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Several Topics Tackled at Final Council Meeting of the Year

By Julie BUTCHER

Glendale City Councilmember Paula Devine listed a number of questions for city staff to open this week's meeting of the council, first questioning the recyclability of flocked Christmas trees (they are not recyclable – but the city picks them up and processes them along with the recyclable ones), then inquiring about the process of picking up signs remaining from the “slow streets” program started in the spring. Staff reported there is a phone number on the signs or folks can call the public works hotline at (818) 548-9000 to have the signs picked up. Devine ended her comments commending staff for winning a 2020 Golden Bell Award, along with the Glendale Unified School District, for innovation and collaboration in helping to address the changing needs of students.

Councilmember Dan Brotman urged the council to act to officially recognize Martin Luther King Day in January. Councilmember Ara Najarian announced his selection as chair of the Metrolink board. Callers into the council meeting continued to raise concerns – for and against – the city's current ban on cannabis dispensaries. The council heard financial reports beginning with an annual update the city submits (formally called a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report [CAFR]) that is required following the close of each fiscal year. The report shows that reserves meet the city's goals (minimum 20% reserve with a goal of 35%) with a combined reserve just over \$81 million, more than 34%, and revenues from Measure S sales taxes up to \$14.2 million slated to carry over into 2021. The council also received a periodic financial update that was met with similar optimism shown for the CAFR.

“Compared with Los Angeles, we're in pretty good shape,”
see GCC on page 6

The Joy of Giving Back

By Sabrina SHELTON

For these local heroes, giving is part of their nature – and a pandemic won't slow them down.

Every holiday season, the call to donate and volunteer is heard loud and clear. Some people thrill at the opportunity to help others during this festive season, and some live the volunteer lifestyle year round. And then there are some, like longtime friends Michelle Stafford and Gina Walker, who take things up a notch.

Each year, Stafford, a longtime “The Young and the Restless” cast member, donates to charities in need. This year, she and her fellow cast mates had big plans for the Inglewood NAACP. In particular 2020 has been tough for charities and non-profit organizations; donations are down as many people who might normally donate have tightened their belts due to pandemic-related financial struggles.

“I know the president of the Inglewood NAACP and he is very connected in his community,” said Stafford. “I knew he would disperse to [those] most in need of gifts and



Photo by Mary O'KEEFE
 CVIM and Prom Plus Club members, with GPD officers and local veterans, loaded trucks with community donations of food and toys.

help.” The president also told Stafford that donations to the Inglewood branch have been very low this year.

So Stafford jumped into action and called on friends, family and co-workers. She and the cast and crew of “The Young and the Restless” donated over \$4,500 to purchase toys. Then came the heavy lifting – which is where Gina Walker entered the

picture.

Stafford put out a call for a friend with a truck to help transport the toys. Walker, a fellow Crescenta Valley High School alumna, is always happy to help nurture Stafford's giving spirit, so she volunteered her truck.

“I was the sleigh,” Walker remarked. “Michelle was the lead elf.”

With her fellow elves by her side, Stafford and the “sleigh” met at Big Lots in La Cañada to buy toys. It was then that the fates aligned; some brands of toys were on sale and the store was offering extra discounts that day as well. As Walker's truck was filling up with toys, the group realized that they were nowhere
see GIVING on page 7

The Vaccine Has Arrived

By Mary O'KEEFE

The COVID-19 vaccine has arrived in Los Angeles and staff members at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital have rolled up their sleeves, ready for their shots.

“Our plan is to pick up [the vaccine today] and start rolling it out to staff,” said USC-VHH CEO Keith Hobbs.

The hospital will be receiving the vaccine in phases; the first will have about 475 doses then, gradually over the next four weeks, more will arrive until the hospital has 2,500 doses. The vaccine is administered in two doses, 21 days apart.

Workers in the most critical units, like those working in the Emergency Department and ICU [Intensive Care Unit], will receive the vaccine first. Then it will be given to other staff members; however, not all members in a specific unit will get it at the same time due to concerns about possible side effects. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, common side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine include pain and swelling in the area of the shot. Other possible side effects can include

see VACCINE on page 6



Photo courtesy of LAX Twitter
 A FedEx plane arrives at LAX with the county's first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

CV WEEKLY & THE GLENDALE AREA SCHOOLS CREDIT UNION PRESENT

The Merry & Bright Self-Guided Holiday Light and Display Drive-By Tour!

For more information on how to add your house or business to the drive tour list or be a sponsor, call Rachele at the CV Weekly (818) 248-2740.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

The Christmas Spirit

For many of us, finding and holding onto the Christmas spirit is particularly difficult this season. The pandemic, with all of its restrictions, has lasted so much longer than we expected. There have been few, if any, holiday parties. Getting together has been all but forbidden.

The rules, too, have not been particularly clear. For example, wearing a mask. I thought a mask needed to be worn when in near contact with other people (within six feet). When alone, a mask didn't need to be worn. But I was chastised when a person walked into her office where I was sitting and the mask I had on was resting against my chin. As soon as she walked in I moved it over my nose and mouth. That was unsatisfactory, though; her concern was that, especially if I was contagious and didn't know it, I was contaminating her space.

I was shocked when I was chastised; I thought I was doing it "right."

I don't wear a mask when I walk my dog, although I have one with me and pop it on if I'm coming in contact with others. However, if I can

walk across the street I do that. I notice that others wear a mask when taking a walk, though.

I try to be respectful of others' concerns but trying to gauge them is sometimes challenging. Hopefully, with the vaccine, this won't be a worry much longer.

Which circles us back to trying to hold onto the Christmas spirit.

Steve and I on Saturday night made our way over to Community Christian Church of the Foothills for its annual Drive-thru Nativity. The free event brings drivers to three significant nativity scenes: an angel appears to the shepherds, Jesus is born in the stable and the three wise men journey to find Jesus. At the end of the sojourn, a greeter gave us a copy of the program and a little bag with two candy canes. The event, which involves a lot of hard work, planning and dedication from its volunteers, is beautifully executed and goes a long way in reminding me of "the reason for the season."

Another reminder that Christmas time is here are the displays of lights throughout the foothills. Like Halloween, our residents (and some businesses) embrace the holiday and put a lot of time and effort in decorating their homes. CV Weekly, with the Glendale Area Schools Credit Union and several other sponsors, is hosting the Merry & Bright Self-Guided Holiday Light and Display Drive-By Tour. The initial list of participating addresses can be found on page 8 of this week's paper. Next week we'll add more addresses as more are expected so there's still time to have your address included. Email MerryBright@cvweekly.com with your address and we'll include it in the tour list next week.

Robin Goldsworthy is the publisher of the Crescenta Valley Weekly. She can be reached at robin@cvweekly.com or (818) 248-2740.

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Weather in the Foothills

"Nature is full of genius, full of the divinity so that not a snowflake escapes its fashioning of hand."

~Henry David Thoreau



Days of miracles. The Jewish celebration of Hanukkah comes to an end tonight, Thursday evening, and the Christian celebration of Christmas arrives next week on Friday. Hanukkah isn't associated with any style of weather while on the other hand Christmas is...

"I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," "Frosty the Snowman" ... the song list goes on and on.

Many songs and stories illustrate the magic of waking up to a blanket of white on Christmas morning. If you're dreaming of a white Christmas, the following cities offer the best chance of seeing snow on Dec. 25 based on weather history. According to three decades of averages from the NOAA's National Weather Service, the following locations are the most and least likely to get at least one inch of snow on the ground on Christmas Day.

Most Likely

Ketchum, Idaho; Aspen, Colorado; Fairbanks, Alaska

One of the coldest cities in the world, Fairbanks, Alaska gets its fair share of snow during the winter. It also has a 100% chance of snow on Christmas Day.

Least Likely

Las Vegas, Nevada; Phoenix, Arizona; Los Angeles, California

There are countless things to see and do in California; however, seeing snow on Christmas Day isn't one of them. While northeastern parts of the state might see snow, LA County has a 0% chance of snow on Dec. 25.

