

Mountain Views-Observer

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST - Sierra Madre Arcadia Pasadena Altadena and Monrovia

Friday, June 27, 2008 Volume 2 No. 23

Bradbury Selects Michelle Keith As City Manager *Sierra Madre Loses 23 Year City Employee*

By Susan Henderson
For the third time in less than a year, the city of Sierra Madre will lose one of its key employees. Michelle Keith, Director of Community Services and Personnel, will end her twenty three year employment with the City of Sierra Madre to become the first professional City Manager of Bradbury.



Michelle Keith, Center, was several years younger than this group of teens when she started working for the city. Perhaps one day we will write a similar story about one of them.

"This is an amazing opportunity for Michelle", said Don Hopper who is currently the Interim City Manager of Bradbury. "She has grown in her career and Bradbury recognized that. Her appointment was unanimous".

Although the population of Bradbury is significantly less than Sierra Madre - 945 residents, the town's concerns almost mirror Sierra Madre's. Incorporated in 1957, Bradbury's goal is to remain immune to development and maintain its' small town character.

A genuine product of Sierra Madre, Keith is the wife of Alan Tierney and mother of Nico age 5 and Jaxson, 2. Says Keith, "I was raised in a family that gave back to the community" and she credits that with her commitment to Sierra Madre. Her grandfather, Charles Knickelbein was instrumental in the construction of the first swimming pool in Sierra Vista Park. Her grandmother, Elizabeth Keith was very active with the Friends Of The Library. Her father, Roger Keith, was a member of the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years and also served for a spell as chief. In fact, she says, her parents met at the pool.

At 14, Keith began working for the city selling cotton candy at the youth center for \$3.35 an hour. On her departure from Sierra Madre on July 17th, her salary is over \$96,000. She has done everything from sell cotton candy as a teenager, teach swimming, serve as a lifeguard, run the teen program, be a camp counselor, serve as the Pool Manager, Recreation Supervisor, etc. When the city changed the structure of Parks and Recreation and created her current position, she served as the Interim Manager and eventually was appointed to the post which not only oversees youth activities, but also includes oversight of the Arts and Senior Program and SMTV3, as well as personnel manager for over 60 city employees.

When you ask her what were her greatest accomplishments the answers come quickly. She cites her role in the rebuilding of the pool, the addition/expansion of the Youth Activity Center, the completion of the Youth, Arts, and Senior Master Plans, Goldberg Park and the Farmers Market, just to name a few.

Her job has not been without critics and controversy. (cont. page 3)

They Gave Hope...Story on page 3



Members of the Sierra Madre Wine and Jazz Walk pose in front of the fountain at the entrance to City of Hope prior to their tour on June 23rd. Photo by Bill Coburn

Car Show A HOT Ticket In Sierra Madre

By Bill Coburn

According to event organizer Ted Saraf, there were one hundred and thirty three cars that had paid entrance to Saturday's Second Annual Sierra Madre Police Officer's Association Car Show, and while there may have been some attendees who wondered about it, that was not quite the temperature during the event. Accuweather.com reports the high in Sierra Madre on the day of the event was a mere 100 degrees. However, the oppressive heat did have an effect on the event, with some registrants choosing not to go out in the heat, and while there was a good turnout of both registrants and spectators, one can only wonder how much better it might have been had the temperature been in the 70s or 80s.

Conditions being what they were, Saraf emphasized the dedication of all the volunteers who worked in this high heat - standing at barricades, in parking lots, and working the show including parking and organizing all the cars. "Also the Sierra Madre Police Reserves who worked this day in their



Award winners posed together with award presenters at the 2nd Annual Sierra Madre Police Officers' Association Car Show last Saturday. Photo by Reserve Officer Randal Nealy of Sierra Madre PD



True car enthusiasts were hardly concerned with the heat on Saturday. Photo By Dean Lee



hot uniforms and did a great job, (and) the grave yard and early shift officers who were a tremendous help. Without them we could not have done this event. A special thanks to the Los Angeles County Task Force for Regional Auto Theft Prevention, "T.R.A.P." who manned a booth for public awareness on vehicle theft," added Saraf.

A complete list of the winners is on page 3.

This late 1950s Chevy convertible (left) was, indeed, an "eyecatcher." Photo by Bill Coburn

Council Tackles Full Agenda

The month of June has been a busy one for the Sierra Madre City Council. In the aftermath of the Fires and Mudslides, there has hardly been time to take a deep breath before the onslaught of new ordinances, amendments, lawsuits, code changes, budget review and overall city management issues dominated the council agendas.

Mayor Pro Tem Maryann MacGillivray has presided over the last two meetings, as Mayor Zimmerman has been unable to attend the meetings.

Social Host Ordinance
At the June 10th meeting, what is certain to be one of the more controversial proposed ordinances of the year was introduced. There is a proposal at hand to enact a "Social Host Ordinance". The ordinance would be used to hold 'hosts', such as parents, financially liable for the cost to the city when police are called to deal with intoxicated minors, fights and disruptive behavior. The police department feels

such an ordinance would be a very effect tool. There are currently 49 California cities that have similar ordinances. Public hearings on the matter will be held sometime in the future.

UUT Exemptions
The council also approved the expansion of the exemptions under Measure U to include Low Income and Very Low Income households. Households wishing to apply for the exemptions should contact city hall.

General Plan and Canyon Zone Committees
At the July 8th council meeting, city staff will present guidelines and a timeframe for two 5-member committees to update the city's General Plan and help prepare regulations for the Canyon Zone. Volunteers are needed to serve on both committees, however, the selection process has not yet been determined.

Housing Element Update
Mayor Pro Tem MacGillivray asked the council to reconsider its May, 2008 vote to direct staff to find a (cont. page 3)

MountainViews-Observer THIS WEEK

- 1 Hot Cars In A Hot City City Loses Top Director Council Digs In
- 2 Fourth Of July Parade Info Calendar of Events
- 3 Wine & Jazz Committee Work Pays Off Fourth Of July Festivities
- 4 Clymer: Sierra MODre Fire Safe Council SMEAC/Police Blotter
- 5 Pasadena Balloon Ban Keeping Pets Safe Parking Contract Woes
- 6 From Concert To Commencement Charter School Approved
- 7 Hail: A Plan For Gas Lambdin: THE Parade Tolchin: Changing Tmes Rich on Rich Johnson
- 8 Legals
- 9 Legals
- 10 One Of A Kind: ECO House Eklund: Looking Up Dills: Santa Barbara to PAS
- 11 Jeff's Pics Birdsall: TV or NOT TV Senior Happenings Carney: Changing Patterns
- 12 Advertisements

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Tues: Sunny Hi 90s Lows 60s
Wed: Sunny Hi 90s Lows 60s
Thur: Sunny Hi 90s Lows 60s
Fri: Sunny Hi 90s Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

Church of the Ascension to Host Mass on the Grass June 29th

The Church of the Ascension will kick off the 4th of July festivities by holding Mass on the Grass on June 29th.

The Church will be reinstating a tradition begun 17 years ago when members of Ascension gathered for mass on the grass after the 1991 earthquake made the church unsafe. On the 29th, they will remember those traumatic days and give thanks for the restoration of the church and the revitalization of the grounds.

There is now an outdoor space for worship. There is plenty of room for picnicking, games, and lots of fun water games on the upper grassy field. All that is needed for a wonderful celebration is YOU!

The Church of the Ascension is located at 25 E. Laurel Avenue (northeast corner of Baldwin and Laurel) in Sierra Madre. For further information, please call the church office at 626/355-1133.

Volunteer to Serve on a City Commission

The City is looking for motivated, enthusiastic, creative, and friendly volunteers to serve on
 For more information please call (626) 355-7135

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>July Calendar</h1>				3 4th of July Pre-Parade Party Memorial Park 5 pm- 10 pm	4 4th of July Parade Sierra Madre Blvd 10 am	
6 Summer Concerts in the Park 6 pm				10 Free Family Entertainment Sierra Madre Public Library 10:30 am		

Parade Announcements

Sierra Madre will celebrate July 3 and 4 in the usual hometown way with the famous Parade and two great bands.

Chronologically, on Thursday, July 3, at 6 p.m. the Aluminum Marshmallows band, a local group led by Tom Behrens, will play '60s music in Memorial Park.

Sierra Madre Girl Scouts, part of the Mt. Wilson Council, will lead the Parade on Friday, July 4, that will feature 70 entries, including Parade Marshals, Sierra Madre Fire Department. Also in the Parade will be Sierra Madre City Council members and county, state and U.S. politicians.

The Parade starts at 10 a.m., July 4, at Essick House Woman's Club location at Sunnyside and Sierra Madre Blvd. and continues down Sierra Madre Blvd. to Sierra Vista Park. The Woman's Club will provide complimentary breakfast starting at 8 a.m.

After the Parade Marshals, Sierra Madre Mayor Kurt Zimmerman, Mayor Pro Tem MaryAnn MacGillivray, and Council members John Buchanan, Joe Mosca and Don Watts will represent the City. Next

comes Citizen of the Year Pete Siberell and Older American Eph Konigsberg.

U.S. Representative David Dreier, State Senator Bob Margett and County Supervisor Mike Antonovich will be part of the Parade.

Representing the Sierra Madre Rose Float are Princess Hanna Storie, Princess Alexandra Flores, Escort Andrew Pirrone and Escort Timothy Crilly.

After the Parade at about 11:30 a.m., activities continue in Memorial Park where several local nonprofits will provide food and patriotic trinkets for sale. Sierra Madre Firefighters' Association will open the traditional Beer Garden.

At noon the Night Blooming Jazzmen will entertain under the shade trees on the east side of the park. There will be traditional Dixieland jazz until 4 p.m. when the activities will conclude.

Matt Bosse is the chairman of the Fourth of July Committee. Sierra Madre Community Foundation will accept donations for the Committee at P.O. Box 716, Sierra Madre, CA 91025.

Sisters
A heartwarming journey

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Starring Anna Marie Angeloni and Jennifer Keller

Music Performed By Melissa Knox and Gemma Gaudio

Assistant Director Joan Ehlers

Lighting Austin Andrews

Sound Hal Thomas

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*For more information, call (310) 633-3966 or (626) 355-5278.

Sierra Madre Library Events

Thursday, July 10, at 10:30 a.m. Flights of Fantasy Story Theatre will present **"Getting the Bugs Out."**

Thursday, July 31, at 10:30 a.m. Swazzle will present a puppet show, **"Space Bugs."**

Bargain Books Table Sale inside the Library during the Library's public open hours. Featured titles will include Fiction, Biography, Art, Cooking, Children's and Specialty books. All books will be sold at the bargain price of \$1.00.

The Sierra Madre Public Library will be closed for Independence Day, Friday, July 4.

Sunday, July 13, at 6:00 p.m. **The High Strung Rock Band** will appear in the Spectacular Summer Sounds outdoor concert series at Memorial Park in Sierra Madre. For the past three years, this quirky, energetic band from Detroit, hailed by Rolling Stone Magazine, The New York Times and the Village Voice as "One of the best rock bands in America," has toured the country, performing on behalf of libraries and literacy. Known for their wit and lyrical bravado, the trio has appeared on MTV and National Public Radio, and full-length articles on the band have been featured in Entertainment Weekly, Magnet, Harp, and Spin magazines. Their debut album, **These Are the Good Times**, was named by pop culture critic Ken Tucker as one of the Top 10 Rock Records of 2003.

This concert is part of the Sierra Madre Library's Summer Reading Programs for children, teens and adults, and is sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. Memorial Park is located at 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre. For more information on this, and other Library programs and services, please call 626-355-7186, or visit the Library's website at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us.

Sierra Madre Summer Fun in the Park

Get out and get active! Come and enjoy Summer Fun in the Park starting Tuesday, July 8 - Thursday, August 28.

