

# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Duarte Monrovia Pasadena Altadena South Pasadena San Marino

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023

VOLUME 17 NO. 06



the webb-martin group

**WILL THE 2023 HOUSING MARKET FAVOR BUYERS OR SELLERS? LET'S CHAT!**

**Single-Family Homes**

	2021	2022
Total # Sold:	138	92
Average Sold Price:	\$1,392,451	\$1,702,234
Average Sq. Ft.	2,026	2,254
Avg. Price Per Sq. Ft.	\$726	\$795

**Condo/Townhomes**

	2021	2022
Total # Sold:	21	19
Average Sold Price:	\$746,329	\$899,474
Average Sq. Ft.	1,466	1,484
Avg. Price Per Sq. Ft.	\$521	\$613

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lic #01943630

**Judy Webb-Martin**

626.688.2273  
lic #00541631

**Katie Orth**

626.688.0418  
lic #00942500



webbmartingroup.com

source: CoreLogic, Freddie Mac, Bankrate

**REFERENDUM NEGOTIATIONS FAIL - SPECIAL ELECTION CONFIRMED**

There will be a Special Election on May 9, 2023, where voters can decide whether or not to repeal Ordinance 1461 after the City Council reluctantly adopted four resolutions and agreed to pay approximately \$400,000 to make it happen. The unanimous decision was made during a Special Meeting on February 7, 2023.

The Special Election is the direct result of a proposed referendum summary brought by the Protect Sierra Madre PAC (PSMP), led by their Steering Committee member Barbara Velturo. The group obtained enough signatures to qualify to get their proposed repeal to a vote in an upcoming election. Mayor Edward Garcia certified those signatures on January 10, 2023.

Ordinance 1461 was approved and adopted by City Council on September 27, 2022, before the petition protesting the ordinance successfully suspended it on October 3, 2022. This action put the "The Meadows" project on ice, freezing the Zoning Map Amendment, the Specific Plan, and the Development Agreement, all initially approved by Ordinance 1461.

But, Resolution 22-58, which City Council adopted on September 20, 2022, was not included in the PAC's proposed referendum. This resolution approved a General Plan land use map amendment, approved a lot line adjustment, certified the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and approved the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for "The Meadows" at Bailey Canyon, located at 700 North Sunnyside Avenue.

The omission by the proponents of the referendum, gave NUW the opportunity to consider an alternative project to The Meadows". On December 20, 2022, NUW submitted a preliminary application for a 50-lot subdivision on the grounds at The Monastery. The new project would be larger, 50 homes rather than 42 and the 'perks' that would accompany The Meadows would no longer be available, such as a new park, conservation easements, \$983,500 for net zero water, and a \$250,000 donation to the new public safety building on Sierra Madre Blvd.. (See <http://mtvnews.com/v17/htm/n01/index.htm>). Further, Senate Bill (SB) 330, passed in 2019, "prevents local governments from downzoning unless they upzone an equivalent amount elsewhere within their boundaries. Suspends the enactment of local downzoning and housing construction moratoriums. Requires timely

processing of housing permits that follow zoning rules."

City Manager Jose Reynoso has had several separate interactions with NUW and Protect Sierra Madre as a mediator, with approximately 60 total interactions including in person meetings with the Protect Sierra Madre delegation and e-mail correspondence and telephone communications.

**"Misunderstandings" and "Half-Truths"**

The city received 47 e-mails for public comment on this topic and several more during the February 7 meeting. City Manager Reynoso stated there were "misunderstandings" and "half-truths" in those comments. During the special session, he and City Attorney Aleks Giragosian addressed some falsities. Reynoso said that a Fact Sheet would also be circulated to residents to clear up misconceptions. Here are a few questions addressed.

- 1. Why did the City Council put us in this position?** First, the city did not create this situation. City Staff, City Council, and Planning Commission negotiated and approved "The Meadows" project after years of community input and hearings. But, because the Protect Sierra Madre PAC pushed a referendum to repeal Ordinance 1461 after losing another effort to halt the project at the polls (Measure HR) and when they failed to include Resolution 22-58 in their referendum filings, this was the only reason the developers pursued the SB 330 project, according to Reynoso.
- 2. Why doesn't the city give the parties more time to negotiate?** The city sent a letter to Protect Sierra Madre attorneys on Dec 26, 2022, informing them of the SB 330 application and asking them to meet with the City Manager and withdraw their referendum. On January 3rd, City Attorney Giragosian received a response from the Protect Sierra Madre attorney, and conversations about withdrawal started taking place. Five weeks have passed, and Giragosian has not heard from their attorney. Protect Sierra Madre has asked for eight conditions, and the parties agreed upon five conditions and more. The conditions released at late Friday evening when it was apparent that the Protect Sierra Madre group was not going to withdraw the Referendum.
- 3. Why is the city going along with**

**NUW's election date?**

The City Council sets election dates. The county informed the city of an election on April 11, 2023. This would have saved the city thousands of dollars. NUW wanted the earliest date possible, which was April 11. City Council postponed the election to allow both parties time to negotiate in good faith. NUW offered June as the last month for negotiations, but after pressure from investors, it pushed the date forward to May. The city and NUW negotiated and agreed upon the May 9 date.

During the negotiations, based on documents received at press time, NUW and the city agreed to most of everything requested including paying PSMP's legal fees, but the offers were rejected. Sources have indicated that the legal fees, \$50,000 were rejected because PSMP did not want the developer to pay the fees, but rather the city should pay the legal bills..

After it became apparent that agreement would not be made by the deadline on Friday evening, City Council unanimously voted to adopt the following resolutions.

**RESOLUTION 23-15: A RESOLUTION CALLING AND GIVING NOTICE OF THE HOLDING OF A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 9, 2023, FOR REPEAL OF CITY COUNCIL ORDINANCE 1461, AS REQUIRED BY THE PROVISION OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RELATING TO GENERAL LAW CITIES;**

**RESOLUTION 23-16: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO RENDER SPECIFIED SERVICES TO THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 9, 2023;**

**RESOLUTION 23-17: A RESOLUTION SETTING PRIORITIES FOR FILING WRITTEN ARGUMENTS REGARDING A MEASURE AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE AN IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS;**

**AND RESOLUTION 23-18: A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE FILING OF REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS FOR BALLOT MEASURES SUBMITTED AT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will occur on Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

K. McGuire/MVNews

**SIERRA MADRE GAS LEAK AT THE HART PARK HOUSE**

Sierra Madre Fire Department was called out to the Hart Park House Senior Center on Thursday, February 9, 2023 for smell of natural gas.

City employees on-site immediately called 9-1-1 and cleared the building, which did not have any members of the public or programming during the time of the call.

City staff working in the Senior Center were evaluated and released.

SMFD confirmed a gas leak and gas was promptly shut-off to the building until the leak could be repaired by an independent contractor.

The leak has since been repaired and the building has been cleared to resume public access and programming.

The Hart Park House will re-open on Monday, February 13, 2023 for normal programming.

**WELCOME MERRY MAID (not Molly!)**

In last week's edition of the Mountain Views News, an error was made. While introducing Merry Maid Cleaning Business, the heading inadvertently called the company Molly Maids. Our sincere apologies to the proud new owners of your local Merry Maids cleaning business, servicing your homes with their hardworking team, and building lasting relationships!

Merry Maids  
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Sierra Madre

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**ABOVE & BEYOND**



In 2022, the CENTURY 21 brand continued to maintain the "highest brand awareness" level - a trend we have upheld since 1999.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH - WHY?**



Yesterday I was asked by a friend if I thought it was necessary to celebrate Black History Month (must be a really good friend to be comfortable to ask me that question). My response was simple. Yes! Now I do fully appreciate the need to celebrate the accomplishments of all of the cultures that have labored, sacrificed, and contributed to making the US the best place on earth (I still wholeheartedly believe that and I've almost been everywhere).

The absence of formalized recognition of other cultures and contributors, should not create a climate of anti-celebrations for groups that are represented.

Maybe one day there won't be a need to specifically celebrate the accomplishments of minorities and women. Maybe one day, there will no longer be the "first" of a specific group of people to accomplish great things.

Maybe one day, equality and fairness (I'm not talking about handouts, I'm referring to systems that truly allow everyone to work to create the future they desire) will become so normal that the conversations will become moot.

Maybe one day...But that is not today. So this month I celebrate the accomplishments of the Black men and women that came before us. the "firsts" if you will. I celebrate the future "Firsts" and the Last "firsts". I will also, as I always have, continue to learn about every culture, race, and nation-ality that has significantly contributed to the great experiment of America and abroad.

Love to all, respect to some, and prayers for everyone! Fred

**SPEAKING OF BLACK HISTORY**



On Sunday, February 12, 2023, another bit of Black History will be made. For the first time in the 57 Super Bowls, both teams will have an African American Quarterback. Pictured above are Eagles Quarterback (left) Jaylen Hurts and Kansas City Chiefs Quarterback Patrick Mahomes!

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**Happy February, the month of love,**  
when we celebrate that special person in our lives, as well as family & friends.

Who do I also love? My wonderful clients & helping them achieve their real estate goals and dreams.  
*Let me help you reach your real estate dreams.*

**Sandy Radey**  
CalBRE #00761367

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SIERRA MADRE WOMANS CLUB 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

**ST. PATTI'S DAY TOURNAMENT**

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023

**SANTA ANITA GOLF COURSE**  
Arcadia, Ca.

7:00 am Check In  
8:00 am Shotgun Start  
Lunch Immediately Following

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**WISTARIA FESTIVAL 2023**  
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# SIERRA MADRE

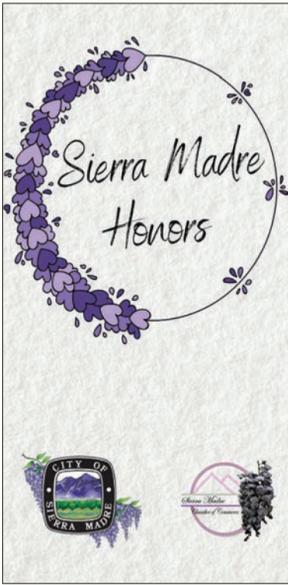
SIERRA MADRE

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MONROVIA



**CELEBRATING SIERRA MADRE'S MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE: OUR VOLUNTEERS**

**NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR:**

- Community Youth Service Award
- The George Maurer Lifetime Service Award
- Public Service Award (Exceptional City Employee)
- Public Safety Award
- Sierra Madre Citizen of the Year
- Sierra Madre Business of the Year

**AWARD RECIPIENTS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT A CEREMONY AT THE HART PARK HOUSE  
222 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD. ON  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

DEADLINE TO RSVP IS APRIL 14, 2023:  
(626) 999 - 3614 OR  
HONORS@CITYOFSIERRAMADRE.COM

Event jointly sponsored by the City of Sierra Madre and the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce

## WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

*"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." Charles M. Schulz*

*"Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, love, thou art every day my Valentine." Thomas Hood*

*"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage." Lao Tzu*

Valentine's Day is Tuesday and I hope all my readers are totally prepared with a card and/or some flowers. Possibly a dinner reservation, or maybe you're planning to cook your Valentine's favorite dish...something like a beautiful piece of salmon with some roasted veggies or a medium rare filet and a baked potato, followed by something chocolate and champagne. Thinking of chocolate and champagne makes me think about holding hands. And walking somewhere lovely with your Valentine. Sierra Madre abounds with lovely places to walk where there are trees and flowers and exquisite gardens. Walking and talking is a very romantic thing to do and might even lead to kisses...



