools (Ecology category).

The science fair was held at the Los Angeles Convention Center, in a gigantic cavern with doors large enough to accommodate the new Airbus 16,000-seater. At the risk of identifying myself as a true San Gabriel Valley bumpkin, I will admit to you that it was the first time I had ever been to the LA Convention Center (never having convinced myself that sitting in three hours of traffic to visit the car show was the best use of my time). This building is so big you have to emigrate to get there. You are inside of it and you look off in the distance (maybe with a pair of binoculars you borrow from a kid who has a project in the Animal Biology category) to find Hall J. But you can't find Hall J because it is over the horizon, which is even more sad because you have to walk there carrying this awkward display board that is two inches wider than the distance between your fingertips and your armpit.

But we persevered. We stood in all 18 lines. We obtained the required barcodes and name badges and certificates. We used a map to navigate to the correct table and set up the display boards to be viewed and judged. Then, we came back a day later to collect our prizes. But not before we toured the competition.

There were some impressive entries this year, entries that made a person reconsider whatever ideas he had about how smart and successful he thought he was. There were projects conducted by 13-year-olds who you should just go straight up to and ask for a job, or for a

future donation from their future massively successful philanthropic foundation, because you know these kids are going to be rich rich rich - especially the engineers and computer scientists "Magnetotheological Fluid Sheer Stress and the Morphing of Airplane Wings," "Cryptographic Application of One-Time Passwords," "Decoding Interspike Intervals with Artificial Neural Networks." Ahh! So smart sounding! So intimidating! Thank goodness for "The Properties of Chewing Gum," and "The Greatest Wedgie," without which I would have had nothing comprehensible to read and enjoy.

The awards ceremony (where we took home an honorable mention) was held on Saturday night in a completely different cavern about 14 kilometers away from the first cavern.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote speech given by Lawrence Bender, producer of the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth." He gave a slightly shorter version of the same shpiel AI gives in the movie, only without the large powerpoint slides and the soothing Tennessee accent. He urged us to adjust our thermostats, and to insulate our houses. He suggested we turn down our water heaters (only he called them hot water heaters, whatever those are) and to replace our incandescent bulbs. He told us that it was our responsibility to make the world a better place for future generations, including his 10-month old baby, which is why he is a producer who works day and night to ensure that movies like "An Inconvenient Truth" get made and distributed. "Kill Bill" Volumes I and II, "Pulp Fiction," and "Reservoir Dogs," too. That's right, the man who produced the movies that redefined cinematic violence (although, An Inconvenient Truth has even more Gore in it than those others) was giving advice to a room full of school kids, and their parents and teachers about how they should change the world. After he was done, we clapped for the prodigies. They got medals with space shuttles on them.

Student Art Show



Art Commissioners Barbara Wamboldt (above) and Kathy Imhoff (not pictured), prepare the exhibit at City Hall of art by students from St. Rita's, Sierra Madre, Bethany Church and Gooden Schools. Photo by Katina Dunn



Schwarzenegger Threatens to Sue U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

"It is 14 million days of school every year that children are missing because of asthma," California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

By Dean Lee

"Remember me," 11-year-old Jonah Ramirez told the crowd that included Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Assemblyman Fabian Nuñez (D-46th district) and L.A. County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich last Friday during the annual International Conference on Asthma Impacts of Air Pollution held in Anaheim. Ramirez, a young asthma sufferer said "I want you to remember me the next time you're sitting in traffic mad because you're late. I want you to remember me the next



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger with 11-year-old Jonah Ramirez last Friday during the annual International Conference on Asthma Impacts of Air Pollution held this year at the Disneyland Hotel. Ramirez said during a speech that he was no different than any other kid active in sports.

Photo By Daniel Belis

time you roll up the window on the freeway because you don't want your suit to smell. I want you to remember every time you're inconvenienced." Schwarzenegger wasted no time getting to his point saying California had recently passed some tough laws on air quality like AB 32, and then added that the state needed reform to what he called, "our broken health care system."

Schwarzenegger said he sent a letter to Steve Johnson of the local EPA on April 25, putting him on notice. "We want to let him know that the federal government is working too slowly to get us the waiver so that we can implement our laws," said Schwarzenegger.

"Basically our clock has started ticking for this next six months, and if we don't see quick action from the federal government, we will sue the US EPA," he said. US EPA Press Secretary, Jennifer Wood, said in a telephone call from Washington that Johnson was doing everything he said he would in the duration of a waiver moving from the Supreme Court. The matter is set to be heard by the court May 22 following a hearing at which time a waiver would be released she said.

Asthma accounts for 25 percent of all emergency visits

in the United States, Schwarzenegger said. "It causes children to miss a huge amount of time from their schools. I don't know who did, but someone figured out the total time. It is 14 million days of school every year that children are missing because of asthma," said Schwarzenegger.

Asthma is responsible for more children being hospitalized than any other chronic disease, he said.

Schwarzenegger emphasized how one hospital alone had told him that they were stuck with \$60 million of unpaid bills in their emergency room in what he called a "hidden tax." He estimated the total amount from private sector and businesses in California to be \$14.7 billion dollars in that "hidden tax." Asthma also kills more than 4,000 children every year, and it is listed as a factor in 7,000 other deaths every year in the United States he said.

Dolores Apodaca, president of the California School Nurses Organization, said that asthma is the leading cause of school absence in Los Angeles. She said this could be prevented or reduced through air quality standards such as AB 32 but then said the real issue was a nursing shortage in the state. "It is the health aides that are staffed at most schools," Apodaca said. "Some schools are lucky if they have a nurse there once a week. Its money, they just don't want to pay."

Apodaca said the nursing shortage is a problem because nurses are able to disclose information to the parents making them much more aware if the asthma was out of control and what to do. She cited the "Rules of Two" developed by Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

"It asks simple questions like, do you awaken more than two times a week. Or, do you use an inhaler more than two times a week or refill it more than twice a year. A yes to any of these question means your asthma is out of control," said Apodaca.

In a report released yesterday by the American Lung Association, Los Angeles ranked worst air in the country beating out Pittsburgh and Bakersfield for the number one spot.

AB 32 was designed to roll back the greenhouse gases to the 1990 level by the year 2020, and to go 80 percent even below that by the year 2050, said Schwarzenegger.

In Pasadena, Governor Calls For Health Insurance for All

Schwarzenegger spoke in Pasadena Monday addressing a large group of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) members, 50 years old and over, with very real concerns over what they said were, "people being turned down for health care with pre-conditions that don't make any sense," asthma being one of them.

Taken directly from his speech Schwarzenegger responded saying, "As I said earlier, that the way it works now is that insurance companies, they cherry pick who they want to insure. And so anyone that is at a certain age can be turned down, anyone that has had some - as we have heard earlier - some pre-existing medical condition, can get turned down. So it is unfair. So our policy, the way we want to reform it is that;

A. There will be mandatory insurance coverage so that everyone has to have it, and has to cover themselves, have their insurance; and,

B. That will create a bigger risk pool so that insurance companies now have millions of extra people that they serve, and therefore they will be forced into covering everybody so that no one ever will be denied again because of age or because of a medical history."

American Foresters Summit at Nature Friends

By Caroline Brown

The Southern California Society of American Foresters held their spring meeting at Nature Friends Clubhouse recently, hosted by the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council.

The challenge of public agencies and departments, water districts, Fire Safe Councils and Conservancies

to work together to form a cooperative framework was the topic of the Conference.

Ron Morrow, Chapter Chair and J. Lopez, of the County of Los Angeles, Forestry Division, welcomed participants from throughout the entire Southern California region which covers San Luis Obispo to San Diego.

Ann Croissant, founder of the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy gave an overview of the accomplishments of the region. Rick Hansen, from Three Valleys Water District, headquartered in Claremont, spoke to the potential loss of open space

that now serves to spread groundwater if 700 acres are removed for a housing development.

Ellen Mackey presented the success of regional planning for Lake Mathews, the terminus of the Colorado River aqueduct for the Metropolitan Water District. The area around the lake has been identified for all endangered plants and animals and protected from encroachment by designating, in advance, routes for fire fighting.

The afternoon presentations featured Sierra Madre, from open space conservation and wild land fire safety to watershed (continued on page 7)

Member:
San Marino
Police Officer's
Association

San Marino Security Systems

Free estimates, no term of contract, free service calls
The highest quality system at a competitive price

We protect and service
museums, churches,
schools, businesses
and homes

+30 years experience

Owned and operated by
retired San Marino Police Sergeant
Phil Raacke
Call (626) 285-7778 2384 Huntington Drive
San Marino

Protection by
SAN MARINO
Security Systems

ARMED RESPONSE

Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK
From Caroline Brown

A group price for the homeowner kit of Thermo-gel is being offered to Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council participants. We have contacted many participants whose e-mail addresses we have but we know that we have missed many others who may be interested. If you would please send your e-mail address, subject: Group Order for Thermo-gel to: madresierra@earthlink.net the announcement will be sent to you, or call the number listed below.

Go to the Thermo-gel.com website for complete information on this product and its use. This is the gel used by the U.S. Forest Service and many Fire Departments. The homeowner kit is intended as an additional margin of safety in brush fire areas after you have cleared hazardous vegetation from your property in accordance with the local fire code. It is not intended for use in fighting a fire, but in preparation before the fire arrives and you are evacuated. For information on brush clearance remember to check out www.firesafecouncil.org or www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry/BrushManagement for additional information. Please attend the next Fire Safe Council meeting May 14, at 7 p.m. in the City Council chambers. Your participation and input is needed. For information call: 355-9350, or e-mail us at: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com

HOUSING (continued from page 1)

Buchanan and Levin each question the methodology used to generate the allocations, which not only require 138 new affordable housing units but also project 471 new jobs in Sierra Madre in the next ten years. "I've never seen this kind of job growth allocated. It doesn't work in our town," said Buchanan.