The Community and Personnel Services Department is offering fun and interactive programs all summer long. Each Tuesday and Thursday the fun will begin at 9:30 - 10:30 am at the Memorial Park Bandshell, 222 West Sierra Madre Blvd.

Programs are geared towards youth ages 3-10 years old but people of all ages are welcome to enjoy.

Tuesday activities will consist of different programs including:

- July 8 - Arts Commission Crafts
- July 15 - Folk Dancing
- July 22 - Police Department Safety Awareness
- July 29 - Los Angeles County Arboretum Crafts
- August 5 - Los Angeles Zoo, Meet the Mammals
- August 12 - Recycling Fun
- August 19 - TBA
- August 26 - Southern California Lyric Theater

Every Thursday starting July 10 CATZ (Competitive Athletics Training Zone) will be providing a fitness program designed for youths from 9:30 - 10:30 am. The program includes sports and games and encourages kids to get out and get active during these summer mornings. The Pasadena-based company places a high value on being healthy and active and has tailored youth fitness programs to meet these goals. Don't forget to bring your sneakers and a water bottle!

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Flag Sales On Now!



It's that time of the year again! If you missed out on ordering your very own Sierra Madre flag last summer, don't let it happen again!

Flags will be available pre-sale only. The Community and Personnel Services Department will be taking orders in July and August. Flags are color, 2x3 feet, and made of nylon, perfect for indoor or outdoor use. The cost is only \$40.00 and you have a choice of grommets or pole sleeves.

Orders will be taken at the Farmers Markets, Concerts in the Park, the Community and Personnel Services office, or by mail.

Show your city pride by ordering an original City of Sierra Madre flag now!

Deadline to order flags is August 31, 2008.

For more information call 626-355-5278 or e-mail city@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us

KEITH (continued from page 1)

In fact, one of the things that Keith embraces as an important accomplishment is also a very sore bone of contention to some residents. Under the direction of Sean Joyce who was the Sierra Madre City Manager at the time, the re-direction of Prop A Open Space Funds from the 1 Carter Property to Sierra Vista Park and the Youth Activity Center has scarred Keith's reputation among many.

Nevertheless, Michelle leave's her post with well wishes from most. Current City Manager Elaine Aguilar acknowledges that it will be a challenge to replace Keith. "She is a very smart, hardworking individual."

Elisa Weaver will take over as the Interim Director of Community Services and Personnel.

They Gave Hope: Sierra Madre Wine and Jazz Walk Committee Members See Benefits of Their Work

By Bill Coburn

Members of the Sierra Madre Wine and Jazz Walk (SMWJW) Committee received a mini-tour of the City of Hope facility on Monday, June 23rd, and had an opportunity to be de-briefed by two of the doctors that oversee where funds donated by the SMWJW are spent. The Committee has donated \$60,000 dollars to City of Hope in the two years it has been in operation.

After being greeted by Gift Planning Officer Steve Sommers and Sierra Madre resident Bridget Marshall of Visitor Services, the group hopped on a tram and was shown a part of City of Hope's 100+ acre facility. After the brief tour, the group stepped into a lecture room to view a presentation by Dr. Richard Jove, who wears several hats, judging by the various titles in his curriculum vitae: Director, Beckman Research Institute; Deputy Director, Comprehensive Cancer Center; Co-leader, Developmental Cancer Therapeutics Program; and Professor, Division of Molecular Medicine. His work has improved understanding of the role of STAT3 signaling in cell growth and survival in a wide range of human tumor cells. He has authored more than 150 scientific papers in leading research journals.

Dr. Jove spoke about the process under which doctors operate. "You can't just invent something and put it into a patient, you have to have it up to a certain standard by the FDA, and when we did that a number of years ago people thought we were insane, the FDA said oh you can't do that...make something like that...and we thought we could and we did, and now we're the gold standard, or the platinum standard...now Harvard comes to us and says how did you do that...it allows us to take an idea on a napkin, examine it in a petrie dish, and take it to a mouse, and then we say to the FDA...we think we can do something with this program of patients...we're going to do something spectacular..."

He discussed that one of the goals of researchers is to reduce the toxicity of the current therapies so that when "therapies" attack the cancer cells, they attack only those cells, reducing the side effects that the patient experiences during their treatment. He then discussed the cumulative effects of mutagenic events on cells during a patient's lifetime, that we are constantly bombarded by things that effect the structure of our cells, noting that while there are cumulative effects, "the alternative is not to live." He discussed the STAT 3 gene, and how genes within cells can tell the cells whether or not to "turn on" the STAT 3 cells, and how molecular medicine research is making advances in the activation (or non-activation) of STAT 3 genes and the effect that can have in whether a cell becomes a tumor cell or not. After his presentation, he answered questions from the committee.

Following Dr. Jove's presentation, the Committee members were taken to the Visitor's Center, where a presentation was given by Dr. Michael Jensen, who happens to be a resident of Sierra Madre. Dr. Jensen's CV lists even more titles than Dr. Jove's: Co-leader, Cancer Immunotherapeutics Program; Associate Chair, Division of Cancer Immunotherapeutics & Tumor Immunology; Director, Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Program; Director, Zagoria Laboratory for Pediatric Cancer Research; Associate Professor, Pediatrics; and Physician, Pediatric Neuro-oncology. Dr. Jensen discussed a brain tumor (Glioma) research program underway in which T-cells are removed from a cancer patient, "cleaned up" and "supercharged" by adding recombinant DNA, then re-injected into the patient.

I have to admit that I was somewhat over my head in my understanding of the above programs. While I won't pretend to really understand what recombinant DNA is (Wikipedia definition: Recombinant DNA is a form of artificial DNA that is engineered through the combination or insertion of one or more DNA strands, thereby combining DNA sequences that would not normally occur together. In terms of genetic modification, recombinant DNA is produced through the addition of relevant DNA into an existing organismal genome {whole hereditary information encoded in the DNA}, such as the plasmid of bacteria, to code for or alter different traits for a specific purpose, such as immunity.) I will say this: the video of the supercharged T-cells attacking and removing the cancer cells was dramatic, and should give hope to anyone suffering from Glioma.

During a brief Q and A, Dr. Jensen noted that the treatment still has to go to clinical trial via the FDA, and that the initial non-FDA approved tests of the process were conducted on people that had very few options, meaning that if it works

Sierra Madre Celebrates July 3rd and 4th Traditional Parade, Concert, and Family Events in the Park

Sierra Madre will celebrate July 3rd and 4th in its usual hometown way with the traditional Parade (they say half the town marches in the parade, and the other half watches) and performances by four great bands. On Thursday, July 3, at 6 p.m. the Aluminum Marshmallow, a local group led by Tom Behrens, will play '60s and 70's classic hits in Memorial Park. Aluminum Marshmallow headlines an evening of musical performances, starting at 5:00 with Hear2Play, which plays until 5:30. At 5:30, the brother band The Sheds will perform, but since their last Sierra Madre performance the band has undergone a transition from a three member rock and roll cover band to a five member ska band. After the Sheds will be Aluminum Marshmallow, a group of local musicians which first performed together in a 1967 Saint Rita School Talent Show.

Carrying on a long-standing tradition, the Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters' Association will open the Beer Garden on the 3rd, and non-profit organizations will have booths selling food and other merchandise to raise money to fund their organizations and the Sierra Madre beneficiaries of their philanthropic donations throughout the year.

On Friday July 4th, after a flyover of "Vintage Warbirds" (vintage military aircraft including a WWII trainer twin-engine C-45), Sierra Madre Girl Scouts, part of the Mt. Wilson Vista Council, will open the Parade, which features seventy entries, including this year's Parade Grand Marshals, the Sierra Madre Fire Department.

The Sierra Madre Woman's Club, as it has for many years, will hold an open house provide complimentary breakfast starting at 8 a.m., at their historic Essick House location at the corner of Sunnyside and Sierra Madre Blvd., which is also the location of the start of the parade. The parade will start at 10 a.m., and continue down Sierra Madre Blvd. to Sierra Vista Park.

Following the Grand Marshals, Sierra Madre Mayor Kurt Zimmerman, Mayor Pro Tem Maryann MacGillivray, and Council members John Buchanan, Joe Mosca and Don Watts will represent the City. Next comes Citizen of the Year Pete Siberell and Older American Eph Konigsberg.

Congressman David Dreier, State Senator Bob Margett, and County Supervisor Mike Antonovich are participating in the Parade.

Representing the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association, which is riding a streak of three consecutive major awards in the Tournament of Roses Parade, are Princess Hanna Storlie, Princess Alexandra Flores, and their Escorts Andrew Pirrone and Timothy Crilly. This year, for the first time in recent memory, the float is nearly 30 percent complete structurally at the time of the parade, so parade goers will be treated to a partial preview of the 2009 entry in the T of R parade.

The 4th of July parade lineup is available for advance viewing online at www.SierraMadre4thofJuly.us.

After the Parade, at about 11:30 a.m., activities continue in Memorial Park where several local nonprofits will provide food and patriotic trinkets for sale. The Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters' Association will again open the Beer Garden, which this year funds not only the SMVFA, but the Sierra Madre Little League, which will provide manpower at the booth. SMLL just completed its fiftieth season.

At noon, the Night Blooming Jazzmen will entertain under the shade trees on the east side of the park. There will be traditional Dixieland jazz until 4 p.m. when the 4th of July activities will conclude.

Matt Bosse, chairman of the Fourth of July Committee reminds everyone that these events, enjoyed by all, don't happen without a lot of effort and substantial cost, so **please help carry on our town's 4th of July traditions by making a generous donation!** The Sierra Madre Community Foundation will accept donations for the Committee at P.O. Box 716, Sierra Madre, CA 91025.

2008 CAR SHOW AWARD WINNERS



Woodie4765 – David Didier's 1951 Ford Woodie received the Ladies' Choice award.

Photo by Bill Coburn

Mark Kennedy
Richard Gard
Lance Baroldi
Lance Baroldi
Paul Rodgers
Dave Didier
Ray Astamendi
Road Kings

Mayor's Pick
Police Chief's Pick
Fire Chief's Pick
Peoples' Choice
Special Interest
Ladies' Choice
Participants' pick
Best Car Club Participation

56 Ford Ambulance (Post Ambulance)
68 Chevrolet Camaro
46 Hudson pick up
46 Hudson pick up
24 Buick Bear TIA
51 Ford Woodie
60 Chevrolet Impala

COUNCIL continued from page 1

consultant to make a presentation to the council regarding how to best approach the task of updating the Housing Element since the passage of Measure V. At that time, an allocation of \$3,000 was made.

The RFP that was prepared by staff suggests that the scope of work for the consultant include a review of the existing housing element, recommend changes, organize and conduct community outreach and hold public hearings.

The council also held the first readings of the Floodplain Federal Management Requirements, the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map and Amendments to the California Building Code on June 24th.

Given the amount of business the council must complete in the very near future, it was agreed that instead of taking the month of August off, the council will only suspend one meeting.

On the lighter side of things, resident Bill Tice gave Development Services Director Danny Castro a very public compliment. Tice congratulated Castro, a new city employee, for pitching in and helping with the shoveling of mud during the recent rains. He called Castro, "A Perfect Man." At the previous council meeting Tice bestowed upon Police Chief Marilyn Diaz, one of his 'Eagles' for her good communications around the city. Staff/MVO

on those in the worst of shape, it probably will work for those earlier in the progression of the disease. Dr. Jensen noted that we are on the edge of numerous breakthroughs in medical and health technology, and that we should expect in the next few years to see monumental changes in healthcare, due largely to the technological breakthroughs of the last few years.

