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VOL. 13, NO. 14

## Biogas Debate Subject of Council Meeting

By Julie BUTCHER

Most of Tuesday night's meeting of the Glendale City Council was dedicated to a long, detailed and thorough discussion of plans to utilize gas produced by the Scholl Canyon landfill to produce electricity for the city. The council heard extensive comments from approximately 44 callers and, after midnight, voted narrowly (3-2) to approve plans to build a \$58 million biogas plant expected to generate nearly 12 megawatts of "renewable" energy annually.

Councilmembers Ardy Kassakhian and Dan Brotman voted against the project.

"As in the 'Princess Bride,'" Kassakhian explained, "you keep using 'that word.' I do not think it means what you think it means. It isn't a fossil fuel, [and] it is far from renewable."

In October, the city's Planning Commission voted to deny the necessary conditional use permit (CPU). The city's sustainability commission voted against it as well and the Glendale Water & Power (GWP) board voted in favor.

City Manager Roubik Golanian told the council that city staff believes "the project aligns with goals set by the council as we could generate electricity locally without the need for additional transmission and that it would help the city meet its renewable energy goals."

Senior city planner Dennis Joe detailed plans for the plant, which sits on 535 acres. Emphasis was given on a 2.2-acre area, which is less than 1% of the total landfill, he emphasized. Plans call for two modular buildings, a 60,000-gallon water tank and 10,000-gallon water storage tank, four-engine generator enclosures, 40-foot flare stacks, a 384-square-foot

see GCC on page 23

## 'Tis the Season for Toy and Food Drives

By Mary O'KEEFE

*The holiday season presents the perfect opportunity to share with others.*

There are several organizations reaching out to local communities to help those in need have holidays that are a little brighter.

Los Angeles Sheriffs Dept.-Crescenta Valley Station – Traditionally, Crescenta Valley Station volunteers and community lead Deputy Maryann Martin place donation bins throughout the community to collect food and toys for local families. They then invite those families to CV Park where LA County Parks and Recreation partners with LASD volunteers and personnel. Families with children walk through an outdoor shopping area where they choose toys, families are given groceries and children get to visit and have a photo taken with Santa.

Last year, due to the pandemic, staff and volunteers could only quietly support local families in need. This year, Martin said, an event at CV Park will again not be held but the station is still collecting food and toys.

"We have had some families [reach out] here," Martin said.



Photo provided by CHP

Volunteers with the California Highway Patrol with donation boxes filled with toys as part of its CHiPS for Kids toy drive.

There are donation bins at some local businesses and churches and at the CV Sheriff's Station. The food collected is being shared with some local families and to support the Bai-

ley Center in Tujunga.

Anyone who would like to donate, or anyone in need of support, can contact Dep. Martin at (818) 248-3464.

California Highway Patrol-

CHiPS for Kids – CHiPS for Kids is a toy drive sponsored by the California Highway Patrol. It is looking for new, unwrapped toys for children of all

see FOOD DRIVES on page 8

## Catalytic Converter Thefts on the Rise

By Mary O'KEEFE

It's early morning and you get into your car, turn the key and hear the most horrendous sound. For many people that sound means their catalytic converter has been stolen from their vehicle.

According to BeenVerified, thefts of catalytic converters tripled in the first nine months of 2021 compared to all catalytic converter thefts in 2020. By the end of September there was an estimated 49,611 thefts nationwide, a 244% increase from all reported thefts of catalytic converters in 2020. California, Texas and Washington are the top states for theft.

Metals used in catalytic converters include platinum, palladium and rhodium –all metals worth thousands of dollars per ounce.

"Overall there has been an uptick in

see CATALYTIC CONVERTER on page 7

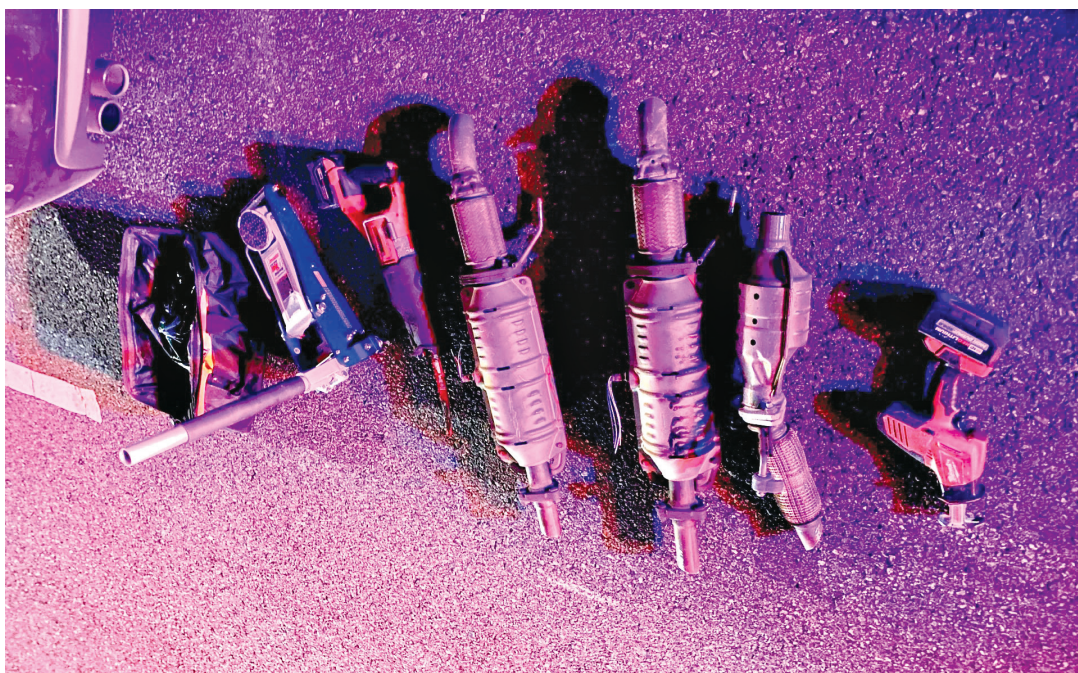


Photo courtesy of GPD

A recent Glendale police traffic stop led to four arrests and the recovery of three catalytic converters in addition to a floor jack and two reciprocating saws.



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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER



# Congratulations to Some Special People

As most of you know, I'm a member of the board of directors of the CV Chamber of Commerce. In fact, I'm the secretary.

Every year the Chamber holds a recognition banquet when local members are recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community. In fact, back in 2010 CV Weekly was recognized as business of the year – an honor I still treasure. Over the years, other awardees have included Arick Gevorkian, man of the year (2018), Julie Dowse, volunteer of the year (2013) and Lynn Miyamoto, woman of the year (2017). When looking at the list of awardees, I can't help but be humbled by the work they've done for the betterment of the Crescenta Valley.

After a cancellation of the banquet in 2020 due to (you guessed it) the pandemic, the CV Chamber is having its Recognition Banquet on Thursday, Dec. 9. As always, the list of awardees is very impressive but none stands out to me as much as Mary O'Keefe, this year's recipient of the prestigious Don Carpenter Special Award.

The Don Carpenter Special Award is not given out in recognition of the previous year of service, but in recognition of decades of community service. It is awarded on select occasions to select people. Mary joins only a few other awardees including Chris Waldheim, Jean Maluccio and Joe Kroening. As anyone knows who reads the CV Weekly, Mary is our lead reporter and is deeply involved with so many community organizations including the CV Fire Safe Council and Prom Plus, and is a co-founder of the Fire House youth center. She was active with PTA and Girl Scouts and is still involved with St. Luke's of the

Mountains Episcopal Church. It is no small statement to say that her involvement with and support of the Crescenta Valley Weekly has ensured its ongoing success.

The Chamber of Commerce Recognition Banquet is on Thursday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 120 E. Colorado St. in Glendale. Tickets are \$65; visit the chamber website at <https://www.crescentavalleychamber.org/> to make reservations and let them know of your dinner choice.

Another shout-out is given to my son Danny, who celebrated his 29th birthday yesterday, Dec. 1.

It seems like yesterday when I headed off to Adventist Health – Glendale to deliver this boy, our fourth son, who has grown into an exceptional man. He has a kind heart and a strong back and is willing to help anyone with anything. He can assemble just about anything and has pitched in – sometimes at the last minute – with many organizations including Prom Plus, which I'm part of, and the Fire House youth center. His time in the Air Force solidified his known strengths and brought to light others.

As he prepares for fatherhood (my granddaughter is due to arrive in February) I know that he will excel and she will be a lucky little girl to call him Daddy.

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



# Weather in the Foothills

"Time is a brisk wind, for each hour it brings something new ... but who can understand and measure its sharp breath, its mystery and its design?"  
~ Paracelsus

The seasons come and go with increasing speed. With each passing year time seems to gain momentum. Could this really happen? Where lies the truth? I'm not sure if Albert Einstein had the answer. I know this much to be true: summer seems just like yesterday and now it's December!

The last candle of Hanukkah is being lit on Monday night. Christmas trees decorated with strands of lights are appearing with elves' pace. Thanksgiving leftovers are, at last, consumed. The shorter days of winter are coming, hopefully bringing *rain and snow* (at the very least a few flakes).

The weather is certainly of no help when keeping track of the months or seasons. A few weeks back an impressive winter storm moved south out of Alaska. The temperatures dropped – as did almost two inches of rain. Yes! Here we go, off to a good start; certainly more will follow. Yeah, right...

Warm Santa Ana winds blasted the Crescenta Valley accompanied by unseasonably above average temperatures. At one point the relative humidity dropped to an extremely low 2%. Local vegetation has become exceedingly dry. Elevated to briefly critical fire weather conditions are in place at least through next week. And *this* is December?!

Dec. 1 (yesterday) it was 85 degrees and the first day of winter. The more familiar start date, without a doubt, is Dec. 21. What's the real one, you may ask? Well, they are equally accurate. The one on Dec. 1 is referred to as the *meteorological winter* and the other on the 21st. is the *astronomical winter*.

Based on temperature and weather patterns, meteorological winter is December, January, and February. The astronomical calendar defines winter as the day when the sun passes directly above 23.5° – the Tropic of Capricorn. It's the day in the northern hemisphere when daylight is the briefest.

Of course, nature has its own plans as to how the weather will fit the days. Depending on location or just seasonal fluctuations the temperatures are all over the place! In one part of the country, sleds and mittens wait at the door while in another area it's an ice chest and beach towel.

Change is coming as a dense marine layer moves in. By Monday expect a bit of a warm-up and gusty winds. Clouds will hang around most of the week.

Looking ahead ... no white Christmas.

Sue Kilpatrick is a Crescenta Valley resident and Official Skywarn Spotter for the National Weather Service Reach her at [suelkilpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:suelkilpatrick@gmail.com).

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

**Volunteer Opportunities at Holiday Marketplace**

The Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy is having a tabling event at the Theodore Payne Foundation as part of the Foundation’s Holiday Marketplace on Dec. 3 and Dec. 4 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day. The Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy will be giving out bookmarks, canvas bags and copies of its native plant guides.

Volunteers are needed and slots are two hours long. Volunteers will have a chance to roam around the market to check out the other vendors. To sign up for a slot visit <https://tinyurl.com/47fy5r5>.

**Rosemont Preserve Open Gate Morning**

An “open gate” event is taking place at the Rosemont Preserve on Saturday, Dec. 4. 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.