SCAG staff representative Maria Delgado reaffirmed the recommendation that Sierra Madre's request be denied. In her report to the board she indicated that not only had the natural topography been incorporated into the calculations, but also Sierra Madre had participated in the Sub-Regional workshops. This culminated in a reduction of SCAG's original determination of 225 affordable housing units for Sierra Madre to the current 138. Delgado admonished Sierra Madre that if building in the hillsides was not suitable, then, "you should upzone the flatlands."

Lynn Harris, SCAG staff attorney also confirmed that Sierra Madre's allocation excluded the 313 acres of protected land, saying that SCAG had "double verified" those figures.

Before the vote was taken, Paul Nowatka of Torrance, representing LA County, asked John Buchanan the date of the Measure V election to which the former mayor replied, "The election is over. Measure V has passed, it is the law."

Before calling for a vote, Chairman Edney informed the board that Measure V had no bearing on the allocations being proposed and that it contained no factors to allow for a revision of the RHNA numbers.

The board voted unanimously to deny Sierra Madre's request for a revision in the 2006-2014 Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

After the vote, Sandra Levin requested that the appeal, which was filed simultaneously with the Request for Revision, be postponed until the SCAG staff could provide proof that the protected hillside areas had been excluded from the calculations. The appeal was rescheduled to the following day.

On Friday, the appeal was withdrawn by Levin on behalf of the City of Sierra Madre. According to Public Works Director Bruce Inman, because the appeal was based upon the assumption that the protected hillside lands were included, once it was determined that they were not, the appeal became moot and was withdrawn.

The board, over a two day period, also unanimously denied revisions for Norwalk, San Gabriel, Lakewood, Temple City, West Covina, Irvine, Laguna Nigel and Yorba Linda.

To Be Continued in Next Week's Issue

ARCADIA (cont. pg. 1)

instead of prompting such amounts to be spent in legal fees by attempting to challenge the council's decision. In that letter, which also appeared as full page advertisements in local publications, Caruso wrote that "the result of such a battle will be both Caruso Affiliated and Westfield spending millions of dollars that benefit no one but lawyers, public relations consultants, and political operatives."

A representative for Westfield said that they did not yet have a response.

"We are considering a number of options," said Ken Wong, "We're taking it one step at a time."

After a lengthy discussion

of the possible parking and traffic woes of such an expansion, the council voted unanimously to approve the ordinance. What remains to be seen is how Arcadia First! will act in the coming days. The group is expected to begin gathering signatures for a measure blocking Caruso Affiliated. Arcadia First! Executive Director, Bernetta Reade said, "I don't think that 5,200 citizens using their own money can be called a 'front.' What we have wanted from the start is an impartial commission of citizens and experts be created to examine the issue and do what is the best solution for all Arcadians."

merry maids.

Count on
our team

when the rest of
the afternoon has
let you down.

Customized cleaning
Satisfaction guaranteed
\$20.00 off 2 hours

merrymaids.com
626.564.8724

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, April 22nd, to Saturday April 28th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 227 calls for service.

Sunday, April 22nd:

3:51 PM – Petty theft, 600 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. A resident reported his JVC GPS (Global Positioning System) stolen from his unlocked car. The GPS was last seen around 11:30 PM Saturday, 4/21 and discovered missing Sunday, 4/22 at 3:30 PM. The GPS was valued at \$150.00.

4:38 PM – Vandalism, 100 block Rancho Road. A resident reported the driver's side of her parked car egged. The car was parked Saturday, 4/21 at 3:00 PM and the damage was discovered Sunday, 4/22 at 6:00 PM.

Tuesday, April 24th:

5:33 PM – Residential burglary, 600 block Chaparral Road. A resident reported she arrived home and discovered her home burglarized. The crime occurred between 8:50 AM Thursday, 4/24 and 5:00 PM. The loss included a wooden jewelry box, miscellaneous pieces of jewelry and a lap top computer. The value was estimated at \$7300.00

Thursday, April 26th:

10:29 AM – Grand theft, 193 East Mira Monte Ave, Mount Wilson Trail Park. The foreman of the city water reservoir project called to report a theft. The stolen property: a Campbell air compressor and a Hitachi nail gun were last seen Wednesday, 4/25 at 3:30 and discovered missing Thursday, 4/26 at 6:00 AM. The loss was estimated at \$1,100.

NEWS ALERT - COUNTERFEIT BILLS

By T. N. Doss

Beware the increase of counterfeit \$100 bills. The pen used by many retailers will not help to identify fake bills. There are several in circulation now that can be detected by viewing the **SMALL** letter and number combination at the bottom left and right (right near the face) of the bill. If the bill has either of the following number combinations, do not accept them:

Left	Right
H2	H38
B2	B7

The Secret Service stated that the ONLY safeguard that counterfeiters have not been able to duplicate is the color changing ink, which is on all 10s and larger. The numeral in the lower right hand corner of the bill appears to change color as you look at it from an angle.

For more information go to the Secret Service website: www.secretservice.gov

Moe's Automotive Service Center

Service First, Quality Always
Specializing in repairs of domestic & foreign automobiles

Moe's Automotive Service Center is a family owned and operated business, servicing the car care needs of the foothill communities for the past 20 years. We have ASE Certified Technicians and the latest state of the art diagnostic equipment. We offer free local pick-up and delivery. Most jobs completed in one day. Call Moe or Andy for an appointment today. **Yes - Andy is still here!**

Moe
125 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024
Ph: 626.355.4714 Fax: 626.355.4724
E-mail: Moeauto@verizon.net

MARY KAY
makeup
now

From the latest on-trend colors
to the classics. I can help
you create a look for every occasion
and every new outfit in your
wardrobe. **Call today** for
your complimentary
color makeover.

Dale Ann Perales
Independent Beauty Specialist
www.marykay.com/dalearn
626.576.2787

Donna Embree
All Occasions Florist
Specializing in Wedding

For an Appointment
Call 626-355-2019
www.donnaembree.com

Can't Lose Weight?
TRIED EVERYTHING...
NOTHING WORKS?
Try Learning to eat right!
DR JERRY MCKEE
(626) 792-1000
STARTING DATE DEPENDS ON YOU
This Program
Really Works Well!
NEW METHOD
6:30 to 7:30 PM Once a Week for 4 weeks

Termite & Pest Control

ACCURACY PLUS
www.accuracyplus.com

DON'T TEND YOUR HOME USE ACCURA-FOAM

Call for Inspection and Free Estimate
(626) 690-7700
(888) 676-0258
(949) 945-1127

Our Accura-Foam Treatment is designed to Eliminate Present and Prevent Future Termite Infestation

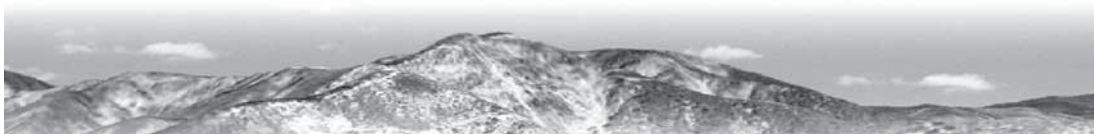
- Environmentally Friendly
- Virtually Odorless
- Fits 3-5 Day Move Out
- Fits Road Damage
- Warranty to Eradicate Home

We also eliminate
Ants, Roaches, Fleas, Rats and Mice
• Complete Wood Repair and Replacement

SAVE \$5 Mention this flyer and receive

\$200 ⁰⁰	SAVE 10%	Pest Control \$48 ⁰⁰
on treatments with only		1000 sq. ft. treated with
Accura-Foam		SPOT
Application		Treatment
See us for more details		

Se Habla Español



The Mt. Wilson Observer PASADENA

Pasadena's New "Paperless" City Hall

By Dean Lee

Pasadena city council members had very different reactions to Monday night's half hour whirlwind introduction to new technology placed

Cynthia Kurtz answered "because there was a request" to the puzzled council member.

Tyler studied the screen in front of him as though it had the plague. Kurtz than gave a more satisfying explanation, saying the city wanted City Hall "paperless." Tyler asked if he could go on the city's website and Bagneris said she rather they not. Kurtz explained how to pull up that night's agenda and past minutes in case they wanted to review an item on their screens.

Last week, Council Member Paul Little said he was a little apprehensive about the whole project and the cost. He said this was the second largest project he had been a part of with the Gold Line being the largest at \$400 million.

Vice Mayor Steve Madison came in late missing most of the training and later stayed glued to his computer screen with the glow illuminating his face. Mayor Bill Bogaard said he was pleased with the project overall, reminding everyone more than once the project was completed ahead of schedule. City Hall was to open in June. Bogaard also played down the training saying it was no big deal and they were going to be shown how the microphones work among other things.



Photo by Daniel Belis

Inspector Gadget: Vice Mayor Steve Madison gave his new computer equipment a once through pushing an array of buttons, some working his microphone and others projecting overheads onto four large screen plasma screens.

in their chambers after City Hall's three year seismic upgrade at a cost of \$117 million.

The most valuable training came in the form of legal advice from City Attorney Michele Bagneris saying, "It is critical that you don't email one another. This is a public meeting so members of the public can request whatever is on your computer screen." She also said that anything emailed between them is fair game to print on the front page of any newspaper, "So don't do that" she said. Councilmember Sid Tyler, very frustrated, then asked why they put in computers at all if there was going to be so many restrictions? City Manager

T-Mobile Antennas Denied by Pasadena Council

30-acre Hahamongna Annex approved

By Dean Lee

Three stunned T-Mobile representatives walked out of Monday night's Pasadena City Council meeting after the council unanimously upheld the decision of the city's board of zoning appeals in denying the placement of a wireless antenna on an existing city light pole, saying it would set a negative precedent.

