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VOL. 13, NO. 16

Pros and Cons Presented on Verdugo Wash Project

By Julie BUTCHER

At a special meeting on Tuesday afternoon, the Glendale City Council overruled preliminary plans and concepts envisioning the future of the Verdugo Wash, currently a nine-mile concrete flood water channel, as potentially a green swath of natural habitat and walking and bike paths running from the north side of the Verdugo Mountains down to Griffith Park.

"A scar that runs through many neighborhoods, it could unlock incredible opportunities for improving the city, creating connections, improving mobility. What is currently a divider could become a uniter, increase the value of adjacent properties, create a large democratic amenity space, and instigate growth in the community," consultant Jerry van Eyck told the council.

Assistant director of Community Development Bradley Calvert reported that this visioning part of the project is "in the works," in its earliest stages. There has been some public engagement, he said, but more is needed and planned. To date, input from the city's initial outreach has identified these priorities: public safety, bicycle and pedestrian routes, natural habitat restoration and the creation of new open spaces.

The Wash would continue to function as a wash, a piece of hydrological infrastructure, with building above the channel, a new linear green corridor traversing the city. In places that have built similar projects, van Eyck explained, the return on investment has been greater than simply economic; this could be a "signature legacy" project for the city.

Pedestrians and cyclists would be prioritized in separate areas; in larger spots along the Wash, quiet, contemplative park space is proposed along with public space programming, shared by adjacent communities.

Calvert emphasized that this

see GCC on page 8

Local Resident Gives Back to a Special Community

By Bethany BROWN

Grace Chase remembers that everyone needs extra kindness shown to them during the holidays,

Crescenta Valley resident Grace Chase has long continued her family tradition of hosting a Christmas party for those in the community who are severely disabled. Her father, Vito Cannella, began the tradition over 40 years ago and it is Chase's intention to honor him by continuing his mission of serving those who need extra care during the holiday season.

Chase's late older sister was diagnosed with autism at 18 months old during a time when there was a stigma surrounding intellectual disabilities.

"Back in the late '50s and early '60s people weren't as open and mindful," Chase said. "The family doctor advised my dad to put my sister in a psychiatric institution and have more children. He became incredibly angry about that statement and started fighting for my sister's rights and other people's rights in the disabled community."

As Cannella spent time fighting for the



Photos provided by Grace CHASE

Local community members who helped make deliveries delighted recipients with their festive costumes, including Santa, elves and reindeer.

rights of the disabled, he noticed that a lot of people were without families because they had been given up on and living in group homes. He was saddened by this and thus was born his tradition of hosting a Christmas party for those who may have been forgot-

ten – an attempt to show support and love to those who may be without.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person party was forced into cancellation last year and again this year, but Chase said she was not going to let an-

other year pass without reminding "these wonderful people" that they are loved and being thought about.

Chase, with the help of friends and family, held a Christmas delivery on Saturday, Dec. 11,

see CHASE on page 8

Five New Council Members, One Returning to CV Town Council

By Justin HAGER

The Crescenta Valley Town Council (CVTC) held its elections over the weekend for six vacant seats on its board. The CVTC provides advice to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors – Fifth District and serves as a platform for Crescenta Valley residents living in the local unincorporated portion of Los Angeles County to voice their concerns and interests.

Of the approximately 15,000 eligible adult voters who live in unincorporated La Crescenta-Montrose, fewer than 300 people cast ballots. Each eligible voter was allowed to cast votes for up to three candidates with a total of 529 votes recorded, according to Elections Committee Chair Chris Kilpatrick. Of

see CVTC on page 6



Photo by Robin GOLDSWORTHY

Elections were held on Friday and Saturday at Sadler Hall at St. Luke's of the Mountains Church.



Coming this December...



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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER



Keeping Safe During the Holidays

Earlier this week, the Glendale Police Dept. issued a press release stating that since January 2021, there have been a total of nine follow-home robberies in the City of Glendale that have been reported to the Glendale Police Dept. Through investigative work by the department's Robbery/Homicide Unit, in partnership with the Verdugo Regional Crime Lab and other allied agencies, GPD has arrested and booked six individuals in connection with these robberies.

At the end of the press release, the GPD states that there are multiple outstanding suspects involved in these various follow-home robberies that are actively being pursued by the department's Robbery/Homicide Unit. They then advise when driving home from any location to be aware of our surroundings. Watch to see if we are being followed by another vehicle and, if it appears we are, to call 9-1-1 immediately and proceed to the nearest police station. The Glendale Police Dept. is located at 131 N. Isabel St. in Glendale and the CV Sheriff's Station is located at 4554 Briggs Ave. in La Crescenta.

I remember decades ago when an elderly friend of mine was coming home from a shopping trip. She had been followed and was attacked. I can't remember if she got a concussion but I do remember her black eye and bruised face. And most of us are familiar with the Montrose woman who was followed home then shot and killed outside her apartment. So this problem is not new.

During this very busy holiday shopping season (there's only one more shopping weekend), please be careful. We want to make sure everyone enjoys a blessed and safe Christmas.

Unfortunately I missed the recognition banquet last Thursday hosted by the CV Chamber of Commerce. Held at the Elks Lodge in Glendale, the evening shined a spotlight on the contributions made to our community by several people.

Many of the names, I'm sure, were familiar but there were some new ones to celebrate as well.

As I bragged earlier this month, our lead reporter Mary O'Keefe was the recipient of the prestigious Don Carpenter Award. Her family was on hand to offer congratulations and support her and the other awardees.

I offer congratulations to her and all of the awardees; we're lucky to have them call the Crescenta Valley home.

To see some photos of Thursday's event, check out page 19.

Finally, congratulations to the members voted onto the Crescenta Valley Town Council. Justin Hager's article on the front page of this week's issue outlines the number of ballots cast and how many votes the candidates received.

Since the Council is an advisory board, some (erroneously) think that it has no power, carries no weight. That is far from the truth.

It was through the direction given by the Council that the power lines along Foothill Boulevard (in the unincorporated county portion) were put underground and that standards were put in place regarding the design of buildings along Foothill (in the unincorporated county portion). Without their input, the fifth district supervisor (currently Kathryn Barger) would have no idea what programs the area wants and needs and what problems and concerns its citizens have.

Being a part of the Town Council can be a thankless, time-consuming job – but it can also be a rewarding one. Thank you to the ones who stepped up to make a difference.

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



Weather in the Foothills

"Even with all our technology and the inventions that make modern life so much easier than it once was, it takes just one big natural disaster to wipe all that away and remind us that, here on Earth, we're still at the mercy of nature."

~ Neil deGrasse Tyson, American astrophysicist

Late Friday, Dec. 10, through sunrise on Saturday a tornado ravaged a path through Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee and Illinois. A National Weather Service preliminary study indicates its size as 223 miles long with an Enhanced Fujita (EF) intensity between EF-3 and EF-5. We watched in heartbreak and awe as the extent of devastation became known.

Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air that are in contact with both the surface of the Earth and cumulonimbus clouds. True, the ones that touch down in Southern California are nowhere as big as the killer storms that hit other parts of the country, but that doesn't mean we're immune. Alongside wildfires and earthquakes, tornadoes are included on the California list of natural disasters.

The LA Times has chronicled them for decades. They're usually small and cause limited damage, nothing like the storms seen elsewhere. An exception occurred in 1983 when a tornado stripped part of the roof off the Los Angeles Convention Center before making its way south along Broadway, ripping apart houses, smashing brick storefronts and overturning cars. More than 150 buildings were damaged. Thirty-two people were hurt.

Originating in the Pacific, our tornadoes come as winter thunderstorms. As some storms approach the coast, cold air above the ocean mixes with warmer air on land. Atmospheric instability forms, on rare occasions.

Today, Thursday, a weak storm will likely bring rain to areas north of Point Conception but only a small chance south. Dry weather will prevail through the weekend. Good shopping weather! A stormier weather pattern is forecast to begin Monday as the storm door opens with a low and sets up a broad moist flow pattern into Southern California.

Rain ... It is almost impossible to forecast timing. Overall, it's a mix of cloudy skies and showers and it is more likely that every area will see rain at some point in the week leading to Christmas.

A white mountaintop Christmas is possible! But our real gift came with the little over five inches of rain to start the week ... with more to come!

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

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

CV Town Council General Meeting

This month's general meeting of the Crescenta Valley Town Council, scheduled for tonight, Thursday, Dec. 16, is canceled.

Winter Toy Giveaway in Need of Donated Toys

The Los Angeles County Dept. of Parks and Recreation is hosting its annual winter toy giveaway on Saturday, Dec. 18 at the Crescenta Valley Community Regional Park, 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta and is looking for toy donations.