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](mailto:RosemontFriends@gmail.com).

**CVCA to Meet Dec. 9**

The Crescenta Valley Community Association will have their monthly meeting on Thursday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting will include discussion on local issues as well as an opportunity for foothill area residents to bring their own concerns. Contact the CVCA at [crescentavalleycommunityassn@gmail.com](mailto:crescentavalleycommunityassn@gmail.com) with questions and for Zoom meeting information.

All are welcome.

**Reward Offered in Murder of Iran Moreno**

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger is offering a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murder of 13-year-old Pasadena resident Iran Moreno.

This \$20,000 reward is in addition to the \$10,000 reward offered by the City of Pasadena.

Anyone with information about this shooting can call Pasadena police at (626) 744-4241. Anonymous tips can also be called in to Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-TIPS (8477), or online at [crimestoppers.org](http://crimestoppers.org).

**E-Waste Roundup**

The community is invited to clear their homes of old dead cellphones, computers, printers, laptops and other electronic devices. Bring them to the e-waste event on Saturday, Dec. 4 and Sunday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Glendale Elks Lodge, 120 E. Colorado St. in Glendale. Proceeds benefit the Verdugo Hills Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Questions? Call the Council at (818) 243-6282.

Holiday – and Shopping – Season Launched in Montrose



By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

Soprano Lily Sumida and mezzo soprano Kate Banks from the Hummingbird Conservatory, under the direction of Tara Wallace, ushered in the holiday season during the White Friday tree lighting in the Montrose Shopping Park. The duo sang favorites, putting the crowd of between 350-400 people into a holiday mood. MSP executive director Dale Dawson took a moment to welcome everyone to the annual event, which was canceled last year due to the pandemic, highlighting several dignitaries present including Glendale mayor Paula Devine and Councilmember Ara Najarian. Montrose Shopping Park Assn. board member Gigi Garcia of It Takes A Village children’s boutique invited the crowd to return to the shopping park for holiday deals plus, beginning on Saturday and continuing weekends through Dec. 19, the chance to meet Santa Claus, ride a horse-drawn carriage up and down the avenue, enjoy live music and, on Saturdays, have the kids ride hand-led ponies.

At 6:15 p.m., Mayor Devine boarded the vintage fire truck that was on hand and began the countdown to the official lighting of the shopping park Christmas tree. Once the tree was lit, Mayor Devine stepped down from the truck to make room for the “jolly old elf” himself: Santa Claus arrived for photos with the folks who had eagerly lined up, ready to make a holiday memory.

The night also provided an opportunity for people to drop off an unwrapped toy into the ABC7 Spark of Love collection bin. ABC7 Spark of Love partnered with Southern California fire departments and Dusty Arroyo of the Glendale Fire Dept. oversees the collection of toys for GFD.

“It’s so important to be able to give to those in need,” Arroyo said. He said that the fire department provides toys upon request to those organizations that have submitted an application of those in need. These organizations include churches, schools and other groups. Unless specifically asked, fire department personnel don’t go to any homes, but instead delivers the items to the requesting organizations, which then delivers them to those they have identified as needing some assistance this holiday season.

Arroyo, who has spearheaded the collection the past three years, is eager to raise awareness of the donation drive. “It’s a very unique experience to see the need that’s there,” he said. “It really puts things into perspective. It’s very rewarding to deliver holiday cheer.”

The next day was Small Business Saturday – a perfect way to kick off holiday shopping with many Montrose shops offering incentives and other deals. Some offered a discount on purchases; others gave a gift with purchase.

Small Business Saturday was created in 2010 by American Express and is a shopping occasion held the Saturday after Thanksgiving during one of the busiest shopping periods of the year. The goal is to support small businesses by shopping at these stores rather than larger, “big box” stores.

According to Dawson, who owns Mountain Rose Gifts and, with his wife Mary, Revelation Tops, receipts for the day were probably the biggest ever for Small Business Saturday at Mountain Rose Gifts and Revelation Tops.

“It was slamming,” he said of the number of people who visited their shop.

He shared that his neighbor at Twigs & Things also had a robust day.

“She was overwhelmed,” Dawson said. “She had never had a day like that.”

Photos by Robin GOLDSWORTHY  
LEFT: Christmas carolers sang favorite holiday tunes during White Friday festivities.  
RIGHT: Oli Reesha, left, and Theodore Brennan revisit a holiday memory by visiting Santa.

Things weren’t any quieter down the block at Once Upon A Time bookstore.

“We had a fabulous Small Business Saturday/Indies Next event,” said storeowner Maureen Palacios. “We had an increase of both customers and sales over last year by [more than] 40%. We had seven authors who were feted outside in front of the store and we sold dozens of their books.

“People were in such upbeat and positive spirits, it was quite different than last year. Sales and customers were better this year than even pre-pandemic 2019. Thankfully, we didn’t have any issues with intolerant people who didn’t want to follow our store’s rules.”

In addition to great deals at many of the stores, shoppers from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. could bring their receipts to the shopping park’s popular spinning wheel. The wheel offered winners an assortment of prizes, from products from nearby shops to scrip that could be used in lieu of cash at MSP restaurants and stores. However, by 3 p.m. there were few prizes left as many shoppers had stopped by with their receipts, eager to see what they won.

In La Cañada, Flintridge Bookstore saw a steady stream of customers. Outside on the sidewalk were authors of several types of books, from children’s books to travel books. Inside were people supporting the bookstore finding not only favorite tomes but also homemade jewelry.

Though Small Business Saturday was an opportunity to showcase the diversity of nearby shops, shop owners encourage people to maintain the “shop local” attitude when fulfilling gift lists.

“It’s starting to feel like we’re back,” said Dawson. “And we all need that.”

For more photos, visit [www.cvweekly.com/NEWS](http://www.cvweekly.com/NEWS).

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# Food – Lots of Food – and Knowledge Shared at Hanukkah Event



Photos by  
Rachelle MILLER  
LEFT: Rabbi Mendy  
Grossbaum with  
CVTC President Harry  
Leon.  
BELOW: From the  
Yeshiva of Los Angeles,  
(from left) Mendel  
R., Abba W, Shua S.  
and Chaim R. helped  
educate and share the  
joy of the holiday.

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Late Monday afternoon, Memorial Park in La Cañada was the site of a festival of lights. The Chabad of La Crescenta invited the entire Crescenta Valley community to share and learn about the Jewish holiday, Hanukkah. Volunteers offered face painting and the chance for guests to decorate their own dessert, plus be entertained by dancing dreidels and filled by tables piled high with delicious latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganyot (jelly doughnuts).

As sunset waned, Rabbi Mendy Grossbaum invited dignitaries State Senator Anthony Portantino, La Cañada mayor pro tem Keith Eich, CV Town Council President Harry Leon and GCC Board of Trustees member Ann Ransford to help light the shamash - the center candle from which all the other candles are lit on

the menorah.

Rabbi Mendy shared the wisdom of why a candle is added each night of Hanukkah instead of having all eight candles lit every night. He said the experience is about growth and learning. He explained that people should want to always be learning and moving forward and to grow each day so “we can all share our inner lights with others.”

And then ... a seven-foot LED dancing Megabot from Allayance Entertainment took center stage and got kids and adults alike to dance and enjoy the rest of a really fun evening.

For more photos, visit [www.cvweekly.com/RELIGION](http://www.cvweekly.com/RELIGION).

Submitted by Rachelle MILLER

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## NOTES & NODS

### This Week at LCIF

Lutheran Church in the Foothills invites the community to worship in the church's Worship Center. Interim pastor Chuck Bunnell will lead worship on this second Sunday of Advent with a sermon entitled "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" on Sunday Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. The service will also be live-streamed on the church's YouTube channel. For those unable to attend or watch live, the videos will be available on the website, Facebook page and YouTube channel later in the week.

Sunday School for grades one through four will start again on Dec. 5.

The church is collecting non-perishable food and clean, gently used clothing to distribute to local people in need. Please bring the items to the church office lobby during office hours (Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

Visit the church's website at [lcifoothills.org](http://lcifoothills.org) for details on all of the events happening including small group gatherings and opportunities to serve.

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 via email at [office@lcifoothills.org](mailto:office@lcifoothills.org) or call (818) 790-1951 for details, information, offering help or requesting help.

### Walk and Word

In December, Walk and Word participants will meet in the parking lot of Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road in La Crescenta/Glendale at 8 a.m. They will walk for the first hour and then gather to read a selection of Scripture. About a half hour will be spent journaling about what was read and then there will be conversation, sharing thoughts.

Participants are asked to bring something to write with, anything wanted to eat or drink, and a chair to use for the writing part of the morning. Because people will be outdoors and social distancing will be practiced, masks will be optional.

Those with questions can email Jeanne at [jlavieri@earthlink.net](mailto:jlavieri@earthlink.net).

All are welcome. If the hike is too strenuous, there are level paths at the park. There are ramps from the

see NOTES & NODS on page 23

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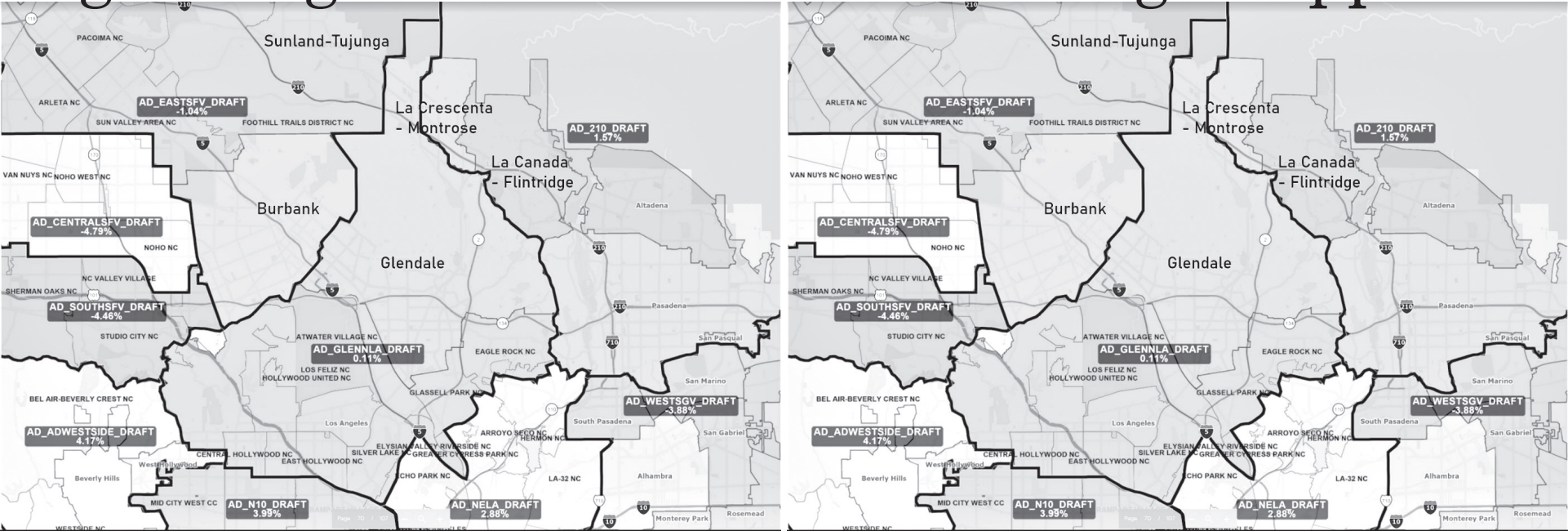
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# Big Changes Possible If Redistricting is Approved



By Justin HAGER

Local residents from across the foothill communities of the San Gabriels are expressing concerns over proposed maps presented by California’s Citizens Redistricting Commission. With less than a month remaining before a court-mandated deadline, the Commission faces the monumental task of finishing the district boundaries that will determine the electorate for the next 10 years of U.S. congressional, state Senate, state Assembly, and state Board of Equalization elections. After decades of political gamesmanship and gerrymandering by both parties, the passage of Proposition 11 in 2008 finally led to an independent bipartisan redistricting commission.