The council further requested a complete moratorium on the placement of such antennas going against the advice of City Attorney Michele Bagneris, who said the move could open up the city to lengthy litigation. She also said she needed to research legal issues surrounding a moratorium and whether the city could impose one at all.

It was standing room only in council chambers. Many residents said the city needed a Master Plan dealing with cell phone towers, following other cities such as San Francisco and Seattle. Bagneris said staff would look at what other cities had done, but added that Seattle, not being in California, had its own set of laws. She said San Francisco was bogged down in lawsuits.

The tower was intended for a two-block area of spotty coverage at Oak Knoll Avenue near Alpine Street, according to Sequoia Development Services MM representatives, although a number of people said they had T-Mobile service and drove through that area without a problem.

Many said the small area would lead to an antenna on every pole in the city, something now allowed, as the cell phone companies fought for coverage. The council said they saw no need for the antenna.

Council Member Paul Little was the first to step up and oppose the placement of the antenna at the public right-of-way. He said he did not understand why all power equipment for the antenna could not be placed underground.

Sequoia Development Services representatives, responsible for building the antenna, said on behalf of T-Mobile that no technology existed to allow the placement underground along with other access problems.

"We have the technology to send a little robot up the surface of Mars and roam all around," said Council Member Chris Holden. "But you say the technology does not exist for you to put this underground."

A four-foot high three-sided cement wall would have been placed within feet of the antenna, which the council said would be an eyesore.

Earlier in the night, the council also sided with another large group of residents that came out in support of the long awaited Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan, voting unanimously in favor of their vision for a 30-acre Hahamongna Annex. The plan will minimize paved areas seeking alternative types of surfaces, increase access by public transportation and possibly eliminate the east-west roadway.

A number of groups came out in support, including the Rose Bowl Riders and Pasadena City College, saying they had applied for use of the site. PCC will have a shuttle running from the college to the Annex and offer a number of classes on environmental studies.



Photo by Daniel Belis

Retro: New high-tech council chambers opened to the public Monday night as Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard burst through yellow construction tape wearing a hardhat. "City Hall is open for business," he said.



Photo by Daniel Belis

Crossing the Line: A bystander waits for the all clear, frustrated, after a package full of clocks and plaques was blown up during a bomb scare Monday at Fuller Theological Seminar that closed a portion of East Foothill Boulevard and North Los Robles Avenue. The scare forced a number of businesses to close for hours, from Arco Gas Station to Amy's Hamburgers. L.A. Sheriff's bomb squad was called after Pasadena Police determined a package delivered to Fuller at 4:20 p.m. was odd Pasadena police spokesperson Janet Pope Givens said.

Bike Week Pasadena: A Salute Celebrating Everything Bike Begins Monday May 14

The City of Pasadena in its General Plan has a guiding principle that views Pasadena as a place where people can circulate without cars. This vision relies upon an integrated and multimodal transportation system, including public transit services, parking strategies, car sharing programs, pedestrian enhancements and a strong bikeway network. For more information go to www.cityofpasadena.net and click on Getting Around Without a Car

Monday, May 14, 11 a.m.

Join Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard in the One Colorado Courtyard at the official launch of this biking celebration. Be a part of Mayor Bogaard's **Bike to Work Brigade**, as the Mayor leads a contingent of bicyclists escorted by the Pasadena Neighborhood Team / Bicycle Patrol through city streets to newly renovated Pasadena City Hall. To take part in this fun ride, please call C.I.C.L.E. at (323) 478-0060 or visit BikeNow.org.

Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Curious about bicycles? Find out everything you want to know and discover exciting inventions at the **Urban Bicycle Commuter Expo** in the One Colorado Courtyard. Confirmed exhibitors include REI, InCycle, Path to Freedom (XtraCycle dealer), Flex Car, Cal Start, LACBC, CICLE, Bikerowave, Bike Oven, Psydes Chopper Club, AIDS Lifecycle, Patagonia, Metro and city of Pasadena departments of Public Works and Transportation.

Urban Bicycle Commuter Expo is free and open to the public.

Friday, May 18 at 6:45 p.m.

Take a leisurely ride to the Arroyo Seco and watch the sunset. Enjoy live classical music by string duet *Telematique*, light hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Return to One Colorado for movies in the Courtyard. Ride departs from Patagonia. Presented by C.I.C.L.E.

Saturday, May 19 at 8 a.m.

Take a brisk morning ride from One Colorado to the Pasadena Farmer's Market at Victory Park, have breakfast and then return ride to **Urban Bicycle Commuter Expo**. Ride departs from Patagonia. Led by Chris Nelson. Presented by C.I.C.L.E.

Sunday, May 20 at 8 a.m.

Pasadena boasts more than 61,000 street trees and is the recipient of the "Tree City USA" award for seven years running. Experience this amazing urban forest on a tour of natural and man-made woodlands near Old Pasadena and throughout the city. All riding levels welcome. Tour departs from Patagonia. Led by Katura Reynolds of Tree People. Presented by C.I.C.L.E.

WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, May 15 at 7 p.m.

You may know how to ride your bike, but can you safely navigate city traffic? This practical two-part workshop will show you how to enjoy the benefits of urban bicycling - by keeping your experiences positive and safe. In Patagonia. Bicycle not required.

Tuesday, May 22 at 7 p.m.

Second evening class. Bring your bike (with night lights) for an easy night ride in Old Pasadena. Put into practice what you have learned so far. In Patagonia, presented by C.I.C.L.E.

Outdoor Film Screenings Nightly at 8 p.m. One Colorado

Monday Double Bill: *The Bicycle Corps: America's Black Army on Wheels* and *KCET-PBS California Gold episode Bicycles*.

The Bicycle Corps: America's Black Army on Wheels

In 1897, the U.S. Army theorized that the newly developed "safety" bicycle could replace the horse as a means of troop transport. As a result, twenty African-American soldiers put their bicycles, their bodies, and the theory to the test with a 2000-mile ride from Montana to St. Louis, Missouri. *The Bicycle Corps* chronicles their journey through the eyes of two soldiers. 59 minutes. 2000.

California Gold episode *Bicycles* takes a look at L.A.'s bike history with stops at the Pasadena Museum of History and a Sunday morning ride back in time as host Huell Howser uncovers other important stops in LA's Bike history.

Tuesday Feature: Jour de Fete

A cycling comedy by French director Jacques Tati, which tells the story of an inept postal carrier. Influenced by too much wine and a newsreel on the rapidity of the American postal service, he goes to hilarious lengths to speed his mail deliveries aboard his bicycle. 1949.

Wednesday Documentary: Joe Kid on a Stingray: The History of BMX

History of BMX documents the evolution of a 1970s sports fad in which kids began modifying their Schwinn Sting-Rays to look like motorcycles. This documentary takes a serious look at the history and evolution of BMX bicycle riding, from the streets of 1960s suburban neighborhoods to today's stadium-packed shows. 2005.

Thursday Documentary: Contested Streets

Contested Streets explores the history and culture of New York City streets from pre-automobile times to the present. The examination shows how a city -- though the most well-served by mass transit in the United States -- has relinquished public space for the rapid movement of cars and trucks over all other functions. 57 minutes. (cont. pg. 7)

THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

OPINION



Editor
Katina Dunn

Managing Editor
Susan Henderson

Art Director
Marco Carreno

Production/Layout
Joe Russo

Photography
Felix Orona
Buddy Windsor
Jacqueline Truong
Steve Padilla
Linda Ott-Albright

Pasadena Desk
Dean Lee

Contributors
Stefan Bund
Stanley J. Forrester
Paul the Cyberian
Madeline Miller
Kyle McClure
Pat Birdsall
Bob Eklund
Caroline Brown
David Smith
Rich Johnson
Chris Bertrand
Peter Dills

Student Correspondents
Pasadena High School
Alverno High School
Oak Crest Institute of Science
Grace Persico

Editorial Cartoonist
Ann Cleaves

Web Master
Gary Miller

For Advertising Inquiries
contact:
JULIE PETERBAUGH
626-836-6524
DOROTHY JIMENEZ
818-314-9417

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

All submissions become the property of The Mt. Wilson Observer. We reserve the right to refuse publication of any material that conflicts with the mission of this paper.



Mt. Wilson Observer Mission Statement

We honor the traditions of the community newspaper and place our readers above all other concerns. We deliver local, state and national news every week. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.

