

CRESCENTA VALLEY WEEKLY

THE FOOTHILLS' COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

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Glendale Water Rates May Increase

By Julie BUTCHER

On Tuesday night, the Glendale City Council adopted a long-term plan to maintain and upgrade the city's aging water infrastructure and set the stage for the implementation of water rate increases of 53% on average, starting on Jan. 1, 2027 to pay for the water plan.

"In our memories, in our lifetimes, we have never done anything like this, dug so deep to see the hole we're in, in terms of our dated infrastructure," said Councilmember Dan Brotman. Glendale Water and Power (GWP)'s assistant general manager of water Chisom Obegolu, P.E., presented the detailed plan and cost analysis, commonly called "the COSA," including a video focused on the value and reliability of Glendale water and the long-term investment that will be necessary to keep it flowing.

Glendale's 35 square miles hosts a daytime population of more than 200,000, thirty-one pumping stations, 30 tanks and reservoirs, 15 wells and two water treatment plants servicing 407 miles of pipeline delivering water to 36,000 customer meters. Approximately 62% of Glendale's water is imported from the Colorado River, 240 miles to the east, along with 40 million other water users in seven states; and from California's state water system, joining 27 million other Californians, starting 700 miles to the north.

Thirty-three percent of Glendale's water is ground water and less than 5% is recycled.

Imported water supplies are significantly challenged by changing conditions: Lake Mead and Lake Powell are approaching water levels so low as to be nearing "dead pool" status where water can no longer flow downstream by gravity.

The last time Glendale conducted a comprehensive water rate study was in June 2018. Water rates have increased 7.5%

see GCC on page 7

Celebrating 17 Years

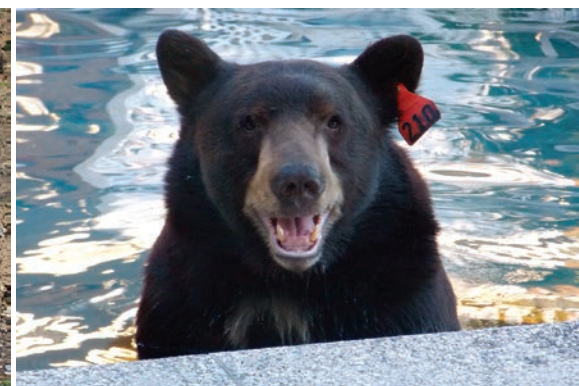
By Mary O'KEEFE

For 17 years the local newspaper has been a part of the community.

On Sept. 4, Crescanta Valley Weekly will celebrate its 17th anniversary. On some days it seems like time has flown; on other days it seems as if we have always been at this paper.

The paper was started by Robin Goldsworthy after she was told the Crescanta Valley Sun, where she was a city editor, would go dark. Up until then the CV Sun was the local paper in the area. Glendale NewsPress covered Glendale; both were under the management of LA Times/LA Times Community News. Although there had been rumors of the closure of the CV Sun it was still an emotional event when the announcement was made. CV Sun had created a dedicated reader base and the need for local stories was evident.

"I felt that the CV community needed a community newspaper and I felt that I was the most likely candidate to produce it," Goldsworthy said. "I had lived



TOP LEFT: Following the fire of 2009 and the flood of February 2010, two hikers checked out Deukmejian Wilderness Park. TOP RIGHT: The Crescanta Valley had its own bear - Meatball. BOTTOM LEFT: The Station Fire burned through local hillsides leaving a smoldering mess. BOTTOM RIGHT: The Station Fire burned local land. File photo

up here, at that point, for about 30 years and, as the previous city editor of CV Sun, felt I had my finger on the pulse of the community."

It was not an easy decision to start a newspaper - either financially or emotionally. With one son already grown, she still had a son in high school, one on

his way to college and one in the workforce. Goldsworthy found out right away how all encompassing the paper would be when she was not able to travel with her husband to set up her son at college because the paper's first issue was being worked on.