While the first goal of the Redistricting Commission is to try and create districts that have approximately the same number of people, California’s process also seeks to create more regularly shaped districts that unite communities of interest (people with shared cultures, histories, economies or other values or identities). These considerations were, in part, responsible for the creation of the new 43rd Assembly District in 2010, which united the communities of the Crescenta Valley, including La Cañada Flintridge, with Glendale, Burbank and the Los Feliz and Silver Lake neighborhoods of Los Angeles. The new district had a shared history from its founding as the Rancho La Cañada to its more recent economic history with both the film and television and aviation industries. Assembly District 43 also streamlined partnerships such as the Montrose Search and Rescue Fire and Emergency response team, the LA River Revitalization Project, Chandler Bike Path and the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority. Perhaps most importantly, Assembly District 43 fully encompassed the entirety of both the cities of Glendale and Burbank and their corresponding school districts. For residents of these communities, including the residents of Crescenta Valley who live within the boundaries of the City of Glendale or whose children attend a GUSD school, the 2010 redistricting process provided them with a unified voice that they could use to exercise influence as a unified community.

The newly proposed maps, which were first presented by the Commission on Nov. 2 and were significantly revised just one week later would once again divide the Crescenta Valley and surrounding communities and school districts into multiple districts. Burbank, Sunland and Tujunga would join with San Fernando, Sylmar and Sun Valley to form a district that sits roughly between the 210 and 5 freeways. The northwestern portion and the Montrose/Verdugo City

see REDISTRICTING on page 10

Maps courtesy of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission’s Nov. 11 presentation. Maps of the proposed Assembly districts based on the 2020 Census. The newly drawn maps would divide the current Assembly district (communities labeled with larger-sized fonts) into three new districts that would combine Glendale with multiple Los Angeles neighborhoods extending all the way to the borders of West Hollywood and would split the Cañada-Crescenta Valley into a massive San Gabriel Mountain district that extends into San Bernardino County.

## Verdugo Hills Cemetery Hosts Stargazing Event



File photo  
Volunteers work at beautifying the Verdugo Hills Cemetery.

By Mary O’KEEFE

The Verdugo Hills Cemetery has a long and, at times, strange history. What most people remember is the flood that occurred over 40 years ago that caused chaos when bodies from the cemetery began floating down local streets.

But that is just a small moment in time in the long history of this cemetery that began in 1922 and seemed to struggle ever since. It was abandoned and abused before a grassroots effort would attempt to bring it back to its former glory. Unfortunately that dream never quite took hold ... that is until Craig Durst decided to take it on.

Durst said he is “determined” to bring Verdugo Hills Cemetery back to the respectful, peaceful place it was designed to be. He has held events at the cemetery and every third Saturday volunteers are invited to join him to clean and repair the grounds.

On Dec. 4, Durst is inviting the community to join him for “Star Stories: A Celestial Journey Through the Tujunga Night Sky.”

“I will just be pointing out different [stars and constellations] and talk about the lore and what scientists have learned,” Durst said.

There will be musical accompaniment as Durst takes the audience through stories of the stars overhead. He suggests that people bring chairs and blankets so they’ll be comfortable.

The event is also a time for Durst to share information on the

see CEMETERY on page 10

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# GPD REPORTS

## Two Males Arrested With Loaded Firearm, Narcotics, and Burglary Tools

On Nov. 25 at approximately 1:30 a.m., an officer assigned to Glendale PD's Patrol Bureau contacted two males wearing motorcycle helmets who were walking in front of a motorcycle store on the 3300 block of Verdugo Road.

Assisting units arrived and officers learned that one of the males, 29-year-old Michael Ordaz of Burbank, was in possession of a pocket knife. Further investigation revealed that Ordaz had a warrant out for his arrest.

While speaking with the other male, 39-year-old Larry Vanheertum of Reseda (who was found to have a prior felony conviction), officers located on his person a folding hex key set, wire cutters and a screwdriver. During the investigation, Vanheertum fled the scene initiating a brief foot

pursuit that ended on the 3400 block of Buena Vista Avenue. Vanheertum had a backpack and was found to be in possession of a loaded firearm, two baggies of methamphetamine and burglary tools.

Ordaz was arrested and booked for possessing burglary tools, conspiracy to commit crime and his outstanding warrant. Vanheertum was arrested and booked for being an ex-felon with a firearm, obstruction, conspiracy to commit crime, possessing a controlled substance while armed and for possessing burglary tools.

## Male Arrested in Possession of Loaded Handgun

On Nov. 20 just before 1 a.m., officers assigned to Glendale PD's Patrol Bureau were traveling near the intersection of Brand Boulevard and Cypress Street when they noticed a driver who appeared slumped over the wheel.

The officers approached the vehicle and saw that the driver, identified as 27-year-old Luis Pina of Glendale, was conscious and using his phone. While speaking with Pina the officers noticed a handgun on the front passenger seat. Pina was detained, and the handgun was found to be loaded.

Pina was subsequently arrested and booked for carrying a concealed weapon in a vehicle.

## Ongoing Burglary Investigation

On Nov. 23 at approximately 6:30 p.m., officers assigned to Glendale PD's Patrol Bureau responded to the 2000 block of Maginn Drive regarding suspicious circumstances involving two males in ski masks in a residential driveway.

Upon arrival, officers learned that approximately three residences in the area had been burglarized and ransacked.

The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information that can assist with the investigation is

encouraged to contact the Glendale Police Dept. at (818) 548-4911. Those who wish to remain anonymous, call the LA Regional Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-TIPS (800-222-8477), use a smartphone by downloading the P3 MOBILE APP, or go directly to [www.lacrimestoppers.org](http://www.lacrimestoppers.org).

## Male Arrested for Attempted Murder

On Nov. 16 just before 9 a.m., officers assigned to Glendale PD's Patrol and Traffic bureaus, along with detectives from Glendale PD's Robbery/Homicide Bureau, were dispatched to the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Colorado Street regarding a pedestrian who was hit and dragged by a vehicle a significant distance. Upon arrival, the pedestrian, who had sustained severe injuries, was immediately transported to a hospital. After undergoing numerous surgeries, the victim remains in critical condition.

During the investigation, officers received several witness statements and reviewed surveillance footage confirming a vehicle had hit, run over and dragged a pedestrian from a business parking lot out to the street.

Later that day, detectives assigned to Glendale PD's Robbery/Homicide Bureau located a vehicle on the 600 block of Hawthorne Street in Glendale that matched the vehicle they had observed on surveillance footage and were able to identify a suspect.

On Nov. 18 at approximately 5:30 p.m., after a thorough investigation, 31-year-old Michael Taylor of Los Angeles was arrested and booked for attempted murder.

## Male Arrested for Identity Theft and Possessing Controlled Substance

On Nov. 17 at approximately 11:30 a.m., an officer located an occupied vehicle with false registration tabs

in a parking lot on the 200 block of South Central Avenue.

The officer contacted the individual in the driver's seat, identified as 36-year-old Jose Rios of Los Angeles. While speaking with Rios, the officer observed a bag of methamphetamine in the door handle of the vehicle.

Assisting units arrived and a search of the vehicle produced a counterfeit Social Security card, a credit card belonging to someone else and several pieces of mail belonging to over 17 different individuals.

Rios was subsequently arrested and booked for identity theft, forging an official seal, and possessing a controlled substance.

## Male Arrested for Vehicle Theft, Burglary, and Possession

On Nov. 17 at approximately 5:30 p.m., an officer located a stolen vehicle and conducted a traffic stop on the 4600 block of Colorado Boulevard.

Additional officers arrived and the driver, 26-year-old Samuel Sarmiento of Cudahy, was asked to exit the vehicle. Sarmiento exited the vehicle and a subsequent vehicle search revealed a large bag of methamphetamine, a designer handbag filled with jewelry, a credit card, three California identification cards and Social Security cards all belonging to other individuals, a checkbook in someone else's name, and an open package belonging to someone else. During the investigation, officers learned that there was approximately \$16,000 of stolen merchandise in the vehicle.

Sarmiento was subsequently arrested and booked for vehicle theft, burglary, and possessing a controlled substance.

Due to L.A. County's emergency "zero-dollar" bail order, Sarmiento was released from custody with a notice to appear in court at a later date.



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# CRIME BLOTTER

**Nov. 27**  
4600 block of Crown Avenue in La Cañada Flintridge, gardening equipment was stolen from a truck parked in a driveway between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

4500 block of Rosemont Avenue in La Crescenta, a catalytic converter was stolen from a Honda. The caller reported seeing a silver Nissan pull up next to the Honda; an unknown person stepped out of the vehicle with a car jack in hand. Later the person got back into the Nissan and drove out of view. It was discovered the catalytic converter had been stolen.

The theft occurred at 7:06 a.m.

**Nov. 23**  
5000 block of Ramsdell Avenue in La Crescenta, a catalytic converter was stolen from a Prius that was parked in an alleyway near the vehicle owner's residence between Nov. 23 and Nov. 28.

2400 block of Olive Avenue in La Crescenta, a woman reported parking her unlocked vehicle in front of her home for a few hours then

drove to the Rose Bowl to go for a run. While she was there she received a call that several of her credit cards had been used at a variety of locations; she had not given her permission for anyone to use her credit cards.

She discovered the credit cards had been stolen between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m.

**Nov. 21**  
4900 block of Ramsdell Avenue in La Crescenta, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. Neighbors reported hearing a saw and cutting noises at 2 a.m.

**Nov. 18**  
2500 block of Montrose Avenue in Montrose, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle parked on the street near the location overnight.

**Nov. 17**  
900 block of Regent Park Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, the glass to a French door window was smashed and a chandelier was stolen from a garage. Glass pieces from the chandelier were found on the driveway. It does not appear anyone

entered the home.

Surveillance footage revealed a light skin male with a thin build, wearing a grey hoodie, grey sweatpants, a mask, blue gloves and back shoes running down the victim's driveway. A second person who appeared to be a male, wearing a brown jacket, blue jeans and a neck gaiter that covered his face and neck also running down the driveway. On Nov. 19, the suspects entered a grey/blue SUV with a dent on the rear passenger side and drove away from the area. What appeared to be the same vehicle was seen parked at the location on Nov. 12 as well.

The theft occurred between Nov. 17 and Nov. 23.

**Nov. 16**  
3000 block of Paraiso Way in La Crescenta, several clay pots were stolen from residence between 10 a.m. and noon.

**Nov. 6**  
800 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, two iPhones were stolen from a store between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

# When Roadways Are More Like Raceways

By Mary O'KEEFE

It seems like drivers need to get to where they are going really fast. Wide, open streets, like Foothill Boulevard, sections of Honolulu Avenue and Glenoaks Boulevard, at times seem more like raceways than roadways.