Then the conversation turned to discussion of the recent Santa Anita fire in the hills behind Sierra Madre. While the good doctor's discussion of his program was informative, enlightening and full of promise and hope, the discussion of the fire was one that everyone in the room understood and could contribute to, based on their own experiences. And it also localized the work that the City of Hope does. While the work done at City of Hope benefits patients worldwide, it was especially beneficial, I think, for the Committee members to learn not only how groundbreaking the work being done, funded partially by the dollars donated by the community of Sierra Madre and through their own efforts, is, but to learn that it's being done by a guy who shared their fear as the fire came over the ridge in April, or who is sitting next to them at the Sierra Madre Little League game, or who is someone they might see shopping in a local store, without any awareness that he's the guy making a difference for cancer patients worldwide, thanks to their efforts and those of their community.

The committee learned a lot about the work that their contribution was helping to fund, and was very appreciative of the time that the doctors had taken out of their busy research schedules to help them begin to understand why their contribution, and yours, through your support of the Wine and Jazz Walk, is so important.

This year's Sierra Madre Wine and Jazz Walk is scheduled for October 25th, and will again feature wines donated by San Antonio Winery and the Riboli Family. At least 20 local businesses will participate, with wine tasting, cuisine from local restaurants and catering companies, raffles and a silent auction all planned. For more information about the event, visit www.SierraMadreWineandJazzWalk.com.

Scootermania Turns Sierra Madre into Sierra MODre

By Kim Clymer-Kelly

A little over a year ago, I finally did something that I had wanted to do for a couple years; I got up the nerve to purchase a motor scooter. After shopping and comparing my options over and over again online, I had decided that I was most interested in the Honda Metropolitan. In the time that it took for me to completely convince myself that this was indeed something that I should do, three of my Beantown buddies purchased motorbikes of various sorts. The first two were Jack Tierny and Bob Vinci who both decided to buy mopeds from a local dealer, Doug Kirk, who specializes in the sale and repair of Tomos mopeds. They were small, 50 cc engine vehicles with functional (but not very practical) pedals. After several months, Bob gave up his moped in favor of a new Vespa...choosing a larger, more powerful model. Next, Debra Baird, an elementary teacher, purchased a Honda Metropolitan from David, one of the hair stylists at Capelli Court, and fellow Beantown regular, who was upgrading to a full-fledged motorcycle. The Metropolitan is also a small, 50 cc engine scooter vehicle. Scooters have a step through design where your feet have a floorboard to rest on rather than foot pegs or pedals. Over the next year or two I talked many times to these friends about the advantages and fun of owning their motorbikes.

While owning a scooter was not practical when I was living up in the mountains ... I would not even consider riding one down Chantry Road when there is traffic on it... but once I moved into town, the idea became more and more appealing. While environmental issues were my original motivation for switching to a scooter, other factors came into play. Gas prices were slowly creeping up, my car had over 160,000 miles on it, I no longer had to shuttle around my three boys, and the vast majority of my driving was local...within 5-10 miles of home. Finally, in April, 2007, I had made my decision. The deciding factor came when I checked out the new 2007 models of the Honda Metropolitan. Ordinarily the Metropolitan comes in two models, the standard one, now priced at \$1899 and a more decorative version of some sort (they vary from year to year and usually offer several variations) priced at \$1999. Upon checking the internet one more time, I found that the deluxe versions of the 2007 Metropolitan included a pink scooter decorated with white hibiscus flowers. Since my very first two-wheeler bike (named Scout) that I got for my seventh birthday and took to college with me was pink and white, I could not resist...it was like a sign from above. I set out to local dealers to check it out, but no one had it in stock, it would have to be ordered. After a very bad experience at Bert's Mega Mall, and an unsatisfactory price at another dealer, I turned to the internet and found a web site called OT-Dcyclesports.com that has a no haggle policy. You just tell them exactly what you want and they give you a bottom-line, out-the-door price that was the best deal that I had gotten and about as

good as I ever thought that I would get...below retail and with no shipping, assembly, or dealer fees attached. I ordered it and picked it up within a few short days at their dealership in Inglewood. It easily fit in the back of my mini van.

I immediately insured it and took the written test to obtain my permit. At first I was petrified to ride it and kept to back streets and off of all main roads like Foothill and Santa Anita Ave. and Sierra Madre Blvd., but it took just a couple weeks before I became comfortable enough to tackle them regularly.



Sierra Madre scooter lovers, Colleen McEnvoy, me, and Jack Tierny. The rider less scooter on the far left, belongs to MVO City Editor, Dean Lee.

Over the next few weeks, I used it more and more. Throughout that summer I got to where I seldom used my car. When the rains came in the fall and winter, I assumed that my use of it would be pretty limited, but there were still very few days when it was too wet or rainy to take the scooter. I bundled up and braved the cold morning rides to work any day that the roads were not wet. As gas prices continued to climb, I valued my scooter more and more. The literature on the Metropolitan claims 85 MPG, but my actual mileage during the first 6 months that I owned it and kept track of mileage religiously, I recorded actual mileage in the range of 94 MPG-104 MPG.

The number of people asking me about my scooter was amazing from the beginning, but in recent months, it has increased tremendously. People stop me at lights, at work, and wherever else I ride it to ask me all sorts of questions. I am amazed at the number of women older than I am who have stopped to talk about my scooter and left seemingly sold on the idea. It seems that every week or so I notice a new one that has showed up in the area. One of the most common questions I am asked, besides the obvious ones of make and model, mileage and price, is whether a license is necessary. The answer is yes. Both the scooter and driver need to be licensed. Smaller scooters and mopeds need an M2 license and larger ones need an M1 license. The only difference is what you are riding when you take the driving part of the test...the motorcycle written test is the same for both the M1 and M2 license, and you will have to take a short version of the regular written drivers' test as well. The driving part of the test involves negotiating a course in the parking lot of the DMV office. It contains a series of cones that you zig-zag through and a double line that



makes a circle that you need to ride staying within the lines. Another frequently asked question is how fast it will go and whether or not they can go on the freeways. The scooters and the mopeds that have 50 cc engines top out at 40. They are good on all surface streets, but cannot go on the freeway. A bike with a 150 cc engine or greater will reach freeway speeds and are allowed on the freeway, though I think it would be pretty scary...



Fire Safe Council "Announcements and Observations"

The State of California is facing an unprecedented wildfire season. Conditions are severe and Sierra Madre is not completely out of harm's way as a result of our early April fire in the foothills to the north on the eastern boarder with the National Forest. The fire line stopped at the ridgeline above Auburn Ave. and there are acres of Chaparral on our western edge in drier conditions that can ignite. Low fuel moisture, low humidity, a source of ignition and high air temperatures all combine to start a fire in our "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone." The homeowner must continue to act to protect their home from ember intrusion. Please consult the web site: firecenter.berkeley.edu and link to Fire Information Engine Tool Kit. You then follow the link to the Homeowner Wildfire Assessment and take your home through a self-assessment. After you finish you receive an evaluation of what hazards are present and what you need to work on to keep you home safe against ember intrusion.

Keeping embers from intruding into the vulnerable areas of your home is aided by providing a defensible space around your home. The State Fire Marshal and our local Fire Marshal, Richard Snyder, mandate that the homeowner must keep the first 30 feet from the home clear of flammable brush by using landscaping that can be well and wisely watered during our drought conditions. The next seventy feet, for a total of 100 feet on your own property, has additional requirements to keep large bushes and trees well spaced apart and trimmed up from the ground to prevent ground fires from spreading up into the trees.

The next Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council meeting is July 7, 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. For information call 355-9350 or 355-0741.



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know? Eco-Friendly Family Vacations

By Pat Birdsall

CORRECTION: Due to a production error in last week's column, "An Unfairly Maligned Elder Statesman," should have included the website for information, educational materials and other links to better understand this docile creature called the Opossum. It is: www.opossumsocietyus.org.

This week we would like to recommend-- Eco-Friendly Family Vacations

According to the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Amtrak is nearly 20 percent more energy efficient than commercial airlines—and is continuing to improve as they swap diesel locomotives for electric ones. Amtrak offers various passes so you can ride as far or as often as you want. Or pick a route that's made for exploring without a car. Check out www.amtrakvacations.com

Nearly everyone's home region is someone else's tourist destination, and the odds are there's somewhere with 50 miles of you that you've never explored. Stay local, and you can spend the money you're saving on planes, trains and gas on going upscale: The hotel you'd never book or the restaurants you'd never eat in otherwise. Or head for nature: Find a campground close to where you live, or rent a cabin in a state park and bring along hot chocolate mix. Everything feels different when you're cooking on a camp stove or sitting out late at night by a glowing fire.

Instead of driving a hundred miles a day, why not try walking 5, or biking 15, or paddling even just 1? You'll become immersed in the landscape; meet interesting people, minimize your carbon footprint—and lose weight! One local resource is for trip planning would be the national outfitter REI. www.rei.com The possibilities are endless. www.thegreenguide.com

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

Brought to you by:

Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council*
(SMEAC)
P. O. Box 85
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085

* We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Park House (Senior Center) in Hart Memorial Park, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. - Please join us- Your thoughts and comments are welcome... For more information call Pat Birdsall (626) 355-7290

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, June 15th, to Saturday June 21st, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 256 calls for service.

Sunday, June 15th:

1:28 AM- Arrest, Baldwin Ave. and Orange Grove Ave. A motorist was stopped for an equipment violation. A records check revealed the driver's license was suspended/ revoked. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear in court.

11:45 AM- Arrest, Sierra Madre Blvd and Baldwin Ave. Officer on patrol saw a man staggering in the downtown district. Further investigation revealed the man was intoxicated and unable to safely care for himself. The Los Angeles resident was booked into Pasadena Jail.

Wednesday, June 18th:

1:29 PM- Arrest, 400 block of Fairview. Officers contacted a man regarding taking recyclables out of trash cans. A records check revealed the man was wanted for a grand theft of copper wire that occurred in Arcadia weeks earlier. Arcadia PD detectives responded and took the man into custody.

7:59 PM- Arrest, Michillinda Ave. and Orange Grove Ave. A motorist was stopped for an equipment violation. A records check revealed the driver's license was suspended/ revoked. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear in court.

Thursday, June 19th:

11:23 AM- Theft, 300 block of Auburn Ave. A man reported the theft of his 2009 registration tab from his vehicle. Investigation revealed the theft took place between 5/1/2008 and 5/15/2008.

Saturday, June 21st

12:41 PM- Theft, 200 block of West Sierra Madre Blvd. A man reported he sent money to Claremont, California believing he was making a deposit on a rental property. Investigation revealed the money was taken fraudulently.

5:01 PM- Arrest, Baldwin Ave. and Hampton. A motorist was stopped for an equipment violation. A records check revealed the driver's license was suspended/ revoked. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear in court.

5:21 PM- Arrest, Sierra Madre Blvd. and Baldwin Ave. A man was contacted after bystanders reported he was intoxicated. Further investigation revealed the man was intoxicated and unable to safely care for himself. The man was booked into Pasadena Jail.

BUCHANAN TO SPEAK ON THE GREENING OF SIERRA MADRE

City Councilman John Buchanan will address the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club on Tuesday, July 1st at 12:00 Noon

The topic will be: "The Greening of Sierra Madre"

A delicious lunch is provided by Restaurant Lozano and is \$11.00 for non-members. For lunch reservations, please call Pat Birdsall, Treasurer at 626-355-7290. For those just wanting to hear the presentation, a 12:20 P M arrival time is suggested.

The Kiwanis Club meets at the Masonic Temple

33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., ample parking in the back.