After today's (Thursday's) slight chance of rain, gusty and cold northerly winds are predicted to follow and linger over the weekend. The up-and-coming weather pattern continuing into next week for the CV area brings, aside from a few clouds, clear skies and chilly overnight lows that are here to stay through the holidays.

An astronomical, if not divine, wonder will be taking place on Christmas Eve. We will be able to witness a celestial event known as the Star of Bethlehem or the Christmas Star when Jupiter and Saturn move close together. Last time this happened was about 800 years ago! It's easy to see; look west just after sunset. Starting several months ago, the two planets had begun moving closer together. Now Jupiter and Saturn appear almost adjoined in appearance. To add a sparkle of magic a crescent moon has joined in making for a Christmas gift of a heavenly nature.

Merry Christmas!

Sue Kilpatrick is a Crescenta Valley resident and Official Skywarn Spotter for the

National Weather Service Reach her at suelkilpatrick@gmail.com.

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IN BRIEF

MONTROSE CHAMBER CONTINUES HOLIDAY BINGO

The Montrose Holiday Bingo continues. Participants are encouraged to shop or purchase gift certificates at five small businesses in a row and win one of 16 prizes (\$20+ retail value) available.

Some of the prizes include YMCA 90-day membership, hair products, \$25 MasterCard gift card, beauty products, fit kit, wellness supplements and many more!

Prizes are claimed on a first come, first served basis. Participants need to email the chamber once they are ready to claim a prize. Receipt proof is not necessary; prizes to be claimed on good faith basis. Stay up-to-date with prizes claimed via the chamber's social media.

The play card is available at www.cvweekly.com/JFF or at www.montrosecamber.org. The play dates continue through Dec. 20.

There are no minimum purchase or donation amounts.

ROSEMONT PRESERVE OPEN GATE MORNING

An "open gate" event is taking place at the Rosemont Preserve on Sunday morning, Dec. 20. This is a chance for residents to visit the Preserve and wander the trail at their own pace and enjoy the tranquil setting, the wildlife and the natural beauty. Photographers: bring your camera to capture the morning light and citizen scientists, bring your iNaturalist app to add wildlife sightings!

The gate will be open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Friends of the Rosemont Preserve Committee members will be available to answer questions and present this community resource. LA County guidelines are being followed requiring visitors to wear masks and practice social distancing when visiting the Preserve.

The Preserve is located at the north end of Rosemont Avenue, just past the chain link fence. As street parking is limited, please park at Two Strike Park, 5107 Rosemont Ave. Those with mobility issues who require a closer parking spot should contact the Rosemont Preserve Committee.

Those planning on walking the trails should wear sturdy shoes.

This event is free to the public and suitable for all ages; no reservations required. Rain cancels. Sorry, no pets please.

For further information, contact the Friends of the Rosemont Preserve at RosemontFriends@gmail.com

GWP EXTENDS DEADLINE

Glendale Water & Power (GWP) has extended the deadline to Feb. 28 for its GWP Cares Bill Relief Program and moratorium on late fees and disconnections. The extension comes amidst additional health and safety restrictions due to COVID-19 and aims to help mitigate the economic impact that COVID-19 has had on GWP customers.

The GWP Cares Bill Relief Program is a temporary program that provides a one-time bill credit to GWP electric customers who have been financially impacted by COVID-19. Bill credits are as follows:

One-time bill credit of \$150 to residential electric customers living in single family homes, one-time bill credit of \$80 to residential electric customers living in multi-family housing, one-time bill credit of \$150 to eligible businesses that are adversely affected by the COVID-19 "Stay At Home" order or did not operate in one of the essential services sectors covered in the Governor's Executive Order N-33-20 for a period of at least four weeks, one-time bill credit of \$60 to residential low-income customers currently enrolled in GWP's Senior/Glendale Care low-income discount program. These customers will be automatically enrolled in the Cares program and receive the one-time bill credit.

For more information and guidelines on the GWP Cares Bill Relief Program, visit www.GlendaleCA.gov/GWPCares.

A Whole New Sound for 'Silent' Night

By Charly SHELTON

Joe Rinaudo may not be a name that everyone in the Crescenta Valley recognizes right away. But many who have spent a summer evening at Two Strike Park watching silent films will recognize his face. Rinaudo is the stalwart facilitator of the summer nighttime silent film event hosted by the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley and a 30-year resident of La Crescenta. Each year, he brings his original 1909 hand-cranked 35-millimeter motion picture projector, outfitted with a Magic Lantern glass slide attachment, to delight families with silent films from a bygone age, which is accompanied by live piano music at the park. Due to the pandemic, last summer's event was canceled. But Rinaudo has kept busy with other antique instruments during the pandemic. Back in March, around the time of the first shutdown, a family friend alerted Rinaudo to the fact that he had been meme'd.

"I honestly have no idea what a meme is," Rinaudo said. "My office manager's daughter keeps telling me I'm famous in the meme world, but I don't know what that means other than what she tells me."

A clip of Rinaudo frantically playing an old American Fotoplayer started making its way around social media, with the caption "Day 89 of Quarantine." A Fotoplayer is an all-in-one piano-organ sound effects machine that was used in the silent film era before the advent of the theater pipe organ, Rinaudo said. It has two player piano rolls for the music, which leaves the operator's hands available for pulling and pushing the sound effects and to also change the different pipes and percussion during the movie. And Rinaudo's hands are flying in the video meme as he operates the various pull-strings, levers and horns to provide sound effects to the lively piano roll playing.

The clip featured in the meme, from an episode of "California's Gold" with Huell Howser, gained popularity. When Rinaudo's friend posted that she knew the man behind the meme, she was flooded with requests for him to do a live show with the Fotoplayer. She was contacted by several companies that wanted to produce the concert, but it seemed to Rinaudo that it would be easier to just stream it himself on Facebook Live. Despite a few technical glitches, that first concert drew over 10,000 live views that evening.

Now with the arrival of the holidays, Rinaudo is at it again. This weekend, he will hold a Christmas concert on Facebook Live featuring the Fotoplayer, with piano rolls ranging from traditional to silly, and a surprise or two along the way. And despite the rarity of the machine and the uniqueness of the event, Rinaudo keeps a light and fun atmosphere about everything and is just happy to share his love of this special and all-too-rare music machine with the public.

"I'm mostly just goofing around with the machine at home with friends unless I'm doing a narration for a silent movie restoration that will be released on DVD," Rinaudo said. "There is a larger Fotoplayer at the Academy of Motion Pictures in Hollywood, and I take those performances much more seriously. In fact, the very last show the Academy did before everything was shut down back in March was a restoration of the silent movie 'Two Arabian Knights.' I put a score together with 75 different roll changes to fit the mood on the screen. That movie was one of the very first Academy Award winners and it was great fun playing for it."

The Facebook Live concert will be held this Sunday, Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. The stream is free for all to attend, and viewers don't even need to have a Facebook account to enjoy the show. Just search Fotoplayerjoe to find his



Joe Rinaudo, who recently had a meme of him playing the American Fotoplayer, will be live streaming a concert on Sunday night of him playing the iconic machine. Photo provided by Gary GIBSON

Day 1 of quarantine: "So far so good."
Day 89 of quarantine:



Facebook page.

The concert is free but for anyone who may wish to support Rinaudo's efforts, he asks that donations be sent to Famous Players Orchestra, an organization that he belongs to whose members perform live orchestral accompaniment to silent movies, and they are raising money to make a recording. Donations can be made online at FPOrchestra.org/donate.

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The 'Christmas Star'

By Mary O'KEEFE

The great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn has already begun and will appear closest to each other on Dec. 21.

Although some refer to this as the "Christmas Star" it is actually not a star at all. On Dec. 21, Jupiter and Saturn will be 0.1 degree apart. For many it will still look like two stars but others may see one elongated star.

In 1623, the two planets traveled together across the sky. Jupiter caught up to and passed Saturn. It has been nearly 400 years since the planets have passed this close to each other in the sky and nearly 800 years since the alignment of Saturn and Jupiter occurred at night, according to NASA.