CVW was contacted by readers who were concerned not only about fast drivers but also those who appear to disregard general traffic safety. One resident felt that he was seeing less of a police presence; however, traffic enforcement is out there but, in some cases, the police are simply outnumbered.

Lt. Toby Darby, Glendale Police Dept., reviews all the traffic information throughout the city, including speeding and modified exhausts on vehicles. The department has 12 to 13 motor officers whose primary jobs are speed enforcement as well as covering other traffic issues, like drivers running red lights.

The statistics have recently gone up regarding the number of citations issued, especially since last year when most drivers were not on the roadways due to the pandemic.

Darby said traffic issues are "definitely citywide." He said motor officers are in the area especially around schools.

"We are [near schools] in the mornings and afternoon," he said. He added officers are seeing illegal turning and speeding in addition to other traffic laws that are being ignored.

In addition to irresponsible drivers, officers are also focused on preventing pedestrians from being struck by vehicles.

Officers don't just write citations but they also try to educate drivers. In the case of an extreme issue, officers will require the driver to be re-evaluated at the Dept. of Motor Vehicles. However, despite having officers focused on areas that have traffic issues they cannot be at all locations at all times throughout the city and speeding continues to be an issue.

"Just this weekend we stopped a [young driver] who was doing 100 miles per hour down Glenoaks," Darby said. Glendale, like other agencies, is understaffed; however, Darby said, it's not as bad as other departments.

The California Highway Patrol is also dealing with a personnel shortage but does have motor and patrol units focusing on troubled areas.

"We do have officers along the 210 Freeway," said CHP Officer Vince Ramirez.

CHP is the agency that covers the unincorporated areas of LA County/La Crescenta.

Ramirez and Darby both said if local residents see an ongoing issue of drivers being unsafe they can contact the agency that covers their area.

It would be very helpful when reporting a consistent traffic issue to have as much information about the driver as possible including a description of the vehicle and license plate number, if available.

To reach GPD call (818) 548-3131; for CHP call (626) 296-8100.

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CATALYTIC CONVERTER *from Cover*

catalytic converter thefts in 2021 [in Glendale]," said Det. Christopher Krivak, Glendale Police Dept.

Sgt. Edward Retamoza with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.-Crescenta Valley Station said he has not seen an increase in thefts; however, they have been hit "pretty hard" in the past.

The crime does appear to occur in one area for a while then another area is targeted.

"It is definitely an ebb and flow crime," Krivak said. "Certain areas will get [hit] hard during a night and then suspects will move onto other areas. We also experience an ebb and flow in the crime itself. Thefts of catalytic converters will occur for a couple of weeks and then die down for a couple of weeks."

But there are some ways vehicle owners can protect themselves from catalytic converter theft that includes parking in the driveway of their home.


"That helps get the cars off the street and harder for people to access," Retamoza said.

"Park in well-lit areas. Get surveillance cameras on residences and park vehicles in garages and secure parking garages when available," Krivak added.

There are additional precautions that can be taken including having license plate numbers etched onto the catalytic converter. The Glendale Police Dept. has partnered with AAA on the "Etch & Catch" program. The next event will take place on Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. People must register and space is limited.

For locations, refer to the flyer on this page. There are also anti-theft devices that can be purchased online or at car repair shops. And, of course, as with all crimes when you see something, say something.

"If someone hears cutting or electrical tools in the middle of the night, call 9-1-1," Krivak said.



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or click on the link in the comments

Space is Limited

Contact the Glendale Police Department - Community Relations Team if you have any questions @ 818-548-4015

In an effort to deter and catch thieves and track stolen catalytic converters, the Glendale Police Department has teamed up with AAA. Community members can have their license plate number etched onto their catalytic converter, FREE OF CHARGE.

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# First Confirmed Case of the Omicron Variant in the U.S. Found in California

According to the California and San Francisco Departments of Public Health, “As expected, and thanks to California’s large-scale testing and early detection systems, the state of California and the San Francisco Department of Public Health have confirmed a case of the Omicron variant in California.

Our partners at the University of California, San Francisco identified this case through their sequencing capabilities. California is continuing to monitor the variant’s presence and progress through the state’s robust Whole Genome Sequencing surveillance.”

With the recent detection of Omicron in Northern California, residents and businesses are concerned about the implications of a more infectious variant on safety and business operations. And, while the impact of Omicron is uncertain, it is clear there are immediate action steps everyone can take to protect each other and slow transmission, according to Los Angeles County Public Health.

California Public Health reminded residents that now is not a time to panic but to remain vigilant.

LA County Public Health continues to encourage everyone 5 years old and older that are not yet vaccinated or boosted to do so with a “sense of urgency.” The vaccines continue to be effective against the Delta variant and very effective against earlier strains of the virus, which gives hope that these same vaccines will also provide some protection against Omicron.

GCC from Cover

power distribution center and retaining walls up to 23 feet.

Landfill gas (LFG) is required to be captured and processed, even after the landfill’s capacity is reached. The timeline for the proposed plant anticipates at least 20 years of methane gas, capable of generating 6 MW of electricity per year in 2044, Year 20.

GWP’s Mark Young emphasized this would be 12 MWs of local renewable energy from the LFG that is currently being flared (burned off), consistent with the Glendale Greener Plan, and compliant with evolving state regulations requiring the city to utilize 60% renewable energy by 2030.

“Unlike solar and wind, this would be 24/7/365 continuous energy production. Glendale is transmission-constrained and this 12 MW of renewable energy plays a critical role in GWP’s ability to meet future load needs,” Young told the council.

He noted that the Glenoaks neighborhood would be assured power in the event of a catastrophe or emergency.

Glendale Fire Dept. Chief Silvio Lanzas affirmed that the plans proposed, including additional safety measures contemplated, reduce the threat of wildfires. He also noted that flaring is more dangerous.

Jackie Gish presented the detailed findings of the Glenoaks Homeowners’ Association.

“It’s called ‘renewable,’ but I don’t think it is – we don’t believe it’s compatible with the city’s general plan, nor that it’s clean or safe or that it will produce 12 MWs,” she said. She said her group favors Alternative 1, continued flaring of the methane gas, as having “the least environmental risks.”

A representative of Los Angeles City Council member Kevin DeLeon called in to oppose the project and urged the council to consider the impacts of climate change on East LA;

he advocated Alternative 2.

A 25-year Glendale resident spoke succinctly in support.

“I want reliable and environmentally friendly and safe power and, since we already burn the biogas from the Scholl Canyon landfill, let’s make electricity from it,” the resident said.

Young responded to some of the callers.

“Since 2020, 64% of our energy is clean, 39% of it renewable,” said Young. “Our neighbors can’t touch those numbers. So we are being progressive and trying to find a way to meet our energy needs in the most environmentally conscious way.”

When the final draft environmental review draft was released in July 2020, then newly-elected councilmember Brotman said, “From an environmental point of view, flaring is the worst way to deal with methane gas. Flaring causes pollution and releases emissions that contribute to global warming. Flaring

is also wasteful because it literally burns up landfill gas that could be used to generate energy.”

Councilmember Ara Najarian explained his considerations.

“There’s still going to be methane gas for years, for decades. This is available 24/7 and solves the problem of methane capture,” said Najarian. “The alternatives are more expensive, and we don’t have 535 acres for a solar energy plant.”

“I thank our colleagues on the Los Angeles City Council for chiming in on this,” Najarian added sarcastically, “but if you gave us a little more transmission, we’d be in great shape. This is what we’ve got to do to generate energy locally.”

Councilmember Brotman expressed his concerns about the future of the landfill and urged the council to specify its plans beyond the next few years until the landfill is full.

“The sanitation district is waiting on us and we have an obligation to

develop a plan for closure and post-closure,” he said.

Councilmember Vrej Agajanian noted, “Without generation, methane is flared, producing the same pollution without any benefit. Since March 2018, we’ve been just flaring the gas. Biogas is a defined renewable source.”

Mayor Paula Devine cast the deciding vote.

“Our residents never cease to amaze me. This is controversial and we need to look at it holistically, for the benefit of the entire city, and not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. This is the definition of sustainability, to use this resource, and I will fight for a recreational facility once the landfill is closed.”

“We need this kind of reliability,” she added, “for when the wind doesn’t blow and the sun doesn’t shine, we’re going to have power. The core value of our utility is resiliency. People depend on power. It can be a meter of life and death.”



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REDISTRICTING from page 5

portions of Crescenta Valley that are formally part of the City of Glendale would be grouped with the rest of Glendale and a large swatch of City of Los Angeles neighborhoods that extends all the way to the borders of West Hollywood. And the southeastern portion of the Crescenta Valley and the City of La Cañada would be grouped with Pasadena, Monrovia, portions of Duarte, Claremont, Upland, Wrightwood, Lytle Creek, Crestline and Lake Arrowhead to form a massive district that stretches more than 80 miles from end-to-end and connects the border of the City of Los Angeles to the border of Big Bear Lake. A similar map with similar concerns was presented for the newly drawn Congressional

District.

Beyond the massive scale of the proposed district, there are also concerns about the lack of communities of interest. While both history and big institutions such as the Angeles National Forest, CalTech, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and high school athletics competitions create logical connections between the Crescenta Valley, Altadena, Pasadena and even Monrovia or Duarte, those connections become tenuous at best with the addition of communities that sit beyond the Angeles Forest and outside of Los Angeles County. Similarly, residents of the Crescenta Highlands are unlikely to have too many overlapping communities of interest with a densely packed

urban area like Hollywood. Meanwhile, those same boundaries will also divide the Glendale Unified School District, and many of the other projects and partnerships mentioned in this article into multiple Assembly and Congressional districts.

Put simply, a drive across the Crescenta Valley from La Cañada to Tujunga would cross three different state assembly districts and two congressional districts.

The options to reelect Laura Friedman to the Assembly and reelect Congressman Schiff to the country’s House of Representatives would be taken away from many voters who would fall into newly defined districts. Any project in the Crescenta Valley or within the GUSD or other shared resource

that requires state or federal aid would need the support of multiple elected officials, each of who might have little reason to care about such a small corner of their district.

Conversely, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory would no longer find its mailing address in one Assembly district and its campus in another; reconnecting with Pasadena does have potential benefits, especially for communities like La Cañada Flintridge and the unincorporated areas of CV that are serviced by the Altadena Sheriff’s station.

Regardless whether or not voters support the proposed maps or oppose them, it is advised that they have their voices heard by submitting feedback at [www.wedrawthelinesca.org](http://www.wedrawthelinesca.org).

CEMETERY from page 5

fundraising drive for the cemetery. He is selling bricks for \$40; half of that donation

will be used for bricks that will be engraved for those buried at the cemetery who do not have a gravestone. The second portion of the donations will be for bricks that will be placed in a veterans’ memorial that is designed to honor those who have lost their life while in service to their country, those veterans who are buried at the cemetery and to honor veterans and active members of the military.

“I have about 600 bricks to sell and, as of now, have sold 30,” Durst said.

The veterans’ memorial is called Soldiers Stairway and

will be built on top of the cement area where funerals used to be held at the cemetery decades ago. The cost for building the memorial is \$10,000; he has raised \$1,000.