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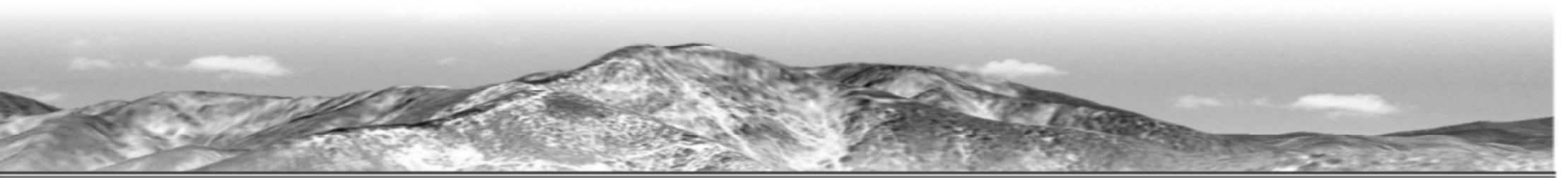
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Balloon Ban Floats By Key Assembly Committee

By Dean Lee

Helium-filled, metallic balloons could become a thing of the past in California after a recent proposed bill introduced by Senator Jack Scott's (D-Pasadena) to ban them passed the Assembly Business and Professions Committee in Sacramento Thursday.

SB 1499 was approved with a 6 to 2 vote according to Wendy Gordon a spokesperson for Scott's office.

In a prepared statement, Gordon also said Southern California Edison reported more than 9,000 customers were without power during last week's heat wave, all because of Mylar balloons.

"Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidents," Scott said. "When these balloons cause outages, the losses can be staggering – millions of dollars in lost revenue to homeowners, energy companies and businesses. The Electric Power Research Institute estimates the cost at between \$220,000 to \$357,000 dollars per minute. That means Californians are losing more \$120 million each year."

This was the second time this week the committee voted on the bill. Tuesday it fell shy of one vote. Scott then requested reconsideration and it passed.

If the bill becomes law it would make it a crime to, "sell or distribute any

balloon that is constructed of electrically conductive material, and filled with a gas lighter than air, or any balloon filled with a gas lighter than air that is attached to an electrically conductive string, tether, streamer, or other electrically conductive appurtenance" according to the bill's summary.

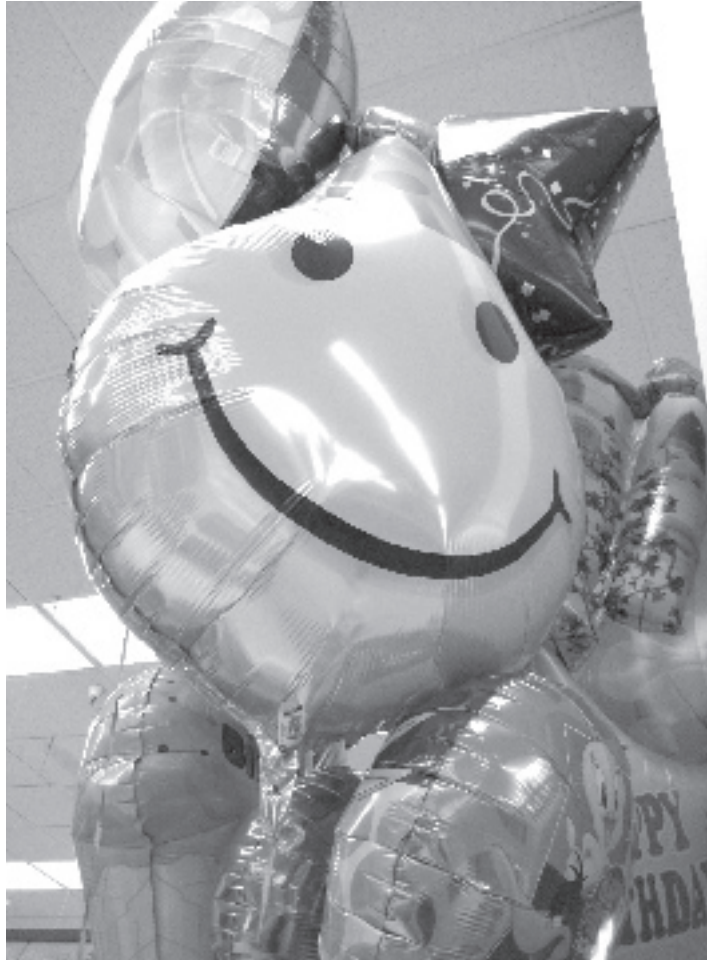
Violators would be fined \$100 and the ban would take affect January 1, 2010.

Banning the balloon is not without fierce criticism. Broad & Gusman LLP, a public relations firm had said on behalf of the International Balloon Association that Mylar balloons are not a threat. The firm cited The California Public Utilities Commission own reports.

Broad & Gusman said, "The damage caused by metallic balloons is so minor that, of the nearly 6,000 power outages in California each year, outages caused by metallic balloons do not even make the list. What few metallic balloons do hit power lines cause just a few seconds of interrupted service, which is restored automatically."

They also said SB 1499 is not supported by The California Public Utilities Commission.

Earlier this month KFI radio hosts John and Ken held a rally in Pasadena at Memorial Park. About 150 people, mostly with children, showed up. Many simply said they thought it was un-American to ban balloons. At one point a



Nothing to smile about: Mylar balloon ban could cost store owners \$100 million.

Photo D. Lee/MVO

very young girl took the microphone saying: "Jack Scott is an SOB,"

SOB stood for "Save our balloons." One balloon vender had made a large replica of Scott out of balloons. The spoof was a big hit.

According to The International Balloon Association in California over \$100 million is made from the direct sales of Mylar balloons. They said a ban would hurt mostly florists and grocery stores. Pete McDonough of the Balloon Council said that

breaks down to 45 million Mylar balloons being sold annually in the state.

The measure is backed by the CA Municipal Utilities Association, Southern California Edison, PG&E, Sempra Energy and San Diego Gas & Electric, the Los Angeles County Sheriffs, CA Professional Firefighters and other utility companies across the state Gordon said.

The bill is now headed to Assembly Appropriations for consideration she added.

Concerns Raised over Contract for Citywide Parking Enforcement

By Dean Lee

The city council Monday night put off entering into a contract with Serco, Inc. for citywide parking enforcement and ending the current contract with Pasadena Based Inter-Con Security Services Inc. Serco is headquartered in Reston Virginia.

Interim City Manager, Bernard Melekian, asked that the item be brought back July 14 although Councilman Steve Madison suggested it go back for review by a lower committee such as Public Safety.

Melekian indicated there were some questions that he did not have the answers to asking the item be pulled. He said it needed to come back quickly.

"There is a real concern about a gap in the enforcement if we don't do that," Melekian said about the July 14 date. "The council does not meet again until then."

He also said the council needed to extend the current contract with Inter-Con through July 31. The current contract ends Monday.

There were a number of people there to speak on the issue but all said they were willing to come back.

According to city staff the city's parking

enforcement program currently consists of four parking enforcement representatives employed by the city. The program is supplemented with contract personnel who provide dispatch, parking patrol and related services.

Staff also said they needed time to prepare and execute the new contract with Serco.

In May three security companies submitted proposals although, Patriot Security, was disqualified for not complying with the requirements.

The companies were evaluated based on criteria such as price, management, operation and deployment programs among other things. They were also judged on local Pasadena business preference as well as small and micro business preference.

The three year contract will cost the city just over \$2.2 million. Two additional one-year terms can be added based on performance, price and availability of city funds staff said.

The city is not required to have competitive bidding because of the unique nature of the services.

Staff anticipates parking citation revenue for the next year will be \$5.5 million.

PCC to Host Terrorism Conference



Campus Police said they will address terrorism and its potential impact on local schools during an upcoming conference to be held next month. The conference will inform campus administrators of the pending dangers facing school campuses and will provide training for Special Weapons and Tactics officers.

The two-day conference will feature an internationally recognized counter-terrorism expert who has trained special operations teams in both military and police departments throughout the world. As part of the overall efforts in emergency action planning, PCC administrators will identify the need to make preparations for all potential threats, including a campus shooting or terrorist attack.

While planning for this training, PCC Police and Safety Services Chief Peter Michael expressed the importance of sharing information with fellow law enforcement officers and educators.


"I believe in a community effort to address terrorism concerns that will help to harden all campuses as potential targets thereby thwarting any threat," He said, "PCC extends an invitation to all K-12 schools, community colleges, and California State University and UC campuses."


Keeping Pets Safe this Fourth Of July





July 5th is a busy day for the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA and animal shelters around the country. The festivities we humans enjoy can be terrifying to our pets, and humane officers and concerned citizens bring countless dogs and cats—most of them exhausted and confused -- to safety at animal shelters during and after the holiday.


The safety and comfort of your pet requires special attention. PHS offers the following recommendations to help keep your pet secure.

 Keep your pet inside during Fourth of July celebrations. Many cats and dogs are frightened by the loud noises of fireworks and will be happier safely confined at home. Playing a radio may help diffuse the loud noise of fireworks.

 Be certain that your pet's identification is current. Update your pet's microchip information if necessary. A visible form of identification is the best way to ensure that your pet can be returned home to you.

 If you think your pet may become extremely agitated or stressed, consult your veterinarian and discuss the possibility of sedatives or overnight boarding. You may wish to call an animal behavior specialist to work with your pet, but do this well in advance.

 If your pet runs away, search the kennels of the shelter closest to you. Many shelters post photos of the animals that come into their facility on their website. PHS' website, www.phssPCA.org, is updated hourly so that lost animals may be quickly reunited with their lost owners. Post signs and visit nearby shelters for at least the next month. Animals can run a long way when they are badly frightened.

 If your cat is lost, it may stay in hiding for several days or weeks, so leave plenty of food and fresh water outside your door. Pick it up at night so you don't attract unwanted wild animals. Post signs and check your local and neighboring shelters in person and on line; your description of your pet may fit several animals in the shelter.

PHS will be open until 6pm on July 3rd open at 7am on July 5 so people can find their lost pets. The shelter will be closed on July 4th.

Safety Urged During 4th of July Activities In Pasadena

Pasadena Fire Department and Pasadena Police Department remind residents and visitors that the best way to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday with family and friends is by attending a professional fireworks show.

The sale and possession of fireworks is illegal in Pasadena and most of Los Angeles County. Violators are subject to confiscation and impound of vehicles, up to one year in jail and fines up to \$50,000.

Due to high fire hazards associated with record-low rainfall the past few years, Pasadena police and fire personnel will staff checkpoints to seize all illegal fireworks and arrest offenders. Parking enforcement officers will ensure that vehicles illegally parked in hillside areas on July 4 are impounded.

Pasadena's police and fire chiefs stress that the aim is to prevent accidents and injuries.

Additional teams of firefighters and police officers will be on patrol to ensure the safety of the community during the Fourth of July holiday," said Acting Police Chief Christopher Vicino.

Even sparklers, which most people consider safe, can reach temperatures of 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, burn people seriously and cause fires," said Pasadena Fire

Chief Dennis J. Downs. "A sparkler is a hand-held firework typically used by



children. Adults wouldn't ordinarily allow children to get near anything that hot but for some reason they think it's acceptable on the Fourth of July."

On July 4, 2007, investigators responded to more than 200 fireworks-related calls over a 14-hour period in Pasadena and confiscated more than 1,000 pounds of illegal fireworks and explosives.

According to the most recent statistics from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, an estimated 9,500 injuries caused by legal and illegal fireworks were reported to emergency rooms throughout the nation. About half of those injuries were among children under age 15.

Prior to this year's

holiday, Pasadena Fire Department will apply Phos-Chek to brush areas surrounding the Rose Bowl Stadium. The main ingredients of this wildland fire retardant are phosphates and fertilizers that help revegetate trees and grassland.

"This is a preventive measure for Fourth of July activities and the summer season," said Downs.

For more information about fireworks safety and enforcement, contact Pasadena Fire Department at (626) 744-7276 or Pasadena Police Department at (626) 744-4501.

For information about the Americafest Fourth of July celebration, visit www.rosebowlstadium.com or call (626) 577-3101.

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

FROM CONCERT HALL AND OPERA HOUSE TO COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

PASADENA, Calif. She has sung before thousands at Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Opera and even Dodger Stadium, but a gig as commencement speaker for The Rosemary School was one of the toughest she'd encountered yet, internationally renowned mezzo-soprano Suzanna Guzman confessed to the group of roughly 40 family members, staff, supporters and four graduates gathered on the lawn outside The Rosemary School, Rosemary Children's Services' non-public school for troubled and at-risk teenage girls.