"You can imagine the solar system as a racetrack with each of the planets as a runner in their own lane and the Earth toward the center of the stadium," said Henry Throop, astronomer in the Planetary Science division at NASA headquarters in Washington. "From our vantage point, we'll be able to see Jupiter on the inside lane,

approaching Saturn all month and finally overtaking it on Dec. 21."

To see the phenomenon. An hour after sunset, people can look to the southwestern sky. Jupiter will look like a bright star and be easily visible. Saturn will be slightly fainter and will appear slightly above and to the left of Jupiter until Dec. 21 when Jupiter will overtake it and they will reverse positions in the sky.

Each night, the two planets will appear closer and low in the southwest in the hour after sunset as illustrated in the graphic.

NASA/JPL-Caltech



NOTES & NODS

This Week at LCIF

The online celebration of Advent continues this Sunday, Dec. 20 at Lutheran Church in the Foothills. All are invited at 10 a.m. for Couch Church on the church's Facebook page and YouTube channel. Those who miss the live presentation can watch the videos on the church website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. This week, Pastor Stephen Robertson will lead a message called "Joy in the Present and Hope for Tomorrow."

After the service, everyone is invited to join a time of fellowship on Zoom. There is also a time for Zoom prayers on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and several of the church's small groups gather on Zoom on different days and times. More details are available on the church website www.lcifoohills.org.

The church office is located at 1700 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge and is generally open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact the office at office@lcifoohills.org or call (818)

790-1951 for details, information, offering help or requesting help.

Christmas Under the Stars at La Crescenta Presbyterian

All are invited to La Crescenta Presbyterian Church for an outdoor Christmas Eve worship experience filled with joyful music and an uplifting message.

The service begins at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24, in the west parking lot of the church. COVID-safe practices, including safe distancing and mask-wearing, will be observed.

In addition, every evening in December the church's chimes will ring at 5 p.m. as a 12-foot tree, Nativity scene and lights along the front of the church are illuminated. Instrumental Christmas music will play until 7 p.m.

La Crescenta Presbyterian also hosts outdoor worship services every Sunday at 10 a.m. The al fresco gatherings in the LCPC courtyard offer interactive prayer time, live music, Bible readings

and an inspiring message.

La Crescenta Presbyterian is located at 2902 Montrose Ave. in La Crescenta. For more information about policies to protect the health and safety of the congregation, visit lpcp.net or call (818) 249-6137.

Christmas Drive-thru Display

On Saturday, Dec. 19, Bethel Church will offer a drive-thru Christmas display on its campus from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. It will include a nativity stable, lit Christmas tree, gifts for kids, cookies/candy and Christmas music.

All free and COVID safe.

Bethel Church, 10725 Penrose St., Sun Valley.

Walk and Word

Walk and Word on Sunday mornings, a time to discover Scripture while hiking Deukmejian Park, is on hiatus until further notice.

For more information, contact Jean Lavieri at (818) 383-3137 or email jnlavieri@earthlink.net.

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Christmas Eve Services
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Online at live.lacnadapc.org

3:30PM

Family Worship
VirtuKidz Choir

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Contemporary Worship

5:00PM

Family Worship
VirtuKidz Choir

9:30PM

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VACCINE from Cover

fever, tiredness and headache. These side effects are similar to those associated with the flu shot.

Hobbs will be in one of the first groups to receive the vaccine. The decision was made after a staff meeting was held when staff shared they wanted Hobbs to receive the shot. Whether or not to be vaccinated first has been a dilemma for many leaders; some feel their staff should be given the vaccine first while others want to be administered the shot first as a show of confidence and support.

Hobbs added it is important for leaders to demonstrate a strong stand of support regarding the vaccine.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has said he will take the vaccine soon because people told him they would take the shot if he did. Former Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton have reportedly stated they will receive the vaccine on television to promote the safety and importance of the vaccination.

Getting the public to trust a vaccine is nothing new. In the 1950s the polio vaccine was approved and although many took it several young adults did not; so on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1956, Elvis Presley took the vaccine for all to see.

Getting as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible is key for medical personnel.

"Our volume [has increased]," said Hobbs of COVID-19 related cases at USC-VHH. "We are seeing greater numbers now than in March and April."

He added that, although the numbers are higher, hospital staff has learned a lot since the pandemic first began, both in treating the virus and controlling its spread.

"There are 42 [COVID-19 patients] in house but only two are on ventilators and four in the ICU," he said.

It is thought the higher numbers are a response to the travel and gathering people did during Thanksgiving; this increase is expected to wane a

little but to build back up after the Christmas holidays.

Hobbs echoes the concerns of many in the medical field that over the next few months the numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations will increase throughout LA County and the nation. There is also a concern about COVID fatigue, that people will think that because there is a vaccine they no longer have to follow the guidelines outlined by LA County Public Health.

"You've heard it all before, but the answer remains the same: masking. Distancing. Sanitizing. It is simple — yet often difficult ... difficult because we are all weary. We are all tired of not being able to physically be with our friends and loved ones. We are done with COVID-19. But as I tell my staff at the hospital — COVID-19 is not done with us. If each and every one of us could truly dig deep and continue with these simple things, we could turn this trend around before the end of the year," Hobbs stated in a release from USC-VHH.

He added that though his staff is seeing the end of the tunnel it has taken a toll on them. For his part, he has tried to continue outreach with staff including the hospital's Care for the Caregivers program. It has a 24/7 hotline available for staff members who need someone to speak with concerning mental health issues. There is also a virtual grocery store where staff members who do not have time to shop can order groceries and have them delivered to the hospital so they can take them home. Hotel rooms can be secured for staff who cannot stay at home because they have at-risk family members and some staff members are able to cash-out vacation time to give them funds in case a member of the family has lost his/her job.

In the meantime, more vaccine is being delivered throughout the U.S. as more companies receive FDA [Food and Drug Administration] approval. Pfizer's vaccine has been approved and, as of press time, approval was expected for Moderna's vaccine. Several more companies are preparing to have their vaccines reviewed.

The plan is for first responders to receive the initial doses of the vaccine, followed by those in nursing homes; however, according to reports, it will most likely be months before the general population receives the vaccine.

In next week's CVW we will be rolling out our COVID Questions program giving readers the opportunity to share their concerns and ask questions about everything related to COVID-19. We will be reaching out to specialists to give our readers answers to their questions.

GCC from Cover

Najarian noted. "I'm glad we won't have to be laying off 10% of our police department."

"I commend staff's keeping an eye on expenses," Brotman added. "A lot of this is luck; the CARES Act money helped and, on the expense side, departments found \$1.7 million in cuts against a backdrop of a \$4 million hit to the ToT (transient occupancy tax, primarily paid on hospitality services)."

Next the council entertained a long discussion about updates to plans for the Grayson Power Plant and newly raised concerns about the historical nature and status of the buildings on the site.

"I think the people of Glendale would rather have clean energy than preserve an old building," Najarian opined. "I've toured the plant — there's nothing historical about it, nothing that evinces pride as I drive up. This cannot set us back in our commitment to a green future. You know how these things go; remember the old PacBell building? It can add time, dragging everything out. I worry about something down the horizon holding us up."

Councilmember Ardashes "Ardy" Kassakhian agreed.

"Why are we talking about preserving a monument to fossil fuels?" he asked.

Glendale Water and Power (GWP) General Manager Steve Zurn updated the council on the utility's plans to extend its public benefit programs to include struggling small businesses. The plan was adopted by a vote of four to one with Brotman opposing the program.

"It doesn't say anywhere here that it can be used to help businesses," he said. "I'd rather find another way to give forbearance, like an eviction moratorium for utilities."

"They're all our customers," Zurn replied, "and we're extremely limited as to what we can do to help. We would not continue this once the pandemic ends, but they are all our customers."

Each of the members of council took an opportunity to thank and recognize Zurn as he prepares for retirement following 34 years with the city in public works and then the GWP.

"I have a tie on tonight," he joked, then thanked "a phenomenal staff and support from the council."