Around The Town With Sir Eric Maundry



"The climate won't change until they suffer a major loss such as the defeat of Measure V ... Oh yes, they will still be around to bleed at the microphone at City Council meetings."
- Clem Bartolai

Some of the best analysis I've yet to read about the April 17 election comes from **Caroline Brown** in her thought provoking letter now up for your consideration at sierramadrenews.net. She sets up firm argument by discussing the defeat Measure V, an outfit that calls itself **Schubert Flint Public Affairs**. Their website, which can be found at www.schubertflintpa.com, prides itself on being able to take on the tough cases. Clients facing difficult challenges come to Schubert Flint Public Affairs when success is the only option," they proudly proclaim. They do sound rather costly, don't they? And it would appear that for most of the folks who contracted for their services the investment paid off. It turns out that our April 17 election was only the third defeat this outfit has suffered in the 34 elections it has been hired to work on, a record that includes local and statewide campaign victories in such far-reaching places as Michigan, Colorado, Arkansas, Nevada, Oregon and here in California. Who knew that the Attila the Hun of political consultancies was running amok in our quaint little city? Caroline goes on to ask, "Who in Sierra Madre chose to use such tactics against their own friends and neighbors who placed a ballot measure in front of the voters for what they thought was right

for their city?" Good question. Maybe people who take cold pleasure in pushing distant buttons rather than lowering their pompous selves to actually talk to the people who live in their own town? ... Outside of big time political consultants and the handful of homegrown retired pols who they took on to do their bidding, who else can we include in the roster of those who took it on the chin April 17? To that list I would like to add our local **Democratic Party**. How is it that a party that prides itself in being the champion of the struggling middle class could so blithely crawl into the sack with big corporate money? When you consider that among the biggest supporters of the "No on V" debacle were a Democratic mayor, two Dem councilpersons plus a member of the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee, you're talking some serious betrayal of political principle here. I wonder what **Barack Obama** or **Howard Dean** would have to say about the unsavory gold-digging antics of the Sierra Madre Democratic colleagues? They're not much to be proud of, that's for sure ... Things have been getting somewhat humorous over at the **Cumquat** as of late but not in exactly the way **Jimmy Snider** would want. It appears that occasionally the poor guy becomes so drunk to remember to turn off the comments function on his blog, giving many in town the opportunity to let Little Jimmy know exactly what they think of him and his efforts. Case in point; after a particularly gushing article about then Mayor **Buchanan** - Jimmy going so far in his abject fawning to actually suggest that perhaps Mayor McCondo should run for president - one poster wondered if perhaps the position Snider might be hoping for in a Buchanan administration would be that formerly occupied by ... That's it for this time around. As always I do enjoy hearing from you. Write me at sir.eric_maundry@yahoo.com ... Cheers!

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

PRO CHOICE

By Susan Henderson

Pro (n): argument in affirmation; **choice (n):** a preference guided by one's judgment

What? Another 'hot button issue' from Henderson? Well, yes,

but not the one you think. The choice I am speaking of today, is personal, but it is about your right to choose where you live and in this case, your right to choose the kind of town you want to live in.

This choice has absolutely nothing to do with Measure V. That fight is over. However, no matter what side of the issue you were on, we all agreed on one thing. We all want Sierra Madre to maintain it as a small town. That is what is being attacked. Our choice to live in a small town.

Much of last week I spent watching, researching and conversing with a cast of characters from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the State's Department of Housing and Community Development and a few of their internal and external representatives. What I saw and heard was unbelievable - no better than that - it was unthinkable and probably unconstitutional.

It appears that, under the guise of providing

affordable housing for - hmm - I'm not exactly sure for whom - I'll explain that a little later. Anyway, under the sheep's clothing of providing affordable housing we have a big bad wolf who no longer wants to live in the great outdoors, but instead wants cities with concrete from end to end. This wolf has hundreds of lesser wolves running around saying incredible things like, "if you don't want to build in the hills, then upzone the flatlands." The wolves want every inch of every town to be overbuilt. And they say the choice is theirs, not ours.

Here's the bottom line. The wolves say that California needs more housing. They decide where that housing should go and threaten cities if they don't go along with the plan. They don't have any real means of enforcement, but they say they will. But, the wolf has other things twist arms with such as infrastructure money bonuses.

Now they have power, so the wolves look at a nice place like Sierra Madre with lots of empty hillsides. Their appetite tells them to build on the hillsides. They hunger to turn the little town into a big town in a little package. That works for the wolves. After all, it's their choice. Not ours. Oh yeah, about that appetite. Seems the wolves feed off of vegetation. I'm sorry, everything green isn't a vegetable. The wolves feed off the contributions and support from those who will profit the most from new development. They have an incestuous relationship with developers, realtors and the building industry associations. So, quite naturally, their palates are whet for every



We Don't "Measure" Up Sierra Madre

By Rich Johnson

No need to thank me, but my post-election analysis has revealed our city to be considerably less progressive than other California towns? We have some serious catching up to do. Perhaps, in displaying some innovative legal measures adopted by other small California towns we can catch up. Where do I begin? Those concerned, safety minded citizens of Chico, California cared enough to pass a law making it illegal to bowl on the sidewalk. Do we have that protection? I dare say not! What's more, if you detonate a nuclear device in the city limits, Chico will fine you \$500. Probably make you do some clean up too. If you want to drive your sheep down Hollywood Blvd, you better limit it to two thousand head or you'll be put in the pokey for sure. And more clean up. Have a winter home in Palm Springs? If you do, you better make a note that it's illegal to walk your camel down Palm Canyon Blvd. between four and six in the afternoon. Whew, that was close. Avoid driving through Redlands at night. If you are driving on the city streets and you don't have someone walking in front of your car with a lantern you're a scowfall. Maybe it's okay to drive on the sidewalk at night in Redlands. There appears to be no law against that. You better check. Persons classified as "ugly" may not walk down ANY street in San

single piece of open space or undeveloped hillside. That is a real problem for me and I hope for you too. The wolves are effectively taking away our right to live in the kind of communities that we want. We bought homes here and maintain homes here because we like SMALL, QUIET, and SPACE. We CHOOSE to pay a premium for these amenities. But then the state government, disguised as sheep but known as wolves, come along and says we don't have any choice in the matter. We have to do what they say.

By the way, when you ask the wolves who needs this housing since everywhere you look there are vacancies at all levels low rent, high rent, leases, sales - so who needs this housing? I even went so far as to ask specifically if the programs were there to help the homeless for clearly they do need housing. (The wolves had to think about that for a minute and finally said - "uh not really"). So who needs these developments - why the trades of course.

The wolves are taking away our choices. They are turning our suburbs into one contiguous metropolis. They are taking away our right to say we want it small, medium or large. We don't have a choice, we sit back and watch the wolves say, "No, no, no. It's not about what you want, it's about what want."

Well, the choice really is ours. We should determine how we want our town. We should be able to use our judgment when making decisions about the environment in which our, in all likelihood, largest financial investment is in. Pro Choice when it comes to developing our town. It's our right.

Letters To The Editor

Mayor to All the People?

Enid Joffe was unanimously elected by the City Council to serve as our Mayor at the April 24, 2007 Council meeting. In her acceptance speech Mayor Joffe indicated her intent to support and comply with the terms of the recently passed Measure V. Glad to hear it! Inasmuch as Measure V passed by a 51.5% majority of the voters on April 17's election, Mayor Joffe really has no choice but to support and comply with its terms and conditions.

Both former Mayor Buchanan and Mayor Joffe expressed a desire for all citizens of Sierra Madre to put aside our differences and come together for the good of the community. I liked that part of their speeches too! I was feeling like maybe we had come to a crossroads and we really *could* all get along. Mayor Joffe went on to say she firmly intends to represent ALL of the citizens of Sierra Madre regardless of how they felt about Measure V or whether they support her personal opinions. Again.... this is great news! Now I was feeling really good! The healing really *can* begin. I should have known better than to think these comments were sincere. It was just more political rhetoric. Say what you think the people want to hear, not what you really mean. If Mayor Joffe really cared about bringing the community together, she would not have nominated Joe Mosca as Mayor Pro-Tem. She can respect Joe all she wants and believe he is the "hardest working member of the City Council". But if she really wanted to be the Mayor to ALL citizens of Sierra Madre and promote the healing process, she would have nominated Kurt Zimmerman for Mayor Pro-Tem. That selfless act would have really shown ALL the citizens of Sierra Madre that she really is interested in uniting the divided citizenry in town. I am not sure what the Mayor was thinking when she nominated Joe Mosca as Mayor Pro-Tem. She claims she wants to stop the bad press that Sierra Madre has received in the press and on television. Why then would you nominate such a controversial council member currently the target of a citywide Recall petition? What were you thinking? Bad decision.

Let me close by thanking Kurt Zimmerman for his courage and candor in stepping forward to offer his honest and frank explanation of why he *could* not and *would* not vote in favor of Joe as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Kurt is often left alone to be the voice of reason. He can be counted on by those who voted for him and even those who did not. The citizens of Sierra Madre have not been disappointed by his representation and service on the council.

Kurt continues to demonstrate a willingness and commitment to represent ALL of the community and to ensure that the wool is not pulled over our eyes.

Kurt Zimmerman, thank you for your continued service to this community and for the sacrifices you make to continue to perform your duties with the utmost professionalism, honesty and integrity.

Sincerely, Name Withheld Upon Request

Dear Editor

Last week when we heard that the remaining Measure V votes were counted, we were thrilled to hear that Measure V did indeed officially pass, albeit with a very slim majority.

This classic version of David vs. Goliath was played out as the local townspeople, who love their town with its mountain views, lack of traffic lights, and unique village character, opposed the outside interests with Big Money. The No on V people (realtors, developers, and their financial backers) saw our town only as an investment, and had plans to "overdevelop" Sierra Madre for the sake of their own financial gain. Our local grassroots efforts were facing long odds, given that the outside interests had a war-chest 10 times larger than ours to fight this most important of battles.

Well, David, in our case, slew the giant! Despite the fact that the Measure V opponents waged a dishonest campaign, intentionally inundating us with misleading and duplicitous mailings and phone messages, the Truth prevailed, and as a community we can be proud that the majority of us did not succumb to their high-dollar advertising blitz.

Love of Home is a powerful thing.