Each year LA County Parks and Rec hosts this event for families that need a little help from Santa to make their holidays more festive. Toys are needed for children from ages 1 to 14. Toys, or gift cards, can be dropped off at the CV Park office from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday's free event will include a picture with Santa Claus, a continental breakfast, toy giveaway and holiday stockings. (Breakfast, toys and stockings will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.) In addition this year "Tim Burton's Nightmare Before Christmas" presented by The Balcony of LA will be shown at 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The winter toy giveaway is Saturday, Dec. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the park office at (818) 249-5940.

Rosemont Preserve Open Gate Morning

An "open gate" event is taking place at the Rosemont Preserve on Sunday morning, Dec. 19. 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.

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Mosaic Mural Comes to Deukmejian Wilderness Park



Photo by Bethany BROWN
Local artist Hannah Maximova stands next to the mosaic mural "The Breath of a Deukmejian Day" that she created for Deukmejian Wilderness Park.

By Bethany BROWN

Glendale Parks and Open Space Foundation hosted a special viewing on Saturday, Dec. 11 of a new art installation at Deukmejian Wilderness Park. The 26-foot mosaic mural, titled "The Breath of a Deukmejian Day," depicts and celebrates natural elements of the region, including plants and animals found in the local area.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization supporting park projects, recreation programs and open space activities that enrich the entire community. It strives to encourage community members to get outside and connect with nature.

Local artist Hannah Maximova said she feels proud and grateful that her work helps the organization further its mission. She was commissioned to complete the mural over three years ago but had to undergo a long process of awaiting city approval before she could begin bringing her vision to life.

Foundation President Paul Rabinov emphasized his gratitude to former president Kate Eberle for originally conceiving the idea years ago.

"It's been a long time coming," Rabinov said. "It is here as a permanent celebration of our community on a natural level."

The mosaic mural can be found mounted onto the outdoor amphitheater wall that stands adjacent to the stone barn. The barn is still under renovation and conversion into a Nature Interpretive Center, which is set to open in the new year.

"I've been installing [the mural] for the last few weeks and it was just wonderful to have it unveiled for all those people," Maximova said. "People were so enthusiastic; it was incredibly gratifying."

Maximova said she began the creation process of cutting glass in January of this year and finished in June. She recalled it served as an inspiring and safe space for her during the rather painful time that the pandemic introduced to the world. The mural, according to Maximova, reflects both the breath and breadth of a Deukmejian day. The work encompasses a full day for the plants and animals that live there – the left side as the morning, the middle as the afternoon and the right side as the evening – with each species represented at the specific times each is most active.

"We're so lucky to still have such abundant wildlife," Maximova said. "It's a wonderful

gift that current and past generations have preserved some of our land so that these animals have a place to live, and I just hope that future generations will share that sense of preciousness and recognize that we're very lucky to have a wonderful biodiversity represented in this park."

She urged people to remember that human residents are not alone in the area and emphasized how important it is to acknowledge and respect the wildlife that shares the area. She urges people to continue to do what is possible to protect it by bringing more consciousness and thought into each decision made.

"We need to think about what we can do as a society, as a city, as individuals, to make the world more habitable for more than just us," Maximova said. "Every choice can take you closer to helping the world be cleaner and safer and kinder to all humans and all

nonhumans, and every [poor] choice could make it much harder to achieve that."

Individuals and businesses can support the park and Foundation's mission by purchasing a legacy tile. Each tile will be installed on the donor wall located next to the mural; all money raised goes directly toward supporting various Glendale city park programs. Donations can be made at www.glendaleparksfoundation.org.

"It's groundbreaking because this is the first time that an opportunity has been presented where the public can sponsor a donor tile within a park," Rabinov said. "We've already been met with such immense support from the community and public officials, and we just hope that will continue."

A formal dedication of the mosaic mural and the grand opening of the Nature Interpretive Center will be held on Feb. 12, 2022.

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Local YMCA Responds to Community's Spiritual Needs with Chaplain Services

In an effort to provide spiritual guidance and continuously enhance the well-being of the community, the YMCA of the Foothills has reopened its chaplain services offering devotion and prayer to all on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Samuelson Chapel located at the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA.

In December, Pastor Randy Foster, who serves in various ministry capacities throughout the Crescenta Valley and offers 50 years of pastoral ministry experience, will lead the Y's chaplain service on Tuesday, Dec. 7.

"Our desire as a church is to be the people of God, who see others with the eyes of God, who love them with the heart of God, and reach out and touch them as the hands of God," said Pastor Foster.

Each month, a different faith leader will host the service, offering a variety of cultures, faiths, and traditions respected by the Y. A chaplain is also available for individual counseling should community members need it, whether or not they are members of the YMCA. The YMCA chaplains provide confidential compassionate care, crisis intervention and

conflict resolution, among other services.

For additional information or questions, contact Joanne Pingry, Mission Advancement specialist at jpingry@ymcafoothills.org or visit ymcafoothills.org/chaplain.

The mission of the YMCA of the Foothills is to organize, develop, finance, and conduct programs for an association of persons of all ages that will, by putting Christian principles into practice, enrich the quality of their lives spiritually, mentally, physically and socially. Individuals can support the cause by visiting ymcafoothills.org.



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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 fourth Sunday of Advent with a sermon entitled "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" on Sunday, Dec. 19 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 meet in the Worship Center at 10 a.m. then head to the Youth Room for a time of play and study.

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 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 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 jnlavieri@earthlink.net.

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

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 lcpc.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 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 lcpc.net or call (818) 249-6137.

Christmas Drive-thru Display

On Saturday, Dec. 18, Bethel Church in Sun Valley will offer a drive-thru Christmas display on its campus from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. that features a Nativity stable, lit Christmas tree, gifts for kids, cookies/candy and Christmas music.

The community is invited to this free, COVID safe event.

Bethel Church, 10725 Penrose St., Sun Valley

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.

see NOTES & NODS on page 23

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YOUR AD HERE

Rain Totals Thus Far ... With More Rain Expected

By Mary O'KEEFE

The area welcomed a recent storm and a little more may be in the future.

The official rain gauge at Rosemont Middle School is not in working order; the closest official rain totals from Tuesday's

rainstorm, according to the National Weather Service, are as follows:

East Pasadena received 3.06 inches of rain, Eagle Rock received 3.31 inches and Burbank received 1.82 inches of rain.

"It was a very powerful storm with [rainfall totals] of one to two inches

in downtown Los Angeles to eight inches in [parts] of the foothills," said David Sweet, meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) in Oxnard.

There is a possibility of more rain today, Thursday, and more on Monday and Tuesday; however, it will be much less than Tuesday's

storm with only about 1/10 of an inch of rainfall expected.

It has been, and will be, colder than normal.

"We are about 10 degrees below normal," Sweet added.

There is a 30% chance of rain today with a low of about 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Friday, Saturday and Sunday the highs are in the 50s and lows in the 40s.

The recent storm's rainfall was welcomed – any rain is welcome against the current drought conditions – but California has been in a drought for two years.

"Normally we get 15 inches of rain [annually] in downtown LA," Sweet said. In 2020-21 the rainfall in downtown LA was about five inches.

Sweet added they are not certain yet if there will be any winds accompanying the upcoming rain.