"There won't be a day I don't think about the City of Glendale," he said. "I've spent my entire adult life here. You're going to see us achieving renewable clean energy on an hourly basis. There is so much of which to be proud."

Also on a vote of four to one, the council voted to spend up

to \$50,000 for the purchase, training and maintenance to begin using "unmanned aerial aircraft devices," or drones. Brotman wanted to review a policy statement before agreeing to the purchase.

The devices would be used for specific, limited law enforcement purposes, GPD Chief Carl Povilaitis explained, such as documenting crime or accident scenes, searching for suspects or missing persons, offering support during the execution of warrants, and in cases of disaster. Police staff indicated it reviewed best practices and experiences of neighboring agencies in determining the department's needs and interests.

"When I say we're conducting constitutional policing, I mean it," Povilaitis said, emphasizing respect for the privacy of Glendale residents.

"Even though you could set one of them on your lap, the FAA [Federal Aviation Authority] requires a certified operator for legitimate law enforcement purposes only," a police lieutenant said. "Think of it as an asset added to our air support arsenal. These devices run for a maximum of 28 minutes and our use would be line-of-sight exclusively."

Mayor Vrej Agajanian announced he was pulling from the agenda discussion about a potential independent municipal health department.

Next, the council deliberated over a potential "resolution to cease current and future business activities with firms associated with the governments of Azerbaijan and Turkey; and boycott of products produced in Azerbaijan and Turkey."

Kassakhian recalled similar action in 1986.

"I remember assemblywoman, now congresswoman, Maxine Waters proposing that the state divest from businesses in protest of apartheid in South Africa. Governor George Deukmejian changed his mind, bringing to mind his family history, and said, 'We must stand for freedom and stand against violations of human rights, wherever they occur.'"

"I hope other cities follow suit," he concluded.

Brotman proposed the addition of broader investment guidelines, known as ESG, for the integration of environmental, social and corporate governance considerations into the processes of investment management.

Finally, the council voted to reimpose a moratorium on commercial evictions for certain businesses.

The council will meet again on Jan. 12, 2021.

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GIVING from Cover

near spending all of the donated money. They made repeated trips to the store to keep on buying merchandise. Then they realized they had attracted attention.

Other shoppers at Big Lots noticed the “sleigh” filling up and, after learning what the group was doing, offered to buy some toys to donate as well. The employees and manager of Big Lots asked to take pictures of the commotion.

“You think Big Lots is this big corporation,” said Walker, “but they were so happy that we chose their store.”

After a fun day of shopping for toys, Stafford and her crew donated their haul to the Inglewood NAACP. Their generosity, as well as the help and good cheer from the community, will provide a happier holiday for many children in Los Angeles this year.

That is the best part for Stafford. “Knowing that what we did was going to make a difference in someone’s life ... that’s how we all felt as we were shopping,” she said. “We all knew that we were going to make someone happy.”

Making someone happy while supporting her community was what Krissy Harb of Spiritual Heart Yoga Center was intent on doing.

Harb has raised money every year, which she donates to a charity “close to my heart.” This year what caught her attention was the senior apartment complex across from her Honolulu Avenue yoga studio.

“I wanted to buy gift cards from local businesses for each of the residents in the Honolulu Manor Senior Apartments,” Harb said. “My godmother lived there for five to eight years and made many friends there. Through her I had strong connections to the residents.”

Harb added that, especially during COVID-19, the residents feel isolated and alone.

So Harb reached out through social media and, within 24 hours and with her dad matching funds raised, collected \$5,000. Her original goal of buying each resident a \$50 gift card was surpassed and instead she was able to buy each unit – 85 in all – a \$60 gift card, all from local businesses.

“They really need some sort of message that the community remembers them and loves them,” Harb said of the Honolulu Manor Senior Apartments residents and of the local mom and pop businesses. “This felt like the most impactful way to give back to the community.”

Marisa McCoy built an entire community and found it rewarding.

Back in late April, McCoy was added to a Facebook page by a friend. It was a women-only group where members could give and receive gifts, but it was for women in Ventura County. McCoy wanted something more accessible for her La Crescenta address so, with the help and encouragement of her friend Jennifer Bond, she created a local page. Thus, the SoCal Sisterhood of the Traveling Spirits Foothill Community group was born.

“I saw how great and happy the women were on the other page. I wanted that too,” said McCoy of starting the Foothills Sisterhood

group.

McCoy wanted all of her local friends and family to know about the new group, so she posted on her personal Facebook page, as well as other local group pages. Now the group welcomes women from Sun Valley, Sylmar, Sunland, Tujunga, Lake View Terrace, Montrose, La Crescenta, La Cañada, Altadena and Glendale, and has over 400 members. For the holidays, there is a Secret Santa exchange encompassing 75 women. And for the rest of the year, the page has files of people’s wish lists so the perfect gift can be given at any time. Not only is this group a great way to boost spirits but it’s also safe and socially distant.

“Personally, we call it ding-dong ditch,” McCoy laughed. Members are asked to leave gifts on doorsteps to maintain both a safe distance and to also encourage surprises.

The page also strives to lift up female business owners. As a hairstylist for 15 years, McCoy said that she’s all for helping small businesses. During the holiday

season, she has facilitated raffles for gift certificates or items from the group’s business owners.

She has enjoyed the sisterhood that the page has provided, and hasn’t ruled out a future “brotherhood” page. McCoy admits that by only allowing women, the Foothills Sisterhood page is a little discriminatory, but added that, “sometimes it’s good to have all women help you.”

Above all, this page and its community have shown McCoy how generous the local women can be, and how important receiving a gift is during this upsetting year.

“So many of these women lost jobs, [or] feel depressed. And now they can get a gift,” said McCoy. “Those are the best posts [to see on the page].”

Any woman over the age of 21 and living in the above-mentioned cities is welcome to join the group. Visit facebook.com and search SoCal Sisterhood of the Traveling Spirits Foothill Community to request to join.

The spirit of giving is not limited

by age. Members of Crescenta Valley Instrumental Music and Prom Plus Club gathered on Friday afternoon, following socially distanced and masked guidelines, to help families in need through a toy and food drive.

The two student organizations partnered with St. Luke’s of the Mountains Episcopal Church Fire House youth center to collect well over 200 toys and gift cards that were donated to the family “adoption” program operated by the Glendale Police Dept. and Glendale Police Officers’ Association. The GPD/GPOA are given names of families in need by community organizations including the GPD and the Glendale Unified School District. Names were also supplied by community members who either asked for help or reached out for others.

The food collected supported the United Methodist Church of Tujunga’s Bailey Center food bank. The Bailey Center has experienced a substantial increase of those in need of food support as families find themselves struggling resulting

from COVID-19.

Although the food and toy drive by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Dept. at the Crescenta Valley Station was not officially held this year it still donated to the Bailey Center.

Organizers of the donation drive credit much of its success to the support of American Legion Post 288 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1614. As is their practice, these veterans continue to serve their community despite the pandemic.

For those who would like to donate to GPD/GPOA contact Amy Tate at (818) 548-4015.

For those who would like to donate food to Bailey Center, non-perishable food items can be dropped off at 9901 Tujunga Canyon Blvd. in Tujunga on Wednesdays between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. or at the CVW office at 3800 La Crescenta Ave. Ste. 206 in Glendale/La Crescenta between the office hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For more information, email mo5966@sbcglobal.net or call CVW at (818) 248-2740.



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The Merry & Bright Self-Guided Holiday Light and Display Drive-By Tour!

Here is the list of houses/businesses participating in the Merry & Bright Tour!
Check back next week.