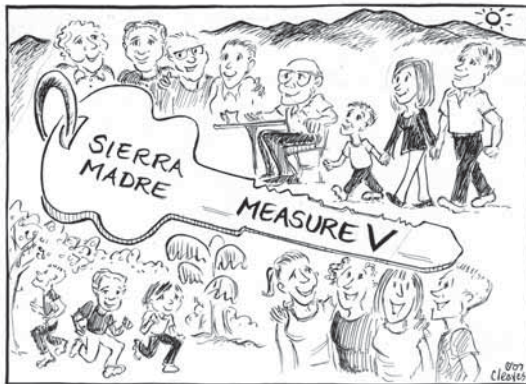
We want to publicly thank the Mt. Wilson Observer, and its editors, for everything they did to help the citizens of Sierra Madre learn the truth about this issue. This newspaper was the strongest and most consistent voice there was to counter the messages that came down on us as a virtual blizzard of untruths from the No on V campaign. We doubt that Measure V would have passed if not for the Mt. Wilson Observer, and we stand in deep gratitude and appreciation for this newspaper. Thank you!!

Ron Longo and Bruce Carr

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank Kim Clymer for her recent article, "Electric Activism" and for telling it like it is. Hopefully, people will read her words of wisdom and be ashamed... enough to take a hard look at their unwillingness to do their part in helping to stop global warming. I would like to add to Kim's startling example of the change that would occur if everyone one just changed one light bulb. Consider... most homes today have an average of 40 sockets for light bulbs, and that the average U.S. home produces two times (2x) as much greenhouse gases as an average car! Anyone feeling motivated to change at least 2 light bulbs now?

Donna Diasio



FORRESTERS (continued from page 3)

Mike Kinney gave a review of the past eighteen months efforts of the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council to activate the residents who live in the "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone." He stressed the need to create a defensible space around the hillside homes, an activity well underway in Orange County, as reported by Phil McWilliams of the Inner Canyon League Fire Safe Council.

Caretaker and long time member, Ken Symington, gave an historical overview of the Nature Friends hiking and environmental community from its beginning in Austria and later spread to the United States. Sierra Madre has one of three remaining clubhouses in the United States, all of which are in California. After dinner, an evening program concluded the first day with a slide presentation of the 2006 National Convention in Pittsburgh.

The conference continued the next day with a visit to two of Sierra Madre's historical venues, as it is the practice of the organization to end with a local tour.

Terry Terrell, of the Big Santa Anita Cabin Owners Association, gave a slide presentation at Lizzy's Trail Inn, entitled: Trails, Tall Tales and Timber. Additionally several local docents came to guide the participants through the archives. From there, the tour continued to the ranch of E. Waldo Ward and Son. Jeff Ward, a fourth generation owner, took the group through the ranch from the gift shop, to the kitchen where his father Richard was cooking up a batch of preserved fruit for an order, then on to the bottling, labeling, and packing.

The final activity was the board meeting during lunch at The Only Place in Town. J. Lopez thanked the presenters with a copy of The Society of American Foresters publication "The Greatest Good. 100 Years of Forestry in America."



BICYCLE (continued from page 5)

Friday Shorts: Reel of Bicycle Shorts with *Return of the Scorchers*

This half-hour documentary looks at bike culture around the world, with inspiring scenes filmed in China, The Netherlands, Denmark, and the U.S. In the 1890's, before automobiles, bicyclists were referred to as "Scorchers" because of their blazing speed. A century later, in a world filled with cars, *Return of the Scorchers* discovers an inspired and evolving bicycling renaissance. 28 minutes. Also includes *Nasu: Summer in Andalusia*, the first Japanese anime film to be selected for the Cannes Film Festival. Pepe is competing in an multi-stage cycling race through Spain. But in a turn of fortune, he abandons his assigned role to assist the team's top rider and strives for his own glory. 47 minutes

Saturday Feature: 2 Seconds

Champion mountain bike racer Laurie hesitates at the starting gate, and it costs her the race. Forced into retirement, she takes a job as a bike messenger. By chance, she meets Lorenzo, a cantankerous bike shop owner and former champion himself. Their love of cycling draws them together in spite of initial clashes. One night, they face each other in an unusual duel. 105 minutes.

C.I.C.L.E. is a non profit group that seeks to promote the bicycle as a viable and sustainable choice for everyday transportation. Educating people about how the bicycle can function as an easy, effective, non-polluting, accessible, and community-friendly way to get around. For more information, please go to www.BikeNow.org or call (323) 478-0060



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

Winning Band -The Skatom Bombs

The Skatom Bombs just won first place in the Battle of the Bands at Westridge School

This is Julian Honowitz - trumpet player from The Skatom Bombs. I love performing it is a lot of fun. It makes it worth all the hard hours of practicing and fighting over songs, to see a group of people dance around in a circle to our songs. We have been together since November, 2006. Bailey, Ben and I have wanted to start a ska band for a number of years now, and once I went to PHS I was able to see the friends we needed in order to form this ska band. We seem to be doing alright and we can only hope that our success doesn't stop here but keeps going. As long as we are such a close knit group of friends I do believe we can achieve many more things. If anybody wants information on any upcoming shows they should check us out on myspace. Thanks.



Hi! O.K., we are a ska band which is basically like a rock/reggae band with wind instruments incorporated. The members are: Julian Honowitz - trumpet; Allan Broslawsky - Saxophone; Craig Petersen - Guitar; Bailey Woolsey - guitar; Karl Soelter - drums; Ben Spiegel - bass; and Juan Ashton - vocals. We've played several shows so far and won two Battle of the Bands - Arcadia and Westridge. We got started when Julian, Ben, and Bailey decided they wanted to form

a ska band and then Julian "recruited" Allan, Craig, Juan, and I (Karl). We have 4 original songs with at least 2 more in the works and more to come after that. Our songs are: Messed It Up = about how Bailey messes everything up with a focus on a particular incident in which he broke Allan's amp. Wicked Witch of the West = about Juan's ex-girlfriend. Anti-Emo Song = about our dislike of the new emo style of music and asking the question "why can't you be happy too?" Black Diamond = about snowboarding/skiing and how much of a rush it is to "Fly down the mountain." We also learned several covers: The Impression That I Get by The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, My Town by Buck-O-Nine, Two-Tone Army by The Toasters... Usually before we play My Town, our bass player goes up and says something to the effect of "this song is for all of you who are in your hometown and for all of you who miss it if you aren't" because he said this at our first show. Our Myspace address is www.myspace.com/theskatombombs but if you go there, be warned that the recordings are horrible and don't really represent how we sound live. Sincerely, Karl Soelter



My name is Ben from a Pasadena Ska band "The Skatom Bombs." Together since November in your friendly hometown Pasadena, The Skatom Bombs consist of 7 ska friends who are in love with the musical sensation that is ska. Having 2 guitarists, 1 trumpeter, 1 saxophone, a bass, drummer and a singer. They bring a unique sound that you can't describe as anything but the simple 3-letter word S-K-A. Some key influences are reel big fish, the toasters, buck-o-nine, operation ivy, bob marley, mighty mighty bosstones, and sublime. Peace! Ben

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Getting Into College

By Grace Persico

It's no secret how hard it is to get into college. Students do whatever they can to be accepted into the competitive world of higher education.

Whether it's taking AP classes or being captain of three or four sports teams at once. And lately, more than ever before students have been filling out those applications and waiting breathlessly by the mailbox to see where they will end up for the next several years of their lives. This year, the admissions offices at Harvard University, Princeton University, Brown University, and Cornell University all reported that the applicant pools were higher than they had been in previous years. Columbia University had more applicants for the 2007-2008 school year than any other year in the school's history.

These statistics all reflect the growing desire of students to move onto college and to become better prepared for the working world. As a sophomore in high school, I know exactly how scary and nerve-racking thinking about college can be. The pressure is extreme and everyone from teachers to students feels it.

Pasadena High School (PHS) Freshman Asya Hollins is already thinking about college, "I'm probably going to stay in California," she says, "Cal Poly or UC Davis for design or architecture."

Samantha Baskin, a PHS sophomore, plans to go to PCC to start off and eventually end up a nutritionist, whereas senior Veronica Burnett has been accepted to the University of California at San Diego where she plans to study physics. Some students still don't know what they want to end

up doing for the rest of their lives, "My parents want me to be a doctor or a lawyer. Something that will give me financial security," Guillermina Nava, and tenth grader at PHS says. "But I don't want to do either."

Not everybody knows what they want to pursue as a career, however all students have their own worries about being accepted to college. Some worry about grades and SATs, others about extra curriculars, and others think they're just not cut out for the college world. "I don't know if I'm going to be able to get in," eleventh grade Caitly Ballister worries, "It's hard to motivate myself."

So what can students do to ease there frazzled nerves? Teachers all seem to agree that every grade counts, so as long as you're focused from day one, you shouldn't worry. Knowing what kinds of colleges you want to apply to is also important.

"Visit colleges they want to go to and meet with counselors," Ms. Hernandez, a tenth grade language teacher advises.

"Improve your GPA, take AP classes, and join clubs," said Mr. Goodman, the tenth grade AP European history teacher.

"Make sure you know you want to go to college," said Ms. Newton, a freshman English teacher. "It's really easy to lose track of that goal."



Blair IB Magnet Music Department presents

OVATIONS

May 10 11 12, 2007 Thursday Friday Saturday 7:30pm Saturday Matinee 2:30pm
Pasadena City College - Sierra Madre Room 4120 East Colorado Blvd.
Respected heads from
Phonics at the Opera - The Wiz - 42nd Street - Hair - Pajama Game - Solid Gold 1971
General Tickets \$16 Students \$5 2 & Under Free
To order tickets please call www.blairmagnet.org or call 626-442-2200 ext. 101
Program sponsored by the Blair Music, Drama and Arts Education (BMAE) and Blair School

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Classes from the 40's Reunion

May 19th, 2007 11:30am - 5:00pm
Cost is \$30.93 per person
R.S.V.P. Louise Knight (Edwards) 626-351-9368
(Cut-off date May 1, 2007)



St. Rita School Parents prepare for Casino Night and Silent Auction This Saturday!