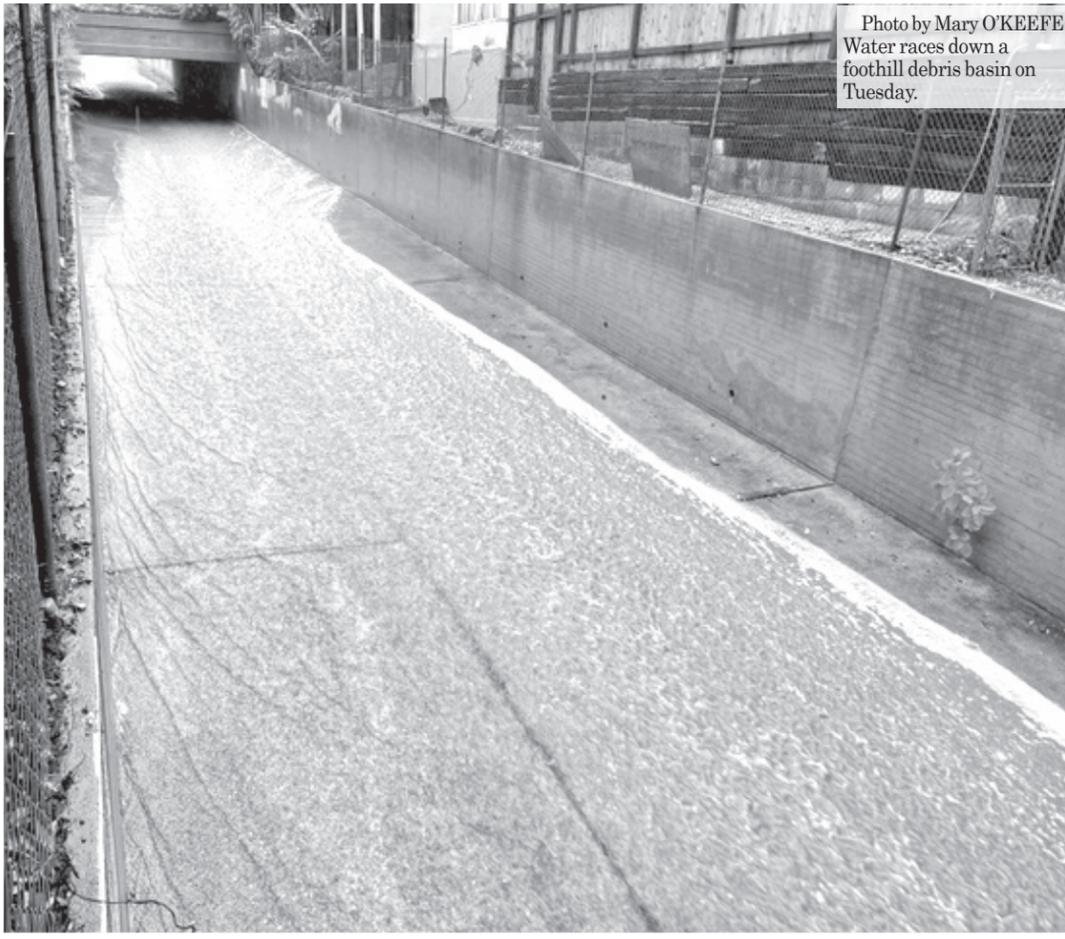


Photo by Mary O'KEEFE
Water races down a foothill debris basin on Tuesday.

State Mandates Face Masks Indoors to Curb Omicron

By Mary O'KEEFE

Just when it was thought a light could be seen at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel, the tunnel seemed to expand.

On Nov. 26 the World Health Organization classified the omicron variant as a "variant of concern." On Dec. 1 California became the first state in the nation to confirm a case of the omicron variant. The person who had tested positive for this variant had returned from South Africa on Nov. 22.

In an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19 and its variants, like omicron, as of Wednesday the California Dept. of Public Health requires face coverings [masks] to be worn in all indoor public settings regardless of vaccination status. This requirement will be in place through Jan. 15, 2022. The CDPH will then review and recommend a response to this aspect of the pandemic.

This is something seen before when the delta variant began to spread across the world. Now, as Californians marked the anniversary of the first COVID-19 vaccinations, another variant is waiting in the wings to dominate.

Omicron was first identified in South Africa and was found

to spread more easily than other variants, including delta.

Viruses, like COVID-19, constantly change through mutations and sometimes these mutations result in a new variant of the virus. Some variants emerge and then disappear while others persist. New variants will continue to emerge, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Although not yet dominant, omicron has been found in several states and in several counties in California including San Diego and Los Angeles counties. As of Tuesday, the Dept. of Public Health for Los Angeles County confirmed eight additional cases of omicron bringing the total number to 15 of confirmed cases in LA County. Seven of those omicron cases were symptomatic but did not require hospitalization. The eighth case had an "unknown symptom status." Five of the eight people were fully vaccinated but had not received a booster; one reported traveling internationally and two reported traveling outside of California. Two of the eight had previous SARS-CoV-2 infections and two cases live in the same household, according

to Dept. of Public Health for Los Angeles County.

"Preliminary data indicates that the omicron variant is highly infectious and that being fully vaccinated might not provide adequate protection against the infection. Public Health encourages everyone who is eligible for a booster to get one as soon as possible," according to the LA County Public Health.

All data gathered from South Africa indicates that omicron does not cause illness as severe as other variants; however, that is not a guarantee it will stay that way as it spreads and, if the trend in other countries continues, this variant could become the dominant form of the virus in the United States.

According to CDC director Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH, omicron is more transmissible and what is being seen in other countries is that the number of cases is doubling about every two days.

In addition, CDPH issued a new travel advisory effective immediately that recommends all travelers, whether vaccinated or not, who are arriving in California be tested for COVID-19 within three to five days after arrival.

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Deputies Arrest Two For Multiple Charges in Montrose

On Sunday at around 9:40 a.m., CV Station Deputy Gonzalez observed a suspicious vehicle parked near the 2300 block of Mira Vista Avenue in La Crescenta.

When he approached the vehicle, he discovered it had Texas license plates that returned to a different car. When he ran the VIN, he learned the vehicle was stolen out of LAPD's jurisdiction.

During his investigation, Deputy Gonzalez detained two male adult suspects believed to be connected to the stolen vehicle. One of the suspects was on probation for drug charges and vehicle theft. A search of the suspect's vehicle revealed numerous narcotics, including suspected fentanyl. Ammunition and numerous items with personal identifying information were also found. Lastly, another stolen vehicle from LAPD's area was discovered nearby.

The two male suspects were arrested for numerous charges including identity theft, possession of controlled substance for sales and possession of ammunition. They were booked at the Crescenta Valley station.

Crescenta Valley Station reminds everyone to never leave keys unattended and always lock their car. These simple steps can help prevent the car from being stolen.

CRIME BLOTTER

Dec. 11

1300 block of Salisbury Road in La Cañada Flintridge, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle overnight.

Dec. 10

2000 block of Hilldale Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, several items were stolen from an unlocked vehicle between 2:07 a.m. and 2:19 a.m.

1900 block of Waltonia Drive in Montrose, a car owner heard his vehicle alarm activate. He looked outside to the front of his home where the vehicle was reported and saw a dark four-door vehicle parked next to his vehicle. He witnessed a suspect wearing dark clothing rummaging through his vehicle as a second suspect waited in dark four-door vehicle. He did not contact the sheriff's station at the time. The next morning he found all of his vehicle's doors were unlocked,

the interior of the car ransacked and his fishing equipment stolen.

The vehicle burglary occurred at 2 a.m.

Dec. 9

1900 block of Hilldale Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, items including a set of golf clubs were stolen and the interior was ransacked of an apparent unlocked vehicle. Surveillance footage revealed a black sedan parked next to the victim's vehicle with an unknown driver. The vehicle stopped after passing the victim's vehicle. An unknown suspect opened the driver's door of the victim's vehicle, entered and then exited at 2:15 a.m.

Ocean View Boulevard and Florencita Drive in Montrose, the rear passenger window of a vehicle was shattered; nothing was reported stolen between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Dec. 8

1600 block of Orange Tree Lane in La Cañada Flintridge, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle between 5 p.m. on Dec. 8 and 12:50 p.m. on Dec. 9.

Dec. 7

2100 block of Waltonia Drive in Montrose, surveillance footage revealed a female suspect parked her vehicle on the street in front of the location, exited her vehicle, walked to the front door of the victim's home and stole a package from the front porch. The suspect is described as a white or Hispanic female about 5'5" tall and weighing 130 pounds. At the time she was wearing black pants, a black sweater with Adidas logo printed on the front and white shoes.

The theft occurred at 4:35 p.m.



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GPD REPORTS

Traffic Stop Leads to Arrest of Male in Possession of Three Firearms

On Dec. 3 just before 3:30 p.m., an officer assigned to Glendale PD's Special Enforcement Detail (SED) was traveling near the intersection of Hawthorne Street and San Fernando Road when they noticed a vehicle traveling with expired registration.

The officer conducted a traffic enforcement stop and contacted the driver, 48-year-old Hamlet Avetisyan of Tujunga. As Avetisyan was exiting the

vehicle, he reached under the seat and officers observed a methamphetamine pipe. Assisting units arrived and Avetisyan was found to have a loaded firearm, six blank credit/debit cards with PINs written on the back, three gas cards with PINs written on the back and another individual's identification card on his person.

A vehicle search produced two firearms (one loaded), three packages of heroin, seven Oxycodon pills, 11

re-encoded blank credit/debit cards with PINs written on the back, and a notebook containing personal identifying information for several individuals.

Avetisyan was subsequently arrested and booked for carrying concealed weapons, possessing controlled substances while armed, identity theft, possessing narcotics and controlled substance paraphernalia and for an outstanding warrant.

CVTC from Cover

those 529 votes, only 480 were counted as they were for candidates who appeared on the ballot. Ballots with write-in candidates were not counted because there are no provisions for write-in candidates in the Council bylaws. The 480 votes counted are similar to the 478 votes counted in the 2019 election, the organization's last pre-pandemic election.

Elizabeth Ahlers was the

top vote-getter, garnering support from 27% of the voters. Dede Mueller and Frida Baghdassarian earned the remaining two "regular member" seats, earning 19% and 17% of the vote respectively. Baghdassarian just barely edged out Ted Yu, the current third alternate and only incumbent on the ballot, who will now serve as the first alternate after receiving 16.6% of the vote. The

remaining alternate seats will be filled by Teri Madsen, who will serve as the second alternate after receiving 12% of the vote, and Paul Barnes, who will serve as the third alternate after receiving 9% of the vote. Regular members serve a three-year term while alternate members serve a one-year term.