House #	Street	Area	Zip	Business or Special Note
1930	Foothill Blvd	La Cañada	91011	YMCA Tree Lot Cabin
2200-2400	Honolulu Ave	Montrose	91020	Montrose Shopping Park
3515	Downing	Sparr Heights	91208	
3432	Buena Vista	Sparr Heights	91208	
3532	Rosemary	Sparr Heights	91208	
3601	Angelus	Sparr Heights	91208	
1410	Oak Circle	Sparr Heights	91208	
2809	Foothill Blvd	La Crescenta	91214	La Crescenta Library
2653	Orange	La Crescenta	91214	
2720	Harmony	La Crescenta	91214	
2812	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
3032	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
3036	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
3109	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
3110	Pontiac	La Crescenta	91214	
3006	Altura	La Crescenta	91214	
3021	Altura	La Crescenta	91214	
3037	Altura	La Crescenta	91214	
4012	New York	La Crescenta	91214	Snow falls every 30 min. on the hour
4422	New York	La Crescenta	91214	
3420	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
3425	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
3433	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
3437	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
3440	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
3452	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
3500	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
3504	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
3510	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
3514	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
3520	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
3550	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
3547	Prospect	La Crescenta	91214	
3941	Abella	La Crescenta	91214	
9241	Reid	Tujunga	91042	

JUDGING CATEGORIES

- 1. Christmas Story Award** (traditional or nostalgic use of lights and decorations - Leg Lamp use gets extra points)
- 2. Clark Griswold Award** (excessive use of lights and decoration - more is ALWAYS better, can we see it from space?)
- 3. Martha Stewart Award** (neat, color coordinated and picture perfect)
- 4. Charlie Brown Award** (we let the kids decorate this year)
- 5. Most Original** (not your usual everyday holiday decor)
- 6. Best In Show** (ya blew the judges minds)
- 7. Community Fan Favorite** (vote for your favorite house by sending the house's address to merrybright@cvweekly.com)

VOTE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY FAVORITE! To vote for your favorite send an email with the house's address to MerryBright@cvweekly.com. In the subject line put FAN FAVE. One vote per email address.
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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

Mountain Avenue Elementary Had Controversial Beginnings – Part 1

Mountain Avenue Elementary School is one of the gems of our valley. It's a beautiful campus in a beautiful setting next to Pickens Canyon, with our magnificent mountains as a backdrop. But its transition from a grand private estate to an award-winning elementary school was a hard-fought battle that resulted in an eminent domain seizure.

Let's go back in time to the beginnings of the property that would become Mountain Avenue School. As I have written before, early Crescenta Valley had a good share of wealthy landowners who built estates, many of them as weekend getaway residences while they conducted business in Los Angeles. Col. Thomas C. Thornton was just such a person.

Thornton was a very prominent lawyer in LA, and a big deal in the Democratic party. He was a "Southern Democrat" hailing from South Carolina, and was dangerously prejudiced. For instance, in 1907

under the newspaper headline "Police Watch Trains For Bad Negroes," Thornton is quoted as having regret that the "public does not seem disposed to lynch" the so-called "Negro desperadoes."

In 1917, Thornton bought five acres in La Crescenta, high in the valley, and next to Pickens Canyon. He began construction of a grand mansion, built to replicate his ancestral plantation, and in 1923 it was finished. A grand iron gate opened to a long straight drive heading up to a classic southern plantation-style structure with columns in front. Inside the entryway a winding staircase with mahogany railings rose to a big stained-glass window at the top, and leaded glass cabinets for the dishes and silverware were in the grand dining room. The second floor had eight rooms, some with fireplaces, and a third story had gabled windows. Big trees and landscaping completed the grounds along with a guesthouse.

As we know, Santa Ana winds were a big problem for the valley back then and several houses and buildings had actually been blown down during storms. Local legend has it that Thornton bound the house down with concealed steel cables anchored into the ground.

Thornton didn't live here long, only until 1929. We don't know why he left after putting so much into his mansion but perhaps the date is the clue: 1929, the year of the great stock market crash.

Thornton sold the property to Dwain and Hildegard Esper. The Espers were Hollywood types. Dwain Esper had become a millionaire as a developer, and switched careers to filmmaking. But the type of films he made were ... how can I put it? ... Not family-fare. Dwain Esper is considered the father of the exploitation film and, while living in La Crescenta, he cranked out an astounding array of "grind-house" films about sex and drugs. Some of

his titles included "Sins of Love," "Marijuana, the Weed With Roots in Hell," "Sex Maniac" and "How To Take A Bath." He was responsible for movies that have taken on cult status today, like "Freaks" and "Reefer Madness." I will write an entire column about the Esper family in the future, as their story is dynamic to say the least.

Apparently Mrs. Esper tired of living in the quiet Crescenta Valley. She arranged with a Beverly Hills friend, Mrs. William Bishop, to trade homes. So in 1944, the Espers moved to Beverly Hills and the Bishops moved to the grand estate on Mountain Avenue in La Crescenta. The wealthy Mr. and Mrs. Bishop loved their new home high in the foothills with a spectacular view of the Los Angeles Basin and Catalina Island. The childless Bishops welcomed neighborhood kids to play on their grounds and swim in their pool. For two decades they enjoyed their quiet lifestyle,

interspersed with travel. But around their peaceful oasis, the post-war population of the valley was booming with young families. Local elementary schools were packed out and portable classrooms filled their playgrounds. The Glendale school district was looking for new school sites and in 1964 it began seriously eyeing the Bishops' five-acre paradise for a new school site.

Next week, after an epic court battle the Bishops are forced to sell.



Mike Lawler is the former president of the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley and loves local history.

Reach him at lawlerdad@yahoo.com.



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NEWS FROM SACRAMENTO » LAURA FRIEDMAN

My New Opportunity

I'm very excited to announce that last week I was appointed by Speaker Anthony Rendon to serve as the Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee.

I am grateful for this new leadership opportunity and understand the great responsibility that goes with it.

This committee has jurisdiction over the California High-Speed Rail Authority, California Highway Patrol, California Transportation Commission, Dept. of Motor Vehicles, Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans), driver's licenses, freight, regional transportation agencies, transit authorities, intercity rail, mobile sources of air pollution, fuels, rules of the road, state highways, local streets and roads, vehicles, aircraft, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and vessels. The work of this committee has a huge impact on our state's economy, our environment, housing and way of life.

Since being elected in 2016, I've served on this committee where I've worked on a number of transportation bills including measures to change the way we set speed limits, change how we invest in high-speed rail, prioritize transit and active transportation, and address the environmental impacts of the transportation sector.

I'll admit, working on those measures hasn't been easy. Now that I have the opportunity to serve as chair, the momentum has shifted and I plan to tackle these issues and more.

We are at a pivotal moment when it comes to transportation. Transportation-related emissions are on the rise and are one of the state's largest contributors to climate change. Pedestrians and cyclists are endangered and killed because of outdated street engineering and our prioritization of cars. We need to make smart, significant investments in mass transit to relieve congestion and improve mobility options. The world during and after this pandemic is going to be very different, and we need to be ready for that.

As most of you know, I've been very passionate about these issues over the years. I've secured millions of dollars to fund transportation projects in our district, including \$20 million for the Glendale Narrows Riverwalk Bridge. I've enjoyed hosting conversations across our district about the future of transportation. In addition, I've been working for years to revise the 85th percentile rule, which determines how speed limits are set across the state, an effort that has met a lot of opposition in Sacramento.

This effort includes my bill that created a Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force to review this methodology and other factors leading to traffic fatalities. The task force concluded and released its policy recommendations in 2019. Last week, I introduced AB 43 to implement their findings.

Right here at home, we can see the impacts and, to be candid, sometimes failures, of statewide transportation policies. Our district is home to

several major freeways, interstates, and highways including the 210, 2, 134, 5 and 101. Yet almost no one in our district has convenient or practical access to mass transit. We have an amazing collection of parks and green spaces, wildlands nestled in urban centers, and yet our active transit corridors are disjointed. To travel on a bicycle between the north of our district, the Crescenta Valley, to the southern end, containing Griffith Park and Los Angeles, the journey would be confusing and often perilous.

The lives of many residents of the 43rd Assembly District are tied to their cars. That dependence brings increased emissions and dramatic impacts on the air we breathe. I believe we can do better – and be happier and healthier as a result.