Kindergarten Moms (from L.) Nancy Clark, Cheryl Daly Allen, Kaylyn Le Veque, Nancy Tupya and Suzy Rettig and with new daughter, Holly, prepare the fabulous silent auction goodies from numerous local businesses and services to be included in the evening's festivities this **Saturday, May 5** at St. Rita's, 322 N. Baldwin, Sierra Madre.

Last minute tickets are still available at \$50, by calling Christen McKiernan at 626-355-4208.

Open House at Bethany Christian

Thursday May 10, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Book Fair offers reading options for the entire family.
Judging for the junior high Science Fair will occur during the Open House and all projects will be on display.

This is an excellent opportunity for prospective parents to visit the campus, meet with teachers and enjoy interacting with other parents and students.

Bethany Christian School
93 N. Baldwin Ave.
Contact Amber Ryan (626) 355-3527 x1652

TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS

Sho Gun Restaurant



To coin the old Beach Boys song, The Sho Gun Restaurant in Hasting Ranch is "Fun, Fun, Fun" and let me add Fun! It is a Japanese Teppanyaki-Style Restaurant. What is Teppanyaki? Teppan means Iron Grill. If you are a seafood or meat lover Sho Gun Japanese Restaurant offers everything to satisfy all the members of your group.

At Sho Gun you are seated around the Grill like a horseshoe, with the chef in the center leading the show. The chefs wear tall hats and cook the food right in front of you with spatulas and knives swirling about. These chefs more than just flippyour food around. Whole onions are swiftly sliced and made into a volcano with the steam coming out of

the top, then with a sound of a choo-choo train as the chef pushes the volcano along the tracks with flashing lights accompanying the movement. It's almost dinner theatre, and always a fun experience for kids. I recommend bringing a group of friends to join you in the party atmosphere. Two reasons: It makes the experience more delightful, plus if you're the shy type you will be with other customers in a setting where making new friends is fun. The menu offers shrimp, New York Steak, Chicken, Lobster and my buddy Kirk's favorite the Salmon (\$22.50).

Sho Gun isn't cheap. Heck, with all the lights, grills and chefs the overhead must be enormous. Prices range from \$16.95 to \$39.95. My favorite is the Mikado (Filet Mignon and Lobster \$31.50) and The Ninja with Crab Legs for (\$34.95). There is a child's menu in the \$10 range.

The lunch menu is a bit more reasonable in price and offers pretty much the same menu. There is a small but serviceable Sushi Bar and adjacent seating for those who want a nice quiet evening. But Why? The action is in the Main Room!

Suggestion: A great place for a party, if it's your birthday, they put a funny hat on you and all the servers sing to you with one clapping on a tambourine.

Avoid: Make sure you make reservations, the weekends are very busy. Most of the chefs are very talented; however they won't let you pick your server or chef. I wish they would. The Mai Tai's need a little improvement, but they have a full bar and a good Sake selection.

Sho Gun is located at 470 Halstead Pasadena, Full Bar (626) 351-8945 Lunch and Dinner. Please go to their website www.restaurantshogun.com for updated prices and menu.

*** Three Stars

The Rating Criteria:

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

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

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

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

Watch Peter Dills every Sunday Night at 8 PM on KJLA TV... Right after Race Replays from Santa Anita. E-mail Peter at chilipete@aol.com



What's New For You At www.mtwilsonobserver.com

Got A Favorite Restaurant or Chef? Tell Peter Dills

A to Z One Stop Home Improvement
Free In-Home Estimate

Spring Remodel
Kitchen Cabinets
Granite Counters
up to 20 linear ft.
\$5,895

Carpets
Hardwood
Floors
BLINDS
Shutters
Hunter Douglas
Low Priced

941 1/2 W. Foothill Blvd. Call Now!
Monrovia 626-357-9997

LOFT ONE-22
HAIR DESIGNS

122 North Baldwin, Sierra Madre

SHERI SEMIEN (626) 394-6691
HAIR DESIGNS & FACIALWAXING

CORINA GARCIA (909) 908-4254
HAIR DESIGNER/MAKE-UP ARTIST

\$10 off if you mention this ad

Sandberg Design

Annika Sandberg
Interior Designer
FIDELIA Certified

390 N Baldwin Ave
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
Cell: (626) 818-6872
Office/Fax: (626) 355-4207
asandberg@sandbergdesign.com

www.sandbergdesign.com

Winifred R. Harris'
Between Lines
A Contemporary Modern
Dance Company



Friday & Saturday May 11 & 12, 8pm
The World Premier of *And Then Again*
Sunday May 13, 3pm
The Los Angeles Premier of *Joy Comes in the Morning*



Ivar Theater
1605 N. Ivar Ave
Hollywood, CA 90028
\$25 or \$15 (with student ID)
To Reserve Tickets:
(310) 313-1647



Yoga Madre
Yoga Studio
and Wellness Center

Classes for all levels

626.303.1004
www.yogamadre.com

300 E. Foothill Blvd • Arcadia, CA 91006

**EAST PASADENA
SHADE CO.**

SINCE 1965

**CUSTOM WINDOW
TREATMENTS**

- DRAPERIES
- MINI-BLINDS
- ROMAN SHADES
- WOOD BLINDS

626-793-9101

WE MOVED

2548 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107

Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

From Oz to Gliese 581



Photo by Jean Boenisch

NEW WORLDS—NOT TO CONQUOR BUT TO APPRECIATE — Ever since there have been humans, they seem to have been busy exploring new worlds. When early man left Africa to gradually settle throughout Europe and Asia—finally venturing across



Photo Courtesy of ESO

the Bering Strait into America—it was very likely sheer hunger that drove him to keep looking over the horizon, but might there not have been some deep innate curiosity as well? In any case, the urge to explore new worlds, whether real or imaginary, seems to be a strong trait of present-day humans. For example, in the year 1900, when nearly all of this Earth's territory had been explored, L. Frank Baum published a book about a "world" far beyond any earthly horizon. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, first conceived as a bedtime story for Baum's children and written for youngsters, was an instant success, attracting young and adult readers alike, and within two years a stage musical extravaganza had been produced (with Baum himself writing the lyrics). Bowing to popular demand, Baum ended up writing another thirteen books about Oz, and twenty-six additional Oz books were written by other authors after his death. In 1939, Hollywood boosted the reputation of this wonderful fantasy with an early Technicolor film starring Judy Garland, which has become more famous than the book itself (although MGM lost \$1 million on it.)

After I heard that *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* had been chosen as Sierra Madre's "One Book, One City" selection for Centennial 2007, I re-read it myself, for the first time since the age of six. Comparing it to the movie, which I have seen many times in holiday TV reruns, I was struck by the book's added depth. The characters seem more complex, less simplistic (though the book's Dorothy can't quite measure up to Judy Garland's in comparable charm). And I thought a central point was brought out better in the book—namely, that the scarecrow already had an abundance of intelligence, the tin woodman an uncommon amount of heartfelt compassion, and the lion all the courage he needed. (All the wizard needed to do was convince them that they had it.)

As I mentally compared the book to the movie version, I also found that, wonderful as that MGM film is, its imagery is not as rich as what I envision in my mind's eye as I read the book. Actually I almost always find it a bit disappointing to watch a movie version of a book I have read and loved. I am reminded of what someone said when

asked why he preferred hearing radio plays to watching TV dramas: "The pictures are better."

Encouraged perhaps by a century of other-worldly fiction—especially sci-fi explorations like *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Star Wars*, and *Star Trek*—astronomers have lately been making the search for other worlds a major focus of their work. The latest discovery, announced April 25, tops everything heretofore seen: an Earth-like planet with a radius only 50% larger than the Earth's, and possibly having liquid water on its surface. This planet's host star, called Gliese 581, has only one-third the mass of the Sun and gives off much less heat. If the planet were as far from its star as Earth is from the Sun, it would be very cold. However, it is 14 times closer to its star, giving the planet enough heat to keep water from freezing.

Gliese 581 is relatively close to us, as stars go—20.5 light-years away. Since a light-year equals about 6 trillion miles, that's a little far to get to anytime soon, but close enough to get good information with today's telescopes. In case you're wondering just where, in the sky, this potential abode of life is, look for the constellation of Libra. Just now, it rises in the southeast at about 10:00 p.m.

The team that found the new planet, composed of Swiss, French, and Portuguese astronomers, used the European Southern Observatory's 3.6-meter telescope at La Silla, Chile. To detect planets like this, astronomers typically watch for a slight movement of the star toward and away from the observer (called radial velocity) caused by the planet's gravitational tug on its parent star. The Gliese 581 discovery was made using an extremely precise spectrograph, called HARPS (High Accuracy Radial Velocity for Planetary Searcher), which is able to measure radial velocities with a precision better than one meter per second.

If Gliese 581's planet was hard to find, what would it take to discover and reach a whole other universe—like Oz? Dorothy was transported there by tornado (a bit like a "black hole," in astronomical terms), but how could the rest of us get there? Easier than you think. You don't even need to leave your home town, because Oz is coming to Sierra Madre.

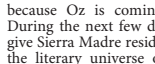


Photo Courtesy of ESO

During the next few days, events here will give Sierra Madre residents a rare peek into the literary universe of Oz, from several perspectives:

- Friday, May 4, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Park Bandshell: Wizard of Oz Costume Party for all ages.
- Saturday, May 5, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Sierra Madre Library: "Read-A-Thon"—A public read-through of the book. To sign up to participate, please call the Library at (626) 355-7186.
- Sunday, May 6, 7:00 p.m. at the Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.: "Raising a Little More Hell: Politics in the Land of Oz"—A talk and discussion on historical aspects of the book, led by John Lloyd, Department of History at Cal Poly Pomona.
- Thursday, May 10, 7:00 p.m., at the Sierra Madre Library: "The Wizard Unveiled: Who's Really Behind the Curtain"—A panel discussion with Kent Baxter and Jackie Stallcup from the English Department at Cal State Northridge; and James Kincaid from the English Department at USC.
- Sunday, May 13, 6:30 p.m., at the Sierra Madre School Auditorium, 141 Highland Ave.: "The Journey to Oz," a "Movie Talk" by Leo Braudy, Professor of English, USC. The movie will be shown after the talk, at 7:00 p.m.