Question for you: when, if ever, was the last time you read Elizabeth Barret Browning's famous sonnet, "How Do I Love Thee?" Probably not since you were in high school. In case you didn't know, "How Do I Love Thee?" is sonnet number 43 taken from Sonnets from the Portuguese, a book first published in 1850. It was dedicated to her husband, Robert Browning. Anyway, here it is and it's pretty nice:

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of being and ideal grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.  
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death."

I never said anything as poetic as that to my Valentine, the adorable, ever-patient, John, who is now residing in heaven where every day is Valentine's Day, and love abounds all over the place. No, I never quoted Elizabeth Barrett Browning to him, but I did write about love. I'm nowhere near as romantic as Elizabeth, but I wrote about love like this...

### "The Best of Marriage"

"Sometimes when you are gone, I sit at your desk and look out your window at the sky.  
And I think of you and how much I love you.  
So many years we've spent together, mostly sunny with just a little bit of rain.  
I treasure these years which have flown by us.  
I've grown to love you, respect you, admire you, need you more with each one.  
There is so much about you that makes me want to be the best that I can be.  
It makes me smile each time you walk into a room.  
How many thousands of times have I watched you enter the space where I am,  
And each time I feel pleasure, delight, at just the sight of you.  
You make me laugh; you make me think.  
You make me challenge myself, you make me want to be the best me I can be.  
You've even taught me to enjoy college football... Go Trojans!  
I love just to talk with you, to exchange the ordinary stuff our days are made of,  
Conversations that are the flour and salt of life.  
You are ever in my mind.  
You are the other half of my heart.  
You are, very simply, the one person selected by God to be my lover, my friend, my husband.  
I have known you for more than half my life. The best half.  
We have shared all there is in life:  
Joy, sorrow, laughter, tears, death, birth, pleasure, misery, poverty, not quite so poverty,  
Pride in our children, and absolute disgust with them,  
And always, always we have had each other to hold on to."

Sometime soon, if you haven't already done it, tell your special Valentine how much he or she means to you. Kisses and holding hands are good...maybe even better than chocolate. Even if you totally scoff at Valentine's Day, it's never too late to say I love you.

"One is loved because one is loved. No reason is needed for loving." Paulo Coelho  
"Love grows more tremendously full, swift, poignant, as the years multiply." Zane Grey

The picture today is the last Valentine's Day John and I spent together. We went to Sena in Monrovia and our waitperson said she wanted to take our picture. So she did and I shall be forever grateful for that moment of kindness.

In a world where you can be anything you want to be...Be KIND!

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis  
There are adventures galore available there:  
True tales of early California, a story about a well-traveled violin,  
Emma Gainsworth and her horrific encounters with pumpkins,  
So many Kindle stories to enjoy. Take a look!



## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

The following represents a summary report of some of the major incidents handled by the Sierra Madre Police Department during this period. This list is not intended to be considered exclusive or all-inclusive.

Sunday, January 29th  
Abandoned Vehicle

At approximately 6 AM, officers responded to Mt. Wilson Trail for reports of an abandoned vehicle on the trail path. After investigation, officers discovered a black pickup truck abandoned approximately 500 feet up the trail. Officers evacuated 2 homes below the trail as a precaution, due to the position of the truck. Jan's Towing Company, as well as Sierra Madre Fire Department personnel removed the vehicle from the trail. Both Jan's and the Fire personnel used multiple tow trucks, steel cables, and winches to get the truck off the trail. It took approximately 8 hours to get the truck removed from the trail. The registered owner was notified and the Detectives' Bureau is following up on this incident.

Monday, January 30th  
Traffic Collision

At approximately 12PM, officers responded to the area of Baldwin Ave, just south of Sierra Madre Blvd. for reports of a traffic collision. Upon arrival, officers discovered a traffic collision involving 3 vehicles. One of the involved parties complained of non-life threatening injuries and they were treated by Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedics. City of Sierra Madre Police Department  
242 West Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024-2312  
Telephone (626) 355-1414 Fax (626) 355-5468

Monday, January 30th  
Theft

At approximately 10 PM, officers responded to the 100 block of E Laurel Ave. for reports of a theft. The reporting party stated that unknown suspect(s) stole tools from the carport of their residence. The Detectives' Bureau is following up on this incident.

Tuesday, January 31st  
Vandalism

At approximately 7 PM, officers responded to the 700 block of W Alegira. for reports of a burglary in progress. Officers responded with their lights and sirens to the location, and contacted 3 males that were located on the property. After further investigation, it was discovered that the males were on the property to serve civil process papers to a resident at the address. In the process of serving, one of the males shattered an outdoor window. All individuals were released at the scene. The Detectives' Bureau is following up on this incident.

Saturday, February 4th

Theft from Motor Vehicle

At approximately 6 PM, officers responded to Bailey Canyon Park for reports of a theft from motor vehicle. The reporting party discovered that unknown suspect(s) made entry to their vehicle and stole their wallet, cell phone, and credit cards. The Detectives Bureau is following up on this incident.



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**Sierra Madre Kiwanis**

Creating life changing experiences for our Community Youth <https://sierramadrekiwanis.com>

Join Us For a Valentines Day, Lunch On Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
12:00 Noon at The Lodge  
33 W Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
R.S.V.P. 626-688-2273

## City of Sierra Madre

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

From: The City of Sierra Madre  
 Subject: TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP 22-02  
 Applicant: Eric Lin

Project Location: 182 South Baldwin Ave., in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California  
 The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the City Council will conduct a public hearing to consider a request to file a tentative parcel map to subdivide the existing 13,448-square-foot parcel for a (4) four-unit condominium. Pursuant to Sierra Madre Municipal Code Section 16.12.080, the city council shall hold a public hearing on the tentative map and shall approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove the tentative map. Any action taken by the city council shall be supported by the required findings set forth in Section 16.12.070. Action of the city council is final.

## DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre  
 City Council meeting  
 Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
 (Hearing begins at 5:30 p.m.)

## PLACE OF HEARING

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

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the City Council will hear them with respect thereto.  
 ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The project qualifies for Class 15 Categorical Exemption (Minor Land Division), pursuant to Section 15315 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

APPEAL: If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the City Council in court, one may be limited to raising the issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Planning and Community Preservation Department at 626-355-7138. (GOV. CODE SEC. 65009)

## City of Sierra Madre

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

From: The City of Sierra Madre

Subject: 1. MUNICIPAL CODE TEXT AMENDMENT 22-06 – ADU ORDINANCE UPDATE  
 2. MUNICIPAL CODE TEXT AMENDMENT 23-01 – GENERAL ORDINANCE CLEAN-UP

Applicant: City of Sierra Madre

Project Location: Properties in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California

1. The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider Municipal Code Text Amendment (MCTA 22-06), recommending for adoption by the City Council an Ordinance amending Chapter 17.22 (Accessory Dwelling Units) of Title 17 (Zoning) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code.

The purpose of this ordinance to update development standards for accessory dwelling units related to California state laws imposed by Assembly Bill 2221 and Senate Bills 897. The ordinance additionally provides information, clarification, and supplemental application review procedure with intent to enhance information available for the general public.

2. The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider Municipal Code Text Amendment (MCTA 23-01), recommending for adoption by the City Council an Ordinance amending Chapter 5.56 (Massage Therapy, Massage Business or Establishments) of Title 5 (Business Licenses and Regulations) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code; Chapter 7.08 (Pollutant Source Reduction) of Title 7 (Stormwater Pollutant Elimination) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code; Chapter 12.12 (Obstruction of Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places) of Title 12 (Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code; Chapter 15.04 (Building Code and Permits), Chapter 15.30 (Green Building Standards Code), Chapter 15.58 (Low Impact Development Plan) of Title 15 (Buildings and Construction) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code; Chapter 16.04 (General Provisions), Chapter 16.08 (Required Maps), Chapter 16.12 (Preliminary and Tentative Maps Filing and Review Procedures), Chapter 16.20 (Lot Line Adjustments), Chapter 16.24 (Merger of Parcels), Chapter 16.28 (Lot Combinations), Chapter 16.32 (Dedications, Improvements and Requirements), Chapter 16.36 (Condominium Conversions), Chapter 16.40 (Condominium Projects), Chapter 16.44 (Regulations for Dedication of Land for Park and Recreation Land), Chapter 16.52 (Vesting Tentative Maps) and Chapter 16.56 (Enforcement) of Title 16 (Subdivisions) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code; Chapter 17.08 (Definitions), Chapter 17.20 (R-1 One-Family Residential), Chapter 17.28 (R-3-13 Medium/High Density Residential Zone), Chapter 17.29 (R-3-20 and R-3-30 High Density Residential Zones), Chapter 17.30 (R-C Residential Canyon Zone), Chapter 17.36 (C Commercial Zone), Chapter 17.40 (M Manufacturing Zone), Chapter 17.42 (The British Home Specific Plan Overlay Zone), Chapter 17.48 (Development Standards), Chapter 17.52 (H Hillside Management Zone), Chapter 17.58 (Small Home Lot Development), Chapter 17.59 (Ministerial Design Review Permits), Chapter 17.60 (Variances and Discretionary Permits), Chapter 17.68 (Parking), Chapter 17.72 (Signs), Chapter 17.85 (Home Occupations), Chapter 17.88 (Temporary Use Permits) and Chapter 17.90 (Art in Public Places Program) of Title 17 (Zoning) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to relieve inconsistency, ambiguity, inadvertent misrepresentation, and illegibility of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code as discovered from time to time by city staff, appointed officials, elected officials and members of the general public.

## DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

Thursday, March 2, 2023  
 (Hearing begins at 7:00 p.m.)

## PLACE OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre Planning Commission meeting  
 City of Sierra Madre  
 City Council Chambers  
 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
 Sierra Madre, CA 91024

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 15061, subdivision (b)(3), this proposed ordinance is exempt because it is not a "project" for purposes of Public Resources Code section 21065 and section 15378 of title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. This ordinance is a ministerial action to establish conformance with State law and has no direct or indirect physical impact on the environment.

APPEAL: A decision by the Planning Commission is subject to a 10-day appeal period to the City Council. If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the Planning Commission in court, one may be limited to raising the issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Planning and Community Preservation Department at (626) 355-7138. (GOV. CODE SEC. 65009)

SENIOR COMMUNITY COMMISSION SEEKING  
"OLDER 'SIERRA MADRE' AMERICAN OF THE YEAR" NOMINATIONS

The City of Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission is seeking nominations for Older 'Sierra Madre' American of the Year. The honor is a long-standing tradition in Sierra Madre and bestowed upon an exceptional Sierra Madrean, age 60 or older, for their outstanding commitment to community service.

Recommendations are now being accepted for new honorees. Please send nominations to Sierra Madre City Hall, c/o Older American Nomination, Community Services Department, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024 by Thursday, March 16, 2023. Forms may be picked up and returned to the Hart Park House Senior Center: Hart Park House 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA 91024

The Senior Community Commission will discuss the selection of the Older 'Sierra Madre' American of the Year at their regularly scheduled meeting, open to the public, in City Hall Council Chambers on Thursday, April 6th at 3:00 p.m. A reception to honor the 2023 Older 'Sierra Madre' American of the Year will held on Wednesday, May 10th, 2023.

For more information, please contact the Hart Park House Senior Center (626) 355-5278 x704; or the Community Services Department at (626) 355-5278.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITORS – VOLUNTEERS

Hello,

I'd like to commend all the Sierra Madre Library Book Sale volunteers for an amazing job in raising an impressive amount of funds at each Book Sale to benefit the Sierra Madre Library.