"When Rosemary Children's Services approached me about speaking this morning, my first thought was 'What? I can't speak. I sing,'" Guzman related on a warm June morning. "Honestly I can sing for 3000 people at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and, believe me, this is harder."

But Guzman is making a habit these days of tackling such challenges, she told the graduating class. She has returned to college at Cal State LA - where she has enrolled in a medley of courses ranging from prerequisites like Career Planning to a daunting class in Orchestration - and fully intends to earn a degree in Music in the not too distant future. She came to this decision, she told the girls, after reading how 70% of Latinas who left school, as she did prior to graduating from college, never returned.

"But the truth is that today is so not about me," Guzman continued. "What you can't forget, what you must emblazon in your mind with perfect clarity, is why you are here. You did it. You made it. You are a

graduate. Now you know that when you set out to do something, you can finish it."

The Rosemary School provides regular and special education programs for the teenage girls, grades 7-12, referred to Rosemary Children's Services by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services or the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Coursework at the non-public school includes core academic subjects, pre-vocational and vocational education training, work experience, and independent living skills.

"At The Rosemary School, we do our best to instill in each student the ability to focus on her goals and work through the difficulties she may face to achieve them," explains Dr. Frederick Martone, Director of Education. "We always tell the girls, 'your determination makes the difference.'"

Class speaker "Rachel" - who also won more than one academic award at the ceremonies - read a poem she had written especially for the occasion. In Rachel's eyes, the journey she and her classmates have made together can best be described as a "decision."

"Are they going to remain in the darkness and let that fading light fade away?" she recited. "Or trust that the light will help to guide them to success/And that their broken dreams no longer have to be broken but possible?"

Guzman, whose address followed Rachel's, underscored the graduate's sentiments. She concluded her talk with a line from Mahler's Resurrection Symphony,



Executive Director Greg Wessels and mezzo soprano Suzanna Guzman. Guzman is a Sierra Madre resident.

in the manner she loves best. "With wings, I myself have unfurled, I soar towards a light that most people cannot see," she sang for the girls.

Rosemary Children's Services is one of the oldest West Coast charities that helps boys and girls of all ages who have suffered abuse, neglect and abandonment. Its programs include a Foster Family and Adoption Agency, which helps nearly 400 children, annually, throughout Los Angeles County and portions of San Bernardino,

Riverside and Orange Counties; a Non-Public School providing specialized education in a small structured environment; a Mental Health Program to provide individual and group therapy and training in various life skills; and the Residential Program which includes Rosemary Cottage and four group homes.

For more information about Rosemary Children's Services or to arrange a tour, call 626.844.3033 or visit www.rosemarychildren.org.

District Receives Generous Grants Creative Art Explosion!

By Teresa Baxter

Facing a \$10 million deficit in educational funding from the State of California's budget proposal just got a little easier for the Pasadena Unified School District. Last week it was announced that the Department of Education and the Helen and Will Webster Foundation had allocated grants for two separate academic programs.

PUSD Superintendent Edwin Diaz revealed that the district will receive a \$1.2 million contribution from the Webster Foundation to improve middle school student performance. The grant—which will be awarded over a two-year period—will be used to hire teachers, support professional development and expand student enrichment and intervention opportunities at middle schools throughout PUSD, said a spokesperson for the district.

"This generous grant from the Webster Foundation will help us accelerate achievement for all Pasadena Unified students, because middle school is crucial in determining the success of students in high school and beyond," said Superintendent Diaz. "I applaud [the foundation] for its leadership in supporting high-quality instruction for all students by designing academic programs to meet the unique needs of sixth through eighth graders."

It was also announced that PUSD was named the recipient of one of 121 "Teaching American History" grants awarded by

the U.S. Department of Education. The district will share the \$991,051 grant with partners that include the Huntington-USC Institute of California and the West, the Huntington Library and the El Rancho Unified School District. This grant will be used to enhance history teacher's content knowledge of California and the West, and to link those lessons to the national themes and historical outcomes of broader U.S. history.

Designed under the leadership of Professor William Deverell and the Huntington-USC Institute of California and the West, and coordinated by the Pasadena Educational Foundation, the professional development for teachers will include access to distinguished scholars and the Huntington Library's archival and rare book collections devoted to American history.

"The Institute of California and the West enjoys a terrific relationship with PUSD students and teachers and this partnership will allow us to continue the work we're all so excited about," said Deverell.

The "Teaching American History" grant will support PUSD's efforts to implement a more rigorous curriculum by improving teacher content knowledge, expanding access to leading experts and respected institutions, while equipping teachers to strengthen students' critical thinking skills, said the district spokesperson.

Thirteen new classes and workshops join the ongoing program at Creative Arts Group in Summer Session 2008. Adults and children can spend a lazy summer day or a warm summer evening relaxing and enjoying the creation of art in a fun, supportive, atmosphere.

Margot Lennartz, gallery curator at Descanso Gardens, brings her expertise on Landscape Painting to adults and teens, while Art Center's Rob Sherrill delves into the world of Watercolor Basics. Personal Chef, Leslie Miller, will show us how to prepare delectable goodies in her workshops Grilling & Chilling and Summer in a Sandwich. We not only get to see how it's done, but we get to taste-test the finished product! Seamstress extraordinaire, Yolanda Shewell, teaches down and dirty, quick and easy ways to create Crazy Quilts. We'll be well on our way to a beautiful quilt in just three weeks. Mosaic artist, Dawn

Mendelson, will guide us through the process of pique assiette style of mosaic in her two-week Mosaics for Beginners workshop. A beautiful mirror will be the finished product.

That's just for adults. New to the children's program are drawing and painting of Animals, Birds & Fish and mixed media Sculpture classes with Kt Boyce. Cathy Imhoff will bring Silk Painting and Wood Masks classes to the program. Puppeteer, Cathy Manzo, will teach children how to create Marionettes. The class will culminate in a puppet show for family and friends. And ten lucky kids will learn to sew in Eileen Lucas' Sewing for Kids class.

Creative Arts Group is a nonprofit art center in the village of Sierra Madre. You will find a full schedule of classes at www.creativeartsgroup.org, or you may phone, 626-355-8350, or come by the office at 108 N. Baldwin Ave.

Gooden School Children Help Others Unite

To promote children creativity and commitment through giving, The Gooden School in Sierra Madre recently participated in the Get on the Bus unification program designed to bring joy to children and their incarcerated parents, guardians and loved ones on Mother's Day and Father's Day. The students at Gooden raised more than \$300 to facilitate the rental of buses for children wishing to visit their parents on these significant family occasions. A bake sale and individual fund raising activities undertaken by the students at Gooden were at the heart of this school-wide community service project.

Get on the Bus is an annual event held throughout the State of California and offers free transportation for children and their caregivers to visit incarcerated relatives. While on what is often a lengthy bus trip, the children are provided travel and comfort care bags to make the journey more enjoyable and entertaining. The children and caregivers are also provided with breakfast, snacks on the bus and dinner on the way home. The children visit their



parents for four hours, enjoying lunch with their parents and leave with a photo as a memento of their visit. In addition, follow-up counseling is available to all children participating in the program.

The Gooden School is an independent co-educational Episcopal school that serves kindergarten through eighth grade students and is located in the heart of Sierra Madre. Gooden provides a classical educational experience in a nurturing environment. With a total enrollment of 180 students, The Gooden School fosters a close relationship between students, faculty and parents with a united goal of respect for self, respect for others and respect for the world. A key component of the Gooden experience is outreach projects that enrich the lives of those less fortunate or children in need.



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SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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(626) 355-3463
Head of School: Ann M. Gillick
E-mail address: agillick@alverno-hs.org

Arroyo Pacific Academy
41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca.
(626) 294-0661
Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Barnhart School
240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588
Head of School: Joanne Testa Cross
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.com

Bethany Christian School
93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527
Principal: James Lugenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcslions.org

The Gooden School
192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-2410
Head of School: Patty Patano
website: www.goodenschool.org

LaSalle High School
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951
Principal: Patrick Bonacci
website: www.lasallehs.org

Norma Coombs Alternative School
2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759
Principal: Dr. Vanessa Watkins
E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.us

Odyssey Charter School
725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001
(626) 229-0993
Head of School: Lauren O'Neill
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 798-8901
Principal: Dr. Derick Evans
website: www.pasadenahigh.org

Pasadena Unified School District
351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981
website: www.pusd@pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School
322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-9028
Principal: Joanne Harabedian
website: www.st-rita.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School
141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428
Principal: Gayle Bluemel
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School
160 N. Canon
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947
Principal: Gayle Bluemel
Contact person: Garrett Newsom, Asst. Principal
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Weizmann Day School

1434 N. Altadena Dr.
Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 797-0204

Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School

300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 449-7390
Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

Pasadena Unified School District
351 S. Hudson Ave.
Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981
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PUSD Approves New Charter School

Last week it was recommended that the Governing Board of the Pasadena Unified School District approve a petition for the establishment of the Learning Works! Charter School. The curriculum of the school will cater to students who may have dropped out of conventional high schools but are still seeking an alternative means to earn their diploma.

Deputy Superintendent Kathleen Duba spoke to the board on behalf of a team of PUSD staff members who reviewed the initial charter and a revised charter on June 13. Initially, a public hearing was held on May 27, leading to a second review and a consultation with the petitioners. Approval of the charter was recommended by the team as it is developed, said Duba. Board member Mike Babcock then motioned for approval of the charter, which was seconded by Bob Harrison, vice-president of education.

"When you look at their management structure and you look at their history, in both these cases they pass those tests and would be a worthy investment," said Harrison. "That's why in this case I would be in support of this charter school and approve the recommendation."

Board member Renatta Cooper stated that she echoed much of what Harrison said and asserted that one of the results of "No Child Left Behind" has been the need for organizations like Learning Works! to do as they do with students that are a little harder to reach or don't fit into the auspices of a traditional educational model, she said.

"I have long lamented the lack of a positive alternative," said Cooper. "I feel like Learning Works! is giving us a positive alternative for our young people."

Superintendent Edwin Diaz commended the focus and philosophy of the program. In regards to the alternative type of education provided, it will definitely fill a need for young people in the community, he said.

T. Baxter/MVO

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MountainViews-Observer

Mission Statement

The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.



Member

My Plan to Lower Gas Prices and Achieve Energy Independence

By Hail Hamilton

Americans are fed up with the oil industry and skyrocketing gas prices. They want an America that is energy independent by improving energy security, generating jobs and economic growth, and protecting Americans from price spikes and price gouging. Here's my plan to lower gas prices and achieve energy independence through measures that will increase domestic supplies of alternative energy, improve our energy efficiency, and protect consumers.

Make Iraq Pay in Oil

Make Iraq pay the United States in oil for the cost of the war. Six hundred billion dollars has been spent in Iraq. At \$135 a barrel this comes to 4.5 billion barrels of new oil on the world market. This would lower the price of gas significantly; that is, of course, if the oil companies quit manipulating supply by lowering refining capacity. Making Iraq repay the United States for the cost of the "War against Terrorism" is only fair. Iraq should indemnify the families of our war dead and pay for medical care for our wounded servicemen returning home.

Make America Energy Independent

Funding energy research. The U.S. should immediately dedicate \$25 billion for increased research, development, demonstration and deployment of new energy generation and new energy efficiency technologies to most effectively support the objective of decreasing U.S. oil imports, which is a critical national security priority. This would be done in the same spirit of necessity as the Manhattan Project. America must set the standard for energy security, and the lessening of emission of greenhouse gases.