I am also concerned about how we invest taxpayer dollars in transportation projects. I don't think I need to remind too many La Crescenta or La Cañada Flintridge residents about the frustrating, behind-schedule and over-budget 210 Freeway project; or the disruptive, mismanaged and over-budget I-5 freeway expansion in Burbank. We need to be smarter about how we spend taxpayer money. Our transportation projects need to be better conceived and better managed. As stewards of public funds, we should work every day to ensure our investments take into account the holistic needs of our community. As Transportation

see FRIEDMAN on page 15

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Was This Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus?

On Friday, Dec. 4 in the early afternoon, my two friends and I drove into the handicapped space at Trader Joe's in Montrose.

The line to get into TJ's was quite long. My one friend, who has a health problem, walked cautiously towards the end of the line. I followed; I too am recovering from major leg surgery.

A very nice couple, who were standing in the middle of the line, summoned to us to stand (wait) in front of them.

The gentleman did turn toward the waiting patrons in back of him and asked if this would be okay with them. No one objected!

What a wonderful and benevolent gesture of this couple – especially at this Christmas time.

If this terrific couple read this: thanks again.

God bless and Merry Christmas.

Barbara Mayhew
La Crescenta

YOUTH

Operation Christmas Child Benefits from Local Volunteer

By Lori BODNAR, intern

Charlotte Acosta, an eighth grader at Holy Redeemer-St. James School, recently completed a service project with Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is run by Samaritan's Purse organization. The purpose of Operation Christmas Child is to bring boxes filled with gifts to children all over the world, while spreading the word of Jesus.

"After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said 'Go and do likewise.' That is the mission of Samaritan's Purse –

to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel," said Julie Acosta, Charlotte's mom. Operation Christmas Child runs yearly. National collection week was the week of Nov. 16-22.

Charlotte started her service project the first week of November. She made a video explaining the goals of the organization and how to pack a shoebox with donation items. She asked the middle school grades at St. James to participate (grades five through eight). She had a drive-thru collection day at St. James School on Nov. 10 when she collected the filled

boxes. She collected 35 boxes from the students at St. James and dropped the shoeboxes off at the drop-off location at Community Life Church in La Crescenta. Charlotte worked about 16 hours on her service project, which included creating the video presentation for the students, purchasing the supplies and packing four shoeboxes herself, conducting the donation drive-thru at school, and delivering the boxes to Community Life Church.

The shoeboxes were filled with needed items. Some were everyday essentials such as cups, bowls, soap, toothbrushes, school supplies (pencils and notebooks), clothing and a toy.

"All of the items have to fit inside the shoebox," said Julie. "We packed ours pretty tightly. It helps to take everything out of its original packaging. No food, no liquids, and no inflammables can be included since the shoeboxes are shipped all over the world."

Charlotte said she was inspired by her mom's previous volunteer work with Operation Christmas Child.

"I had participated in my own donation drive for Christmas Child when Charlotte was younger and, since she is required to work service hours for school, we thought it would be a good organization for her to work with because the charity pertains to children," said Julie.

Charlotte also participated with Operation Christmas Child last year by encouraging friends and family to donate shoeboxes filled with items.

Charlotte's heart for helping has led her to other volunteer service opportunities. She made cat blankets for the Pasadena Humane Society and participated in a community clean-up day at Descanso Gardens, spending the day picking up trash and cleaning benches.

"One of the reasons why we love Holy Redeemer-St. James School is because it is teaching our children to be of service and help others," said Julie. "When you forget yourself and think of others it teaches you that the world is much bigger than yourself and that we all need to serve and help others. The middle school students are required to complete service hours each year and, by doing so, it teaches them to give back to their communities and it helps them understand the value of volunteerism."



Photos provided by Acosta Family
 TOP: Charlotte Acosta with the many boxes she collected for Operation Christmas Child.
 ABOVE: Charlotte arranged for a drive-thru event to collect boxes from the community.

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TRAVEL & LEISURE

Favorite Christmas Concert Held Virtually

The Glendale City Church has, for decades, provided an outstanding Christmas concert enjoyed by the entire community. This year's concert will be no different, except it will be virtual. The concert will premiere on the church's YouTube channel (www.YouTube.com/c/GlendaleCityChurch) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18. The concert will include singers from the Glendale City Church Sanctuary Choir, Donald Brinegar Singers with JPL Singers, Temple City United Methodist Church Choir, Vallejo Drive Adventist Church Choir and the Glendale Academy Band and Chorale. Dr. Clarissa Shan is choral director at



Glendale City Church
Presents a Very Merry Virtual Christmas Concert Featuring:

Glendale City Church Sanctuary Choir
Kemp Smeal, Organ

Vallejo Drive Adventist Church Choir
Glendale Adventist Academy Chorale
Temple City United Methodist Church Choir

The Donald Brinegar Singers
Glendale Adventist Academy Band
JPL Chorus
Guest Artist - Lyndon Johnston Taylor, Violin

Tune in on Friday, December 18, 2020 at 7:30pm for our YouTube Premiere!
www.YouTube.com/c/GlendaleCityChurch

Glendale City and the executive producer of the virtual concert. Kemp Smeal is accompanist on the organ and piano. Lyndon Johnston Taylor, principal second violin with the LA Phil, is guest soloist.

The combined choirs will sing

"Brightest and Best" by Shawn Kirchner, "Silent Night" by Dan Forrest and two Christmas carols that viewers will be invited to sing along. Each of the participating choirs will sing one or two pieces in addition to the combined choir numbers.

THEN & NOW |

'34 Flood on Ocean View Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Then » The main devastation from floodwaters of the 1934 New Year's Flood came down Pickens Canyon and plowed through the valley roughly following Rosemont Avenue. But close behind in severity was the flow from Hall-Beckley Canyon on the west side of La Cañada. It cleared a diagonal path southwesterly through the valley, crossing Foothill Boulevard at Castle Road, and crossing Ocean View Boulevard just above Montrose Avenue. This is the view looking down Ocean View, approximately where the 210 Freeway crosses under today. The road is being cleared of mud and rocks by hand. Note the line of cars extending down Ocean View. Restricting traffic into the valley was a problem. As with any disaster, sightseers from Los Angeles came in droves, and the threat of looting was a constant worry for residents and law enforcement.



Now » Here is that same view today, looking south down Ocean View. The flood control channel, roughly following the same path as the floodwaters followed in 1934, crosses beneath Ocean View just behind where this photo is taken. It then crosses the 210 Freeway on its own bridge, fully enclosed in a concrete tube. La Cañada made use of one of its flood control channel bridges by fencing both sides of the top of the enclosed channel and creating a pedestrian bridge across the freeway.

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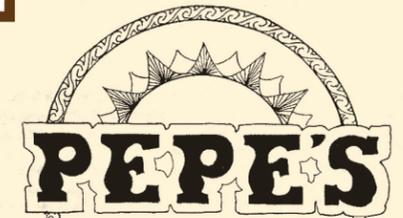
I want to thank

everyone in the community for their ongoing support and assure everyone that as soon as we can open for dining we will. Keeping our community safe, healthy and alive is the most important thing.

We will get through this.

Happy Holidays!

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BETWEEN FRIENDS

» PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

Farewell to the Prince of Honolulu

This man's best friend passed away last week at the age of 13. Jack (named Jacques when he was rescued) was a virtual Montrose ambassador, spending more of his waking hours there than anywhere else. When he was a puppy, kids called him the polar bear of Montrose. As he matured, adults started calling him the Prince of Honolulu. People called him all different things: Cloud, Cotton Candy, Q-tip, Traveler, a horse, and so on. He was all those, but mostly he was a magnificent companion to my wife and me.

Jack was born in south LA, one of 11 puppies in an "accidental" backyard breeding of two show dogs. The breeder sold seven of them but decided the two largest and two smallest were not of show dog quality so she turned them in to the local animal shelter, a kill facility that

would have put down these puppies if no one adopted them within a few days. Fortunately, Alyce Russell from Glendale Humane Society found them first and took them to Glendale, housing them in the front window of Andersen's Pet Shop in Montrose to keep them safe.