I am new to volunteering at the Sierra Madre Library Book Sales. I have volunteered for the past two sales. Both times I enjoyed doing my shift, seeing the books people chose to buy and listening to their comments on the insights they thought they would find in their book selections.

I was especially impressed with the volunteers. Not only did they organize the books in easy to locate categories they had a dedicated group of volunteers with positive attitudes towards the people who came to buy the books and support the library. That alone makes me want to continue being a part of volunteering for the Sierra Madre Library Book Sales.

Sincerely,  
 Debbie Schweiner

## I HAVE A SERIOUS QUESTION.

What is the true intent of the "Stop Development" activists? They have made attempts to stop this project through the ballot box but failed to convince the citizens. Now, "Stop" is attempting to use a referendum to try to halt the project. In their hubris "Stop" claim that stopping the Meadows Project is imperative. "Stop" may stop the Meadows Project but some housing project will happen. The state with its "housing emergency" modus operandi will prevail because local control and oversight have been preempted.

It appears that the "Stop" people are in kamikaze mode. If the Meadows project is scuttled, the result would be counter to the best interests of the city. And, there will be a development at that site no matter what.

The "Stop" group has demanded concessions, yet these are in closed session and not open and transparent to all, and counter to citizen participation. Not like the many public forums that have preceded this. What are these concessions, and why is this information being kept secret? This shroud of secrecy raises doubts and rumors as to the real intent of "Stop".

Furthermore, are the actions of the "Stop" activists well thought out and beneficial for the city, or is this an attempt to undermine the current plans for a self-interest agenda? If the concessions are good for the city, surely "Stop" would gain support. It is important for careful thought before making a decision that could have long-term ramifications. This is not what has happened with the "Stop" group. –De Alcorn Sierra Madre

## FIRST LETTER OF THE NEW YEAR!

Santa Monica developer New Urban West and our City Council remain determined to inflict their 42-McMansion housing project ("The Meadows") on Sierra Madre. And, realizing there's no credible argument to be made for the project itself, they're sticking to the playbook of threatening a much-worse alternative we'd somehow be powerless to stop.

A few months ago, it was the specter of "6,500 sq ft Arcadia-style mansions". No one had ever proposed them, no such project was on the horizon, but after hundreds of thousands spent on the campaign the threat became so real many voters that I spoke with thought their vote against Measure HR was to stop the housing project – when in fact it meant the opposite.

This time the much-worse alternative is a 50-house development they claim we'd be powerless to stop under SB330 – an important measure meant to address the serious issue of affordable housing in our state. The measure was intended to prevent localities from imposing restrictions on new housing that would otherwise conform to existing general plans and zoning rules – with additional incentives offered to housing affordable to those of "moderate", "low" and "very low" incomes. That it be used instead as a cudgel to force communities to accept new multi-million-dollar homes that would otherwise be in non-compliance with local ordinances is a shameful abuse of that law – and won't fly.

In submitting this new, threatened proposal as qualifying under SB330, the developer includes three houses (2,000 sq ft each) it claims would be affordable to those of "very low" incomes, entitling them to the numerous concessions they demand under that law. According to formulas established to determine income levels, however, this would suggest the proposal is based on the pretext that for a new 2,000 sq ft home in Sierra Madre, total "housing costs" – mortgage, taxes, insurance, utilities, etc. – could be covered at no more than \$968 a month. (Have you checked your gas bill recently?)

The notion is absurd, but the City Council maintains the project would qualify under SB330 – because the developer tells them it would.

They maintain the developer is entitled to all waivers/concessions/bonuses under SB330 – because the developer tells them they are.

The City Council says there will be no further negotiations attempting a compromise – because the developer told them they won't participate.

Rather than scheduling a vote on the referendum to block the Meadows project for the next general election at minimal expense, the City Council instead agreed to rush it ahead to special election on May 9 at significant cost – because the developer told them to.

The City Council maintains the developer will do as it wants and we're powerless to do anything about it – because the developer tells them we are.

The City Council suggests we should be grateful the developer has agreed not to force this new 50-house SB330 proposal on us should we simply acquiesce to the 42-McMansion Meadows project they've wanted all along – because, well, shouldn't we be?

I'm sure others are watching and awaiting the outcome; scoping out exploitable areas and opportunities afforded by this City Council. But as those over 1,200 residents who signed our referendum made clear: Sierra Madre is not for sale – and nobody will tell us otherwise.

Howard Hays  
 Sierra Madre

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Mon	Ptly Cldy	Hi	60s	Lows	40s
Tues	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows	40s
Wed	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows	40s
Thur	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	40s
Fri	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

### SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2023 5:30pm

**THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!**

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-19 transparency efforts and The Brown Act provides the public with an opportunity to make public comments at any public meeting. Public comment may also be made by e-mail to [PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com](mailto:PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com) by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Emails will be acknowledged at the Council meeting and filed into public record. The public may also comment in person at the meeting.

The meetings will be streamed live on Foothills Media website at [foothillsmidia.org/sierramadre](http://foothillsmidia.org/sierramadre) and broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum)..

### 1630 AM EMERGENCY RADIO & Free on-air publicity for local events

Sierra Madre's EMERGENCY radio station is now accepting scripts for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about community events. PSAs will be broadcast on the air at no charge. The station operates 24/7 and can be heard at 1630 on the AM dial.

Any local non-profit or non-commercial organization can have their event information broadcast to the public on Sierra Madre Community Information Radio. The station covers the city of Sierra Madre, plus surrounding areas of Pasadena, Arcadia, and Monrovia.

Your event must:

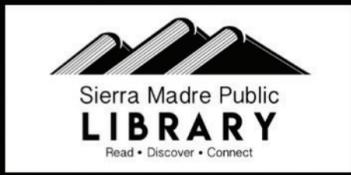
- Benefit a non-commercial or non-profit entity
- Be open to the public
- Be of general interest to local citizens

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to [radio@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:radio@cityofsierramadre.com).

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**February 13—February 18**

**Monday**

**Preschool Storytime at Memorial Park**—Outdoors at 10:00am. Call to register

**OBOC Kids Paper Airplane Competition**—In-person at 3:30pm

**Wednesday**

**Anime Afternoon**—In-person at 4:00pm

**Pajama Storytime**—Online at 7:00pm. Call to register

**Thursday**

**Baby Rhyme Time at Memorial Park**—Outdoors at 9:00am. Call to register

**Third Thursday Book Club**—Online at 11:00am. Call to register

**Sewing Machine Basics**—In-person at 3:00pm. Call to register

**Saturday**

**Sewing Machine Basics**—In-person at 11:00am. Call to register

**OBOC STEAM Dream Workshop**—In-person at 11:00am. Call to register

**3D Printing Basics**—In-person at 2:00pm

**OBOC: What is Aerobatic Flying? Presentation**—In-person at 5:00pm

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Planning Commission has one (1) expected vacancy.

Community Services Commission has one (1) expected vacancy.

Library Board of Trustees has two (2) anticipated vacancies.

Natural Resources Commission has one current vacancy and one anticipated vacancy for a total of two (2) vacancies.

Interested? Go To: <https://www.cityofsierramadre.com/cityhall/commissions>

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# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Pasadena Closures for Lincoln's, Washington's Birthdays

In observance of Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays, City Hall and many City services will be closed Monday and Monday, Feb. 20. Specific closures, exceptions and reminders are noted below.

The City's Citizen Service Center (CSC) will be open between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon on Monday. The CSC will be closed Monday, Feb. 20, and will reopen Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 8 a.m. Trash, recycling and yard waste collection will occur as scheduled on both holidays. There will be no delay in pickup for residents.

Pasadena residents and businesses experiencing any power emergencies should call Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) at (626) 744-4673. For water-related emergencies, call (626) 744-4138. PWP's Customer Service Call Center will be closed Monday and Monday, Feb. 20; however, customers can access their accounts through the automated phone system at (626) 744-4005 or online at PWPWeb.com.

The City's Municipal Services Payment Center and Parking Office will also be closed on Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays. All parking meters will be free and parking time limits will not be enforced. Violations for overnight parking restrictions, red curb parking and blocking fire hydrants will be issued. Parking meter enforcement resumes after each. Pasadena Transit and Dial-A-Ride buses will operate on their regular schedules.

The Permit Center will be closed on Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays; however, some services will be available via Permit Center Online, where subtrade permits can be obtained and plans for commercial tenant improvements (new submittals) and accessory dwelling units can be submitted. In-person operations will resume after each holiday.

All Pasadena Public Library branch sites will be closed Sunday and Monday and will reopen Tuesday. Library branches will also be closed Sunday and Monday, Feb. 19 and 20, and will reopen Tuesday, Feb. 21.

All parks will be open, no site reservations are being accepted for the holidays. Community and recreation centers will also be closed to the public on Monday, Feb. 13, and Monday, Feb. 20.

Pasadena Public Health Department's COVID-19, mpox and flu vaccine clinic will also be closed Monday, Feb. 13, and Monday, Feb. 20. The next vaccine clinic is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 27.

City Council will not meet on Monday and Monday, Feb. 20. The next council meeting is scheduled to take place Monday, Feb. 27.

Pasadena Fire and Police Departments will continue to provide patrol, jail, fire, paramedic and other emergency services during the holidays. For life-threatening emergencies, call 9-1-1. For non-emergencies, call Pasadena Police Department at (626) 744-4241. If you "See Something, Say Something," Report suspicious activity to the police department at (626) 744-4241.



## Council Awards \$6M Library Retrofit Contract

The city is set to move forward and begin the process of seismically retrofitting and renovating the Pasadena Central Library after the City Council voted Monday awarding Gruen Associates a \$6 million contract for professional design services for the retrofit project — That includes preparation of environmental documentation, final construction drawings and cost estimates for construction.

According to city officials, the contract is for an amount not to exceed \$6,104,109, which includes a base contract amount of \$5,779,109 and a contingency of \$325,000.

With the contract awarded, environmental and design phase efforts will be initiated in March and are anticipated to be completed in approximately two years. This phase will also allow the City to determine the estimated total cost of the work to be done. A public outreach effort will also be initiated to provide updates and collect public feedback. The process also includes an advisory review of the retrofit design alternatives by the Technical Oversight Committee, Historic Preservation Commission, and the Public Safety Committee.

With Central Library approaching its centennial birthday in February 2027, an assessment of the building's condition and its various systems was completed in 2020. The project provided a general assessment of the various building systems including the mechanical, plumbing, electrical, and roof; and design of a new fire

alarm and fire sprinkler system. The inspection discovered that the building consists of an unreinforced masonry structure, with walls that are not fastened to the building's foundation nor to the reinforced concrete floor beams and the timber roof they support. A preliminary structural analysis of the building completed in April 2021 revealed that the building does not meet the recommended structural performance objectives in a seismic event.

On May 3, 2021, City officials were forced to close the Central Library for a required seismic retrofit and restoration to meet life safety requirements.

With Central Library having served as an educational and cultural hub in Pasadena for almost 100 years, the City established a Community Programming Committee to evaluate how the Central Library space can be reimagined to enhance the library's capacity and services, taking into consideration current and future programming needs of the community. Comprised of community leaders with backgrounds in nonprofit organizations, library operations, historic preservation and media, they began meeting in September of 2022.