These free events are part of Sierra Madre's Centennial "One Book, One City 2007" program. For more information, see www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call (626) 355-7186.

WorkForce with Madeline

Q: Recently, I've come across several interesting job advertisements. The problem is that for some I don't have all the qualifications mentioned. Should I bother applying to these?

A: It all depends on what the advertisement is asking for. If the description calls for someone skilled in the use of PowerPoint and you have no knowledge of this program, then your chances of landing that job are just about zero.

If the hiring company wants someone with a background of 5 years and you have 4, then by all means apply. The quality of your current contributions might exceed an applicant with more years of experience. Of course, ads generally ask for competence in a particular field. Suppose the position is in construction and you have no formal employment in this area. There are ways you might be able to get around this. Perhaps you have renovated your kitchen by yourself, put in a new bathroom, installed outdoor concrete steps and so on. These types of activities could possibly serve as a substitute. Be prepared to show photos of your accomplishments. You might also want to get a reference from a neighbor regarding the quality of your work.

Maybe the job calls for working with the elderly in a recreational capacity. Again, although you might have no job experience, you could say that you have accompanied your grandparents to numerous social activities at a senior citizens center and have helped with some of the center's events. This combined with your creativity might entice the recruiter to make an appointment with you for an interview. Ask the social director at the center to write you a letter explaining how you have been involved in their program.

The key is to be reasonable about your chances of getting that job. According to Robert Half International, the world's largest staffing firm, "Take a close look at the job description and compare your skills and experience with those required for the position. Sometimes it's possible to make up for gaps if you excel in other areas."

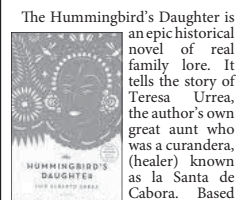
Direct your questions to Madeline at comptype2@aol.com or 888-489-8372 (8 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Friday).

BiblioFile

with Jeff Brown

Hummingbird's Daughter

By Luis Alberto Urrea



The Hummingbird's Daughter is an epic historical novel of real family lore. It tells the story of Teresa Urrea, the author's own great aunt who was a curandera, (healer) known as la Santa de Cabora. Based on over twenty years of research and interviews, this is a well written highly descriptive story about a young woman's life that blends the traditions of hacienda-owning Christian Mexico and Indian Mexico. It is full of rich land owners, peasants, outlaws and cowboys, ancient wisdom, and Christianity. The prose is a combination of magical realism and a reporter's eye with extensive historical investigation. You feel like you are there.

In 1873 in the harsh yet thriving landscape of Mexico, Cayetana, a poor and unmarried Yaqui girl of 14, nicknamed The Hummingbird, gives birth to a daughter, Teresita. She abandoned her daughter to her sister but Teresita eventually wanders into Don Tomás Urrea's life, a prosperous rancher near the Mexico-Arizona border, who is her real father.

The young girl, very bright and inquisitive, is given over to the care of Huila, a local resident midwife, and mystical healer. Huila notices that Teresita resembles the Urrea family and also has the power to heal. Don Tomás eventually owns

up to his paternity and determines to make a lady out of his daughter. As Teresita grows she exhibits mystical powers greater than those of Huila. She becomes widely known as a faith healer and finally a threat to a ruthless government. Then one day, when Teresita goes out to the fields, she is beaten, raped, and dies. But on the third day, at the end of burial preparations, in the midst of five grieving women, Teresita wakes up. The city is full of the news of this miracle. With her resurrection she has greater healing powers and fame. The Yaquis, other native tribes, mestizos (mixed race), and even Americans, make pilgrimages to the Urrea hacienda. Now known as St. Teresita, a mestiza Joan of Arc, she ignites in the people a powerful faith in God and a dangerous thirst for revolution.

Along with the beauty, magic and passion of Teresita, Urrea also shows us Mexico's mixture of warmth and harshness through many examples, creating a strong sense of place. Mexico becomes one of the book's major characters, the people, its history, its grittiness and unforgiving climate, along with the historical realities of war, poverty, and genocide.

Luis Urrea is the author of ten books. *The Hummingbird's Daughter* was the winner of the Kiriyama Prize and is considered his best work. Teresita is buried in a small town in eastern Arizona.

For comments and recommendations email me at mtbiblio@yahoo.com

PASADENA WOOD FLOORS

Large Selection of:

- Factory Finished
- Unfinished • Solid
- Engineered Floors

Visit Our Showroom

• Sales • Installation

• Refinishing

• Maintenance & Cleaning Supplies

www.pasadena-woodfloors.com

2840 E. Foothill Bl. • Pasadena

Free Estimates

626 793-3629

Residential Commercial

Jim's Window Cleaning

Time to get your

WINDOWS CLEANED

Screens & Sills FREE

Attordable rates and free estimates

All work guaranteed

626.232.6603

Call 818.554.0371

10% off with this Ad

www.mtwilsonobserver.com



One of a Kind:

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

Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand
Tudor in "The Woods"



Just off Orange Grove lies a manicured neighborhood developed in the 1980's called "The Woods." The large cul de sac of homes was constructed by numerous, different local contractors. This street of custom homes avoids that cookie cutter appearance that often detracts from the most beautiful of production homes in tracts.

In the three years since they purchased the home, the current owners dedicated themselves to an incredible update and remodel. The home had apparently seen lively use, and was ready for a real facelift. After all this dedication to creating a real dream home, a new job calls them away from Sierra Madre. The term turnkey is often bandied about in real estate circles, but the phrase truly applies here. Everywhere you look, even the small details have been thoughtfully, meticulously and artistically addressed. For instance, the owners thought a handrail for the guest suite's outdoor access could also be a piece of art. So they had a wrought iron handrail interwoven with vines designed.

The wide stance of the homes on Windwood creates expansive front yards, and this one offers lush landscape by noted landscape designer, Phyllis Snyder, full of flowering perennials, rose and herb gardens, mature trees and visually interesting hardscape. A very fitting framework complementary to the home's Tudor design. The three car garage is hidden from view with a side access, to preserve the architectural presentation from the street.

Seven windows with diamond pattern, leaded and beveled glass create a dramatic statement both outside and in. Once inside, the home abounds with elegant, traditional features. Intricate millwork makes every room different, with open beam, family room ceilings; inset ceilings with crown molding in the living room, coved ceilings in the dining room and master suite, a gracious staircase and overlook gallery with turned spindles, and wainscot in the foyer. Extensive hardwood flooring, in a warm finish, was expanded in the remodel to unify the main level living spaces.

While the presentation may be traditional, technological updating has been tastefully

addressed. The remodeled kitchen will certainly delight the most discerning chef. Surrounded by maple cabinetry and Francisco Verde slab granite, top of the line appliances include Wolf, Miele and Sub Zero. The family room built-ins were beautifully reconfigured to accommodate today's large televisions.

It's a gracious home, easily offering privacy for all. All four bedrooms are suites, with private baths, including a main floor bedroom perfect for guests or live-ins. The huge, 600 square foot master bedroom suite includes a raised home office or retreat, a balcony with mountain views and an elegant bath with dual sinks and closets.

Snyder divided the exterior back spaces into four stunning outdoor rooms: the pool and its gardens; the brick dining patio with gas fireplace, barbecue station and large seating area; the Japanese garden with pond and waterfall; plus, of course an English garden with fabulous roses and even a old-fashioned ball and chain gate closer!

206 Windwood is offered at \$2,224,000 by Emily Duggan of Century 21 Village, Sierra Madre. Contact her at 626-695-1206.

Back Yard from Above: Snyder divided the back yard into four outdoor rooms.



Have an interesting idea for a story? Please contact Chris Bertrand at C.Bertrand@TheMtWilsonObserver.com

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

Purses: A Genetic Affliction

I don't think there is a woman alive who doesn't carry a purse, including the Queen of England. What she needs one for is a question I have pondered many times. She certainly doesn't need cash or credit cards, and they seem rather large to just be carrying a handkerchief and lipstick. Maybe all of her terrific hats automatically come with handbags and her ensemble wouldn't be complete without one. Her arm is always crooked in the same position (it seems inherent), so maybe it's just an obvious place for her "people" to hang one. That makes sense.

The average woman, I would venture to guess, carries entirely more than they actually need in their purses. I know I certainly do. I did an inventory of my own bag: wallet, separate coin purse, make-up bag (they get larger as I get older), pens, lots of pens, mini-photo-album, a bottle of water, a package of tissues, keys, small notebook, and a tape measure. Good grief! I have lots of handbags, but rarely change them around. I now know why...it would take entirely too long and I would be late for every appointment.

Many years ago, Art Linkletter had a television show called "House Party." On occasion, he would go out into the audience and pick a woman at random and go through her purse. It was very amusing for the audience, with the exception of the woman whose bag's contents were being shown for the entire world to see. You could tell her face was red even though the show was in black and white. It might be a frightening thing to do today, as times and circumstances are so different. I don't even want to think about what Art might find.

It's no wonder that many older women walk with one shoulder noticeably lower than the other. It's from years of carrying purses of varying sizes and contents. Some women, however, have actually gotten out of the purse habit and moved on to the ever-so-becoming fanny pack. I think "fanny" is a misnomer because every one that I see is right around the wearer's usually ample waistline. An area of the body that would be better served if kept under wraps (pun intended).