Increasing energy efficiency standards and investing in new technology. The federal government should provide tax incentives for renewable energy, such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass, and for energy efficient home appliances and to expand the deployment of the latest technologies and increase research and commercialization of emerging technologies. Most important, the American automobile industry would begin developing a new generation of affordable fuel efficient cars. Fifty miles per gallon should be standard.

Creating the next generation of revolutionary energy technologies. The new president should create a new Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)-like initiative to provide seed money for fundamental research needed

to develop high-risk, high-reward technologies and build markets for the next generation of revolutionary energy technologies, such as those emerging from biotechnology, nanotechnology, solar, and fuel-cell research. This new agency would have resources and flexibility needed to do ground-breaking research and push promising technology into the marketplace.

Expanding biofuels and other clean energy alternatives. Congress should rapidly expand production and distribution of synthetic and bio-based fuels, such as ethanol derived from cellulosic sources, and deploy new engine technologies for fuel-flexible, hybrid, plug-in hybrid and bio-diesel vehicles -- by quadrupling research and development funding for new fuels, innovative refining processes for these fuels, and new vehicle technologies so that these emerging technologies can be deployed in the next three to five years.

Protect Consumers from Price Gouging

Banning gasoline price gouging and improving market transparency. Congress should pass legislation establishing a federal ban on price gouging for oil, gasoline, and other petroleum products during national emergencies, provide civil and criminal penalties for price gouging, ban market manipulation, and require greater transparency in oil and gasoline markets.

Impose tough criminal penalties on price gouging companies. Finally, the federal government should impose criminal penalties—up to \$100 million for each violation—against price gouging energy corporations. It should also immediately disgorge these companies of the ill-gotten profits they've made in the past 5 years.

Ease Energy Prices for Consumers

Energy consumer relief for families, small businesses and farmers. In the meantime, the President and Congress should provide relief to families paying skyrocketing energy costs by expanding the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and provide relief to small businesses and farmers with a tax credit and grants. These would be paid for by repealing the \$10 billion in unnecessary subsidies the new energy law has given oil and gas companies, and through fines from price-gouging.



From The Desk Of... Glenn Lambdin The Parade.

More than Christmas, more than New Years, and more than any other day on the calendar, my favorite day of the year is the 4th of July. Well, actually whatever day Sierra Madre's 4th of July Parade lands on, and I've started counting down.

Since I was a young boy growing up in Sierra Madre, The Parade has always been a grand occasion. My first time in The Parade started with a Radio Flyer wagon that my brother and I decorated the night before. It progressed to a freshly pressed Cub Scout uniform (thanks mom), and then to marching with different Little League teams.

As an adult, The Parade is about welcomed rituals, traditions, and familiar sights and sounds. It's pure Rockwellian Americana. But most of all, The Parade is the embodiment of the spirit of Sierra Madre.

I love the hubbub of the pre-parade morning, the chugging sounds of antique cars, and the cacophony of their anooa horns as they drive towards the staging area. Every year I enjoy wondering just how far the Sierra Madre City College will push the envelope of irreverence and am always pleasantly amused at whatever they do. And after finishing The Parade route, I can't wait to walk from the obligatory end-of-The-Parade water-fight up to Memorial Park for the festivities. Ahhhh, the sounds Dixieland jazz, the smells of the vendor's food, and the chance to reminisce with old friends caged in the beer garden like a pack of brew guzzlin' hyenas. It's my chance to bask in the constant wonder of the familiar...

and to participate in The Parade playing a borrowed slightly out-of-tune electric guitar with the most smoking blues band ever, The Village Idiots. (how's that for a cheap shameless plug)

This year will mark 10 years since the Village Idiots started rocking their one song gig down the boulevard. One single song that lasts the entire length of The Parade, start to finish. And in true tradition, they'll write that song while waiting in line for The Parade to start. No need to rush into anything! This year, though, there will be a slight break in tradition. Instead of putting the band together the night before, they've put it together a month early. But no worries, from what I hear, there'll be no rehearsals!

The word around town is that this year, the Village Idiots' Rev. Eli will debut his electronic drum-kit, ditching his old-school djembe hand drum. Sierra Madre's own home-grown Mario "The Funk Meister" Foresta will be laying down bass lines so sweet you'd think he was one of Motown's original Funk Brothers. Once again we'll be seeing St. Francis student, St. Rita alumni, and keyboardist extraordinaire, "The" Anthony Landis. (Of course his lamenting parents can't help but cringe at the expense and the years of Anthony's classical piano training being reduced to a single three chord blues-riff. But then again, this is The Parade!) And, the backbone of the Village Idiots, Harp Cat Joe; a true bluesman that can bend any note on a harmonica to the point where once you hear it you just can't help but pick yourself up, shake some booty, and mumble, "ooooooooo baby."

To all of the members of the Sierra Madre 4th of July Committee, past and present, thank you for all of your generous hard work and making possible my favorite day of the year.....year after year after year.

Rich Johnson: The Early Years

Wow! Several people got back to me with comments on my recent column highlighting my brother. No, the comments weren't about him as much as they were about my mother. You remember, Rubber Room Dorothy (Let's call her Dot for this article). Folks, typically women, voiced such sympathy and compassion regarding her trials and travails it's just too bad she's not around to enjoy the outpouring. Hopefully Mom is basking in it from some celestial balcony.

I've been asked to fill in a bit more about those early years. This will most certainly give you perspective into why I am the way I am. If that's of no interest to you (and personally I wouldn't blame you) read Stuart Tolchin's latest column twice and ignore mine. You'll probably be the better for it.

By December, 1952, in a cold and chilly Minneapolis, Minnesota, my mother ran a tally and found herself up 4 children and down 1 husband (we'll call Dick). Apparently Dick contributed little more than grumbling so he got the old heave-ho from Dot. They reunited sometime in summer 1953 but that was shortlived when Dot sold his car...without telling him. He was then gone until 1955 when Mom got a call for us to join him in sunny Southern California. We boarded the Rock Island Line and scooted west. Life couldn't have been better (on the train that is). As I recall we lived in La Mirada for three or four months and then boarded a plane bound eastward for Minneapolis...sans Dick.

Dot and we two sets of twins moved several times during the next four years but strictly within the Twin City limits. That relative calm was shattered in 1961 when Dick was again on the phone. You can probably guess what happened. This time we traveled to California via a Pontiac Tempest station wagon. Dick and Dot even bought a house in Woodland Hills. How's that for stability? Well, the stabilizers ran low 'cause in four months we mounted the Tempest and drove back to Minnesota, without Dick of course. Although, just to mix things up Dick moved back to Minnesota and joined us around Christmas 1962. He was gone by early 1963 and we enjoyed a relative calm through the next three years (my junior high years).

In 1966 the transcontinental phone rang yet again. Some fella named Dick invited us to move back out to California. Why not? We traveled out via the Rock Island Line now known as Amtrak. Dick and Dot managed to stay together a record two years. They broke up in 1968. This time we weren't moving back to Minnesota. So, in 1969, being in such close proximity, they decided to get back together. That lasted until summer of 1970 when they finally called it quits. You gotta give Dick and Dot some credit for trying to make it work. Well, maybe not. But wait, there was an upside to this. My brother and sisters and I were forced to learn the concept of flexibility. And at the age of 20 and 21 we four were far more prepared for the real world than were most of our friends. And now you know the rest of the story. Well not quite the rest.



Stuart Tolchin On... LIFE THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'-MAYBE THEY OUGHT TO

As the fourth of July approaches it is instructive to realize that Bob Dylan was not the only one

to remind us to let go of old values and "bring in the new", but also that this recognition was fundamental to the birth of our new democratic traditions. Thomas Paine's pamphlet 'Common Sense' urged American colonial subjects to release their historical attachment to the idea of royalty and to recognize that such a system might always have been wrong. Power comes from the People and is not the property of some despotic ruler who chooses to benefit only himself and his few chosen favorites-no matter what lies we have always believed in the past. It is important to question our attitudes and determine what should be maintained and what is now valueless and destructive.

On Father's Day my family faced a test of our ability to adapt to changing conditions. My wife, mother-in-law, daughter, son and son's girlfriend traveled into the heat of Woodland Hills to visit my mother on the day before her ninety-third birthday. As I have mentioned before in this column, my mother's mental facilities have been affected by her aging. Sometimes she's herself and sometimes she's not. On this particular day she was not and continually asked the same questions over and over. Either she did not listen to the answer or did not remember it and soon repeated the question. Additionally, the questions are those that are often better left unasked. She kept asking my thirty-something highly competent and successful daughter if she was dating. My daughter doesn't like such questions but tolerated the repeated questioning for as long as she could and then excused herself to take a walk around the lake. When she returned my mother immediately questioned her again. "Yes, I just met someone

on my walk", said my daughter, "but there's a problem—He's a duck!" "Well you can't be too choosy," said my mother.

This all really happened. My mother-in-law, who is a great defender of my mother, heard the same thing but maintains that my mother probably misunderstood and thought my daughter had said "dud" rather than "duck". Really, it's not important. The point is that women of my daughter's generation do not date in the same way that women of my mother's generation (or mine) did. Let's face it—they don't have to. Women who formerly needed men for financial and physical stability are now pretty able to care for themselves. Even though it is hard for we aged-ones to understand those wonderful days of waiting for someone to call and then going out to a movie or to a dinner you don't really want and then fighting the guy off more or less in the back seat of the car and then wondering if he would call again (or even if you wanted him to call again) and further wondering what he was going to tell his friends---enough; maybe these days are all gone. And maybe too someday will be gone the inevitable emotional upheaval associated with relationships and the despair associated with the breakups of marriages that were inappropriate in the first place.

Maybe the way we select life-partners will actually change and maybe future couples will be able to form relationships that will actually last a lifetime. It really would be great; but in order for this to happen all of us must be willing to let go of old values that we probably didn't need in the first place and certainly don't need now. We must recognize the value of holding our families together and loving and accepting each member for what they mean to us and somehow transcending the inevitable truth that, at times, we all get on each other's nerves. HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!



One Of A Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them

By Chris Bertrand

Pasadena's EcoHouse: Breaking "Green" Ground

Image shown above is a Digital representation of the EcoHouse Design



Chris Bertrand

Pasadena city officials, state government representatives, the news cameras and many well-wishers, neighbors and participating contractors celebrated a new chapter in Pasadena history on June 11. The groundbreaking fanfare was for the Pasadena Eco House.

This project came about in a circuitous fashion. The owners, Janice Kopanski and James Copelan, never intended to build. They searched high and low for the home of their dreams with Realtor, Deena Willis, a broker with Assist 2 Sell in Pasadena. Unable to find that needle in the housing haystack, they changed tactics, deciding to build instead. The homesite of their dreams turned up on a street aptly named "Pleasant," high in the tony, San Rafael Hills neighborhood.

They hired Annie Reynaud of Global Panel Solutions, Inc. to build a beautiful home within the restrictive design parameters of the steep homesite and current Pasadena building codes. By incorporating extensive green building concepts and materials, they intend to end up with a home that will be the first "SCIP-LEED Platinum" status (the highest possible) home in the United States. That mouthful of letters may well open a new chapter in local building design.

SCIP, a Structural Concrete Insulated Panel, in this case provided by a company named Global Panel Solutions, Inc., is a composite building product. Each panel is constructed of "prefabricated foam panels (1 in the picture) with robotically welded mesh (2) and a 3-D truss system (3) welded through the center foam panel, which is made of recycled materials. A concrete skin (4) is then applied to both sides to bring strength to the structure," according to the EcoHouse website.

The strength of the panels allows for very expressive sophisticated architectural designs, though is best suited to a style that takes full advantage of the material's capabilities. He certainly accomplished that here. Using engineering information about the underlying bedrock strata, the home's design was created to allow uncompromised panoramic views from a wall of windows facing the San Gabriel Mountains. The garage will be installed at street level, with 1975 square feet of living space "floating" above it on the upper pad.