In October, Mayor Victor M. Gordo appointed a technical oversight committee to review key findings and recommend design solutions at key milestones, as well as provide feedback to the project team and updates to City Council. Committee members included

professionals and educators with backgrounds in architecture, structural engineering, seismology, and historic preservation, representing Pasadena Heritage, Caltech, American Institute of Architects (AIA), and others. Upon review of the retrofit design alternatives by the Technical Oversight Committee, Historic Preservation Commission, and the Public Safety Committee, public works staff will return to City Council in fall 2023 with a recommendation to approve a specific retrofit design.

Concurrent with design efforts, the City will continue to pursue funding opportunities for the construction phase of the project with the goal of securing all funding by the completion of the design phase. Pending appropriation of funds, construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2025 and last approximately 30 to 36 months.

## 1920s & 1930s Egyptian Revival Talk

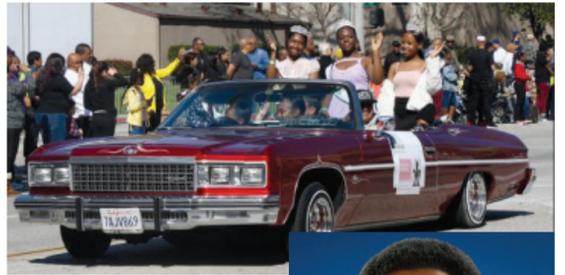
Historian Eleanor Schrader will provide examples of Egyptian Revival architecture and design Thursday, Feb. 23, at 2 p.m. via Zoom, presented by the Pasadena Senior Center for anyone 50 and older. Everyone who registers for the event will receive an email link to the live presentation.

The 1922 discovery of the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun (King Tut) in the Valley of the Kings by a team of archeologists and excavators triggered a near obsession for two decades of all things Egyptian, from interior design and fashion to architecture and art. Thousands of buildings were erected in the U.S. and Europe that were designed with motifs and imagery of ancient Egypt.

Schrader, an award-winning architectural and interior design historian, professor and consultant, lectures worldwide on the history of architecture, interiors, furniture and decorative arts. She has been named a distinguished instructor by UCLA Extension and is professor emerita of art and art history at Santa Monica College. She did graduate work in fine and decorative arts at Sotheby's Institute in London and New York and co-authored the book "Master Architects of Southern California, 1920-1940: Wallace Neff."

Registration is free for members of the Pasadena Senior Center and only \$5 for nonmembers. To register or for more information, visit [www.pasadenaseniorecenter.org](http://www.pasadenaseniorecenter.org) and click on Activities and Events, then Special Events or call 626-795-4331. The event will be available to members and nonmembers of the center. Residency in Pasadena is not required.

## Black History Parade Grand Marshal: Sportscaster Jim Hill



The City of Pasadena and the Black History Planning Committee announced Wednesday that the 41st annual Black History Parade is set to feature Sportscaster Jim Hill (pictured right) as the grand marshal.

According to city officials, over 80 parade entries will highlight this year's theme, "Celebrating our Excellence—The Legacy of Councilmember John J. Kennedy." The parade will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. It will begin at Fair Oaks Avenue and Mountain View Street and end at Robinson Park, where the festival takes place from noon to 4 p.m. Pasadena's Black History Parade is one of the largest and longest-running in Southern California.

Known for his excellence in broadcasting, Jim Hill, Los Angeles-based sportscaster and current lead sports anchor and sports director at KCBS-TV, is this year's celebrity grand marshal. Hill is a former defensive back who played in the National Football League for teams including the San Diego Chargers, Green Bay Packers, and Cleveland Browns. Continuing in the spirit of excellence, two Pasadena natives and sitting Los Angeles County Superior Court judges, Pamela Dansby and Tara Newman, will serve as community grand marshals. Prior to her appointment by Governor Gavin Newsom, Judge Dansby was the managing attorney at Dansby Law Group APC. Judge Dansby earned her Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School and is a proud John Muir High School graduate. Judge Newman, also a Newsom appointee, matriculated from UCLA and Columbia University School of Law. Judge Newman continues to be an involved member of several community organizations, including the Pasadena/Altadena Links, Inc., First AME Church, and the Association of African



American California Judicial Officers. Finally, the John Muir and Pasadena High School football teams will share the honor of serving as youth grand marshals. John Muir brought home the CIF championship and nearly won a state championship, while PHS won the 2022 Pacific League championship.

Other celebrities and special guests who hail from or live in the Pasadena area will join the parade, including Darnay Holmes, former UCLA Bruin and current New York Giants defensive back; and actress Gretchen Palmer, known for her roles in Hollywood films and TV shows, including "When Harry Met Sally," "Young and the Restless," "NCIS LA," and "A Different World." Elected officials, including Congress members Judy Chu and Adam Schiff, State Senator Anthony Portantino, Assemblymember Chris Holden, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Pasadena Mayor Victor M. Gordo, City Council members, and PUSD school board members, are scheduled to attend.

The family-friendly festival will feature live performances by R&B artist MAJOR, and the band Luv from Abuv, food for purchase, informational booths, a children's zone, and a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) fair. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early to navigate street closures, find parking. Free parking at Calvary Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 135 Glorieta St.

For more information, including parade entry applications, contact the Jackie Robinson Community Center at (626) 744-7300.

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## San Marino Upcoming Events & Programming

### Joyful Living Happy Life

Sunday, from 2:00 – 4:30 PM, Barth Community Room  
This workshop gives you tools to face challenges in the workplace, social life, and family life. Join the Unified Charity Foundation as they talk about the customs and traditions in a new land and how to remove cultural obstacles to prosperity. Registration is not required.

### Kindness Rocks

Tuesday, February 14 at 3:30 PM, Barth Community Room  
Kindness has been shown to increase self-esteem, empathy, and compassion, and improve mood. Children ages 3 and up are invited to learn about random acts of kindness through games and creating their own kindness rocks. Registration is not required.

### Accessing Digital Media

Friday, February 17 at 11 AM, Barth Community Room  
With a Crowell Public Library card, you can access eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, and newspapers on your computer, mobile device, or Kindle. In this class, we will dive into Libby and PressReader, and explore the techniques for getting the most out of the Library's digital media platforms. Registration is recommended.

### All City Track and Field Meet

Friday, March 10 at 4 PM, San Marino High School Stadium  
All students born between 2008 and 2016 who are San Marino residents or attend a San Marino school are eligible to participate. Participants can sign-up for a maximum of 2 events and 1 relay. Cost is \$10 per activity. Fees are non-refundable. Sign up now through February 17 online.

### Traffic Advisories and Annual Street Rehabilitation Project Update

Starting today, All American Asphalt will be paving on West Drive, between Huntington Dr and Sherwood Road, and on eastbound Huntington Drive, between Virginia Road and West Drive. This work will occur on Saturday to avoid conflicting with school-related activities at Huntington Middle School. Residents should be advised of minor construction-related traffic delays on these streets.

On Saturdays, February 18 and 25, All American Asphalt will be paving on Sierra Madre Boulevard, between Robles Avenue and Huntington Drive. This work will occur on two Saturdays in order to help minimize traffic delays in the area. Residents on impacted streets will receive notices from the City's contractor, All American Asphalt, with additional details about the project timeline, what residents can expect during the project, and what the project's impact to the neighborhood will be.

The Annual Street Rehabilitation Project aims to resurface 31 streets between February 6 - 25. The City appreciates resident cooperation, as the street rehabilitation program helps improve the City's infrastructure and resident safety.

### Give your input for the next City Manager

The City Manager Recruitment Community Forums will be held for residents to attend on February 23 and March 16! Join City Staff and the City's Executive Recruiting firm, Bob Murray and Associates, for an opportunity to give your input on what the City should be looking for in the next City Manager.

Both meetings will be held from 6 PM - 7 PM at the Barth Room at Crowell Public Library and can also be attended via Zoom. For more meeting details, go to [cityofsanmarino.org/calendar](http://cityofsanmarino.org/calendar).

### Dogs at Lacy Park Must Be On-Leash

San Marino Police Department and Code Enforcement will be making visits to Lacy Park throughout the next few weeks to saturate enforcement on having dogs on leashes. Please do your part to make Lacy Park safe and enjoyable for all.

### Meetings

Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, February 13 at 6:00 PM; Teleconference and Barth Room  
Design Review Committee  
Wednesday, February 15 at 6:00 PM; Teleconference and Barth Room  
Planning Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, February 22 at 6:00 PM; Teleconference and City Hall Council Chambers  
City Council Joint Meeting with Planning Commission  
Friday, February 24 at 8:30 AM; Teleconference and Barth Room

## Pasadena Playhouse to hold Musical Theater Boot Camp



Producing Artistic Director of Pasadena Playhouse, Danny Feldman, announced Thursday Pasadena Playhouse's first ever Musical Theater Boot Camp for high school students offered over 2 sessions this summer: Session 1: July 5-14, Session 2: July 17-28. Video auditions are being accepted until April 1. Decisions will be made on or around April 15, 2023. Additional details, including cost and scholarship information can be found at [pasadenaplayhouse.org](http://pasadenaplayhouse.org).

Over a two week period, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Monday through Friday, industry professionals and guest artists will instruct students in acting, singing, dancing, movement, theater history and the college theater landscape. Each session culminates in a showcase for family and friends.

Students will focus on the audition process rather than a production, allowing them to enter the college application season with a repertoire of monologues and songs, as well as the skills needed to find material appropriate for their age and type.

Producing Artistic Director of Pasadena Playhouse, Danny Feldman says "We are so excited to offer this one-of-a-kind, hands on learning opportunity to the High School students of Pasadena. As part of our commitment to celebrating and exploring the American Musical, we're expanding our reach beyond our stage and into the classroom in our pursuit to nurture the next generation of musical theater professionals. Coming on the heels of our co-production with Pasadena Unified School District, Sondheim's Into the Woods, which gave over 200 high school students their first experience working side by side with theater professionals, we can't think of a better way to launch summer at Pasadena Playhouse."

Musical Theater Boot Camp will be led by Will Pellegrini, who received his BA in Theater from UCLA and his MFA in Directing from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Will has had an

extensive television career; he's worked in a variety of roles and on numerous TV shows, including Fox's musical hit, Glee. Outside of television, Will is an independent filmmaker who's directed several music videos and short films. His numerous Los Angeles theater credits include work at The Actors' Gang, Theater of NOTE, and East Los Angeles College Theater Arts Department - where he's an adjunct professor. He is also an award-winning scenic designer and puppeteer!

Adam McDonald will serve as Musical Director for the program. A recent Los Angeles transplant, Adam spent almost a decade on the road with Wicked and Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas. In Los Angeles, he helms a classical/pop fusion piano trio, teaches all facets of music from kindergarten thru Broadway at his personal studio, and plays for the Broadway tours that come through the Pantages and Dolby Theaters.

A total of 25-40 students, ages 14-18 will be chosen per session. All applicants must submit a video audition that includes a personal introduction as well as the audition criteria in 1 video (can be edited together). Please be mindful of all instructions, especially posted time limits.

The Playhouse is one of the only professional theaters in the greater Los Angeles area that self-produces original works with most recent acclaimed productions, Ragtime and Little Shop of Horrors.

Pasadena Playhouse is a place where people have gathered for 100 years to experience bold and important theater. It is one of the most prolific theaters in American history with a legacy of profound theatrical impact and courageous new work. In 1937, the Playhouse was officially recognized as the State Theater of California for its contribution and commitment to the dramatic arts. Today it continues that tradition of excellence under the helm of producing artistic director Danny Feldman. Dedicated to enriching lives through theater, community programs and learning initiatives, Pasadena Playhouse is a living force in the community.