The disqualification of write-in ballots was contentious because of a campaign by outgoing Council First Alternate Johnny Brookbank, who was disqualified from appearing on the ballot after being censured earlier this year for violations of the Council's bylaws. Brookbank ran a write-in campaign that garnered 46 votes, or 8.7% of the total votes cast, which, depending upon the exact number of votes cast for Paul Barnes, may have been sufficient to defeat Barnes had Brookbank been deemed eligible. Others receiving write-in votes included Jesus Arbil (two votes) and Carin Hoffman (one vote).

The Town Council has canceled its December meeting in recognition of the holiday season and will seat the new members at its January meeting. Community members who are interested in participating in the CVTC's virtual meetings or committees are encouraged to contact the CVTC at contact@thecvcouncil.com.



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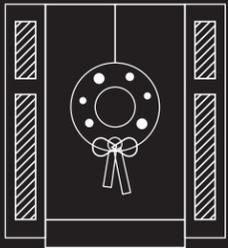
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Saturday
December 18, 2021
9 am - 5 pm
3528 A Ocean View Blvd. Montrose
 (Rear bldg. Enter off Broadview and down the alley.)
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Kari Carson

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7005 JORDAN, #101
Canoga Park | \$440,000
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Encino | \$540,000
Represented Buyer



102% OF LIST PRICE

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Encino | \$470,000
Represented Seller



128% OF LIST PRICE

3608 EL CAMINITO
La Crescenta | \$1,250,000
Represented Seller



128% OF LIST PRICE

3634 EL CAMINITO
La Crescenta | \$1,320,905
Represented Seller



3229 FRANCES AVE
La Crescenta | \$1,230,580
Represented Buyer



102% OF LIST PRICE

4804 LAUDERDALE
La Crescenta | \$1,278,000
Represented Seller



112% OF LIST PRICE

3703 LOS OLIVOS LN
La Crescenta | \$1,285,000
Represented Seller



125% OF LIST PRICE

4535 WILLALEE AVE
La Crescenta | \$1,006,000
Represented Seller



3145 MENLO DRIVE
Glendale | \$2,895,000
Represented Buyer



2036 MONTECITO
Glendale | \$1,550,000
Represented Buyer



115% OF LIST PRICE

3617 ROSELAWN
Glendale | \$1,261,000
Represented Seller



115% OF LIST PRICE

2417 MAYFIELD AVE
Montrose | \$800,000
Represented Seller



4911 HAMPTON RD
La Cañada | \$1,725,000
Represented Buyer



5404 ROCK CASTLE
La Cañada | \$1,400,000
Represented Buyer



5419 GODBEY DRIVE
La Cañada | \$5,000/Mo
Represented Landlord



117% OF LIST PRICE

605 DEL MONTE ST
Pasadena | \$1,111,800
Represented Seller



124% OF LIST PRICE

1484 FOREST AVE
Pasadena | \$1,116,461
Represented Seller



116% OF LIST PRICE

1921 HANFORD DR
Pasadena | \$867,000
Represented Seller



106% OF LIST PRICE

815 N ALTADENA
Pasadena | \$775,000
Represented Seller



122% OF LIST PRICE

11514 KELOWNA ST
Lakeview Terrace | \$610K
Represented Seller



11325 TERRA VISTA
Lakeview Terrace | \$765K
Represented Buyer



1970 EAST 53RD ST
Long Beach | \$602,000
Represented Buyer



765 W 26TH ST, #404
San Pedro | \$560,000
Represented Buyer



3520 WALNUT AVE
Manhattan Beach | \$2.5M
Represented Buyer



103% OF LIST PRICE

11202 BENTCREEK RD
Moorpark | \$1,025,000
Represented Seller



5892 HEATHERTON
Somis | \$1,400,000
Represented Buyer



120% OF LIST PRICE

8920 HAYVENHURT
North Hills | \$835,000
Represented Seller



10310 TOPEKA DR
Northridge | \$1,100,000
Represented Buyer



9528 HILLHAVEN PL
Tujunga | \$780,000
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23507 WHEATON CT
Valencia | \$887,000
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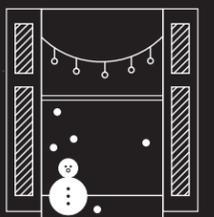
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GCC from Cover

is “an iterative process” and that the city plans to develop designs specific to neighborhoods and to continue to engage internal and stakeholder working groups. Some ways to address public safety concerns that have been raised include ensuring access for police motorcycles to respond to emergencies and limited bicycle patrols, allowing access to the area from dawn to dusk only, including call boxes, lighting and visibility from the nearby streets in the ultimate design.

The city says it plans to continue

outreach, adding to the nearly 500 survey responses it has received so far and to conduct more outreach in a variety of forms. (Take the survey at <https://www.verdugowash.com/>.)

Patrick Murphy called in, representing the Verdugo Wash Neighborhood Coalition, to raise concerns about the lack of communications and to urge the city to send direct mail to all of the property owners adjacent to the Wash.

“We are categorically opposed to this project in our areas and insist that all of our issues and concerns are

heard,” he said.

La Crescenta resident Paul Rabinov supports the visioning of the Verdugo Wash.

“I’m calling in support of the current stage of the Verdugo Wash visioning project. The concept starts from the fact that the Wash was designed to provide safety from flooding (and absolutely must continue to do so) and ingeniously creates space within the Wash for public use and enjoyment. In doing so, the Wash can be envisioned as a more than nine-mile linear open space with opportunities for parkland, active transportation, habitat restoration and community spaces. The ability to introduce landscape and natural elements to the current concrete area can literally create a nine-mile greenway that connects the entire city. This project will literally transform the city and unite its communities in a way no other project can.”

Representatives of the Whiting Woods and Sycamore Woods neighborhoods called to express their opposition.

Verna works in a bike shop in Burbank, she told the council, and noted how safe people who would not normally cycle feel riding on the Chandler Bike Path in Burbank.

“I’m a cyclist in Glendale and I feel like, when I ride somewhere, when I try to cut down on car rides, thinking of the environment and my community, I feel like I’m taking my life into my hands,” she said. “Looking at the Wash, this open space that connects everything, it’s exciting to think it could be a safe place for cyclists and pedestrians, without inconveniencing cars.”

“We’re not going to propose access points through anyone’s yard,” Calvert responded to some callers.

Councilmember Dan Brotman urged more outreach.

“It’s important to bring everyone along,” he said. “I don’t think ‘no’ is an answer.”

The council approved moving forward with further planning and

outreach.

At the beginning of the evening council meeting, Glendale Fire Dept. Chief Silvio Lanzas updated the council on the impacts of Tuesday’s estimated 3.26 inches of rain. Sand and sandbags were available at three locations and all nine of the city’s fire stations, Lanzas reported. The city activated its emergency monitoring protocols and responded to numerous calls during the day – more than usual – including vehicle accidents and a garage fire.

“We were lucky,” Mayor Paula Devine pronounced.

“I’d like to say we were prepared,” the chief replied.

Next, the council received a preliminary report on the 2020 census. A more detailed report will be available in spring 2022. Right now, the population of Glendale is 196,543, up 2.52% since the last census. Councilmembers questioned the number of housing vacancies listed as 3,300.

Then the council approved a professional services agreement for the Glendale-Los Angeles Garden River Bridge project, planned for completion in 2028, connecting Glendale’s reconfigured Riverwalk path with the LA’s River Bike path and the Ferraro soccer fields.

Expected to cost \$35.4 million, approximately \$22.4 million has been secured from state funds to construct a proposed 320-foot curvilinear bridge that would include box-girder structures, safety railings and safety lights, access gates and trash receptacles, along with a 350-foot curvilinear planter seating area, bike and pedestrian paths denoted by signs and striping.

“I hope I’m still able to get on a bicycle by the time it’s done,” Councilmember Brotman commented.

Late in the council’s last meeting of the year, two historic overlay zones were introduced for approval: South Cumberland Heights and Casa Verdugo. According to Jay Platt, the city’s historic preservation planner, Glendale has recognized

seven historic districts, starting with Cottage Grove followed by neighborhoods ringing the foothills of the Verdugo Mountains since beginning the recognition in 2007. A 10th historic district is organizing in the Bellehurst neighborhood. Councilmember Ara Najarian asked if there was a history of red-lining or deed restrictions used historically to exclude people in the zones under consideration.

“It’s kind of like putting up a statue of Robert E. Lee,” he commented.

Platt responded, “We’re not trying to hide our history, the covenants, the racism, but to acknowledge that history. On a historical level, a neighborhood’s history is not disqualifying from being considered historic.”

President of the Glendale Historical Society, Steve Hunt, called to recognize the multi-year effort.

“With the passage of SB 9, it’s more important than ever to preserve our historic neighborhoods,” he said.

Centered around the Casa Verdugo restaurant opened by Piedad Yorba Sowl in 1906, the Casa Verdugo neighborhood includes neo-classical homes and “a bunch of” Craftsman houses, perhaps Glendale’s greatest concentration of Craftsmen, as well as mid-1920s period revivals.