SCIP products, now being used in all 50 states, are currently in use rebuilding New Orleans. The system is attractive to the Southern California building environment for several reasons. They

offer a fire burn resistance rating of up to four hours, a seismic design able to withstand an earthquake of 7 on the Richter scale, can withstand hurricane force winds of 200 MPH, offer intrinsic insulation values of at least R-40 compared to 2x4 framing values of R-19 and roofs of R-30, and provide no host value to termites, vermin or mold.

Use of SCIP can reduce construction time, thereby lowering construction costs, as the panels are prefabricated elsewhere and require less skilled labor to install, compared to wood framing. This has allowed the owners to create a home with a high eco value at a very competitive cost.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a certification process established by the US Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org). The certification required strict adherence to a code of energy savings, interior and exterior environmental controls, ecologically responsible building techniques, the use of sustainable materials, future utilization of the structure and optimization of existing community resources. The City Council of Pasadena initiated a Green City Action Plan in September, 2006, incorporating the LEED program into the City Hall seismic retrofit and remodel. The completed City Hall attained a "gold" status certification, the second highest rating a building can achieve.

Some of the green conscious products integrated into the home will be provided by local firms. The kitchen design, by ALNO of Sierra Madre, will use Miele and Liebherr appliances, and Pasadena Wood Floors, Inc. will design and install the award winning, environmentally friendly flooring called FineLine, an FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified wood floor. FSC standard represents the world's strongest system for guiding forest management toward sustainable outcomes.

All these components combine for the biggest news of all, the energy savings rolled into the design of the Pasadena EcoHouse. Their goal is to complete a home that will use on only 10-20% of the energy typically consumed by a typical home of this size.

You can follow the progress of the Pasadena EcoHouse, or get more information about the materials and contractors by visiting their website at www.ThePasadenaEcoHouse.com

Know of an interesting home garden or person who helps create them? Contact me at C.Bertrand@MVOobserver.com



e-mail Peter Dills at thechefknows@yahoo.com

TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

From Santa Barbara to Pasadena

I hope everyone enjoyed the trip to Santa Barbara last week. Remember when you are planning a trip that an informative site to visit is www.tripadvisor.com. It will often save you the hardship I encountered on

this past trip. It is a great place to compare notes and obtain a feeling from other travelers and their past experiences at hotels throughout the world. Here is tip from Reader Laura on a great way to visit Santa Barbara.

With gas prices soaring and wallets shrinking, the Santa Barbara Car Free Project has announced a new promotion featuring special offers from hotels and recreational activities, all designed to help consumers "Take a Vacation from the Gas Pump." Through December 31, 2008, visitors are encouraged to come to Santa Barbara car free and show their current Amtrak train ticket or airplane ticket to receive special offers such as a complimentary bottle of wine or reduced rates from 12 hotels—from beachside to 5-diamond inns. (All offers based upon availability, certain restrictions apply.) To help visitors arrive in Santa Barbara car free, the project has a 20 percent savings offer on Amtrak Pacific Surfliner* and San Joaquins* (and linked buses) travel to/from Santa Barbara for visitors that register at www.SantaBarbaraCarFree.org. Visitors receive 20 percent off fares to/from SBA and all around town from Lucky Cab (with a hybrid Prius fleet), when mentioning Car Free. For complete information visit www.SantaBarbaraCarFree.org or call 805-696-1100 to receive a packet in the mail of maps and discounts. Now is the time to take a vacation from the gas pump. This week though we mingle a little closer to home and save at the pump.

My travels brought me to a couple new places in the Pasadena Restaurant scene. Le Grande Orange is at the Old Train Station on Raymond and is equally divided between an outside and inside dining area. One of the

managers was kind enough to give me a tour, and interestingly enough many of the old fixtures from the Station still remain. My visit was at happy hour and I was surprisingly impressed. I had the Ahi Tuna with fresh Corn Tortillas, and I am still reflecting on the delight the dish engendered. My friends had Salads that were above average and good. Another friend arrived late and eyeing me meal, tried it and ordered the Ahi Tuna as well, and was equally enchanted. I had a premium California Sparkler for (\$7) happy hour and (\$11) full price. It is great bubbly and definitely worth the price. You will find this restaurant critic returning to that train station for fantastic appetizers which are sure to win over any traveler.

Would I be able to get two hits in one day? My luck was not so favorable at the new Argentinean restaurant, Malbec on Green St. Hard to get down on this place too much as the first three items on the menu weren't available. What is happening with that situation - I sure wondered? Anyway I opted for my fourth choice which was a Salmon filet, not bad, but not inspired and I can get that anywhere. "I'll be back," so get your menu in order for my next visit.

Malbec Argentinain 1001 E. Green St. Pasadena (626) 683-0550 Le Grand Orange 260 S. Raymond Ave. Pasadena (626) N/A

Want to celebrate Americas Birthday in a spectacular city? Join me at the Annual Sierra Madre Parade. Come over and say, Hi and tell me what I got right and your favorites that I missed. Tune in every Sunday Night to The Chef Knows TV Show where I visit restaurants from all over the Southland. KJLA TV



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Photo by Aaron Dominguez

Looking Up With Bob Eklund

Wonderlands, Far and Near

ON JUNE 18, NASA'S PHOENIX LANDER began digging in an area on Mars called

"Wonderland," taking its first scoop of soil from a polygonal surface feature within the "national park" region that mission scientists have been preserving for science.

The lander's Robotic Arm created the new test trench called "Snow White" on June 17, the 22nd Martian day after the Phoenix spacecraft landed on May 25. During that dig, the arm didn't reach the hard white material, possibly ice, that Phoenix exposed previously in the first trench it dug into the Martian soil. That's just what scientists both expected and wanted. The Snow White trench is near the center of a relatively flat hummock, or polygon, named "Cheshire Cat," where scientists predict there will be more soil layers or thicker soil above possible white material.

The Snow White trench is about two centimeters (three-quarters of an inch) deep, and 30 centimeters (about a foot) long. The Phoenix team, led by Peter Smith of the University of Arizona, plans at least one more day of digging deeper into the Snow White trench. They will study soil structure there to decide at what depths they will collect samples from a future trench planned for the center of the polygon.

Meanwhile, the Thermal and Evolved-Gas Analyzer (TEGA) instrument continues its ongoing experiment in the first of its eight ovens. The "baking" in these ovens is performed at three different temperature ranges and is designed to look for volatile ingredients (such as water).

A HAPPY ENDING—While NASA was looking for wonders on another world, Laura and I were finding them much closer at hand. On June 20 (the Summer Solstice, or longest day of the year, here in the Northern Hemisphere), Laura and I found our way to San Jose. It's a pilgrimage we make every year about this time, I to attend an annual conference and Laura to explore the marvels of Silicon Valley (this year it was the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, where the huge collection includes, for one year only, a working replica of Charles Babbage's "Difference Engine," the 19th-century grand-daddy of digital computers).

When we checked in at the Sainte Claire Hotel in downtown San Jose on Friday evening, the low sun was streaming into the lobby through cut-glass windows in the doorway, projecting circular images of the sun all over the lobby walls—each image edged with bright rainbow colors. These rainbows are a good omen, I thought—something good is sure to happen.

Little did we know. On Sunday, to get to the airport to return home, we took the light-rail train, and were transferring to an airport shuttle bus. At the transfer point, after we had gotten off the train and walked across the street to the bus stop, Laura said, "I don't have my purse!" We quickly realized that she had left it on the train—with her driver's license needed to get through security at the airport.

It looked like a hopeless situation, but a couple of "angels" intervened on our behalf. A shuttle bus driver used his radio-telephone to contact the conductor of our train, who found the purse and, on his return run, handed it through the window to Laura, who was waiting for him on the platform. And, just in time, we made it to our flight home. Who says there are no happy endings! If you'd like to learn more, you can contact Bob at b eklund@mobserver.com

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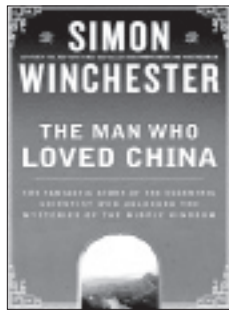
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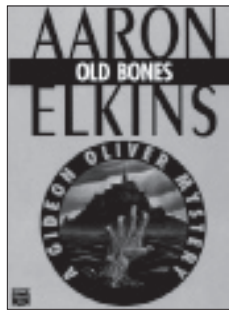
The Book Reports

By Jeff Brown



The Man Who Loved China: The Fantastic Story of the Eccentric Scientist Who Unlocked the Mysteries of the Middle Kingdom by Simon Winchester (2008)

In 1937 brilliant eccentric Cambridge scientist Joseph Needham (1900 - 1995) fell in love with China in the 1930s under the influence of his colleague and lover, Lu Gwei-djen. He learned to read and write Chinese in three years. Upon visiting the country he launched into his massive project to document every area of progress accomplished since the 15th century BC. Winchester takes us on Needham's thrilling and dangerous journeys across war-torn China. Needham discovered an astonishing history of invention and technology which culminated in his amazing 17 volume Science and Civilization in China. Very exciting story! Winchester is the best-selling author of The Professor and the Madmen, Kraktoa, The Map That Changed the World and others.



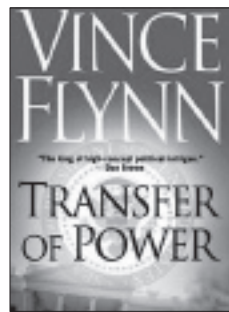
Old Bones by Aaron Elkins (1988)

This is the fourth Gideon Oliver novel, winner of the 1988 Edgar Award for best mystery of the year. When members of a prominent Breton Family suddenly die, and the other part of a human skeleton are found dating back 40 years, Gideon Oliver, Professor of Anthropology and specialist in bone work is called in to investigate. Interesting mystery with a good main character and good introduction to the series!



The Tree: A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live, and Why They Matter by Colin Trudge

British science writer Trudge has gone the world over to bring wondrous stories and amazing facts about trees. His travels take him throughout the United States, Brazil, the Amazon and Costa Rican rain forests, India, New Zealand, China and all over Europe. How did trees evolve and live so long, how do they work, how do they compete and coexist with nature and humankind? How do biologists identify the different kinds? They are the longest living species, serve as our planet's lungs, a major food source, home for thousands of species, and a large part of nature's most incredible beauty. He describes an amazing variety of species and their characteristics. This book is a combination of science, philosophy, history, environmentalism and also a passionate love story about those magnificent beings. Enjoy!



Recommended by Simon Templar Transfer of Power by Vince Flynn (1999)

On a busy Washington morning, amid tourists and officials, the air is shattered by the sound of gunfire. Terrorists have descended on the Executive Mansion, and gained access by a massacre that has left many dead. The Secret Service evacuates the President to his bunker, but not before hostages are taken. Through the panicked responses and political agendas surrounding the crisis, Mitch Rapp, the CIA's top counter terrorism operative, steps up to save the hostages before the terrorists can get the president from his bunker. Along the way Rapp Makes a discovery that could rock Washington. Lots of great action!

Book pics can be purchased and ordered at Sierra Madre Books (836-3200)
Email recommendations or comments to jeffspics1@gmail.com

Scene One - Take One DVD Review



Flawless (2007)

This is an entertaining heist film. Set in London in 1960 and just before his retirement, a British janitor (Michael Caine), angry over his company's refusal to pay an insurance claim for his sick wife, persuades an unhappy American executive (Demi Moore) to join him in a jewel theft. The two plan a daring heist of the gems from their employer, the London Diamond Corp. The story is loosely based on actual events.

to town seeking revenge. Though he has good reasons to leave, Cooper feels a responsibility to stay and face the gunman. He asks townspeople for help and no one comes forward. The suspense keeps building as the clock ticks closer to noon. Wonderful legendary western drama. Cooper won an Oscar for his performance. Also starring Lloyd Bridges, Grace Kelly, Thomas Mitchell and Henry Morgan.