The puppies lived there for almost eight weeks, starting in December 2007. That's where we saw them and fell in love with ... Toulouse, the smallest of the four. Jacques was the largest of the four and standoffish and had zero interest in me. While the other three would form an adorable puppy pile, Jacques would lay away from them. Two local high school girls took them for walks in Montrose while the puppies grew old enough to get their shots and finally be adopted.

We were still mourning the loss of our previous dog and weren't sure we

were ready to take on a puppy, but our college-aged daughter convinced us we were ready. We put our name on the adoption list, with my heart set on Toulouse. But Jacques got one look at our daughter and latched on to her, cuddling and licking her. He didn't like me, though. Alyce carefully matched the dogs to the families on the adoption list and, for reasons I'll never understand (but for which I am oh so grateful), she picked us. And she picked Jacques for us, not Toulouse. Our daughter was thrilled; I wasn't so sure.

Alyce included two private training sessions with Paul Owens as part of the adoption. (You've probably seen Paul in the Andersen's parking lot training dog owners.) Jacques growled and barked at me when we took him home. He only wanted to be around my wife and daughter. Paul told me that I needed to play games with him, to let him chase me. After just a few chases, Jacques thought I must be okay. And we slowly became best friends. Even though my wife and I both speak a little French, we felt uncomfortable calling him Jacques, so we switched his name to Jack - much to the chagrin of my nephew Jack.

We walked Jack in Montrose twice a day, and he became a fixture there. Everyone seemed to know him even if they didn't know us. Since his parents were both show dogs, he was gorgeous - but too big to be a show dog. (And he never lost his all baby teeth, which would have disqualified him, but this gave him a great, unique smile.) When we brought him home, we had no idea he would grow so tall, taller than me when he stood on his hind legs. He had long legs and a barrel chest, and, like most poodles, he pranced most of the time rather than just walk. And being all white with that fluffy fur, he attracted attention everywhere he went. If friends joined us on a walk, they couldn't believe how many times we were stopped by people who wanted



to pet him or take his photo. My wife called him "Brad Pitt on a leash."

Jack was not a lap dog by any means, nor did he like it if we tried to cuddle with him. Only our daughter could do that. But he showed serious affection during walks. He would lean his large head into a thigh and rub it around. He was tall enough that we could rub his head then without having to bend over. He seemed to be aware of giving equal head rubbing time to both my wife and me.

Jack had his favorite Montrose stores. He loved Once Upon a Time even though he was afraid of Pippi, the store cat, who would jump out at him from hiding places and box his ears before hiding again. And he loved making treat "withdrawals" at Chase bank. He loved Twigs and Things and Mountain Rose ... so many interesting things to smell. He loved the women at Merle Norman. He loved Jeannie and Chris at Casa Córdoba. But his favorite thing to do in Montrose was join us for tea at Coffee Bean or Starbucks. He thought the water from these two places was far better than the water in his bowl at home. And he loved watching the human and dog parade that walked by, especially during the Harvest Market on Sundays.

A few years ago, Holiday Hats

and Gowns had some amazing animal head masks in the window for Halloween. One was a white poodle, which my wife insisted on buying. For Halloween, she dressed all in white wore this mask and took Jack to the Montrose Halloween festivities. Everyone loved it. And in the Montrose Christmas Parade that year, we walked with the CV Dog Park group, this time with me wearing the mask and Jack putting up with my barking and pretending to look like him. Since then, total strangers have come up to us and told us how much they enjoyed that.

When the pandemic closed much of Montrose this year, Jack noticed. No more breaks at the coffee shops. People weren't petting him as usual because they were afraid of spreading COVID. This clearly bothered him and, of course, he couldn't understand what was happening. When things reopened, his spirits picked up. He was getting pet again. And while Coffee Bean never reopened their outside seating, we were at least able to sit at the corner table at Starbucks a few times, and he was so happy lying there, waiting for people and dogs to say hello.

When we adopted Jack, we were told to expect a lifespan of 11-12 years. But we would meet people who had had standard poodles that lived to 15 and 16 so we hoped Jack would be one of them. We were so grateful when he got to 12 with little change but, by the time he got to 13 in October, we saw him slow down. He started to have trouble walking on our hardwood floors, slipping on them when he tried to move quickly. Toe grips helped, but then he started having trouble getting in or out of the car; I would have to lift him. And in the last few weeks, he would cut his walk short. He would just stop walking and wait for me to figure out he wanted to go home.

He seemed to know the end was near in the last two weeks. He would stop in front of his favorite places in Montrose and insist we take him inside for a pet. We thought this was quirky and charming and related to the new pandemic closings, but when he collapsed last Tuesday, we wondered if maybe he had been trying to say good-bye.

I know we gave Jack a good life, but he gave us an even better one. And we will miss you, buddy, the Prince of Honolulu.

Robert Newcombe

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Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis!

Lot Line Confusion

Dear Phyllis,

I am the trustee of my father's estate. This home has been in our family since it was built in the 1940's. Many years ago, the double lot was subdivided, and my uncle given the vacant lot. My father's home needs updating but we decided to sell it as is. I listed it with a real estate agent from my church. Since the home has been on the market, my uncle is scaring potential buyers. First, his home and yard are eyesores, which doesn't help. But to make matters worse, he is talking with

buyers and telling them where the lot line is located. And I think he is wrong as to the location. Many of the lookers are thinking of adding on or at minimum an extensive remodel. As a Realtor® with years of experience have you come across this before? How do you think we should handle this?

Trustee

Dear Trustee,

I am sorry that your uncle is complicating things for you. In the past I have had similar situations with neighbors and lot

lines. Without a copy of the survey it's doubtful your uncle knows for certain where the boundaries are. A survey should have been done when the lot was subdivided and that at least would clear up the lot line confusion. Try checking with the city to learn if you can get a copy. Typically, when a survey is completed, the surveyor will hammer round iron pins in the ground to mark boundaries, these are permanent. If you are unable to obtain a copy of the survey, look in the street near the curb for the pins.

If you can't find the survey or the pins, ask your Realtor® to obtain a copy of the plat map from the title company. This will note the lot lines and provide the width. Have you tried talking with your Uncle? Try explaining that a higher sale price for your father's home, increases the value of his. Advise him that he may be intimidating potential buyers and by doing so he may end up with a neighbor he cannot intimidate. I wish you a successful sale and closing.



Questions about Today's Real Estate? Ask Phyllis!

818.790.7325 phyllis@realtorharb.com

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Phyllis Harb (DRE# 008487500) is a Realtor® with Coldwell Banker Hallmark Realty

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HOLIDAY CHEER

'Twas weeks before Christmas and all through the town,

People wore masks that covered their frown.

The frown had begun way back in the spring,

When a global pandemic changed everything.

They called it corona but unlike the beer,

It didn't bring good times, it didn't bring cheer.

Airplanes were grounded, travel was banned.

Borders were closed across air, sea and land.

As the world entered lockdown to flatten the curve,

The economy halted and folks lost their nerve.

From March to July we rode the first wave.

People stayed home, they tried to behave.

When summer emerged the lockdown was lifted.

But away from caution, many folks drifted.

Now it's December and cases are spiking.

Wave Two has arrived, much to our disliking.

It's true that this year has had sadness a plenty.

We'll never forget the year 2020.

And just 'round the corner the holiday season.

But why be merry? Is there even one reason

To decorate the house and put up the tree?

Who will see it, no one but me.

But outside my window the snow gently falls.

And I think to myself, Let's deck the halls!

So, I gather the ribbon, the garland and bows.

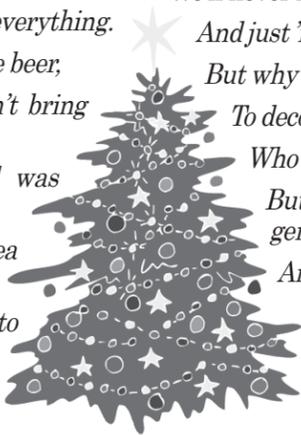
As I play those old carols, my happiness grows.

Christmas is not canceled and neither is hope.