“The neighborhood really came together, with block parties and national nights out,” Platt told the council. “Seventy seven percent of the property owners signed the petition to establish the zone (the ordinance requires 50%).”

Councilmember Ardy Kassakhian added that the neighborhood is the home of the creator of the initial Zorro character, a precursor to Batman.

Finally, the council reviewed the accomplishments of the new sustainability commission and officer, David Jones, who updated the council on efforts to enhance the city’s overall environmental stewardship, one of the core priorities identified by the council.

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CHASE from Cover



Marjorie Chavez is excited to see what Santa has brought her.

dropping off personalized gift bags to a few dozen disabled members of Tierra del Sol. The Tierra del Sol Foundation is a day program in Sunland that provides creative pathways to employment, education and the arts for individuals with disabilities. Chase’s sister attended Tierra del Sol for decades before she died, and Chase’s son is presently on its board of directors.

Chase said each recipient was asked to write out a wish list then she and her “helpers” spent the weeks leading up to the delivery doing their best to fill the Santa bags with everything the members hoped to receive. The community provided donations as it has done each year and Chase said she was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support, finding many donated gifts for the event left on her front porch nearly every day.

“The generosity of our community is truly amazing,” Chase said. “I feel like people really want to help, and we’re just blessed to have neighbors with the biggest hearts. You know, this really is a forgotten group of people and it’s so neat that we have residents in our town who just really open their hearts up to them and want to do something special for them.”

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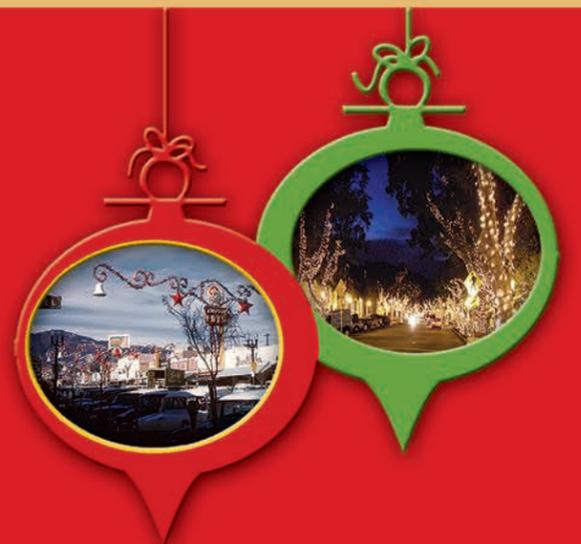
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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

The Lost Canyon Community of Aztec Park

For years now, I've received queries about abandoned cabins and foundations way up high in Haines Canyon, just over the border of Tujunga. I've even been sent photos of extensive foundation work half hidden by brush. Apparently, this was the tiny community of Aztec Park.

Some background: In the 1880s, when La Crescenta and Tujunga were first being settled, early residents staked out their homes close to what little water flowed into the valleys. In La Crescenta, Pickens and Briggs located themselves on the stream of Pickens Canyon while in Tujunga the small community of Glorietta Heights formed on the stream coming from Haines Canyon. Early settler Phil Begue claimed the water rights in the canyon and built a dam and reservoir that watered the orchards and vineyards below.

The Begue family and others built little cabins along the stream higher up in Haines Canyon. Later, in the 1920s, the Haines Canyon Water Company bought the water rights and developed an extensive water system for the growing community of Tujunga. As well, a gravel quarry was opened in the canyon and I've been told workers for that and the water company had cabins there. This cluster of cabins was apparently called Aztec Park.

All that remains today are clues. A 1933 topo map shows several roads in upper Haines Canyon. The map indicates 10 structures along these roads. A very old road sign in the Little Landers Historical Society's museum points the way to "Aztec Park - 2 miles." Even the modern online Google satellite view names a trail in the upper reaches of Haines Canyon "Azteca Spur."

I've collected snippets of memories from old-timers.

"Phil Begue and his father had a cabin or camp in Haines Canyon as did some of the other East Glorietta Heights early timers. That was in the late 1800s when these folks built their cabins up there."

"I think the dam keeper and water company people lived up there."

"At Aztec Park in Haines Canyon the foundations of some cottages were damaged as a result of the 13 inches of rain that fell in one seven-day period [in 1921]. The minimum damage sustained was due to the efficiency of the check dams that were installed in 1914."

"The only thing I heard from my parents was that the late '30s flood washed away cabins."

"...in the early 1960s there were remnants of the old Haines Canyon water company still there. Part way

up the canyon was an abandoned cabin with a very old rusty car parked next to it. The brush fire in 1975 destroyed all this."

I had heard that a group of mountain bikers had cleared some of the foundations so I hiked up to view the area. It's an easy couple of miles hike up Haines Canyon. At a certain point, the main trail leaves the canyon and heads up toward Mt. Lukens. But I kept to the trail to the left following the canyon and walked on an engineered mountain bike course, with banked curves and jumps. About 500 yards up from there one can see the cleared area, marked by much stonework, on the north side of the canyon. I actually followed the overgrown remains of an old asphalt road toward the cleared area.

The foundations are huge, consisting of seven or eight large oak-

shaded terraces. Tall stone retaining walls front each terrace and stone steps allow access to the level above. It looks much like a huge terraced yard where there may have been orchards at one time. Stone walls wind off into the underbrush, promising more mysterious stonework. Kudos to the mountain bikers who cleared this area of overgrowth. It must have been a huge job.

This is the perfect time of year to hike up there and I urge you to get out there and explore. There must be more foundations like this in the heavy overgrowth of this canyon. No doubt a future brush fire will reveal more. In the meantime, we are left guessing about the true size and history of the lost community of Aztec Park.

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

Moving Column

While I always enjoy Mike Lawler's "Treasures of the Valley," this past week's was particularly poignant. The dedication and sacrifice of POW McSwain and the post-return connection with an Oregon girl later in life, their friendship and her care, brought tears.

What an amazing story.

*Tom Lusby
La Crescenta*

Sharing Final Thoughts

It has been my pleasure serving our community for the past seven years as a

CVTC Council member and as chair of its Streets and Transportation Committee. Although the Council is a private organization, it serves as a public advisory role to the community and local government agencies.

During my time on Council, we achieved many capital improvements, such as installing bike lanes, landscaping medians, overseeing a bus stop survey, upgrading street and intersection crosswalks at local schools and fixing potholes that were long-standing common issues. We also worked to plan future projects to accommodate our

see LETTERS on page 19

NEWS FROM SACRAMENTO » ASSEMBLYMEMBER LAURA FRIEDMAN

My Report Back From COP26

Last month, I had the honor of joining leaders from around the world at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) to discuss our role in helping solve the greatest threat to civilization: global warming. As part of the California State Assembly's delegation, I had the opportunity to meet with national and subnational leaders from several nations, including Germany, France, Australia, China

and Armenia.

I had amazing conversations with activists from as near as Los Angeles to as far as the nation of Nigeria. The wealth of perspectives, knowledge and unique experiences has deeply enriched my understanding of the climate crisis both globally and locally. It's a huge topic with so many pieces that I could write a whole series

see FRIEDMAN on page 19

JOIN US...

Christmas Eve Services, December 24

In person and live streamed

4:00PM

All-Generation Worship
Children's Choir

5:00PM

Community Sing-along
with LCPC Bell Tower Carillon

7:30PM

Contemporary Worship
Candle Lighting & Praise Band

9:30PM

Pre-Worship Concert
Chancel Choir

10:00PM

Traditional Worship
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BETWEEN FRIENDS

Fun for Holiday Shoppers in the Montrose Shopping Park



A horse drawn trolley takes shoppers along Honolulu Avenue in the Montrose Shopping Park. In addition to the holiday trolley, shoppers are treated to live holiday music and a chance to meet Santa each weekend before Christmas.

Santa is on-site Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also on Saturday are hand-led pony

rides from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Sunday, Santa is on-site from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Montrose Harvest Market is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On Saturday and Sunday, the free horse drawn trolley rides along Honolulu Avenue are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Photo by Charly SHELTON

A Sign of Thanks



Recently, the Kiwanis Club of La Cañada/La Crescenta decided to treat 20 of the first responders in the ER Dept. at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital to a "Thank You to Our Heroes" meal for all of their help in saving lives within our community.

Submitted by John RYAN

Photo contributed by Elen Borja

YMCA of the Foothills Launches Free P.E. Program for Students

The YMCA of the Foothills is launching its free new P.L.A.Y. Program that will serve as an alternative space for students in grades kindergarten through six to exercise and develop physically. This physical education (PE)

program will take place Monday, Nov. 29 through Dec. 15 at the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA location.

Two sessions will be offered each week on Monday and Wednesday. Grades K-2 will have PE from 3 p.m.-3:45 p.m. and grades three through six will take the 4 p.m.-4:45 p.m. time slot.