## Curiosity Finds Surprise Clues to Mars' Watery Past

When NASA's Curiosity rover arrived at the "sulfate-bearing unit" last fall, scientists thought they'd seen the last evidence that lakes once covered this region of Mars. That's because the rock layers here formed in drier settings than regions explored earlier in the mission. The area's sulfates - salty minerals - are thought to have been left behind when water was drying to a trickle.

So Curiosity's team was surprised to discover the mission's clearest evidence yet of ancient water ripples that formed within lakes. Billions of years ago, waves on the surface of a shallow lake stirred up sediment at the lake bottom, over time creating rippled textures left in rock.

"This is the best evidence of water and waves that we've seen in the entire mission," said Ashwin Vasavada, Curiosity's project scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California. "We climbed through thousands of feet of lake deposits and never saw evidence like this - and now we found it in a place we expected to be dry."

Layers of History  
Since 2014, the rover has been ascending the foothills of Mount Sharp, a 3-mile-tall (5-kilometer-tall) mountain that was once laced with lakes and streams that would have provided a rich environment for microbial life, if any ever formed on the Red Planet.

Mount Sharp is made up of layers, with the oldest at the bottom of the mountain and the youngest at the top. As the rover ascends, it progresses along a Martian timeline, allowing scientists to study how Mars evolved from a planet that was more Earth-like in its ancient past, with a warmer climate and plentiful water, to the freezing desert it is today.

Having climbed nearly a half-mile above the mountain's base, Curiosity has found these rippled rock textures preserved in what's nicknamed the "Marker Band" - a thin layer of dark rock that stands out from the rest of Mount Sharp. This rock layer is so hard that Curiosity hasn't been able to drill a sample from it despite several attempts. It's not the first time Mars has been unwilling to share a sample: Lower down the mountain, on "Vera Rubin Ridge," Curiosity had to try

three times before finding a spot soft enough to drill.

Scientists will be looking for softer rock in the week ahead. But even if they never get a sample from this unusual strip of rock, there are other sites they're eager to explore.

### Martian Clues

Far ahead of the Marker Band, scientists can see another clue to the history of Mars' ancient water in a valley named Gediz Vallis. Wind carved the valley, but a channel running through it that starts higher up on Mount Sharp is thought to have been eroded by a small river. Scientists suspect wet landslides also occurred here, sending car-size boulders and debris to the bottom of the valley.

Because the resulting debris pile sits on top of all the other layers in the valley, it's clearly one of the youngest features on Mount Sharp. Curiosity got a glimpse of this debris at Gediz Vallis Ridge twice last year but could only survey it from a distance. The rover team hopes to have another chance to view it later this year.

One more clue within the Marker Band that has fascinated the team is an unusual rock texture likely caused by some sort of regular cycle in the weather or climate, such as dust storms. Not far from the rippled textures are rocks made of layers that are regular in their spacing and thickness. This kind of rhythmic pattern in rock layers on Earth often stems from atmospheric events happening at periodic intervals. It's possible the rhythmic patterns in these Martian rocks resulted from similar events, hinting at changes in the Red Planet's ancient climate.

"The wave ripples, debris flows, and rhythmic layers all tell us that the story of wet-to-dry on Mars wasn't simple," Vasavada said. "Mars' ancient climate had a wonderful complexity to it, much like Earth's."

### More About the Mission

The Curiosity mission is led by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which is managed by Caltech in Pasadena, California. JPL leads the mission on behalf of NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. Malin Space Science Systems in San Diego built and operates Mastcam.

For more about Curiosity, visit: [mars.nasa.gov/msl](http://mars.nasa.gov/msl).

## Chris Holden Introduces Legislation to Keep the Lights on in the West

Assemblymember Chris Holden introduced legislation AB 538 Wednesday to work with states across the west and create a regional electric system that expands the footprint for clean energy resources and enables better collaboration, transparency, and integration across the western electrical transmission grid system.

"Comprehensive planning and dispatch across a broader footprint is the best way to ensure that all Californians have access to affordable, clean and reliable electricity," said Assembly member Holden.

"To meet our climate and energy goals, California needs to triple the amount of its clean energy infrastructure, and we must ensure every community has access to clean power day and night. To do both at scale, we need to set ourselves up for success: Regional western energy cooperation is the best way to deliver the clean energy Californians need, while preventing blackouts and keeping energy costs down."

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) is one of nine independent system operators or RTOs in North America. Although transmission in California is interconnected across 14 western states, British Columbia, Alberta, and a portion of Baja California, most of the utilities and federal entities like the Bonneville Power Authority are vertically integrated and operate independently. The bill would enable the transition of the CAISO to a regional transmission operator with fully independent governance involving states across the west. Preliminary work with its western neighbors has resulted in \$3.4 billion in savings to ratepayers and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of almost 800,000 tons.

But the West remains one of the only regions in the country without shared governance

of the regional power grid. AB 538 is the next important step, creating a regional governance structure that will enable California and other Western states to plan energy procurement and deliveries months and years ahead - improving reliability and cost effectiveness, helping California and other Western states expand local wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources, and supporting the construction of the interstate transmission lines needed to connect geographically diverse clean energy projects with millions of customers across the West.

According to the California Energy Commission's 2022 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update, the electricity delivery and planning across the west is fragmented. Centralized energy dispatch, planning and governance of the grid "could significantly decrease the ratepayer impact of adapting to climate change while decarbonizing and bring considerable economic and environmental benefits by harnessing diversity in loads, weather, and clean resources across the West."

Other research has shown that there was no scenario where California would not benefit from CAISO expansion and, the bigger the footprint, the greater the benefits to electric customers, reliability, and achieving our climate goals. "Centralizing dispatch operations and transmission planning with the rest of the region would significantly enhance electrical reliability and affordability for California households," said Assembly member Chris Holden. "California could go it alone, but then we would be a proverbial energy island. The bottom line is California can reduce cost, ensure we keep the lights on, and importantly, achieve our clean energy goals by collaborating with other Western states."

# VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON

Join the South Pasadena Rotary Club and the South Pasadena Senior Center for a luncheon event in celebration of Valentine's Day!

**Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023**  
**Time: 12:00 p.m.**  
**Location: South Pasadena Senior Center**  
1102 Oxley St., South Pasadena

**ADVANCED RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**  
**Residents & Member Reservations open on:**  
Tuesday, January 17, 2023  
**General Reservations open on:**  
Thursday, January 19, 2023

To make a reservation or for more information, please contact the Senior Center at (626) 403-7360

Special thanks to our event sponsor: South Pasadena Rotary Club

Entertainment provided by:  
**Jerry Costanzo**  
Sinatra Tribute

## Library Black History Month Free Events

The Pasadena Public Library will host two free events next week starting Tuesday at 10 a.m. with Notable Black Scientist Buttons and Bookmarks.

Celebrate the contributions that Black American scientists have made by collecting three commemorative buttons and bookmarks. While supplies last.

Then on Thursday at 4 p.m. "Dr. Alaina Roberts: I've Been Here All the While, Black Freedom on Native Land" as part of Black History Month recognizing the achievements and contributions of African Americans and their central role in our nation's history.

Perhaps no other symbol has more resonance in African American history than that of "40 acres and a mule" - the lost promise of Black reparations for slavery after the Civil War. In I've Been Here All the While, we meet the Black people who received this mythic 40 acres, the American settlers who coveted this land, and the Native Americans whose holdings it originated from.

For more information visit: [cityofpasadena.net/library](http://cityofpasadena.net/library).

# AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

## Peter Dills Knows

### SIERRA MADRE ITS SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Here are Super Facts about Sundays Super Bowl Game...

It has been said, after all, that Americans eat more than 1.2 billion chicken wings, 11 million slices of Domino's pizza, 11.2 million potato chips, 8.2 million pounds of tortilla chips, and all sorts of other delicious but caloric fare, especially when their teams lose.

Um, 11.2 million potato chips? Or, is that 11.2 million pounds of potato chips? That's still just a pound of potato chips for every 30 Americans - not that impressive. 1.2 billion chicken wings, on the other hand - that's 4 for every American, seems like a lot to me. There are only 2 drumsticks per chicken so that is almost 600 million chickens. That's impossible!! Or is it?

But hold on, I have more. Now these are mind-boggling.

We know a lot of beer will be consumed, but how much? So much that we would need five Rose Bowl Stadiums (not to mention bathrooms) to hold all the beer. My research tells me 325 million gallons of beer. Ninety-nine bottles of beer on the wall? How about 30 million bottles at 12 oz! Speaking of Pizza, the 11 million pizza slices would cover the Rose Bowl 22000 times! For me I'll go with Domenico's in on Washington.

Get them early. That is, buy your avocados early because we will go through 80 million avocados to make all sorts of Guacamole. I like mine spicy and chunky!

No matter what you decide to eat or drink, be responsible. Super Bowl Sunday is also in the top five of DUI arrests.

Stomachache? You better believe it. Anti-acid relief pills sales double the following Monday.

Prediction  
Chiefs 30 Eagles 38 You read it here first.



*Dining With Dills*

## CITY EMPLOYEE TO BE THE 2031 TOURNAMENT PRESIDENT



In a first, The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association recently announced that City employee Ruth Martinez-Baenen (pictured) will serve as the Association's President in 2031. She will provide leadership for the 142nd Rose Parade and 117th Rose Bowl Game on January 1, 2031.

"This is the first time that a long-time City employee has been selected to serve as President of the Tournament of Roses Association," Assistant City Manager, Nicholas Rodriguez said.

Martinez-Baenen has volunteered as a "white suiter" for the Tournament of Roses for over 26 years. She has served as Chair for a number of Tournament committees including Decorating Places, Post Parade, Queen & Court, and University Entertainment, among others. Her selection as future Association President will afford her the opportunity to select the theme and Grand Marshal of the Rose Parade as well as visit each of the band entries from around the globe.

Martinez-Baenen has worked for the City of Pasadena for over 23 years in the capacity of a Project Manager in the City's Economic Development Division. As a Project Manager she serves as a business concierge to city businesses and helped to launch the City's Business Legacy Program. In 2011, she was voted Best Public Employee in Pasadena Weekly's Annual "Best of Pasadena" Poll.

## TOURNAMENT FOUNDATION NOW ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS

*Applications will be accepted from now through February 23.*

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2023 grant program. Since its inception in 1983, the Foundation has invested over \$4 million in more than 700 Pasadena-area organizations. The grant awards in 2022 totaled nearly \$200,000, which funded 19 organizations in the San Gabriel Valley. The grants supported new and ongoing programs benefiting children, teens, adults and seniors. From nonprofits offering animal therapy to special needs children, to organizations providing technical skills to underserved students and dance therapy for seniors diagnosed with Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis.

The 2023 grant cycle will be structured as follows – Tier 1: a one-year grant for \$35,000, Tier 2: a one-year grant for \$15,000 and Tier 3: several one-year grants for up to \$10,000. The Foundation will also require applicants to include information on how their program will be delivered.

Eligible applicants are organizations with 501(c)(3) status, as of the submission deadline, February 23, 2023, that serves one or more of the following communities: Alhambra, Altadena, Arcadia, La Cañada Flintridge, Monrovia, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, and Temple City. As in previous years, grants will be given in the categories of Performing and Visual Arts, Sports and Recreation, and Education (Early Childhood Education, Literacy and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs.

The Tournament of Roses Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit public benefit corporation established to receive and manage contributions from the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, its supporters and the public. The 17-member board of directors is comprised of community leaders and Tournament Members, appointed by the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association. Organizations or individuals interested in contributing or inquiring about the grants process should contact the Foundation by calling (626) 449-4100 or visiting the Tournament of Roses website at: [tournamentofroses.com/foundation](http://tournamentofroses.com/foundation).