Bottom line...I think carrying purses is a genetic affliction. I bet Eve even had one made from fig leaves. What do you think?



Remember Mom on Mother's Day May 13th

Cakes * Quiches * Croissants

328 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA.

Tel: (626) 355-9000 Fax: (626) 355-9900

YOUTH Needed to Serve on the Community Services Commission.

Interested in local City Government?

Volunteer to sit as the youth member of the Sierra Madre Community Services Commission, an advisory team to the Sierra Madre City Council. It meets once a month on the 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

As a member, you would serve as a communication link between the community, City Council and the Community and Personnel Services Director regarding recreation and community service items.

Serving as a youth commissioner is a one year commitment from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Work on the City's Youth Master Plan.

For more information, please contact Michelle Keith at the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-7135.



One-Man Painting Company

Residential Interior/Exterior

- Professional
- Reliable
- Reasonable

"I do the work myself
and pass the savings on to you!"
"Why? I love to paint!"

-References Available-
(626) 230-0441

Folk dances and songs from south and central American countries and around the world, games and rhymes in Spanish and Portuguese -

for 1st through 6th grade students.

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

The Young Musicians Summer Camp

July 16 to 27

Monday through Friday, 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pasadena Conservatory of Music,

100 N. Hill Avenue, Pasadena.

Fee: \$350.00

For information, email the Conservatory at music@pasadenaconservatory.org or

call 626-683-3355

La Bella Rouge

Women's Clothing,
Jewelry and Gifts

by

Heather Sheets Ann Renken
Anne Kutzow

34 N. Baldwin Avenue
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
ph: 626-355-1427
fax: 626-355-0932

LINDSEY'S

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Mark Lindsey

626-794-1191

626-446-2754

333 N. Santa Anita Ave. #16 Arcadia, CA 91006 Lic. #633543



REFLEXOLOGY CAN HELP!
REDUCE STRESS,
PROMOTE NATURAL HEALING,
BALANCE ENERGY,
STIMULATE CIRCULATION,
RELIEVE PAIN, REDUCE SWELLING,
FEEL HEALTHIER!

For Greater Relief:
MYOFASCIAL BACK & NECK RELEASE
-with REFLEXOLOGY COMBO
(IT WORKS GREAT!)

located in Sierra Madre
(626) 355-2414

-GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE-
ONLINE REFLEXOLOGY SCHEDULE

FOOTSMARTS



REFLEXOLOGY

(626) 355-3818

Despina Arzoumanian

certified reflexologist

www.footsmarts-reflexology.com

CLASSIFIEDS

APARTMENT
FOR RENT
Sierra Madre
2BR Luxury
Apartment
Garden Setting
Spacious and
Quiet
Pool/AC/Laundry
\$1450
Call 355-5072

HOUSE
RENTAL
NEEDED!!
Responsible
Single Male

Call Joe
626-354-3093

SPORTS

Community Steps Up to the Plate for Public Schools

From Pasadena Now



Pasadena Schools Chief Edwin Diaz is ready to roll.

Sixteen community teams competed on April 28 in the Pasadena Educational Foundation's third annual Going to Bat for Our Kids, a city-wide softball tournament which supports public education and raises money for school athletic programs.

The day's opening pitch was thrown to PUSD Superintendent Edwin Diaz by former Dodger pitcher and local resident Jim Gott (who once said, "My earned run average is so high it looks like an AM radio station.")

In the end it was defending champions Trader Joe's putting in a strong repeat performance to come out on top; the second place team combined players from Leadership Pasadena and Pasadena Forward. Of course, the real winners are the PUSD students who benefit from the support.

Among the other teams participating were Guidance Software, California Credit Union, IndyMac Bank, Casa de las Amigas, Pasadena Water & Power, the Pasadena Fire Department, the Pasadena Police Department, City of Pasadena, Parsons, Tournament of Roses, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association and PUSD Teachers.

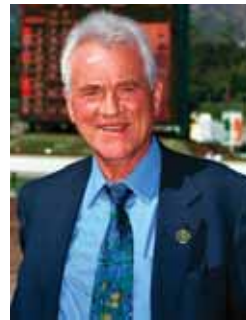
Home run sponsors include West Coast Sports Management and Tournament of Roses.

The tournament's sponsor is Pasadena Educational Foundation, a non profit organization whose mission is to support educational programs, students and teachers of the Pasadena Unified School District.



The Pasadena Team

Keeping Track of Franz Stronach



World War II. He emigrated to Canada as a young man and became one of that country's richest men.

He is founder and chairman of Magna International Inc., one of the world's largest and most diversified suppliers of automotive components, systems and modules.

He also is the founder and chairman of Magna Entertainment Inc., North America's largest owner and operator of horse tracks. Since taking over Santa Anita, he has acquired Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach, Fla., Laurel Park in Maryland, and numerous other properties.

By Larry Bortstein

I thought I was getting a major scoop when I first met Frank Stronach on Nov. 7, 1998.

He was in the directors' room at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky., the day of the 15th Breeders' Cup and rumors had been circulating for weeks that this Canadian auto parts manufacturer was negotiating to buy Santa Anita Park.

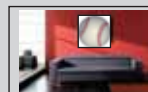
Stronach was already a noted figure in thoroughbred racing, as an owner of several top horses, but owning and operating tracks was not yet a part of his resume.

In his post-Classic press conference interview with dozens of media members, he not only discussed Awesome Again, but told everyone about his plans to buy Santa Anita.

Born Franz Strosback 74 years ago into a working-class family in Kleinsemmern, Austria, the man's childhood was marked by the Depression and

His Adena Springs farms in Florida, Kentucky and Canada have produced hundreds of thoroughbreds that have won many of the world's richest races. In 2006, 171 horses he bred won a combined 507 races for \$13,077,535, double his nearest rival, and he won the Eclipse Award as North America's leading breeder for the fourth consecutive year.

Stronach created the Sunshine Millions, an eight-race series patterned after the Breeders' Cup, but limited to horses bred in California and Florida and contested at Santa Anita and Gulfstream Park.



View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

The Real Greatest Shoppers

The news media tells us that pubescent youngsters, girls in particular, spend millions of dollars each year. The joke around our house is there is a race between mom and the unemployed teenager to see who has the latest and most up-to-date electronic device, or the most shoes in their closet, moms are heels, his tennis shoes. By my count I think the teenager may have it over mom with his tennis shoes which cost more than any of my shoes.

However I am here today to let you know that these groups, the pubescent girl, moms and all teenagers have been

cast incorrectly as the world's greatest shoppers. There is a group of people young and old, male and female, rich or poor that take shopping to a new level. Unlike the other groups these shoppers are specialists, they make my teenage son with his tennis shoe obsession look like a rank amateur.

Who are these people you ask? They are the weekend golfer always looking for some device, club, or ball that will enhance their ability to get a lower score. Believe me the golf equipment manufacturing companies know what suckers we are for a few strokes off the handicap. Late last year and the early part of this year the buzz was that there was about to be a new kid on the

block - the square driver. The hackers were told that we would be able to hit it straighter and longer. Do you have any idea what ten yards off the tee in the fairway is worth?

Therein was my dilemma how could I spend that amount of money, even with the trade in I would get from my less-than-a-year-old \$400 composite driver? But I had to have it.

Greg has the Nike square driver and he is blowing the ball past me by a good thirty yards. The fact that Greg has always hit the ball longer than me does not enter into the equation at this point. Then, to add insult to injury, Cedric's children brought him the square Callaway, even Leo had some knock-off square head driver.

This past Sunday there I was in the trees on the left with my year-old driver, remembering that it did not make the ball go straight or long.

There is also the issue of the golf ball. Golf Balls can cost from \$19 a dozen to \$60 a dozen. It is a proven

fact that the sixty dollar a dozen ball plays better. The more expensive ball gets into the hole quicker, meaning fewer strokes for the golfer. Outside of the guys that I play with and myself I don't know who has proven that fact, but you can ask any of us, we know the more expensive ball is better, you need it.

So Monday, where was I - at my local golf store ready to buy that square head driver, and a dozen of those sixty dollar golf balls, so that my ball too would go longer and straighter.

Then I saw it - the triangle shaped driver oh my I've got to have it! With my triangle head driver and my sixty dollar a dozen golf balls I know next week I will not be paying - my buddies will owe me. I will be the big ten buck winner. And it will only cost me \$537, what a bargain.

When it comes to shopping the weekend hacker has it over everyone.

Tap 'N' Tile Inc.

Large Selection of Natural Stone Marble & Granite

Hand-Made Tiles • Mosaics • Terracottas

Fireplace Columns & Trims • Architectural Ornaments

Slab Fabrication

www.tapnfile.com

Open Monday-Friday 9am-6pm Saturday 9am-1pm

3191 E. Foothill Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107

(call Marco at 210 key go north left at Foothill)

(626) 405-0098

ED CLARE ELECTRICAL

CLAREELECTRICAL.COM

ED CLARE ELECTRICAL IN SIERRA MADRE PERSONALIZED AND QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1976

626 355-4424

SERVING YOU SINCE 1949

GEM PLUMBING

Locally Owned & Operated

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING SALES, SERVICE & INSTALLATION

We'll Do It All

COPPER RE-PIPS FAUCETS • LEAK DETECTION KITCHEN AND BATH REMODELS DRAIN AND SEWER CLEANING • WATER HEATERS • WE TACKLE OLD FIXTURES

ALL MAJOR BRANDS

Emergency Service Available

355-3496

148 E. Montecito, Sierra Madre

State Contractor Lic. # 111308