YMCA P.L.A.Y. stands for Physical Learning Activities for Youth as an effort to prevent childhood obesity and diabetes. The program is structured in five

components – warm-up, flexibility, cardiovascular, muscular strength & endurance, skill development and cool-down; all designed to teach the importance of basic fitness, health concepts and character development.

Registration is now open. To register for the free, YMCA P.L.A.Y. program, individuals can visit ymcafoothills.org/play. For additional information or questions, contact Janette Ruiz, the interim leader of Youth Programs at jruiz@ymcafoothills.org.

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Boutiques Promise Holiday Cheer

Photo by Ruth SOWBY



Boutiques overflowing with holiday goodies pop up this time of year. They draw in customers with their one-of-a-kind hand goods. The Stone Cottage Holiday Boutique, located in the Crescenta Valley United Methodist Church, has been tempting holiday shoppers for 15 years. Running the show is boutique owner Dee Ovenden from La Crescenta.

High School Benefits from Non-profit Generosity



The Kiwanis Club of La Cañada recently donated \$500 to the LCHS Chamber Singers. Submitted by Alice PEREZ

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DISCOVERING CHRISTMAS



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TRAVEL & LEISURE

Holocaust Instruments Played in Emotional Performance



By Bethany BROWN

The Los Angeles Jewish Symphony played the Violins of Hope on Sunday, Dec. 12 at The Soraya in Northridge after the concert was postponed for nearly two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The private collection of string instruments remained in safekeeping as it awaited its return to the stage and includes more than 50 rescued and restored violins, violas and cellos that were played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. These instruments have survived concentration camps and many long journeys to tell remarkable stories of injustice, suffering, resilience and survival. By playing the instruments today, 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.

L.A.J.S founder and conductor

Dr. Noreen Green said the experience was incredibly moving.

“It was electric in the room; the energy was palpable between the orchestra and the audience,” Green said. “As a conductor I sort of feel like the conduit between the two and it was just electrifying – I don’t know how else to put it.”

Green emphasized that she felt the concert was perfectly set up in a way that it reflected the resilience of the Jewish community during what many consider was mankind’s darkest hour. The first half of the concert prior to intermission was serious and somber and told the heartbreaking stories of the Holocaust, while the second half following intermission was full of celebration. The orchestra returned to stage in sequined attire that included colorful scarves and played more uplifting and hopeful melodies.

“It was a complete celebration of the fact that we are still here, we survived and ultimately

we won,” Green said. “It was emotional on many levels, and I do think everybody felt it in the room. We were all there together experiencing the emotions – from tears to joy.”

Violinist Lindsay Deutsch echoed Green and said her experience playing an instrument of the collection was an emotional one. Deutsch was one of two featured soloists performing in the concert along with Barry Gold on cello. Former LACO conductor Jeffrey Kahane referred to Deutsch as “one of the most interesting, imaginative, and downright thrilling young violinists in America.”

“It really looked for a long time like it wasn’t going to happen,” Deutsch said. “I am so grateful that it finally did and that I was given the opportunity to tell this story – it really is a career highlight that I will never forget because it was so powerful. And I mean I knew that it would be powerful but there was something about

being there with 1,000 people and being on stage with so many of these instruments that just hit me really hard in the moment.”

Deutsch recalled feeling overwhelmed with emotion when performing John Williams’ “Schindler’s List Suite.”

“It’s just difficult emotionally to get through in a normal setting but in this setting especially – playing on a violin that was there, that literally saw the worst of humanity and survived it,” Deutsch said. “Again, it was almost difficult to get through for me as a performer.”

Deutsch began playing the violin at 5 years old and focused strictly on classical music throughout her childhood and adolescent years. During her studies at the Colburn School

after moving to Los Angeles, she realized she enjoyed branching out of the classical genre and crossing over to pop music. She later formed her genre-defying trio, TAKE3. The group brings the refinement of a rigorous classical music background and infuses it with rock-star charisma.

She said returning on stage to perform the classical music she grew up playing and was trained to play felt good.

“I felt like I was home again,” Deutsch said. “It was really such an important, impactful experience for me and I hope those who attended the concert took away what they needed to take away from the experience, too. It was an absolute privilege to tell these intimate stories of the Jewish experience with these beautiful instruments.”

Photos provided by LAJS

LEFT: Lindsay Deutsch and Maestra Green deliver a stirring rendition of John Williams’ theme from “Schindler’s List.”

RIGHT: The Klezmer band takes a bow following Sid Robinovich’s “Suite for Klezmer Band and Orchestra,” which garnered a standing ovation from the audience.

THEN & NOW



Then » The Italian Bonetto family came to the valley in 1905 and bought an existing stone cabin (probably built in the 1800s), complete with a cellar, just below the intersection of Montrose and La Crescenta avenues. They turned it into their wine cellar where they carried on the Italian tradition of wine-making. Here we see Josephine Bonetto, along with daughter-in-law Florence and son Tom, checking the fermentation of the barrels of wine.

Bonetto Wine Cellar Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Now » A few years ago, the cellar and the old stone cabin above it were demolished to make way for three new homes on the northwest corner of La Crescenta and Manhattan. The new houses are beautiful, done in Craftsman style. This one sits right where the wine cellar was. The builder used stone from the old cabin and cellar in the foundations of the new houses as a tribute to the history of the site. Another home just to the west was built by Tom and Florence Bonetto in the 1930s, and is now on Glendale’s Historic Register.

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Something New and Refreshing for the Holiday Season Can be Found in 'Christmastime Origins' at The Group Rep



Photo by Doug ENGALLA

From left Sheena Georges, Diane Vincent and Kayley Stallings.

The Group Rep is always looking for unusual plays to present at Christmas. Previously it has presented "Inspecting Carol," a new musical version of "A Christmas Carol," and this year is presenting "Christmastime Origins," four musical radio plays tracing the source inspiration of classic Christmas songs and the Dickens classic itself.

These tuneful radio plays are culled from the book, "The Eight Plays Of Christmas" by Julio Martinez. The Group Rep thought it would be fascinating to present these plays and dramatically (and musically) illustrate how classic Christmas songs came to be. Julio Martinez is a local theater journalist, musician, musical director and radio host from KPFK.

The Group Rep has converted its upstairs theater into a radio station (KGRT) with a live studio audience. So ticket-buyers get to

witness an on-air radio program with actors performing several roles and also doing the sound effects with live "Foley." The evening features all kinds of holiday songs and the general takeaway is that the program is charming, funny, touching and informative.

The genesis of holiday favorites, like "Jingle Bells," "White Christmas" and "Silent Night," is dramatically recreated. Additionally, Julio introduces ticketholders to Charles Dickens as a young orphan and later as a young father. The audience will see and understand the things and people that shaped "A Christmas Carol" and enjoy a re-enactment of the final scene.

There is a multi-talented cast of 10 mostly residents of the San Fernando Valley, which includes: Michael Gabiano, Sheena Georges, Kelley Goode, Doug Haverty, Matthew Hoffman, James Lemire, Kayley

Stallings, Mark Stancato, Cathy Diane Tomlin, Diane Vincent and Leslie Young.

Musical direction is by Paul Cady and Hisato Masuyama. The sound Foley was designed by award-winning film Foley specialist Dan O'Connell. The play is produced by Stevie Stern and directed by Pasadena resident Kathleen Delaney.

"Christmastime Origins" plays on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. through Jan. 2. The running time is approximately 95 minutes (with intermission).

The Group Rep is located at 10900 Burbank Blvd. in North Hollywood. Proof of vaccination is required upon entry to the theater. Masks must be worn at all times while inside the theater complex. Tickets may be purchased at www.theGROUPrep.com and questions and information is available by phone at (818) 763-5990.

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JUST FOR FUN

CALENDAR this

CRAFTERS OF SUNLAND-TUJUNGA BOUTIQUE

The Crafters of Sunland-Tujunga are holding a craft fair and boutique on Saturday, Dec. 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lutheran Church in the Foothills. Masks are required.

Free to attend! Plenty of crafts and food for sale – the fun is free!

Lutheran Church in the Foothills is located at 1700 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT LANTERMAN

The Lanterman Historical Museum Foundation will celebrate the holiday season by hosting a holiday open house on Sunday, Dec. 19 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The free event will include peeks into the landmark Lanterman House and outside activities including light refreshments, a craft table, caroling by the La Cañada High School Choral Singers, and a display of gingerbread houses for the third annual Gingerbread House Contest. Visitors can also take a photo with Santa Claus, who will be outside on the courtyard patio between 2

p.m. and 3 p.m.

New this year will be a holiday boutique featuring the work of artists from the Verdugo Hills Art Association and local ceramic artists. At least nine vendors will offer paintings, cards, ornaments and other items for sale.

Visitors are respectfully requested to wear masks while on the Lanterman House property.