If we lean on each other, I know we will cope.

Merry Christmas!

Author Unknown



ZACK hill by John Deering and John Newcombe



WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

December 14, 2020 - December 20, 2020

♈ ARIES March 21 - April 19

It can be difficult to try to maintain balance when everyone else seems to be losing theirs. You may have trouble staying on an even keel where your health routines are concerned. One day you feel enthusiastic and the next blasé. This is where willpower comes in. Aim lower but be consistent. It will be much easier.

♉ TAURUS April 20 - May 20

At last you may get some clarity on why you've felt at odds with your body. You may have to retrace your steps. Think about what you've been eating and consider any changes you've made to your daily routine. If you've been experimenting with your diet, you'll now know more about what you can and can't cope with. Experimenting is good.

♊ GEMINI May 21 - June 20

It's time to embrace your love of sports again. You have a two-week window of opportunity to rediscover any activity you used to love. If you like to compete, enjoy yourself and aim to win. You may even find a new romance while you're at it.

♋ CANCER June 21 - July 22

Explore new possibilities on the road to great health. Start at home by seeing how you can improve your kitchen's efficiency. This might be a good time to reorient yourself with the help of a nutrition guide. Clear out foods that are high in sodium, fat, and sugar. Restock with fresh, whole foods that are good for you.

♌ LEO July 23 - August 22

Aspects are encouraging you to focus on any aspect of your health that might be causing you problems. This is also an ideal time to take a class about any aspect of health and healing that intrigues you. You could end up working in one of these fields. Even if you don't, you'll learn something new.

♍ VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

Do you include health and fitness activities in your budget or do you sometimes splurge on frivolous luxuries? A healthy body is very important. It's worth the time and money to join a gym or get some exercise equipment. Have clear goals and then figure out what you can realistically afford.

♎ LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

This period may be critical as far as your health is concerned. You've experienced progress and reversals for some time now. Aspects may indicate the reappearance of some symptoms, or you might find information that can help you resolve the matter. Don't delay. Make whatever changes are necessary.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Take a look at your thoughts about your health. Do you continually imagine yourself as out of shape, unhealthy, or lacking in the stamina necessary to get where you want to be? It's time to reverse this trend and visualize yourself with enough willpower to get into shape. You can do it. You simply need to believe you can. Start now and soon you'll be a lot fitter and happier.

♐ SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

What makes you tick in terms of your well-being? The coming period may bring an event or perhaps a set of symptoms that cause you to question the way you look after yourself. If you can do it better, then do it better. You'll feel more energetic!

♑ CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Don't put too much pressure on yourself to get into shape. Your ambition is commendable, but you may be pushing yourself too hard. If you burn out in the first week or so of your program, you won't continue. Create achievable goals that bring you a sense of satisfaction. Listen to your heart and treat yourself with tenderness.

♒ AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

An on/off health issue could challenge your belief in yourself. The root of this might be your idea about how healthy you can be and how capable you are at dealing with stress in your life. Believe that you can bring about dynamic change and you will. All it takes is the determination to think in a new way. Do it for your health's sake.

♓ PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20

It's time to take seriously the idea of transformation. Your health and well-being depend on constant change at all levels, a continuous renewal. You can aid this process by shedding excesses of all kinds. Think about the obvious one - weight. Also think about excess worry, nitpicking, and distrust. Give yourself and your body a break and have faith.

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PET OF THE WEEK



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Wednesday, December 10, 2014
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Edited by Timothy Parker

- ACROSS**
- Type of jet
 - True item
 - Food shops
 - "___ Christie"
 - Brown shade
 - Make used (to)
 - Where you might testify
 - Have regrets
 - Was in front of the others
 - Antiquated
 - Brush aside
 - Costa del ___
 - Attendance fig.
 - Noted Chinese dynasty
 - Off-painted jug
 - Mowed row
 - Acted the ratfink
 - Poetic "before"
 - Do well before a judge
 - Canton in central Switzerland
 - Domestic fowls
 - Hick
 - DNA holder
 - Word with "too late"
 - Intimate apparel item
 - Part of the world's population
 - Fulfill, as one's desires
 - Bring to life
 - Finish fasting
 - Farm sound
 - Fires
 - Give cheer to
 - Sullen
 - Bad fit?
 - Dings
 - Home run swings
 - Seriously untidy state

- DOWN**
- Nixon's Secretary of Defense
 - You'll feel it in Dullsville
 - Pre-deal payments
 - "Yay, team!"
 - Least amount
 - Reactors to litmus
 - "You've Got Mail!" screen
 - Deep sea catch
 - '70s dance hall
 - Do a farm chore
 - Do an auto service job
 - Muscle maker when pumped
 - Canonical hour
 - "24" actress Cuthbert
 - Navy officer
 - Apportion (out)
 - Issues an advisory
 - Grandson in Genesis
 - Watered down
 - Emerald Isle language
 - Barn-dance number
 - Overly content
 - "Cook" or "kitchen" add-on
 - Like everyone in the family
 - "Don't change," to an editor
 - Japanese religion
 - Work a hula hoop
 - Layer
 - Famed clown Kelly
 - "A German Requiem" composer
 - Relents (with "up")
 - Crazy-looking outfit
 - Mirror reflection
 - Phlog's concern
 - Ox harnesses
 - Became more mature
 - Cleopatra's river
 - Director Reitman
 - Ga. Tech. grad., perhaps
 - Bulldog booster
 - American Uncle

PACKING LIST By Jill Pepper

1	L	E	A	R	6	F	A	C	T	9	D	E	L	I	S
14	A	N	N	A	15	E	C	R	16	I	N	U	R	E	
17	I	N	T	H	E	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	B	O	X
20	R	U	E	L	E	D	22	A	N	C	I	E	N	T	
23	D	I	S	M	I	S	25	S	O	L					
33	E	S	T	34	W	E	I	36	E	W	E	R			
38	M	A	K	E	39	S	A	N	40	G	41	E	R	E	
42	U	R	I	43	H	E	N	S	44	Y	O	K	E	L	
45	G	E	N	E	47	I	T	S	48	B	R	A			
55	A	N	I	M	57	G	R	A	59	T	I	F	60	F	Y
61	G	I	V	E	62	S	O	N	63	E	H	E	S	64	A
64	E	L	A	T	65	G	L	U	66	M	67	A	G	68	U
69	D	E	N	T	70	R	I	P	71	S	72	M	E	73	S

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(All letters must be 250 words or less) Send CV WEEKLY your thoughts and comments on any of our articles or happenings in our community and we'll share them with the rest of our readers!

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME: BRANDON RANDALL LODER. Case number 20GD000389. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles 600 East Broadway Glendale, CA 91206 North Central Division. To all interested persons: 1. Petitioner BRANDON RANDALL LODER filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: a. Present Name: BRANDON RANDALL LODER to Proposed Name: BRANDON RANDALL BORDEN. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING a. Date: JANUARY 27, 2021 Time: 8:30AM Dept.: D b. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Published Crescenta Valley Weekly November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 2020.

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FRIEDMAN from page 10

chair, I will now be in a position to impact these projects, and to fight for a better future for mobility in our region.

As chair, I will work to influence the committee's efforts away from our focus on freeway and road expansions and towards forward-thinking policies such as investing in mass transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, zero-emission vehicles, road safety and sustainability. I will focus on policies that consider the needs of all Californians, and work for more equitable access to mobility while fighting to get our transportation sector on the right track with key climate targets.

It is an exciting new adventure and an opportunity to continue the work we have done over the years in a new space. I look forward to getting right to work and collaborating with you to help make our state safer, more sustainable, and equitable for all Californians.

What do you think about our transportation needs in our district? Do you have any suggestions, including legislative ideas? As always, please reach out to me with any comments, questions or concerns through my District Office at (818) 558-3043 or Assemblymember.Friedman@Assembly.ca.gov.

Laura Friedman represents Burbank, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Montrose, and the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Atwater Village, East Hollywood, Franklin Hills, Hollywood Hills, Los Feliz, and Silver Lake.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



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