To apply for the 2023 grant cycle, eligible organizations should visit the Tournament of Roses Foundation page:

[tournamentofroses.com/foundation/](http://tournamentofroses.com/foundation/). The website will direct users to a welcome page with instructions on how to begin the application process.

Applications will be accepted through February 23, at 5 p.m. The Foundation's Board of Directors will make the final grant selections at its annual spring meeting, and applicants will be notified of their funding status via email in April 2023.

### ALL THINGS By Jeff Brown

#### VALENTINE HOLIDAY SPECIAL:

Beautiful Lavender Heart Sachets for Your Sweetheart, Daughter, Mother, Loved one. Lovingly Hand Made By Julie with Organic Lavender. Special price, found now only at Mary's Market.- Sierra Madre Canyon

### COMMUNITY: RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

The Arcadia Police Department would like to offer our residents some residential burglary prevention tips.

- When you're away, make it look like you are home. Consider leaving lights, a television or radio on.
- If you have an alarm, turn it on when you leave.
- Install surveillance cameras. Many residents have a camera at their front door. We would also recommend additional cameras on the side and rear of your residence.
- Consider using a window or door stop/pin or placing something in the window/door track to prevent them from sliding open.
- Secure side gates with a heavy-duty lock.
- Don't allow mail or newspapers to stack up. If you plan to be away for some time, arrange for a trusted person to collect these items, or have the services stopped until you return.
- Know your neighbors and their vehicles, report suspicious persons/vehicles.
- Consider installing a safe to secure valuable items. If you choose to install a safe, make sure it is properly secured to prevent thieves from taking the whole safe containing your valuables.
- Many of our recent burglaries target master/primary bedrooms. Consider storing valuables in another location in your home.
- There are companies who sell a film you can affix to a sliding glass door or window, that will hold the glass intact, deterring a criminal from gaining access if they attempt to shatter the door or window.

These are just a few tips to help prevent crime. One of the most important things we rely on is you. It's important to be aware of your surrounds and neighborhoods. If you see someone or something suspicious, don't wait to call us. Call us as soon as possible. If you believe it's a life or death emergency, call 9-1-1. If not, call our Dispatch Center at (626)574-5121. The quicker you call, the quicker we can respond. Remember, If you SEE something, SAY something

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CHRISTOPHER Nyerger

'THE SPACE BETWEEN: THE MODERN IN KOREAN ART'



Currently at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, there is a profound exhibition on view called "The Space Between: The Modern in Korean Art." I had the opportunity to read the book that accompanies the exhibition, a thick, exquisitely-illustrated publication of over 300 pages, also called "The Space Between," which summarizes the exhibition, and, in my opinion, is a "must-read" in order to grasp the full depth of this exhibition.

Finally, at the invite of a museum employee, I managed to get to LACMA to see the exhibition for myself, assuming I would learn some new details about art. By some great fate, Dr. Virginia Moon, the curator of this exhibition, was there conducting a short private tour of the exhibition, and I was graciously allowed to join.

"The Space Between: The Modern in Korean Art" at LACMA includes 130 works of art, and is open through Feb. 20. The exhibition documents the development of modern art in Korea between 1897 and 1965. This was a tumultuous period that included the country's colonization by Japan, the resulting influx of Western culture and technology, and the Korean War, which tore the nation in two.

This exhibition is about so much more than "art." For me, Dr. Moon's depth of knowledge of the history and cultural influences during the periods of the exhibition brought this history of Korea alive and living in a way that I had never experienced before in an "art exhibition." Indeed, Dr. Moon's humor, objectivity, and deep insight into the intimate details of both the artists and times, provided a broad perspective of life, history, interaction with outsiders, and a vision into what life might have been like in the period covered.

The Space Between explores the development of the concept of the modern in Korean art in five sections. The first section, "The Modern Encounter," sets the stage with the introduction of Western modes of life and photography during the Korean Empire (1897-1910). The second section, "The Modern Response," explores artists' reactions to these changes within the challenging backdrop of the Japanese colonial period (1910-45). The third section, "The Modern Momentum," displays the deepening of artists' understanding of and engagement with Western artistic concepts and techniques as Korea emerged from the colonial period only to become mired in the Korean War five years later. The fourth section, "The Pageantry of the New Woman," highlights the newly constructed perceptions of the modern woman in a rapidly changing society. Finally, the last section, "Evolving into the Contemporary," offers a peek into the transition of Korean art into the contemporary period, in which artists continue to grapple with many of the same issues that emerged in the previous decades.

When this microcosmic art exhibition's significance is grasped, one gains a macroscopic view of not just Korea and what was happening there during this period, but a bigger picture of the world at large, and how artists have always struggled to express what was occurring. Many of the pieces in this exhibition have never been seen outside of Korea. Dr. Moon began by showing how the technology of photography began to change art, when artists drew portraits from photos, not live subjects. In the very beginning of the exhibit, we see a 1907 photograph of Emperor Gojong, and we also see a very different image drawn by an artist. Photography also allowed portraits of women to be created for the very first time, providing a way for artists to paint women as their subjects without risking the "indecency" of an unmarried man and woman to share a private space.

The exhibition moves to how Korean artists began to draw the human body. Nudes were an academically recognized subject in European art schools and painting tradition, so this became a subject that Korean artists encountered and then began to learn to work with in Japan, as part of their academic training. Women are included in the art, and many of the artists featured were women.

Dr. Moon also explained some of the seemingly-mundane (and touchingly human) aspects of some of the pieces, such as ink paintings that became unusually large, as a way of quickly garnering attention in the newly established annual art exhibitions, which were hung in salon-style and often determined the success of an artist's career.

We stopped at a particularly noteworthy piece by Kim Whanki called "Jars and Women." Dr. Moon pointed out that the casual observer will simply note that it is pretty and reminiscent of Picasso. Kim studied art in Japan, and was met with the Korean war upon his return. He ended up spending three years in refuge in Busan, where he produced this work. When you study the piece, it shows refugee tents, and the women carrying jars is Kim's commentary on the effects of war. Be sure to read all the notes when you visit the exhibition. There is more to each piece than initially meets the eye.

There are art pieces that represent the short-lived cultural moment known as Sinyeoseong, or "New Woman." According to Dr. Virginia Moon, Sinyeoseong represented a "minor fluttering" of feminist sentiment that emerged in the 1910s. She points out that Sinyeoseong was created and promoted largely by men. "It was the men who are thinking, 'How can we utilize women in order to help modernize the country?'" says Moon. The movement had its limitations: In the early 20th century, Korean women were encouraged to pursue an education, but only so they could better raise and instruct their children. "It wasn't this major movement that rocked everybody's world," says Moon. But it did create an opening for individual women

One of the works in the exhibition was purchased by a U.S. soldier before returning to the U.S. The work was by Park Soo Keun, who is famous in Korea, but the soldier purchased it for about \$5 at the time, and it hung in his Laguna Beach living room for about 40 years. The painting, called Homeward Bound, is simple, and worth about a million dollars today. Interestingly, though Park is very famous in Korea, most Koreans would have never seen this painting.

Dr. Moon often mentions that it is important to remember that this is not the full picture by any means. What we see in the show are only what has survived colonial history, war, division of the peninsula, etc.

When you go to this exhibit, plan several hours so you can take it all in. Do not plan a short lunch-time visit.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. This exhibition closes February 20. The museum is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Closed Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, you can call (323) 857-6000, or go to lacma.org

Katnip News!



SWEETEST VALENTINES EVER!

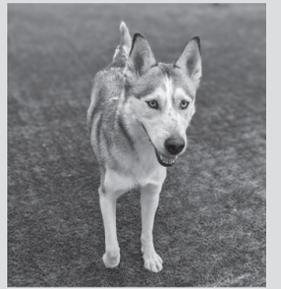
A very special sibling pair, age 10 months! Two little look-alike love bugs, one with a pink nose, Hawthorn, and the other with a black nose, Juniper. Born together, and are so bonded that they must stay together. Both are loving and playful. They love to snuggle together and groom each other. Hawthorn has a condition called CH, or cerebellar hypoplasia, which causes some jerky movements, but he is purr-fectly healthy. Both are just the sweetest, cuddliest, friendliest kitties ever! What more can you want? Adopt in time for Valentine's Day—they're way better than candy & flowers!



See more pictures and their video on our website's Teen Cats page, at [lifelineforpets.org](http://lifelineforpets.org).

Pet of the Week

Don't let the scary name fool you; the only threat this Avalanche poses is if you don't like gentle kisses or petting this girl's luxurious coat while she snuggles into you. Sweet Ava took some time to warm up to us, and what really helped bring her out of her shell were when the volunteers would sit and read to her.



Now that we can see the happy girl that was underneath the shyness, we could not be happier. When Avalanche gets the zoomies- her exuberance and joy is infectious! She runs around the yard with reckless abandon, happily squeaking on toys and smiling from ear to ear. When she slows down for a moment, it's cuddle time- she leans into you for pets and gently nudges you for more if you stop for some reason.

Avalanche's adoption fee is only \$14 between February 9 - 15 as part of the Be Mine promotion. Read Avalanche (and other dogs') "dating profile" on our website, then book a "first date" to meet her!

The adoption fee for dogs is \$150. All dog adoptions include spay or neuter, microchip, and age-appropriate vaccines.

New adopters will receive a complimentary health-and-wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information about how to care for your pet.

View photos of adoptable pets and schedule an adoption appointment at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org). Adoptions are by appointment only, and new adoption appointments are available every Sunday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters by phone calls or email.

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**SIERRA MADRE Playhouse**  
**Solo Shows Festival 2023**

**BILLIE!**  
BACKSTAGE WITH LADY DAY  
WRITTEN BY AND STARRING SYNTHIA L. HARDY  
DIRECTED BY BRYAN RASMUSSEN

**MR. YUNIOSHI**  
WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND STARRING J. ELIJAH CHO AND MICKEY ROONEY  
DAVID STIDHAM AND ARI STIDHAM

**CALL ME ELIZABETH**  
BY KAYLA BOYE  
DIRECTED BY ERIN KRAFT

**D.L. LADY DI**  
BOOK, MUSIC, & LYRICS BY CHARLOTTE MUNSON  
MUSIC BY RICHARD MUNSON

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**Butterfield 8**

**BUTTERFIELD 8 WILL SCREEN ON FEBRUARY 15**

The classic feature film will be shown on Sierra Madre Playhouse's big screen on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Butterfield 8. Romance. Directed by Daniel Mann. Written by Charles Schnee and John Michael Hayes. Based on the novel by John O'Hara. Produced by Pandro S. Berman. From MGM. (Color, 1960, USA, 109 minutes, not rated) Starring Elizabeth Taylor, Laurence Harvey, Eddie Fisher, Mildred Dunnock, Betty Field, Dina Merrill. A beautiful New York model and socialite enjoys a very active night-life, but all things change when she falls for a married man and the consequences are tragic.

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Tickets are \$10. Online ticketing: <http://sierramadreplyhouse.org> or reserve by phone at (626) 355-4318.

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DINA MERRILL  
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## ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOME?

There are many myths about Assisted Living being like Nursing Homes. This is not true at all. Nursing facilities are for those with chronic health issues who require care around the clock from medical professionals.