The holiday open house will be held at the Lanterman House, located at 4420 Encinas Drive, La Cañada Flintridge. For more information, visit www.lantermanhouse.org.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TEA AND JAPAN CULTURE DAY

On Sunday, Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Shoseian Tea House in Glendale is having its Annual Holiday Tea and Japan Culture Day event.

This year there will be three tea ceremonies featured and a demonstration of a very old style of Japanese martial arts – the Katori Shinto Ryu – and a selection of Japanese music.

RSVP to glendaleteahouse.org by Dec 15 to attend any of the three tea ceremonies. Click on "Events" tab at top right of the website. Then, in the Dec. 19 section of 2021 Calendar of Events, "Click here for Reservations."

Guests should be sure to select, in the dropdown box, what time they would like to attend, and select how many seats are needed.

Space is limited for the tea ceremonies. Donation for attending one of the tea ceremonies is \$20 per person. These funds are earmarked by the Friends of Shoseian for necessary maintenance to the tea house.

PROGRAMS FOR CANCER SURVIVORS AND BEREAVED

An online program for cancer survivors will be given at the Cancer Support Community-Pasadena on Monday, Dec. 20 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The program is free of charge.

Also on Dec. 20 from 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. a virtual bereavement group will meet for those coping with the death of a loved one

within the past 12 months. This program is also free of charge.

Cancer Support Community-Pasadena, 76 E. California Blvd., Suite 215, Pasadena; (626) 796-1083; www.cscpasadena.org

VHHS PLANS REUNION

"Team 74" is planning a 50th high school reunion in 2024. Friends and graduates of Verdugo Hills High School are invited to attend to trade stories of family, careers, adventures and anything else.

Currently Team 74 is in the planning phase of collecting names and numbers of classmates and putting together a database; emails from classmates can be received at clsof74reunion@yahoo.com. Information should include a mailing address, cell number and graduate's name at graduation (if different than now).

A list of frequently asked questions will be provided to keep everyone updated as the reunion plans move forward. Those who belong to various VHHS groups will see redundant information to ensure all classmates are notified and have an opportunity to attend.

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

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Edited by Timothy Parker

WWW.CVWEEKLY.COM

ACROSS

- 1) Formal agreement
- 5) Tip, as a hat
- 9) Fails to mention
- 14) Aptly named fruit
- 15) Degree candidate's exam
- 16) Portion of a broadcast
- 17) Place to shout one's love
- 20) High temperature
- 21) Tool in a bucket
- 22) ___-ran (loser)
- 23) In a spine-tingling way
- 26) Financial burden
- 28) Barcelona's country
- 30) Alligatorlike reptile
- 34) List ending, often
- 37) Bit of burlesque
- 39) Cuddly looking Australian
- 40) Completely
- 44) It's here before tomorrow
- 45) High-school class, briefly
- 46) Bad ___ (German spa)
- 47) Follows prey stealthily
- 49) Best man's offering
- 52) First word of a letter
- 54) Cummerbund features
- 57) Cathedral section
- 60) Young beaver
- 62) "It's ___ time!"
- 64) Whence Lincoln's Gettysburg Address
- 68) Cowpoke event
- 69) Work on movie clips
- 70) Cruel person
- 71) Abstract style of the '60s
- 72) New kind of IRA
- 73) Pillow covering

DOWN

- 1) Word with "cream" or "powder"
- 2) Correspond, grammatically
- 3) ___ hitch
- 4) Stopwatches, e.g.
- 5) Word from Homer Simpson
- 6) Mine material
- 7) Agricultural business
- 8) Kind of insurance
- 9) Awkward, stupid person
- 10) Chromosomal alteration
- 11) Heathen's figurine
- 12) Advice
- 13) Ho-hum
- 18) Dancer's woe
- 19) Oil cartel
- 24) Eye topper
- 25) "Whoops!"
- 27) Capital on the Caspian
- 29) "'Twas the ___ before Christmas ..."
- 31) Fabricated
- 32) Former student, briefly
- 33) Baby's quiet times
- 34) Amphibians
- 35) Walk beater
- 36) Concluding musical section
- 38) Outpost group
- 41) Seasickness
- 42) Little child
- 43) Black or fire gem
- 48) Alias for H. H. Munro
- 50) Clothing closure
- 51) Forbidden things
- 53) Stage platform
- 55) "Live with it"
- 56) Hindu aphorism
- 57) Round hairdo
- 58) Item in an actor's hand
- 59) Mixologist's mixer
- 61) Busy person's list heading
- 63) The bad guys
- 65) On a roll
- 66) Punster, for one
- 67) Infinite ordinal number

WHENCE ONE CAME

By Roger D. Ellis

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PET OF THE WEEK

CV Weekly loves to hear about your pets! Send a pic and small caption to steve@cvweekly.com to share your lovable pets with the community!

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PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

He canceled his dishwasher order, but Sears kept his money

When Joshua Rome cancels his dishwasher order from Sears, he hopes for a full refund. But the company wants to issue a partial credit. Can it do that?

Q I need your help. I ordered a dishwasher from Sears recently but it failed twice to deliver the appliance. I decided to cancel my order and ask for a full refund. I paid for the dishwasher with a combination of \$467 from my credit card and \$500 from a gift card.

After many calls, I received a \$467 credit to my credit card. But Sears would only return the \$500 from the gift card back to the gift card.

Sears says it can only return funds to the original form of payment. I explained that my daughter had purchased the card so that I could buy a new dishwasher. Now that I canceled the order, I believe she should get her money back, too. Sears has offered a 10% discount on a new dishwasher but I just want my daughter to get a refund of her gift card.

It's been three months since my request. Sears has been silent. Can you get my daughter's money back?

Joshua Rome, Wells, Vermont

A: Sears is right – and wrong. Right in the sense that it can keep your

daughter's money. Regardless of her reason for buying a gift card, Sears is clear about the terms of her purchase: "Prescription drugs and gift cards cannot be returned" it states on the Sears site.

Sears is equally clear about how it handles refunds: They'll "be issued in the same form as the original method of payment."

In other words, Sears can return your daughter's money to the gift card under its terms and conditions.

But Sears was also wrong in that it gave you such a runaround with your dishwasher. It seems Sears realized that it had failed spectacularly on that, which is why it offered you a discount on a future dishwasher purchase. That's a nice gesture but I can also understand why you'd rather buy a dishwasher somewhere else.

You can avoid this type of situation by carefully researching the business before making a purchase. Often you can find out if a company is reliable with its deliveries (and also whether its products usually work). We've had a case or two with Sears that might have given you pause.

Also your daughter might

have just written you a check or given you a preloaded Visa card. Companies benefit from gift cards because they're restrictive – you can only use them on purchases within the company – and they're nonrefundable.

Even though your daughter wasn't entitled to a refund of her gift card, I thought there were extenuating circumstances. Your daughter had purchased the \$500 gift card so you could buy a Sears dishwasher. I think an appeal to one of the executive contacts at Sears might have yielded a better result. I list the names, numbers and email addresses of the Sears managers on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org.

I contacted the company on your behalf. Sears reviewed your case and offered to either send you an upgraded dishwasher at no extra charge or to refund your daughter's \$500 to her credit card, as you requested.

Christopher Elliott is the chief advocacy officer for Elliott Advocacy. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help with any consumer problem by contacting him at <http://www.elliott.org/help>

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» ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com December 13, 2021 - December 19, 2021

♈ ARIES March 21 - April 19

This is a great time to encourage your partner to train with you or embark on a new health routine together. If you do it now, you'll be more likely to continue even when the going gets tough (and there's always a time when the going gets tough). This is also a good time to hire a personal trainer if you need one. Your efforts will be rewarded.

♉ TAURUS April 20 - May 20

This period could see the beginning of wonderful things. This is your opportunity to make a fresh start as far as your health is concerned. It's one of the best times of the year for doing so. If you start to exercise regularly, watch what you eat, and take action on all your health goals now, you'll see improvement very shortly and strengthen your determination to continue.

♊ GEMINI May 21 - June 20

You should feel your vitality at a peak now. You can celebrate healing on a number of levels. You have an increased trust in your body and its ability to heal and regulate itself perfectly when given the right opportunity and nutrition. This will help you forget your fears and banish discouragement. There is no need to worry.

♋ CANCER June 21 - July 22

The cosmos provides you with a wonderful opportunity to make your home a much healthier place in which to live. You might want to change the décor to colors that are more soothing or energizing to you. Arrange the kitchen so it meets your healthy eating requirements. This is also an excellent time to set up a home exercise area if you like. Don't wait. Do it now!

♌ LEO July 23 - August 22

It helps to take echinacea, vitamin C, and zinc to boost your immune system. You could be more prone to catching a minor infection at this time, and that could interfere with your work schedule. To avoid this problem, eat well and take your supplements daily. Exercise is another great way to eliminate toxins, strengthen your system, and ward off illness.

♍ VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

Aspects in your personal financial zone make this a great time to budget for better health. If you haven't been exercising but you feel the need to do so, this is your chance to research various options for a gym membership or sports group to join. Find the best deal and go for it. Or you could buy some equipment for your home and exercise whenever the mood strikes you.