High Noon (1952)

On his wedding and retirement day the Marshall (Gary Cooper) learns that a gunman and his crew are coming to town seeking revenge. Though he has good reasons to leave, Cooper feels a responsibility to stay and face the gunman. He asks townspeople for help and no one comes forward. The suspense keeps building as the clock ticks closer to noon. Wonderful legendary western drama. Cooper won an Oscar for his performance. Also starring Lloyd Bridges, Grace Kelly, Thomas Mitchell and Henry Morgan.



City Lights (1931)

This masterpiece was Charlie Chaplin's last silent film. Chaplin, playing the Little Tramp, falls in love with a blind flower girl who, because she can't see him and thinks he steps out of a limo, believes the shabby tramp is a millionaire. Tramp attempts to raise money for the blind girl to have an eye operation, hiding his true identity. So ensues much hilarity, love, gratitude and a wonderful ending.



Mary Carney's From the Inside Out: Changing Patterns

For those of us who like to find a "rock" and get ourselves safely anchored to it changing "rocks" (habits, patterns, routines, responses) can be challenging. The biggest outside change I've noticed recently was the unbelievable (and very welcome) reduction of freeway traffic this last week. Just amazing. Walking to work; taking the bus; carpooling ... gas costs just too much, and we're finding ways to cope. It will be interesting to see the ripple effects of this, over time.

Same thing happens in more personal areas. When we make internal decisions that whatever it is, is just too much, we change. Sometimes after the initial change, we go back to "the way things were" but discover followup reminders that require us to keep changing. Like falling and breaking an arm and dutifully following the standard medical protocol that says - if you do this, you will heal properly. Yet a year later finding increasing pain in muscles and nerves near the break. It's now glaringly obvious that whatever we did, was not enough. Complete healing did not occur. Maybe it's a leftover coping pattern that hasn't had the reminder that it's OK to relax? Maybe it's left-over scar tissue? Maybe it's an untreated misalignment? For most of us, who cares? We just want the pain to stop, and to get a good night's sleep.

If, for example, it's pain in the elbow region, it's helpful to find a really good chiropractor - not one of the "sharp snap, crackle & pop" thruster jocks, but someone who really understands soft tissue manipulation, who's gone beyond basic training to learn advanced techniques and has learned how to coax cervical and scapular muscles (and the attached pressure-creating bones) into less stressful positions. Pressure against nerves reduces neural message handling capabilities and creates.

So, question. Have you had any kind of accident that has jolted your bone structure - falling on a shoulder, falling off a seasaw on your rump, falling off a horse, off a skateboard, out of a tree, off a bicycle, off rollerblades? Bumped your head against a cabinet door, smashed against someone else in flag football, or wound

up under the heap of bodies? Did you just stumble and fall for no real reason?

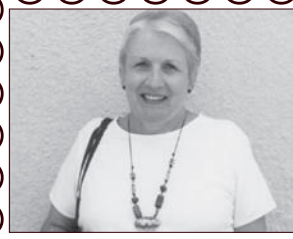
If you did, did you get yourself checked for alignment? If you're regularly physically active, chances are it's no big deal - your muscles are strong enough to pull things back into place. But sometimes after a thumping we ache and say, "Oh, of course it would ache - it'll go away". Short term, maybe. But that long term ...

Interestingly enough, if you damage your shoulder, you may experience odd things in the hip area, and vice versa. Similar linkages between elbows and knees, wrists and ankles, fingers and toes. Recently I was advised that if the left elbow is hurting, try working on the right elbow. You know what? It works. Just this week that advice proved itself to me in no uncertain terms. Working on the right elbow created energy flows across the shoulder, through the left elbow, and down so that the fingers all felt the shift and change, left elbow pain completely disappeared, flexibility was increased, fingers worked better. Wonderful!

So, if you want to experience what seems like effortless realignment "magic", challenge your favorite chiropractor to learn and apply the Dr. John Hurley and Dr. Helen Sanders Bio-Mechanic Light Touch technique, currently being taught by Dr. Lamar Rosquist. Then, when you stand up after a treatment, you may find yourself yourself standing up straighter, feeling stronger in your muscles, poised and balanced. While sometimes a good "snap crackle pop" can be "just the thing", other times a lighter touch can be both more powerful and more long lasting.

Hunting at the leading edge - or returning to the basics - sometimes it's the little things that make the biggest difference in the long run. Constantly saving your coins at the end of the day may be just enough to get someone through college. Constantly taking care of the little mis-adjustments in your life can provide a hugely healthy payoff when you're older ... just change your patterns today and wait for the magic to appear. And, like finding ways to do without all that gas, it'll be a whole lot less expensive in both time and money today!

Have you had any kind of accident that has jolted your bone structure?



BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

TV Or Not TV. That is the Question

Reading is making a comeback! Books are flying off the shelves at libraries and book stores everywhere. Amazon.com is having difficulty keeping up with the heavy demand for books by mail. The reason? In a word—Television. Reality Television to be exact. Here are just a few reasons to curl up with a good book: American Gladiators, The Bachelorette, America's Next Top Model, WWE Friday Night Smackdown, The Moment of Truth, Farmer Picks a Wife and Wife Swap. The season finale of Wife Swap promises to be an unforgettable moment in the annals of television. Are you ready? A pig farmer from Nevada swaps homes with a belly dancer from New York. Wow, I know I'll be riveted to my screen for that one, how about you?

Out of habit I still have the television on but, as much for the noise as anything else. In the evening I find myself watching the news, followed by the news and then, even more news. Then it's time for Jeopardy!, which is the highlight of the night for me. At least it's something to stimulate one's brain. Reality T.V. kills off brain cells faster than having to listen to Kevin Costner or Shaquille O'Neal recite well, pretty much anything. If it weren't for Law and Order reruns, I might resort to watching the slides on Channel 3 go by at glacial speed. How pathetic is that?

I was just ready to say that television is going to hell in a handbasket when my brain went into the rewind mode and took me back to my youth and the days of black and white T.V. I guess the few programs we had available at that time would probably be considered the genesis of the Reality Television of today.

I'm sure some of you will remember Dick Lane. Dick was steadily employed by hosting such high-brow programs like, Destruction Derby. The last car running won something, I can't remember what now. Then he was the ringside announcer for Wrestling Live from Hollywood, which at times featured midget tag-team matches. We also had the ever-popular and highly choreographed Roller Derby. For daytime viewers there was Queen for a Day, hosted by Jack Bailey. If a woman had a sob-story and very few teeth, she was usually crowned the winner. The lucky girl usually won practical things like kitchen appliances. Then for our musical pleasure we had Ina Ray Hutton and Her All-Girl Band, Spade Cooley and of course the king of them all--Lawrence Welk-- Wunnerful!, Wunnerful!

Anyway, it must be a fifty-year cycle thing. In the year 2058, the kids of today will roll their eyes while remembering Wife Swap, WWE Friday Night Smackdown and the rest of the Reality T.V. line-up. Me? Right now I'm going to sit in my recliner and reacquaint myself with that wonderful pastime—READING.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI:

Mosquitoes can be dangerous!

Worldwide, mosquitoes have killed more people than any other animal in history. They can transmit diseases like St. Louis and West Nile encephalitis to humans and animals. Both male and female mosquitoes feed on plant juices for food. However, only the females bite and suck blood from mammals, birds and reptiles. Proteins in the blood are used to produce eggs. They need water to breed...Look for anything that can hold water for more than a few days; rain gutters, buckets, dirty swimming pools, bird baths, tires, trash cans and others should be drained and/or cleaned regularly... mosquitoes need only a bottle cap full of water!

Limit outside activity at dusk and dawn, wear long sleeves and pants and use repellants, reading the labels carefully.

*For any questions and/ or concerns, call the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District. (626) 814-9466, or go to their web site www.sgvmosquito.org.

~Helpful Hints~

To clean microwave oven and remove odors—Place a bowl of vinegar in the microwave and run on HIGH until it comes to a boil. After the vinegar cools a bit, wipe the interior clean with a rag dipped in the vinegar.



Happy Birthday
John Shier and Nellie Haynes

Recipe of the Month:



Three Ways With Asparagus Asparagus & Salmon Pasta

Sauté 1 lb cut-up asparagus in 4 Tbsp melted butter in a large non-stick skillet until crisp-tender. Toss with zest and juice of 1 lemon, 1 cup smoked salmon pieces, 3 Tbsp chopped dill and 12 oz. cooked pasta.

Parmesan-Roasted Asparagus

Toss asparagus with olive oil and roast in 400 F oven 15 minutes. Sprinkle with freshly grated Parmesan: Roast 1 minute or until cheese melts. Serve with lemon wedges.

Asparagus with Orange Gremolata

Drizzle cooked asparagus with extra-virgin olive oil. Top with a mixture of ¼ cup chopped parsley, 1 Tbsp orange zest and 1 tsp minced garlic. womansday.com

For Your Funny Bone

My friend was looking at home-gym equipment with her husband. She stepped on a treadmill and said, "Honey, if you bought this for me, I would look like I did in high school." "Sweetheart," he said gently, "it's a treadmill, not a time machine."

One day, a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very sexy nightie. "Tie me up," she purred, "and you can do anything you want." So, he tied her up and went golfing.

Fifty-one years ago, Herman James, a North Carolina mountain man, was drafted by the Army. On his first day in basic training, the Army issued him a comb. That afternoon the Army barber sheared off all his hair. On his second day, the Army issued Herman a toothbrush. That afternoon the Army dentist yanked seven of his teeth. On the third day, the Army issued him a jock strap. The Army has been looking for Herman for 51 years.

People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy. ~Anton Chekov~



Activities:

Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Memorial Park (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

Lunch Program: Monday-Friday- Call (626) 355-0256 to reserve day before. Suggested donation \$2.00 for seniors, others- \$3.75

Monday: Free Strength Training Class with Lisa Brandley 1:00- 1:45 PM

Tuesday: Bingo: 1:30-3:30 PM .25c per card
Yoga: 5:00 PM- Instructor, Andrea Walsh- \$6.00 for seniors

Wednesday: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays- Community Lunch & Learn

Thursday: Game Day- 1:30- 4:00 PM Poker, Bunco, Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Pinochle...you name it.
Yoga: 5:00-6:30 PM- For seniors and others who want to go slow (can be done in a chair) Instructor: Andrea Walsh
\$6.00 for those 50 & over-\$7.50 for those under 50. To register call (626) 355-7394

Friday: Ping-Pong- 2:00-4:00 PM- Not tournament, just for fun
Adult Fitness Class- Noon-1:00PM at the Recreation Center. \$34.00 for 8 week course. Call (626) 355-7394 for info & reservations

Saturday: Senior Club for those 55 and older- Brown bag lunch at 11:30AM. Meeting at Noon- Bingo at 12:30 PM -Only .25c per card

Monthly Excursions:

*For reservations and further information call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394 or stop by and see her at the Hart Memorial Park House- 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM

July 11- Laguna Pageant of the Masters; \$45.00 per person
August 21- Long Beach Harbor Cruise & Lunch

Free Consultation with Pasadena Attorney Geoffrey Chin- 2nd Wednesday of the month- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM- *Appointments are a must. Call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394. *Conflicting court schedules can occasionally cause cancellations.

Blood Pressure Clinic The SM Paramedics do blood pressure readings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 11-12:00 noon

Fall Prevention and Home Safety Tuesday, June 24th, 1:30-2:30 PM Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Dr., Arcadia. Over one-third of adults 65 years and older fall each year, and 20-30 percent suffer moderate to severe injuries. As we grow older, we often develop balance problems that can increase the possibility of falling. For reservations, please call the Arcadia Community Center at (626) 574-5130.

Meals-On-Wheels:

Meals are delivered to homebound seniors through the YWCA Intervale lunch program M-F with frozen meals for the weekend. \$2.00 suggested donation per day
Call Susan Garcia at (626) 858-8382

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