The stargazing event is free and will be held on Dec. 4 at 9 p.m. at the Verdugo Hills Cemetery, 7000 Parsons Trail Road, Tujunga. The event will last about 30 minutes. If the skies are overcast the event will be canceled but according to forecasts the sky looks clear for Dec. 4.

Durst does advise people who want to attend to dress warmly

because it does get cool on the cemetery hilltop.

Those who cannot make the event but would like to support the Verdugo Hills Cemetery Restoration and Renewal Project can go to [bricksrus.com/donorsite/veteransvhc](http://bricksrus.com/donorsite/veteransvhc).

For those who want to send a check, please mail it to Little Landers Historical Society, 10110 Commerce Ave., PO Box 203, Tujunga, California 91043.

For those who would like to volunteer to further restoration efforts, the next outreach is at the cemetery on Dec. 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

# Vietnam POW Returns Home to Montrose – Part 1

The Vietnam Memorial is a special place in the Montrose Shopping Park. It was dedicated in 1968 when the valley had already lost six local men in the war. It was the first Vietnam Memorial erected in the nation. Over the next few years the names on the memorial swelled to 24 men lost, some confirmed dead, some missing in action.

But one man who was missing in action did return home. Montrose resident Lt. George McSwain spent 6½ years as a POW in North Vietnam, much of that time classified simply as missing in action, his existence unknown to his family. His name never went up on the memorial, perhaps because his mother never believed he was really dead. Here’s his story.

The McSwain family moved to Montrose in 1952 with their young son George. George attended Clark Junior High and then went on to Glendale High

(Crescenta Valley High hadn’t opened yet). He joined the Army at 17 immediately upon graduation, and was deployed to Korea. After his honorable discharge, he pursued his true passion to become a military pilot. He took the required classes at Glendale College and was accepted in the Naval Aviation Cadet program in 1964. He trained as a fighter pilot in Florida and California, and was commissioned a naval aviator the next year. He was assigned to the USS Oriskany, a WWII-era aircraft carrier stationed off the coast of Vietnam.

McSwain started flying combat missions off the carrier in June 1966, piloting the A4E Skyhawk, a single seat light attack jet. They were hitting anti-aircraft positions in North Vietnam. 1966 had been a tragic year for the Oriskany with a loss of eight planes. This was to be another loss.

Lt. McSwain took off on July

28, 1966, only a month into his deployment. His mission was to attack surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites on the Song Ca River in North Vietnam, along with several other Skyhawks. They came in low, and McSwain launched a missile. He immediately climbed to 12,000 feet and slowed, just as a North Vietnamese missile exploded nearby. His jet went out control from the blast and McSwain ejected. He broke his arm but floated safely to the ground – and into the hands of the enemy soldiers waiting there for him. Lt. McSwain would spend the next 6½ years in captivity.

I didn’t find any accounts of McSwain’s ordeals in captivity but one of his cellmates wrote about the man’s bravery. In 1967 another downed pilot, Ted Ballard, shared a 12-square-foot cell with George McSwain and had no contact with any other POWs. Ballard had been tortured

and beaten in an effort to make him condemn the United States, but he had refused. The guards saw that the two men were close, so they turned their attention to McSwain. They made him stand holding his arms straight up for 14 hours at a stretch, all in an effort to make Ballard confess to war crimes and condemn his country. With McSwain’s broken arm, the pain must have been excruciating. If he dropped his arms he was beaten.

This went on for seven weeks until the guards finally gave up. The two POWs had won a small victory. McSwain was awarded two Silver Stars, one for resisting this torture and one for resisting another round of torture in 1969.

In early 1973, a release of American POWs was negotiated and nearly 600 men were returned home. One early morning in March ’73, Mrs. Eudine McSwain, George McSwain’s mother, received a phone call from the

Navy informing her that her son was to be released in just a few days. He was to be flown with several other POWs to the Philippines and then to San Diego. In a letter home, George said he was looking forward to “bright lights, women and an hour in a jet fighter.” When word got out, the Crescenta Valley started making plans to make McSwain’s homecoming a memorable one.

Next week, George McSwain returns to Montrose.



Mike Lawler is the former president of the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley and loves local history. Reach him at lawlerdad@yahoo.com.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Supports the Bioelectric Generation Project at Scholl Canyon Landfill

The bioelectric generation project at Scholl Canyon Landfill is a responsible use of a renewable energy source. The methane being emitted from the landfill at Scholl Canyon for the next 30 years should be put to beneficial use. Using it to generate electricity will not result in any additional pollutants than the gas being flared. Without electric generation, the methane must be flared emitting the same pollutants without any benefit. Failing to use the methane to generate electricity will also require no renewable energy being imported into Glendale to meet Glendale’s electric needs.

This project can help us in that direction. The project is a steady renewable energy source that will help stabilize the intermittent nature of other renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. The project can provide 10% of the base energy we need at this time.

Opposing the project on environmental grounds, as some do, is not consistent with responsible long-term environmental planning that should anticipate the future needs of electrification of homes and transportation. As we transition to the use of electricity in transportation and electrification of homes, the demand on GWP to provide power is only anticipated to increase. This transition will not materialize without reliable electricity that GWP can provide from a renewable source such as this project. Those who oppose the use of this renewable energy will stunt this transition and inhibit the many more environmental benefits of electrification of homes and vehicles that far outweigh any claimed environmental detriment this project might have.

Roland Kedikian  
Glendale

*Editor’s note: The letter is the opinion of the writer and not the GWP Commission of which he is a member.*

### CV Legislative Boundaries in Danger

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission’s latest draft maps radically alter the Crescenta Valley’s boundaries for our congressional and assembly districts. Unlike the Nov. 2 draft maps, which kept our boundaries virtually unchanged, the Nov. 10 version severs Sunland-Tujunga from La Crescenta and La Cañada and severs the Glendale portion of La Crescenta from the rest of the City of Glendale.

If these maps become final, the changes will have serious repercussions for issues such as the Hollywood Burbank Airport and the bullet train, to name a few.

La Crescenta and La Cañada would be placed in a narrow congressional district that runs as far east as Interstate 15. Our Assembly district would run even farther east and would be about 60 miles long. Not only do communities along this corridor have very different interests but the sheer distance would make it harder for elected representatives and their staffs to get to know and to serve us.

Regardless of political affiliation, we all have a stake in living in cohesive districts made up of communities [that] share common interests. I urge you to contact the Commission at votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov and tell them to return to the Nov. 2 maps.

Mary-Lynne Fisher  
La Crescenta  
Member, Crescenta Valley Community Assn. Steering Committee  
President, Crescenta Highlands Neighborhood Assn.

## VIEWS FROM THE VALLEY » SUSAN BOLAN

# We Need A Little Christmas Right This Very Minute

It is interesting to me how holidays have changed during each stage of my life, especially in my celebration of Christmas. As a young girl, the excited anticipation of leaving milk and cookies out for Santa and the wonderment of Christmas morning was so thrilling. I remember the pure happiness of trying out my new roller skates or the bike with training wheels after all the presents had been revealed and spread over the living room floor. During my school-aged years, singing in the church choir, I found great joy in the Christmas music that filled the air accompanied by the beautiful lights and sweet scents of the season. Fresh trees, candy canes and hot chocolate ☺ I can still feel those warm memories.

As a parent, the holidays became more about making my family happy with good food to eat, generous gift-giving and waking a bit earlier than I wanted to on Christmas morning after a late night of getting ready for the big day. I always made the kids wait until the coffee was ready and relished the looks on their faces as they discovered what Santa had brought them.

And now these last two years, after losing a child and surviving a pandemic, I have come to appreciate, more than ever, the importance of spending precious time with loved ones. I am ready to embrace this holiday season in a big way. I am so excited to usher it all in – the sights, smells, music and laughter and to wash away the sadness and tears.

I have never been one of those people who put up Christmas decorations before Thanksgiving. I actually made fun of those people who couldn’t seem to contain their

holiday excitement enough to wait for the calendar. In fact, it’s far more common for me to start decorating mid-December and to finish on the 23rd, adding a little bit at a time, or to throw everything together on the 24th and call it a day. But not this year.

By the beginning of November, I had already planned on decorating and shopping early when I received a sale paper in the mail, advertising 9.5-foot inflatable, animated Tyrannosaurus rex dinosaurs wearing Santa hats and munching on bright red packages and 7-foot inflatable Christmas trees. Count me in! I bought three of each.

I went to work this week, hanging the old-fashioned C9 lights from the roof, covering the bushes with colorful mini-lights and setting up my dino vignettes around the yard, one of which lives in our trampoline. Big, bold, over-the-top, ridiculous – yes! But just what I needed to feel alive again and remember the delight of Christmases past. I hope, too, that the fun display will bring a few smiles from visitors and neighbors

passing by.

By Thanksgiving Day, I had already completed half of my holiday shopping, too! We sat down to a delicious homecooked meal with all the trimmings then took our family photo for the Christmas card (with the dinosaurs, of course). We celebrated together, most grateful for all the blessings of health and happiness. The feelings of that day will live on in me and I look forward to more of the same as we move through December into the New Year. I pray that 2022 will be the year that brings calm and peace to our world. It is so needed now.

No matter what holiday you celebrate this season or how you observe your family’s traditions, I encourage you to give it your all and not hold back. It’s time to let some joy in, spread some love around and find our happy places. Collectively, we can raise our good vibrations and maybe, just maybe, feel the magic of the season bring us back together again.

Susan Bolan  
susanbolan710@gmail.com

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## YOUTH

## Celebrating PTA Reflections Winners



By Lori BODNAR



Photos provided by Lori BODNAR

“I Will Change the World By....” was the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Reflections theme this year. Many Mountain Avenue Elementary School students showed their creativity and artistic abilities, reflecting on the theme and creating original works of art in six different categories: visual arts, photography, film production, dance choreography, music composition,

and literature. The age divisions include primary (TK-2nd grade), intermediate (3rd-5th grade), middle (6th-8th grade), and high school (9th-12th grade). There is also a category for special artists for students with disabilities, or they may also enter the division most closely aligned with their abilities.

On Nov. 4, Mountain Avenue Elementary held a virtual meeting with students and their parents to congratulate and honor all the Reflections winners and participants from the school.

Mountain Avenue Principal Jaclyn Scott said, “The annual PTA Reflections Art Program is a celebration of student artistic talent at Mountain Avenue and to encourage and recognize student talent throughout schools across the nation. Mountain Avenue students go above and beyond, where many students submit multiple entries in a wide variety of categories. I am always so impressed by the caliber of student ability and achievement - whether it’s a stop motion film or a musical composition - our students always shine in this art celebration! Similar to last year, due to covid safety concerns we celebrated virtually through a live Zoom ceremony. Our wonderful PTA made sure that students had their awards and medals in hand for the ceremony!”

Mountain Avenue PTA president Amelia Lapeña said, “PTA has always been committed to the arts. Participation benefits both

our students and community, allowing both to explore and grow in their artistic literacy. Over the years through the National PTA Reflections program, Mountain Avenue PTA has encouraged its students (from Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 6) to express themselves in various artistic ways in response to a student-selected theme. This year we continue our tradition with our Reflections Chairpersons, Amy Jo Rhine and Bo Kim, running this program successfully even while maintaining Covid-19 safety protocols.”

Amelia continued, “This year’s theme motivated 21 Mountain Avenue students to submit 35 entries. We celebrated our artists at our virtual November PTA Association Meeting! Our PTA has run its Reflections program for many years now, and every year I am in awe of the students and their creative artworks. Congratulations to these amazing students. I hope they continue to enjoy making art; their artworks were not only inspired by this theme but provide inspiration to those around them.”