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There are many reasons in working with us. At Safe Path for Seniors, we will assess the senior and depending on their care needs and budget, make recommendations. For example, we may suggest that the right fit is a Board and Care Home (normally a 6-bedroom house) as opposed to an Assisted Living Community or a Memory Support Facility. You will work with an experienced agent who knows the industry well and will give you recommendations. The good news is that there is no cost for this service.

If you have any questions about placing a loved one, visit [www.safepathforseniors.com](http://www.safepathforseniors.com) or call Steve at 626-999-6913



## RETIRING ABROAD? TIPS AND TOOLS TO HELP YOU MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION

Dear Savvy Senior:

What are the key factors to consider when contemplating retiring abroad? My husband and I will soon be retiring and are interested in moving abroad to a country that's cheaper and warmer than the U.S. Looking Ahead

Dear Looking:

Whatever your reasons for aspiring to retire abroad – a lower cost of living, a better climate or a desire for adventure – you need to do your homework and learn everything you can about the country you're interested in because it's not an easy move. Here are some different tips and tools to help you make an informed decision.

Researching Tools

If you're in the decision-making process of where to retire, [InternationalLiving.com](http://InternationalLiving.com) and [LiveAndInvestOverseas.com](http://LiveAndInvestOverseas.com) are two excellent websites that provide articles, information and lists of the top retirement destinations abroad based on cost of living, climate, health care, housing, visas, infrastructure and more.

Once you pick a country or two that interest you, a smart move is to talk or network with some expats who have already made the move you're thinking about making. They can give you tips and suggestions on many issues, as well as the advantages and disadvantages and day-to-day reality of living in a particular country. Facebook is a good resource for locating expat groups.

But before committing, experts recommend visiting multiple times during different seasons to see whether you can envision yourself living there and not just exploring the place as a tourist. Here are some other factors you need to look into.

Cost of living: Retiring abroad used to be seen as a surefire way to live beyond your means, and for many countries it still is. But depending on where you move, the U.S. dollar may not stretch as far as you think. To compare the cost of living in hundreds of cities and countries use [Numbeo.com](http://Numbeo.com).

Visa requirements: If you want to spend just part of the year living abroad or are willing to move from country to country, most countries offer a three or six-month tourist visa, which is easy to get. But if you want to set up permanent residence abroad you might have to jump over a few more hurdles depending on where you want to retire. To



research visa requirements in the countries that interest you, visit [VisaGuide.World](http://VisaGuide.World).

Health care: Most U.S. health insurance companies do not provide coverage outside the U.S., and neither does Medicare. Check with the embassy (see [USEmbassy.gov](http://USEmbassy.gov)) of your destination country to see how you can be covered as a foreign resident.

Many countries provide government-sponsored health care that's inexpensive, accessible and just as good as what you get in the states, or you may want to buy a policy through [Medibroker.com](http://Medibroker.com) or [BupaGlobal.com](http://BupaGlobal.com).

Also know that most people who retire abroad eventually return to the U.S., so experts recommend paying your Medicare Part B premiums. If you drop and resume Part B, or delay initial enrollment, you'll pay a 10 percent premium penalty for every 12-month period you weren't enrolled.

Housing: Buying a home in a foreign country can be complicated, so it's almost always better to rent first until you're sure you want to permanently reside there.

Money matters: Opening or maintaining a bank account abroad can also be difficult. You may have to establish a checking account with an institution that has international reach like Citibank or maintain a U.S. bank account that you can access online. Claiming your Social Security benefits, however, should not be a problem as they offer direct deposit to almost every country in the world. See [SSA.gov/international/payments.html](http://SSA.gov/international/payments.html).

Taxes: You also need to research tax rules in your prospective countries and be aware that even if you're living in another country, as a U.S. citizen you'll still most likely need to file an annual U.S. tax return – see [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p54.pdf](http://IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p54.pdf).

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

## SENIOR HAPPENINGS



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS\*

Tracy Verhoeven, Beatrice DaRe, Catherine Adde, Hilda Pittman, Anne-Marie Stockdale, Susan Henderson, Allie Attay, Ursula El-Tawansy, Gladys Moser, Sylvia Lorhan, Ana Ptanski, Winifred Swanson, Janet Gillespie, Marian DeMars, Vickie Vernon, Mary Beth Knox, Sharon Lefler.

\* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required

## DOMINOES TRAIN GAME

1st & 3rd Wednesdays 11:00 am— 12:30 pm Hart Park House

The object of the game is for a player to play all the tiles from their hand onto one or more trains, emanating from a central hub or "station". Call Lawren with questions that you may have.

## TEA AND TALK BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, 2/15 9:00 am Hart Park House

Staff has launched a new book club series, Tea and Talk, which meets twice a month to discuss the fun, suspense, intrigue, love and so much more that each selection will have in store!

## FIBER FRIENDS

Tuesday, 1/17 10:00 am Hart Park House

If you enjoy knitting, crocheting, embroidery, needlepoint, bunka, huck, tatting or cross stitch then we have a group for you! Bring your current project, sit and chat with like-minded fiber friends.

## HULA AND POLYNESIAN DANCE

Every Friday 10-10:45 am

Bring a lei, your flower skirt or just your desire to dance! Hula in the Park is back and waiting for you to join in on all the fun! Memorial Park Pavilion.

## CHAIR YOGA

Every Monday and Wednesday 10-10:45 am

Please join us for some gentle stretching, yoga, balance exercise and overall relaxation with Paul. Classes are ongoing and held in the Memorial Park Covered Pavilion or the Hart Park House.

## BINGO

Thursday, 1/19 Hart Park House 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Please join in a fun and lively game of BINGO. Several rounds fun will be had with prizes for each rounds winner.

## OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder



## ANOTHER CELEBRATION IN THE BANK

This month The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I celebrate the 52nd anniversary of our engagement. In August, it'll be the 52nd anniversary of our wedding. I can't believe we have been together for 52 years. But, alas, here it is.

I first met her in September of 1970 when I went to Bible college. Knowing that God was calling me to be a pastor, I understood that I would need a wife to help me in this ministry. Not being woman-wise, and no dating experience: I thought a date was simply a dried-up prune.

Not knowing what to do, I simply put it in God's hands. Before I went to this Bible college, my prayer was, "Heavenly Father, make the first young lady I meet when I go to school be the wife you have chosen for me." It sounds ridiculous, but not being woman-wise, it was my best choice.

My parents took me up to New York, where the college was, as we drove into the men's dorm driveway a young lady was coming out. This young lady had her hair rolled up in tomato cans which was rather usual at that time. When I saw her walk out, I quickly prayed, "Not yet, Father. My feet have not touched the ground."

I think God was chuckling. For some reason, I was never able to get away from her because it was a very small college, and everybody knew everybody. Not being woman-wise, I did not know how to conduct myself in such a situation.

In December, we were on some date, and she happened to say, or so I thought she happened to say it, "Wouldn't it be nice to get married?" Again, my not being woman-wise did not allow me to understand what was going on. I simply re-plied to her, "I think it would be great to get married." Foolish me, I thought that was the end of the conversation.

The next day in school, as I walked down the hallway, everybody looked at me, smiled, and said, "Congratulations." So I smiled back and thanked them. I had no idea what I was being congratulated on, I thought perhaps I finally passed a test in school. After a while, I stopped somebody congratulating me and asked what he was congratulating me for. Laughing, he said, "Oh, you silly boy. I'm congratulating you on your upcoming wedding." Then he walked away.

I stood in the hallway for a moment, trying to process what he had just told me. What wedding was he talking about? Who did they think I was marrying? Later that afternoon, I met her in the cafeteria, she looked at me, smiled, and said, "I've told every-body, and everybody is happy for us. Isn't it wonderful?" I then realized I was the last one in the college that knew I was getting married.

God was the first one to know whom I was going to marry, and I was the last one to know. That is chapter 1 in woman-wise psychology. Although it's been 52 years, I still have not progressed to chapter 2. Perhaps chapter 2 would begin with, "Do you want to be right or happy?" I am here to tell you that during those 52 years, I have been happy.

According to tradition back then, the next step was to get permission from her father to marry his daughter. So you understand I was rather nervous along this line because I had never met her father or mother. Before the engagement, we traveled back to visit her family. It was then that I met her father. I took him aside and said, "Sir, I would like to ask your permission for your daughter's hand in marriage." He looked at me with a rather strange look and said, "No."

At this point, my flabber just got gasted, and I didn't know what to say. He looked at me strangely and said, "Young man, you take my entire daughter or none of her. Not just her hand." At this point, I realized I was also not father-in-law-wise. That was well beyond my pay scale. My heart sank, and I did not know the next step. Looking at me, her father finally broke down laughing. I had no idea what he was laughing about. "Of course, you can have my daughter's hand in marriage as long as you take the rest of her."

I tried to laugh as best I could but had no idea what was happening in the world. If this is what I was marrying into, it will be a long voyage.

As we were driving back to school, the future Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Well, what do you think of my family?" I just smiled back at her and she said, "Welcome to my family." I smiled and thought about my favorite life verse from the Bible.

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." This verse has guided me throughout my entire life, especially in the area of marriage. Either I can lean on my own understanding, or, I can trust in the Lord with all my heart. If I'm going to go down the right path only God can lead me.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail [jamesnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).



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## Real Estate Cooked to Perfection



Join us for a Month of Programs and Events!

The Sierra Madre Public Library has announced the 2023 selection of One Book One City; Flying Free: my victory over fear to become the first Latina pilot on the US Aerobatic Team by Cecilia Aragon.

One Book One City is a community reading program that invites

everyone in Sierra Madre to read and discuss the same book during February 2023 and participate in exciting programs and events.

This fabulous community program includes an Author Talk with Cecilia Aragon, a tour of the San Gabriel Valley Airport, a kids STEAM Dream Workshop with local teacher Dany Richey, a kids paper airplane competition, a movie night with the documentary Fly Like a Girl through our new streaming service Kanopy, and inspirational presentations on women in flight.

Aragon's memoir, Flying Free, shares her own journey of breaking past her own fears to become a champion aerobatic pilot. Aragon was a timid child, painfully shy and afraid of everything from heights to people. How did she become a death-defying daredevil and aerobatic pilot? In her memoir, she bares her life even though writing it "scared me more than pointing my single-seat experimental plane at the ground and opening the throttle until I was roaring earthward at 250 mph".

Connect all month long through engaging themed programs that are free and fun for the whole family. Call the Library at (626) 355-7186 for more information.

## MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS

**PUBLISHER/ EDITOR**  
Susan Henderson

**PASADENA CITY EDITOR**  
Dean Lee

**PRODUCTION**

**SALES**

Patricia Colonello  
626-355-2737  
626-818-2698

**WEBMASTER**  
John Avery

**DISTRIBUTION**  
Peter Lamendola

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Stuart Tolchin  
Audrey Swanson  
Meghan Malooley  
Mary Lou Caldwell  
Kevin McGuire  
Chris Leclerc  
Dinah Chong Watkins  
Howard Hays  
Paul Carpenter  
Kim Clymer-Kelley  
Christopher Nyerges  
Peter Dills  
Rich Johnson  
Lori Ann Harris  
Rev. James Snyder  
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Deanne Davis  
Despina Arouzman  
Jeff Brown  
Marc Garlett  
Keely Toten  
Dan Golden  
Rebecca Wright  
Hail Hamilton  
Joan Schmidt  
LaQuetta Shamblee

Mountain Views News has been adjudicated as a newspaper of General Circulation for the County of Los Angeles in Court Case number GS004724; for the City of Sierra Madre; in Court Case GS005940 and for the City of Monrovia in Court Case No. GS006989 and is published every Saturday at 80 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., No. 327, Sierra Madre, California, 91024. All contents are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without the express written consent of the publisher. All rights reserved. All submissions to this newspaper become the property of the Mountain Views News and may be published in part or whole. Opinions and views expressed by the writers printed in this paper do not necessarily express the views and opinions of the publisher or staff of the Mountain Views News.