♎ LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

It looks like you can afford to splurge more on your health. This is the time to prioritize your goals and set a fitness budget. You might want to join a gym, buy new exercise gear, or get involved in a sports club. The possibilities are endless. If you need treatment for an ongoing condition, this is the best time to get it. Give yourself the opportunity to thrive.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

If your fitness level isn't as good as you'd like, there are a few tips you can use to maintain your fabulous looks. Regularly drink plenty of water. This clears out toxins and leaves your skin looking soft and glowing. Plenty of exercise is another way to make sure you look fantastic. And don't forget passion. Make time for love as well as good health!

♐ SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You may be someone who suffers from headaches or accidents to the head and face. Right now it seems like the only pains you get are due to hangovers! The cosmos indicates that you may be socializing a lot in the coming days. If you want to avoid feeling awful the next morning, drink plenty of water every day. Try to avoid too much coffee and alcohol.

♑ CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

This is a good time to join a health club or informal sports teams and get support from others. Doing so means that you'll be more inspired to stay on track. You could also get help with health issues by joining an online group. There are many answers for any problem you might have. Getting the help you need has never been easier!

♒ AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

This is a great time to take a break. Make sure to get out in the fresh air and spend plenty of time in nature. If a beach holiday isn't possible and you need something more adventurous, think about hiking in the mountains or camping in the woods. This puts you in touch with the earth. You'll feel much better as a result.

♓ PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20

Right now is a good time to expend energy and step up your workout efforts. The aspects are conducive to working up a sweat and clearing out toxins, giving the body a chance to purify itself. This might be a good time to enjoy a sauna or steam room. If nothing else, have a long soak in the tub.

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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!

HERE IS THE LIST OF HOUSES/BUSINESSES PARTICIPATING IN THE MERRY & BRIGHT TOUR!

Number	House #	Street	Area	Zip	Business or Special Note
1	1930	Foothill	La Canada	91011	YMCA Tree Lot Cabin
2	2229	Crescent	Montrose	91020	
3	2200-2400	Honolulu	Montrose	91020	Montrose Shopping Park
4	3432	Buena Vista	Sparr Heights	91208	
5	3532	Rosemary	Sparr Heights	91208	
6	3601	Angelus	Sparr Heights	91208	
7	1200-1400	Oak Circle	Sparr Heights	91208	
8	2751	Timberlake	La Crescenta	91214	
9	2809	Foothill	La Crescenta	91214	La Crescenta Library
10	2812	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
11	2848	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
12	3032	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
13	3036	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
14	3109	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
15	3113	Pontiac	La Crescenta	91214	
16	3006	Altura	La Crescenta	91214	
17	3021	Altura	La Crescenta	91214	
18	3037	Altura	La Crescenta	91214	
19	4012	New York	La Crescenta	91214	
20	4116	New York	La Crescenta	91214	
21	4422	New York	La Crescenta	91214	
22	3420	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
23	3433	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
24	3437	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
25	3440	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
26	3452	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
27	3500	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
28	3504	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
29	3510	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
30	3514	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
31	3520	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
32	3540	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
33	3550	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
34	6420	Creemore	Tujunga	91042	
35	7006	Day	Tujunga	91042	



The Oak Circle Wishing Tunnel (a 25-year tradition) at 1410 Oak Circle welcomes all to stop on by nightly to walk through, make a wish, and even drop off a letter to Santa in the mailbox! All letters that are received by December 19th that include a return address will be answered!

JUDGING CATEGORIES

1. Christmas Story Award

(traditional or nostalgic use of lights and decorations - Leg Lamp use gets extra points)

2. Clark Griswold Award

(excessive use of lights and decoration - more is ALWAYS better, can we see it from space?)

3. Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree Award

(best use of music and technology)

4. Santa's Coming to Town Award

(best use of Santa or Santa's in decor)

5. Most Original Award

(not your usual everyday holiday decor)

6. Best In Show Award

(ya blew the judges minds)

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FRIEDMAN from page 10

about what I learned at this year's convention. However, today I want to report back to you on the broad points about this year's convention, why California's participation is important and what this all means for us here in the 43rd district.

So, what is the COP? As with many official meetings of the United Nations, there are a lot of unwieldy acronyms that can get confusing. In brief, the Convention on Climate Change is a massive international agreement between many of the world's nations. For nearly three decades, these meetings have been taking place so that world leaders can negotiate the terms and plans of action for addressing the climate crisis. These meetings are called the "Conference of Parties," which is where we get the acronym "COP." This year we had the 26th of these nearly annual meetings.

The conversations that take place at these conventions set the stage for global climate and sustainability policies. They're critical to our success at keeping global warming below our targets and staving off the most severe impacts of climate change. However, as with all discussions between nations, they can be slow and, unfortunately, inconclusive. Which is why subnational governments, such as California, have realized that we cannot rely on nations to meet our climate goals. Cities, states, provinces and even non-governmental organizations attend COP meetings and play a huge role in the fight against global warming. This is the reason why climate focused nonprofits sponsored the California Legislature's

LETTERS from page 10

community's growth and quality of life. Examples of these projects include expanding the Class II bike lanes throughout the community, installing electric charging stations at public/private facilities, guiding the sound walls project along the 210 Freeway corridor as it enters the design phase, overseeing the Foothill Boulevard Complete Streets Planning Study, resurfacing La Crescenta-Montrose pavements, implementing pedestrian improvements and water capture dry wells, as well as a updating the Safe Routes to School plan.

As with any governing process, there can be inherent problems stemming from its members' conduct. It's been my experience that councilmembers lack transparency, communication and active listening. The bylaws are not adhered to consistently and public documents and emails are not shared timely with either its members nor with the community for review and action. To correct an erroneous statement made by a Councilmember, the Council is not "the gatekeeper" nor does it "control the facts."

The Council process needs improvements in the protocol for the incoming and existing council members to adequately represent residents' requests and needs. The governing bylaws should include term limits for executive officer positions and councilmembers to allow new leadership and growth.

In conclusion, I hope the work established will continue and the future projects/needs from the community are respected and professionally and transparently addressed.

Desiree P. Rabinov
La Crescenta

trip to Scotland to participate in the COP (taxpayer funds were not used). I was honored to have been selected to participate by these sponsors.

This year, our delegation met with national and subnational leaders, policy experts, advocates and entrepreneurs on a wide array of issues critical to improving our sustainability here in California and across the globe. We met with members of the Governor Brown-founded Under2Coalition, including representatives from the German state of Baden-Württemberg.

At this meeting we discussed building on our policies to keep global warming under 2 degrees Celsius, how climate action is impacting German politics, technological developments such as green hydrogen, and our shared vision of addressing climate change through transportation policy. We met with representatives from the Scottish Energy Division and Marine Scotland on the benefits and pitfalls of offshore wind generation

and policies; with a delegation from Paris to exchange ideas about preparing for extreme heat events; with Australia on addressing the impact of increasingly severe wildfires; and with nations such as Armenia that are looking to further partner with California on sharing resources, policy ideas and technology to fight off drought and wildfires.

California is a large and important voice in these global-scale talks. We're the fifth largest economy in the world and we're an international technology leader; we have the ability to impact global markets. We're also viscerally impacted by even the slightest increase in global temperatures.

As a result of climate change, 7 million acres have burned in the last two years and we're experiencing another drought that's requiring us to provide emergency water to rural communities. Increasingly common and severe heat waves are impacting the health – and even taking the

lives – of Californians, especially our most vulnerable residents. We came to COP26 to do our job and represent the people of our state. We came to forge alliances with other subnational governments, to do our part to ensure global cooperation and to share our commitment to fighting climate change.

I'll be frank – results from UN negotiations are not coming as fast as we need them. This has furthered the role for subnationals. With parties like California stepping up, we're seeing the needle start to move. As of this year, the Under2Coalition we founded now represents 1.5 billion people and 50% of the world's economy, all led by members of other subnational governments like our own. So, although national leadership is hugely important, subnational work is equally crucial as are actions taken by cities, organizations and even individuals such as those of us in the 43rd District.

I learned so much at this year's

COP, and I'm ready to return to Sacramento with a refreshed perspective and new insights into the scale and complexity of climate change. I know this issue can feel hopeless, as if our voices and actions are too small to impact a problem of such enormous scale. My takeaway from this year's COP is that this couldn't be further from the truth. We can all make meaningful changes, in our own ways. And the greatest antidote to hopelessness is action.

As always, please reach out to me for ways to get involved in the fight against climate change or any questions you may have. You can reach my District Office at (818) 558-3043, or by email at Assemblymember.Friedman@Assembly.ca.gov. To learn more about my experience this year, you can watch a recording of a virtual town hall I held via my website: https://a43.asmdc.org/.

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Congratulations to this year's awardees of the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce 2021 Recognition Banquet!

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