Mountain Avenue Reflections winners in Film Composition include Zachary Yang who won first place at the intermediate level and Samantha Lee who won first place at the middle level.

Reflections winners in music composition include Abigail Lammering and William Shin who tied for first place at the

intermediate level, Suzie Bodnar who won third place at the intermediate level, and Pranav Arunachalam who won first place at the middle level.

In photography, Maya Manchikatlal won first plus third place, and Daisy Kim won second place at the intermediate level. Samantha Lee won first place at the middle level.

In the visual arts category, Daisy Kim won first place, and William Shin and Suzie Bodnar tied for third place at the intermediate level. In the middle division, Lando Neal won first place and Samantha Lee won second place.

Maya Manchikatlal won first place and Suzie Bodnar won second place in literature at the intermediate level. Pranav Arunachalam won first place for the middle division.

Sixth grader Pranav Arunachalam said, “My song and writing is about me helping my community. In my song, the piece progressively gets louder and faster showing improvements. My inspiration was that I always see other people helping every day, so I want to follow their example and help my community in any way I can. I have participated in Reflections for four years. I enjoyed making my entries and I can’t wait to make my next one. I love the topics that Reflections gives. The Reflections program gives plenty of time and encouragement to people who want to try. My song and writing are dedicated to all the people who are

LEFT: First place Reflections literature winner Maya Manchikatlal

MIDDLE: Fifth grader Zachary Yang with his Reflections film certificate and medal

RIGHT: Suzie Bodnar with her 2nd place Reflections literature certificate and medal

out there working hard to help in any way they can.”

Fifth grader Zachary Yang commented, “My Reflections entry is titled ‘Ways to be Nice’, and it is about being nice to everyone and ways to do so. It was inspired by all the kindness messages at Mountain Avenue, and how in the Mountain Avenue motto B.E.A.R.S, B stands for Be Kind and that one stood out to me. I have participated in Reflections since Kindergarten, so for 6 years. I like how PTA Reflections lets us show our ideas and creativity with others.”

Fifth grader Suzie Bodnar entered four of the six arts categories. Suzie said, “Reflections is fun. Everyone does such amazing artwork. I enjoyed the ceremony and being inspired by everyone’s creativity. I also was happy to share my voice and songs with the world. I want to change the world by my voice.”

The PTA Reflections arts program inspires and encourages student creativity. Many Mountain Avenue students participated in PTA Reflections this year with beautiful and unique entries in photography, literature, music composition, film production, and visual arts.

## YOUTH NOTES

The annual Crescenta Valley High School winter concert is on Dec. 9 and Dec. 10 in the CVHS MacDonald Auditorium. Everyone attending will need to wear masks, including performers. Audience members will need to show proof of COVID vaccination or a recent negative COVID test.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. Audience size is limited. To RSVP, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3fsfjuzf>.

CVHS MacDonald Auditorium is located in the 4300 block of Ramsdell Avenue in La Crescenta.

Crescenta Valley Instrumental Music is also having its annual poinsettia fundraiser. Plants are \$15 each (limited quantities available). Pre-order at <https://tinyurl.com/2rf3yhaa>.

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BETWEEN FRIENDS

# Santa Ready to Greet Community at BWS Event



La Crescenta Woman's Club proudly presents "Be With Santa" (BWS) holiday drive-through event. The Club's 30th annual BWS event provides an opportunity to enjoy a *free* and safe outdoor event for the entire family!

BWS will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. in the parking lot of the LCWC clubhouse (4004 La Crescenta Ave., La Crescenta).

The drive-through event will allow children and their families to see Santa and Mrs. Claus and have a photo taken while staying safely warm and cozy in their vehicle as Santa's elves guide drivers. (Pets are welcome, too!) Small gift bag handouts will be available for the children until supplies run out. Listen to festive holiday music and drop off wish list letters to Santa, which can be printed from the LCWC website [www.lacrescentawomansclub.org/events/santa2021](http://www.lacrescentawomansclub.org/events/santa2021). Come rain or shine! No reservations required.

Donations are always welcome. For more information, call (818) 957-9806 or email: [info@lacrescentawomansclub.org](mailto:info@lacrescentawomansclub.org).

*Photo by Mary DAWSON*

# "Sip & Shop" Passport to Winter Shopping a Success



Photos courtesy of La Cañada Junior Women's Club

ABOVE: From left are pop-up vendors Barbara Hannegan and Victoria Duque (who are also Junior Provisionals), and Mary Emily Myers.

BELOW: Sharing a fun moment together are (from left) Alice Perez, Erin Dundee, Karen Thurston, Apple Cart owner Peggy Stevens with Susan Spohr and Lynn Mehl.

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OLL Auditorium - 7355 Apperson St, Tujunga | For More info, contact Denise @ 818-943-4351



There was excitement in the air at the recent La Cañada Junior Women's Club annual fundraiser "Passport to Winter Sip and Shop." Friends who hadn't seen each other for a long time due to the pandemic joined other shoppers in visiting local participating businesses including 12 unique pop-up vendors located at Rose Gold Fitness. The shopping experience was heightened as proceeds went to help LCJWC

*see SIP & SHOP on page 15*

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# YMCA of the Foothills CEO Unanimously Voted into the CA State Alliance of YMCAs

The vote was unanimous on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 9 when the California State of Alliance of YMCA's voted the CEO of YMCA of the Foothills, Vince Iuculano, onto their board.

"I'm deeply honored and, quite frankly, humbled to be nominated and then elected by my colleagues," said Iuculano. "This is a special opportunity for our YMCA to serve as an advocate on behalf of other small to mid-size Ys, among the large Ys in the room."

Iuculano's Y journey began nearly 25 years ago as a Childcare Aid. Fifteen years ago, he was given the opportunity to oversee youth, teen and family programming at both the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA and the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA. Under Iuculano's supervision he and his staff help to build the Verdugo Hills YMCA Teen Center, after-school sports program at Mt. Gleason Middle School, the YMCA of the Foothills Homeschool PE Program and the Youth & Government Program. Today Iuculano serves as the chief executive officer for the YMCA of the Foothills, a position he's held since July 1, 2020.

In addition to leading and directing the strategic vision for the YMCA, Iuculano serves as ambassador for the mission, goals and values of the YMCA including leading efforts to increase membership and delivering high quality programs to the community.

Iuculano said he wholeheartedly believes that when the Ys come together to serve a community, in this case the state of California, the opportunities are endless and the impact is deeper than just one single YMCA striving alone.

Iuculano's two-year term on the CA State of Alliance board begins Jan. 1, 2022.

# Adventist Health Glendale Nationally Recognized with Another 'A' Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade

Adventist Health Glendale received its 14th consecutive "A" Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade for fall 2021, recognizing the medical center's achievements in protecting patients from harm and errors. Adventist Health Glendale is one of only 10 California hospitals to earn this national distinction consistently since 2015 and is, once again, the only hospital in the Glendale-Burbank-Pasadena area to receive an A grade.

"In this season of gratitude, it's more important than ever to recognize the incredible work being done by every one of our physicians and associates, even under the intense pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Alice Issai, president of Adventist Health Glendale.

The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, injuries, accidents and infections, as well as systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and harms to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

"An 'A' Safety Grade is a tremendous achievement, of which this community should be extremely proud," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "I thank the leadership and workforce of Adventist Health Glendale for its commitment to prioritizing patients and their safety, especially during these trying times."

SIP & SHOP from page 14

philanthropies such as Mending Kids, Corita Art Center, Union Station Homeless Services and other club endeavors.

Cash drawings of \$250, \$100 and \$75 were an added attraction with businesses also contributing to opportunity drawings of 17 baskets brimming with merchandise and special treats. Throughout the evening, patrons enjoyed delicious food bites, snacks, beverages, dessert and wine sips. There were also six surprise drawings for those who were present until the end of the evening and who hadn't previously won a prize.

"We are beyond grateful to all of the participating businesses and pop-up vendors, and their generosity. The response to the event was better than we ever imagined, and we appreciate the patronage of all the shoppers. In a short, two-and-a-half week time span, everyone came together and made this event an outstanding success," said LCJWC President Trish McRae. "The Juniors are about helping kids and women in need. We are fueled by the timeless attributes of sisterhood, celebration and camaraderie while giving back to our community – no matter what your age."

Local businesses participating in the Passport event included The Apple Cart, Cowgirl Princess, All About Watches, and Rose Gold Fitness, with Nix Marie participating in their Montrose shop during the day. The pop-up vendors located at Rose Gold Fitness were: Victoria Duque Jewelry, Pattern L.A. by Jane Lutz Leather, Cabi Missy Gibson, One Hope Wines – Lynne Graves, Modere by Sarah Lowe, Mary Emily Myers (dōTERRA), Klipitz by Felicia Wallace, Violets Are Blue by Barbara Hannegan; Magical Corner; Wrapped in Love; and Corita Art Center with Stella's Pizza Kitchen and La Cañada Imports contributing their services.

Opportunity packages and special surprise prizes were donated by several businesses and restaurants.

The La Cañada Junior Women's Club is currently accepting new members. Local residents interested in getting more information about the Juniors, who are young at heart, dedicated, dynamic women interested in philanthropy, fun and friendship, can email Karen Thurston, membership director, at lcjwclub@yahoo.com.

LCJWC is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization; federal tax ID# 23-7084463.



Enjoying the evening are (from left) Georgina Mueller, Elizabeth Landwick, Caroline Anderson, Kellie Chamberlain and Rima Sirrieh.

## CV WEEKLY ON THE MOVE



Tom and Karen Suter shared their copy of the CV Weekly with Heather outside Robin's Restaurant in Cambria.

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# TRAVEL & LEISURE

## Holocaust Instruments to be Played in 'Violins of Hope' Concert

By Bethany BROWN

The Los Angeles Jewish Symphony will play the Violins of Hope on Sunday, Dec. 12 at The Soraya in Northridge. The event will begin at 7 p.m. and tickets can be purchased on [www.thesoraya.org](http://www.thesoraya.org) or by calling (818) 677-3000.

The Violins of Hope is a private collection of more than 50 rescued and restored violins, violas and cellos played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. These instruments have survived concentration camps, pogroms and many long journeys to tell remarkable stories of injustice, suffering, resilience and survival. The instruments represented strength and optimism for the future during mankind's darkest hour.

By playing the instruments today and displaying them at various exhibitions across the globe, the intent is to educate the public and memorialize the many lives that were lost as well as those who survived the atrocities inflicted upon the Jewish community.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic that postponed the originally scheduled concert in early 2020, the collection of historic instruments has remained in safekeeping for nearly two years as they awaited their return to the stage.

Owners Amnon Weinstein and son Avshalom are Israeli violin-makers who have spent decades locating and piecing the instruments back together so they could be played again. Although most of the musicians who originally played the instruments were silenced by the Holocaust, their voices and spirits live on through performance.

Dr. Noreen Green, LAJS conductor and founder, said this will be the first time the musicians and orchestra will have the opportunity to play the instruments.

"There's really just a plethora of emotions," Green said. "We had to reschedule and cancel twice so the fact that it's actually happening is very exciting."