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Letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to:

Mountain Views News  
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl.  
#327  
Sierra Madre, Ca.  
91024

Phone: 626-355-2737  
Fax: 626-609-3285  
email:  
mtnviewsnews@aol.com



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## STUART TOLCHIN



### PUT THE LIGHTS ON OBSERVING

Putting the lights on, that very simple act, has some personal significance to me. It is connected perhaps to a feeling that I have every day, even though I do not acknowledge it—to be related to something bigger than myself, something older and something not yet born, that will endure through time. Does this language ring a bell for you? I stumbled upon it Sunday as I thought about writing this article earlier than the Wednesday night. I have been told real writers prepare in advance, make corrections, and perhaps even rewrite parts. That is what real writers do and alas I realize I am not a real writer. It is now almost midnight on Wednesday and I am just beginning the article that must be submitted tomorrow morning.

Anyway, returning to Sunday, thinking about my article and looking for inspiration I casually reached up into the bookshelf and brought down this black book hoping that it was a large print book that I could easily read. The book surprisingly was a Jewish prayer book. Really I know little about the Jewish faith or any faith but I remember once in Elementary School in Chicago being asked questions relating to religion and nationality whatever that meant. I remember asking my mother, who unlike the rest of my family was not an immigrant but was untutored in any religion, what nationality meant. She told that for me the answer to both religion and nationality was Jewish – Jewish. I think she meant that for Jews the country made no difference because we were Jewish no matter what country we were in. I asked what being Jewish meant and understood that we were not Christian and that I shouldn't sing Christmas songs along with the other kids.

I asked what else she knew about being Jewish and she said that she knew that on the Jewish Sabbath, which started Friday night and continued until Saturday night, observant religious Jews would perform no regular work or other normal activities like ride in cars or even turn on the lights. If things needed to be done these observant Jews relied upon non-Jewish friends who she called Shabbos goys, to perform these activities. On the Sabbath, I imagine now, that observant Jews would do nothing but “observe” as a method of clearly seeing and finding themselves. Even turning on the lights got in the way of simply observing without doing much else.

Anyway, returning to Sunday I opened the black book and realized that it was a kind of Jewish Prayer Book. How it got on my bookshelf I will never know. As I opened the back of the book and read I thought of the title of all my articles “Put the Lights On” and laughed to myself about the prohibition which I did not understand. Anyway, it was Sunday and the lights were already on.

I read the very first back page of the book and it contained the language that I referred to in my opening paragraph about feeling a need to be related to something bigger than oneself, something more alive...something that will endure through time. I don't know about you but I feel such a need. I always experience that people's need to amuse and divert themselves is a recognition that there is something wrong. Something is missing and they don't want to think about it. Well I do want to think about it and even talk about it but no one I know seems to want to. These articles which I have been writing for about fifteen years are a recognition of my need to communicate with that unknown and unacknowledged part of my self. Perhaps religiously observant people are able to connect with that need through prayer and the overall manner in which they live. Who knows?

It is now almost 7 A.M. Thursday morning and there is something else I want to share. Yesterday evening as my wife was driving us home from the Drugstore she asked me if I had my wallet. I couldn't find it and after stopping the car and searching it was still not there. It was already dark, and it seemed hopeless but we drove back a couple of miles to the parking lot of the Pharmacy we had just left probably ten minutes earlier. As we entered the parking lot and stopped the car a man asked if I was Mr. Tolchin”, he said. I told him I was and he said he was looking for my address so he could bring the wallet by my house. The wallet contained my Driver's License with picture and address but no phone number. Really it seemed unlikely that he could bring the wallet to my house as I lived miles away in a hard to find place in a canyon. After I told him that I was Mr. Tolchin and thanked him, he handed me the wallet.

This morning was trash day and at about 6:30 a.m. I brought our trash barrels out to the street. I noticed at the house next door that the trash barrel had been knocked over, probably by a bear, and trash was all over the street. Thinking about this article which I had written last night, but not yet submitted, I told my wife I was going to pick up the trash, other people's trash. She laughed and said that if I was going to do that I better wear some gloves. I went upstairs and put on a pair of unopened work gloves which lay on the dresser. I keep them there to remind me of something. The gloves were a birthday gift from my learning disabled son who is a wonderful person and always tries to help. He thought he was buying golf gloves.

I put on the gloves and remembered a statement proclaiming “A good person always picks up his own trash and other people's as well”. I am generally NOT such a person. This morning I was. In my mind this morning this all connects with the language concerning the feeling of incompleteness that began this article. Remember I am a lifelong disbeliever in all religious faiths and I don't know how that book got on my bookshelf. Right now, however, I feel a little less incomplete and I hope you understand. Anyway, I suggest that we all do our best to observe the opportunities to be the person we would like to be. But don't do anything crazy and remember to wear the gloves.

## TOM PURCELL HOW TO WRITE A ROMANCE STORY



All my father ever wanted as a young man was to marry my mother and start a family — plans that were interrupted when he was drafted into the Army during the Korean conflict.

As he served in Texas, Germany and other parts of the world, there was only one affordable way to stay in contact: writing letters. Every single day, seven days a week, my mother told me, he wrote a letter to her and she wrote one to him. Some letters ran four pages long. Some days, they wrote two!

They shared their hopes and dreams, and how they missed each other so. My father joked that they'd have four boys — a football player, a baseball player, a basketball player and a priest.

Their cursive handwriting was as impeccable and as artful as their words. Their letters offer a case study in the art of romance. Romance, according to Dictionary.com, is “to court or woo romantically; treat with ardor or chivalrousness.”

“Ardor” defines my parents' romance especially well: “great warmth of feeling; fervor; passion; intense devotion, eagerness, or enthusiasm; zeal; burning heat.” Halfway through my father's two-year tour, my mother stopped writing to him for three weeks.

He was mortified, thinking she'd found someone else — unaware that she'd become so sick from rheumatic fever that she nearly died. He was relieved to learn there was a reason her letters had ceased, but now he agonized over her well-being. Finally, after two long years, he was able to return home to her. Finally, they were able to get on with their lives.

The romance my parents enjoyed is a dying art among younger people. Romance is about kindness and honesty and graciousness and affection — it's about patience and sacrificing now to enjoy greater fulfillment later on.

It's about trust. It is the sense that someone places you above all others and cares more for your needs than his own.

My parents really did believe that when they married they became one under God. They fully accepted that their commitment to each other was to “have and to hold, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do them part.”

Some consider these dated concepts in a modern era of instant gratification, cynicism, self-centeredness and hook-up dating, but without the principles on which my parents built their love, romance cannot flourish.

My father told me on many occasions that the first time he set his eyes on my mother he knew he would marry her — and his proudest achievement was that he made it happen.

Well, I am hopeful to learn that younger generations are the biggest believers in love at first sight, according to a 2017 Gallup survey. They are romantics at heart — as we all are! We are all authors of our own stories, too, so why not begin writing romance into our lives?

This Valentine's Day, turn off your computer and smartphone. Gather some stationery and a ballpoint pen and write to someone you love — or someone you know who makes your knees wobble.

Maybe you'll fail, maybe you'll succeed, but know this: The act of writing our stories is where true romance begins.

My mother and father wrote a love story for the ages. Young or old, all of us can do likewise.

Happy Valentine's Day!

## RICH & FAMOUS

### VALENTINE HYGIENE PRIMER FOR GUYS



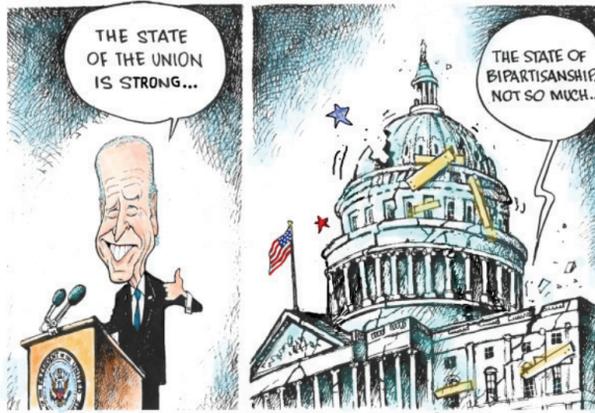
Okay guys. If you are about to entertain a lovely lady this upcoming Valentine's Day, listen up. If you are not entertaining a lovely lady this Valentine's Day you may be too far gone. Irregardless, I'm only going to talk about this once.

Literally, one or more ladies have contacted your sophisticated, suave and chic columnist pleading that I address vital issues of critical importance to the fairer sex. You might want to take notes. If your significant other (assuming you have one) ever reads my column, it is certain to be posted on the refrigerator, in the garage, and/or on the wall above the john.

#### Minimal Standards of Hygiene

- Hot water is your friend. Deodorant, cologne and after-shave are no substitutes for a hot shower. If you lift things for a living that are heavier than a bread box, shower often. Soap would be a nice touch.
- Deodorize. If your 24 hours are up it's time to reload. Stick or spray, it doesn't matter. Some of you need to do both.
- Send an expedition up those two little caves above your mouth. If you need a machete to clear a path invest in a nose hair trimmer. If you can actually convince a girl to get close enough to kiss you, she's going to notice if there's a rain forest hanging down from the twin towers.
- While you're at it, check the hairs above your eyeballs. Yeah that's right. There are two rows: one on the left and one on the right. If they connect in the middle its no wonder women run away from you. No eagle wings or feather dusters. They need to be groomed, trimmed and all going in the right direction.
- Dust off your tooth brush. In fact, replace it and then USE IT. No, not to clean tile grout. Stick it in your mouth and spin your head. While you're in the neighborhood...floss. Left-overs from dinner need to be kept in the refrigerator. not between your teeth. I'm fairly certain if you floss regularly your breath might improve.
- Do you know what the biggest organ in your body is? Oh, that's just disgusting. I'm talking about your skin. Were you aware that in the animal kingdom the male of the species is always more beautiful than the female? Not us. So listen up and lets get back on the evolutionary track. Start with moisturizer. Buy some and rub it all over your body. Then, just maybe, some woman won't mind looking at you.
- Did I mention changing clothes regularly? No, not changing out of yesterday's boxers and into the day before's. Change into CLEAN clothes. While we're at it wear socks. Smelling bare feet in tennis shoes would make an effective form of torture at Guantanamo. Remember, hot air rises. Typically right up to her nose.
- Optional body noises are not the homosapien males mating call to the female. Save your belches, burps and farts for the guys at the ballgame. Try it on a woman and you will foul out (Get it? Foul out...baseball? Oh, never mind.)

Men! Everyday can be Valentine's Day with the ladies if you follow a few basic rules. Don't be a walking billboard for evolution. Remember, Neanderthals died out as a species cause they didn't get lucky.









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**JOIN US THIS WEEKEND!**



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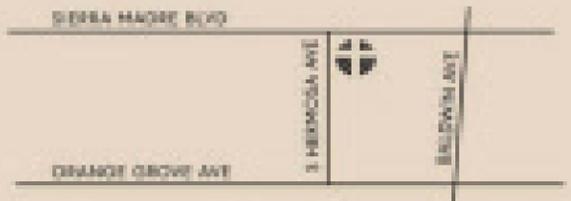


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