Green emphasized that her orchestra is dedicated to



Photos courtesy of LAJS



performing music that explores Jewish culture, heritage and experience. As part of its mission, it is committed to building bridges of music and understanding within the diverse, multi-ethnic communities of our great city.

"This Violins of Hope is as close to our mission as you can get," Green said. "It's a very personal experience for me to be able to conduct this and bring to life these instruments that were rescued from the Holocaust."

While LAJS awaited the rescheduling of the event, Green said other violins that had survived the Holocaust surfaced in the Los Angeles area and have since been donated to the collection. She recalled attending a high school reunion and connecting with somebody who had one in the family that needed to be restored – the individual's mother had survived the Holocaust, went into hiding and the only thing she brought with her was her violin.

see VIOLINS on page 23

## Community Life Presents 'A Christmas Carol'



Community Life Church welcomes the community to performances of "A Christmas Carol," a beautiful adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas tale. It is adapted and directed by Carter Thomas.

Thomas, a Crescenta Valley High School alumni and Broadway national touring actor turned director, is eager to bring professional, live theater to the Crescenta Valley. This year's production is his 18th of "A Christmas Carol." He has performed the show at three separate theaters across Southern California, most recently directing Glendale Centre Theatre's virtual production last year.

"A Christmas Carol" is an age-old tale that follows Christmas-hating miserly businessman Ebenezer Scrooge. One Christmas Eve, Scrooge

see CHRISTMAS CAROL on page 23



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Violinist Yue Deng  
Featured on Glendale  
Noon Concerts

On Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 12:10 p.m., the Free Admission Glendale Noon Concerts program will be streamed. Violinist Yue Deng will perform solo works by J.S. Bach and Eugène Ysaÿe on a Facebook stream and YouTube.

Deng's solo violin recital will include J.S. Bach, "Violin Sonata No.1 in G minor, BWV 1001" and Eugène Ysaÿe, "Sonata No. 6 in E major, Op. 27."

Independent and passionate describe Yue Deng whose career as a concert violinist began when she was awarded first prize in the National Violin Competition in China at the age of 8.

She studied at Oberlin Conservatory and Julliard. She has been a participant at the Music Academy of the West and the Henry Mancini Institute. As a recording artist, Deng has recorded with Barbra Streisand, Barry Manilow, Diana Krall and Jean-Yves Thibaudet, among others. She has performed in the Carnegie, Avery Fisher, Alice Tully and Disney Concert Halls, and at Birdland. Deng has mentored individual students at many prestigious institutions and coached underprivileged young violinists in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. From 2013-19 she served as a strings instructor and artist in residence at University of Alberta while continuing to perform and record. Jazz great Roger Kellaway arranged and wrote an album for her titled Both Sides Now. He comments, "Her musicianship is superb. Because of Yue's talent, I fell in love with the violin."

Glendale Noon Concerts is celebrating its 14th year of presenting free admission, and now streamed, concerts every first and third Wednesday for Glendale and the Southland community.

More information about the program and artists, and the link to the stream, can be seen at <http://glendalenoonconcerts.blogspot.com>. Upcoming concerts will be updated at the same website.

For more information, email [glendalesda@gmail.com](mailto:glendalesda@gmail.com) or call (818) 244-7241.



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THEN & NOW

Indian Springs Aerial  
Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



**Then »** Indian Springs Resort opened in 1929 in a little oak-covered spring-fed canyon just off Verdugo Road to the east of Montrose. The resort featured a big above-ground pool (visible among the trees) along with stables, picnic areas, playgrounds and tennis courts, all shaded by the oak canopy. Verdugo Road is visible at the bottom of this photo taken in the mid-1930s.



**Now »** In the late '60s the trees were cut and the pool torn down. The little canyon that was below street level was filled level with Verdugo Road with dirt from the Verdugo Hills Hospital construction going on concurrently. Indian Springs Shopping Plaza, along with a massive parking lot, now sits several feet above the old spring and resort site.





# BUSINESS

NEWS FROM THE CRESCENTA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
"OUR BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS"

## Announcing Our 2021 Recognition Awards

It's time to announce our selections for the 2021 Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce Recognition Awards. In a community where so many individuals, organizations and businesses do so much to enhance our daily lives, it was not a simple task to finalize the list of those we wish to recognize.

Our 2021 Recognition Award selections are:

*Don Carpenter Award:* Mary O'Keefe; *Woman of the Year:* Monica Ordubegian; *Man of the Year:* Mike Shaar; *Volunteer of the Year:* Rebecca Johnson; *Educator of the Year:* Dr. Vivian Ekchian; *Business of the Year:* J's Maids; *Organization of the Year:* Early Rodders; *Beautification Award:* Catalina Paints; *Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department:* Deputy Wilson Schlamm; *California Highway Patrol:* Officer Jonathan Boyd; *Glendale Police Department:* Officer Varooj Kariyian; *Los Angeles County Firefighter of the Year:* Firefighter Specialist Paramedic Marc Beddawi.

Congratulations to each of our awardees! They will be recognized and honored at our Recognition Awards banquet on Thursday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Glendale Elks Lodge, 120 E. Colorado St. in Glendale. The event is open to the public but reservations are required. Entry is \$65 per person that includes a sit-down dinner at 7 p.m. Please contact our Chamber office or Chamber website for information or to place your reservation.

*It was a spectacular mixer!*

On Nov. 18 the Chamber hosted an incredibly successful mixer event at RestoKleen Restoration Services. Owner Hamlet Ghazanian, along with his wife Jackie who prepared some amazing

food dishes and displays and office manager Sera Gorgorian, provided us with an evening and mixer event to remember.

RestoKleen provides round the clock, 24/7, water damage restoration, fire and smoke damage recovery and mold removal, as well as disinfecting services, to residential and commercial property owners and property management companies. It is located at 3600 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta. We are proud to have RestoKleen Restoration Services as a part of our Chamber family.

*Welcome to our latest Chamber Member:*

We welcome The Impact Foundation-LA to our Chamber family. Victoria and Michael Malone have created this non-profit foundation in remembrance of and in honor of their son Chace Taylor Malone.

*Some Dates to Remember and Save:*

Looking ahead: On Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022 it's our Chamber Installation Luncheon / Mary Pinola Crescenta Valley Chamber Education Fund presentations at the Chevy Chase Country Club. Then on Saturday, April 30, 2022 our spectacular Hometown Country Fair returns to Crescenta Valley Park. And finally, on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022 is our annual 5K Run at Crescenta Valley Park. There will be more events during 2022; our scholarship golf tournament at Scholl Canyon, our classic fun-filled poker event, our vendor "live" silent auction and mixers will be held throughout the year. Keep informed by visiting our Chamber website, [www.crescentavalleychamber.org](http://www.crescentavalleychamber.org).

*Emergency Preparedness Tip for December:* December is the month to clean debris from roof gutters, especially after the recent winds,

and to clear debris from attic vent screens. It is also the month to install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Gather supplies, including extra batteries, and battery powered lights and lamps in case you are stranded at home for days with power.

*Our Purpose:*

The purpose of the CV Chamber of Commerce and our activities is to support our Crescenta Valley community and the Chamber business membership. One of those Chamber members is Ace Hardware of La Crescenta, located at 3100 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Store manager Lawrence Stuart and his team of experts are available to assist you with personal service and quality products. Check them out in person or through the website: [www.westlakehardware.com/store/ace-hardware-la-crescenta/](http://www.westlakehardware.com/store/ace-hardware-la-crescenta/).

*CV Chamber Membership Opportunities:* If you are a Chamber member we are available to help your business plan a ribbon cutting, a grand re-opening of your business, or even help you organize promotional opportunities. For those of you who are not business or residential members there are numerous advantages of a CV Chamber of Commerce membership. For details simply call the CV Chamber office at (818) 248-4957 or email us at [info@crescentavalleychamber.org](mailto:info@crescentavalleychamber.org). You may also access our Chamber website at [www.crescentavalleychamber.org](http://www.crescentavalleychamber.org).

Remember our Chamber motto, "Our Business is Your Business."

Steve Pierce, Executive Director  
Crescenta Valley Chamber of  
Commerce  
(818) 248-4957

[info@crescentavalleychamber.org](mailto:info@crescentavalleychamber.org)

MONTROSE-VERDUGO CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
» MAVIL AGHADJANIAN

## 'Tis the Season to Shop Local

As we enter December with full hearts, ready to finish our holiday shopping, we must remember that many of our Montrose shops are owned and operated by local families and they need our collective love and support this holiday season. As the quote states, "Behind every small business is a family." It is these same local businesses that support our local events, schools and causes. Now it is our turn to really show them our support this holiday season. If there is an item that you are looking for online, shoot us an email or give us a call and we will help you locate it at one of our local shops! [MVCC@MontroseChamber.org](mailto:MVCC@MontroseChamber.org), (818) 249-7171

*MVCC and Member Updates/  
Upcoming Events:*

*Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 5:30 p.m.* – Toys for Tots Holiday Mixer hosted by the Glendale Area Schools Credit Union in their parking lot. Bring a new unwrapped toy to donate and the MVCC will deliver it to the Toys for Tots drop off location in Pasadena. Dress code: your ugliest Christmas sweater!

*Thursday, Dec. 9 at noon* – Ribbon cutting ceremony for Strut Fitness Center and La Cañada PrintSmith at 1111 Foothill Blvd. La Cañada.

Stay safe, be well and please keep supporting local businesses because "when you support a small business, you're supporting a dream."

Mavil Aghadjanian  
MVCC Executive Director

MONTROSE VERDUGO CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**TOYS FOR TOTS HOLIDAY MIXER**  
HOSTED BY: **GLENDALE AREA SCHOOLS CREDIT UNION**  
*It's where you belong*  
Wed, Dec 8, 2021 • 5:30 PM  
1800 Broadview Dr.  
MEMBERS \$10, GUESTS \$15  
ATTIRE: UGLY XMAS SWEATERS  
BRING A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY. MVCC WILL DROP OFF TOYS AT THE TFT PASADENA LOCATION.

## RESTOKLEEN MIXER



Photos provided by RestoKleen

ABOVE: Festivities included a ribbon cutting.

RIGHT: The RestoKleen mixer was hosted by owners (center) Jackie and Hamlet Ghazanian, photographed with Mike Riley, CV Chamber president (right), and a representative from the office of State Senator Anthony Portantino.



## PET OF THE WEEK



**Ninja...Santa's Grumpy Little Helper**



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GLENDALE AREA SCHOOLS CREDIT UNION & CV WEEKLY PRESENTS

# The 2021 Merry & Bright Self-Guided Holiday Light and Display Drive-By Tour!

Share your merriment and brighten the spirits of your community this Holiday Season!  
From December 16th – January 2nd families will be driving past identified houses that have been decorated festively for the season.

To have your address included in the Merry & Bright Tour, send your address to **HollyWeen@cvweekly.com** by **December 14th** to be included in all listings. Your home’s location will be in the CV Weekly December issues so families can create their own drive-by route.

Judging will be done between December 23rd - 26th, and winners announced in the January 6th issue.

### JUDGING CATEGORIES

- |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                        |                                                                                   |                                                                           |                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Christmas Story Award</b><br>(traditional or nostalgic use of lights and decorations - Leg Lamp use gets extra points) | <b>2. Clark Griswold Award</b><br>(excessive use of lights and decoration - more is ALWAYS better, can we see it from space?) | <b>3. Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree Award</b><br>(best use of music and technology) | <b>4. Santa's Coming to Town Award</b><br>(best use of Santa or Santa's in decor) | <b>5. Most Original Award</b><br>(not your usual every-day holiday decor) | <b>6. Best In Show Award</b><br>(ya blew the judges minds) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|



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LEGALS

PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION

DEFENDANT: NORIK AVETISYAN, et al.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: PATRICK O'CONNELL, GARY CROSSAN

CASE NUMBER: 21CV01985

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

The name and address of the court is: Santa Barbara - Anacapa 1100 Anacapa St. Santa Barbara, CA 93101

The name, address and phone number of plaintiff's is: Nichole L. Bartlett, SBN 307221 David A. Richard, 128348 (805) 644-0808

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN COMPLAINT:

Order by Publication Filed: 10/27/2021 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA Daniel E. Parker, Executive Officer 5/19/2021 2:34 PM By: Sasha Nasir, Deputy

SUMMONS shall be published at least once each 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 in the Crescenta Valley Weekly November 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2021.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

At the regular meeting of October 18, 2021, the Foothill Municipal Water District's Board of Directors held a public hearing and introduced for first reading the following Ordinance.

[ORDINANCE NO. 10-0821

ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FOOTHILL MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT RELATING TO DIRECTORS' COMPENSATION]

SUMMARY

Following a second reading on November 15, 2021, via a hybrid publicly held meeting from the Foothill Municipal Water District's Headquarters, located at 4536 Hampton Road, La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011, the Board of Directors of the Foothill Municipal Water District adopted Ordinance No. 10-0821, approving the increase in the per diem to \$130.20 per meeting for up to ten meetings per month as well as ten meetings a month for the Metropolitan representative. For multiple meetings that occur the same day, only one meeting may be compensated.

At the November 15, 2021, meeting, the Board of Directors adopted the above listed Ordinance by the following vote:

Ayes: Richard Atwater, Garry Bryant, Frank Colcord, LaDrena Dansby, Mel Matthews

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

This is only a summary of the adopted Ordinance. A copy of the full adopted ordinance is available for viewing in the District's Office, located at 4536 Hampton Road, La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011 & 818- 790-4036, or can be sent electronically by request.

Secretary of the Foothill Municipal Water District Date: [11/30/21]. Published in the Crescenta Valley Weekly, December 2, 9, 2021

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice US Storage Centers - La Crescenta located at 4454 Lowell Ave La Crescenta, CA 91214 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagecenters.com on 12/21/2021 at 10:00AM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Debra Eliza Oakes; Euging A Diaz; Cynthia V Sipsey; Henry Runge (2 units); Debra Eliza Oakes (2 units); Tracy Kloss. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details. Published in the Crescenta Valley Weekly December 2, 9, 2021.

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice US Storage Centers - Montrose located at 3708 Clifton Place Montrose, CA 91020 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagecenters.com on 12/21/2021 at 10:00AM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Reubhen Odulio Dumla; Christine Vrtanesyan; Angel Orozco Sandoval; Craig Edward Anderson. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.. Published in the Crescenta Valley Weekly December 2, 9, 2021.

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CHRISTMAS CAROL *from page 16*

is visited by four ghosts: his late business partner Jacob Marley, Christmas Past, Christmas Present and The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. They each show him that redemption is possible while still on earth. The story will take a deeper look at how one should accept happiness and community into their lives. Carter’s production intertwines more than a dozen classic Christmas carols.

Stuart James Galbraith stars as Scrooge alongside Kara Gibson as Christmas Past and Kelly Flynn as Bob Cratchit. Joining them are Kai Fink, Stephanie Davis, Bowie Bundlie, Tiffany Brevard, Calista Ruiz, Tyler Stouffer, Katie Polley, Madi Davis, Calvin Davis, Trenton Muroaka, Chris Gomez, Catherine Last, Sara Novak, Natalie Last, Kyle Kelley, Rebecca Thomas, Bradley Bundlie, Greg Hardash, Elizabeth Last, Kate Ponzio, Bridget Pugliese, Dan Nufer and Nick Mizrahi.

The creative team includes director Thomas, assistant director Rebecca Thomas, music director

Steven Applegate, choreographer Paul Reid, stage manager Tracey Thomas, production coordinator Kelly Flynn and costume designer Shon LeBlanc.

parking lot to the field where the group gathers after the hike.

**Christmas Season at La Crescenta Presbyterian**

Celebrate the Christmas season with joyful music and messages of hope at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church.

“Rejoice and Sing!” will take place on Friday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. This Christmas concert will include a choir, full orchestra and “Hallelujah Chorus” sing-along that will be followed by a dessert reception. This event is free to the community; a love offering will be collected.

Performances are Dec. 9-Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children and students. Reserve tickets now at <https://madeforcommunity.com/>

Then on Friday, Dec. 24, bring the entire family to the LCPC Christmas Eve worship service featuring music, prayer and an uplifting message, along with live Nativity animals in front of the church.

During each Sunday of Advent explore the themes of hope, peace, joy and love at the 10 a.m. worship services or online at [lpc.net](http://lpc.net). Visit the website for a new Advent family devotional each week.

And every evening in December, La Crescenta Presbyterian will light up for Christmas. At 5 p.m., a 12-foot tree, Nativity scene and lights along the front of the church will be illuminated and

christmas or call (818) 249-5832. This is a family-friendly show. All ages are encouraged to attend.

Community Life Church is located at 4441 La Crescenta Ave.

instrumental Christmas music will play until 7 p.m.

La Crescenta Presbyterian is located at 2902 Montrose Ave. in La Crescenta. For more information on Christmas programming and its COVID-safe practices, visit [lpc.net](http://lpc.net) or call (818) 249-6137.

**Community Invited to Hanukkah in the Foothills**

The sixth annual Hanukkah in the Foothills takes place on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at New Hope Community Church in Sunland.

Apart from a familial gathering at this joyous time of the year, participants will enjoy a telling of the story of

in La Crescenta. COVID protocols are being followed; facemasks are required and social distancing is encouraged.

Hanukkah and a ceremonial lighting of the hanukkiyah (menorah).

Since there is no temple of shul in the immediate area, this event has grown from the desire to share the custom with those who might not be familiar with the holiday or its meaning. It’s free to all and open to all faiths.

**Free Christmas Concert**

Calvary Presbyterian Church in Glendale will be holding a free Christmas concert on Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m. The concert will feature the church’s musicians.

Calvary Presbyterian Church is located at 610 N. Glendale Ave.

VIOLINS *from page 16*

“As the violins have toured around the world, stories like this have come up but to have it happen so close to me was super impactful,” Green said. “I felt this tremendous responsibility of taking this violin, keeping it safe and I just couldn’t stop thinking about what it had been through and what it had seen.”

Green said that that violin has since been restored and will be played in the upcoming concert with the other survivors. The program will feature violinist Lindsay Deutsch and cellist Barry Gold performing John Williams’ “Schindler’s List Suite,” Max Bruch “Kol Nidre,” Ernest Bloch’s “Baal Shem: Three Pictures of Hassidic Life,” and Sid Robinovitch’s “Suite for Klezmer Band and Orchestra.”

Deutsch is presently touring as a solo violinist with Yanni; she just returned from Saudi Arabia and is currently on a 60-city tour with him in the U.S. Gold is a longtime member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and attended Juilliard School of Music, which awarded him the Eduard Steuermann Memorial Prize upon his graduation in 1979.

“There’s nothing like live music and the connection it brings among humans,” Green said. “What better way to celebrate our coming out into the world again – and coming together after months of isolation and uncertainty – than with this concert?”

Green stressed her consideration for those who may feel hesitant to attend a live indoor event amid the pandemic but wanted to provide reassurance to the public of the effort and precautions being implemented to ensure the safety of the audience. Only those who are vaccinated can attend and masks will be required for all attendees. She hopes those who are able will come and celebrate the concert’s core message of “hope” as a community.

The Soraya in Northridge is located on the campus of California State University, Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St. in Northridge.

RECOGNITION AWARDS INVITATION



Please Join The Crescent Valley Chamber of Commerce as we Honor Those Who Have Improved the Quality of Life In our Communities

Annual Recognition Banquet to be held at  
Glendale Elks Lodge  
120 East Colorado St. Glendale  
Thursday, December 9, 2021  
Social 6:00 pm    Dinner 7:00 pm  
Cost \$65 per person

*Congratulations!*

Woman of the Year  
**Monica Ordubegian**

Man of the Year  
**Mike Shaar**

Business of the Year  
**J's Maids**

Don Carpenter Award  
**Mary O'Keefe**

Educator of the Year  
**Dr. Vivian Ekchian**

Organization of the Year  
**Early Rodders**

Volunteer of the Year  
**Rebecca Johnson**

Beautification Award  
**Catalina Paints**

**FIRST RESPONDERS**

California Highway Patrol Altadena Station Officer Jonathan Boyd	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Wilson Schlamme	Glendale Police Department Officer Varooj Karibyan	Firefighter of the Year Los Angeles County Firefighter Specialist Paramedic Marc Beddawi
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Recognizing (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Entrées – Please reserve    ☐ Filet    ☐ Lemon Herb Chicken    ☐ Vegetarian Plate

Please respond by Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone or email \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a list of names in your party – Tables seat 8

\$65 each Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed check payable to CV Chamber or payment may be made by Visa or MC

Visa/MC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_\_ Billing zip code \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

**info@crescentavalleychamber.org    www.crescentavalleychamber.org/banquet**



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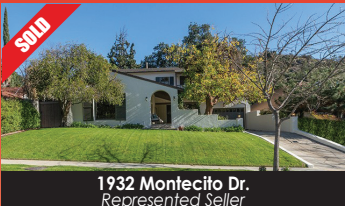
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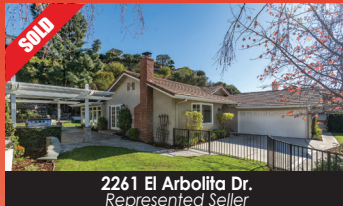
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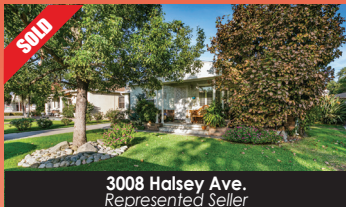
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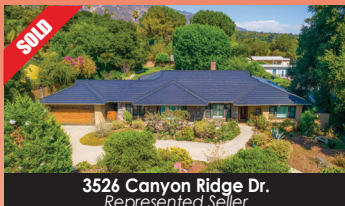
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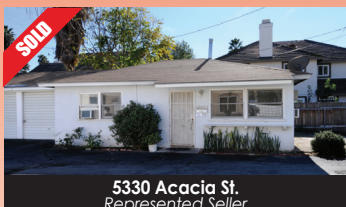
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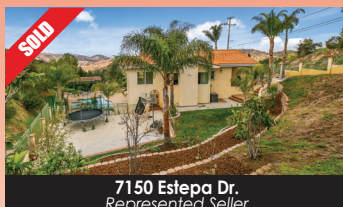
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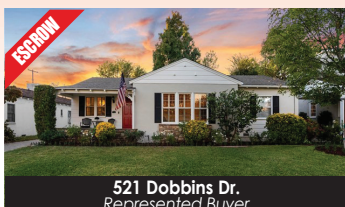
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Don't Miss Next Week's Q&A – Phyllis discusses “Stuck in escrow with an investor”