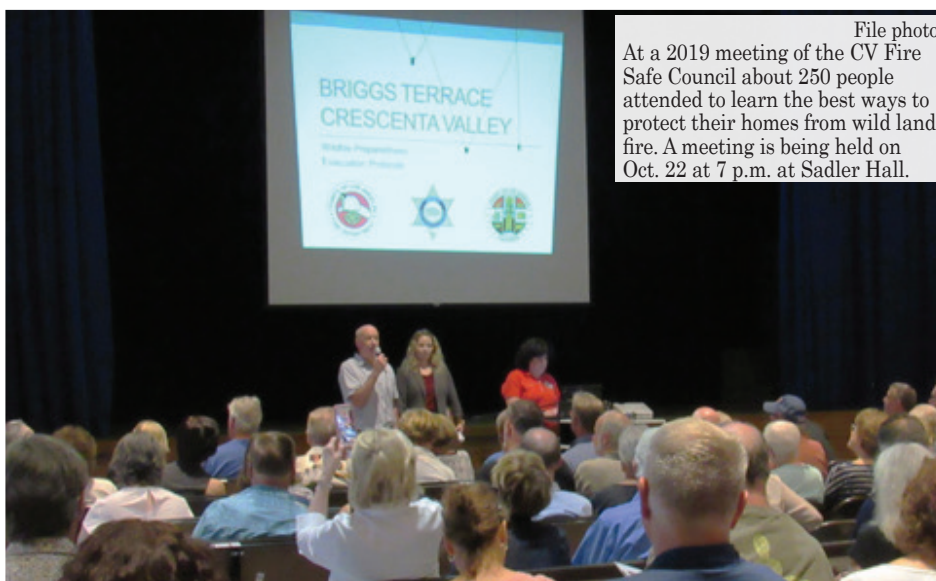
Sept. 4, 2009 was the only time the paper was published on a

Friday. That was due to the Station Fire; so many streets were closed off so it would be difficult for drivers to deliver the papers. In fact, there wasn't even a CV Weekly office; the first issue was produced from the kitchen table of one of the writers.

see 17 YEARS on page 7

New Board Welcomed By Fire Safe Council

By Mary O'KEEFE



File photo At a 2019 meeting of the CV Fire Safe Council about 250 people attended to learn the best ways to protect their homes from wild land fire. A meeting is being held on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at Sadler Hall.

The Crescanta Valley Fire Safe Council (CVFSC) has voted in a new board and new officers.

The CVFSC, a non-profit organization, was created in 2009 soon after the Station Fire. The purpose of the Council is to highlight fire concerns of residents in the foothills community.

Initially, the focus of the CVFSC was on the Briggs Terrace area, a neighborhood that only has one way in and one way out. The streets are narrow and due to unreliable cellphone service this area was of great concern during the 2009 Station Fire ... and continues to be an issue.

The CVFSC has worked on proactive programs to inform and protect Briggs Terrace residents. It has also worked on the same proactive programs to help other area neighborhoods.

see FIRE SAFE on page 19



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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

Happy Anniversary ... to the CV Weekly!

At the Kiwanis Club of Glendale (of which I'm a proud member) to acknowledge anniversaries of fellow club members every month we sing a snippet of the "Happy Anniversary" song from The Flintstones cartoon. (As an aside, we probably sing only a snippet because we don't sound that good!)

Well, this month – in fact, today – CV Weekly celebrates being around for (gulp) 17 years.

Hard to believe but it was 17 years ago that the newspaper I used to work for (the Crescenta Valley Sun) was shuttered and I was left without a job – and our community was left without a newspaper! To me, that was unacceptable.

So I went home and (as I'm sure many of you have heard before) I told Steve, "We need to start a newspaper." He replied that we had enough money for a new kitchen or a newspaper – which was it going to be? (I still have the ugliest kitchen in La Crescenta!)

One of the most important decisions I had to make was what was going to be on our first cover.

Then the Station Fire happened.

The Station Fire was the largest wildfire of the 2009 California wildfire season, which is why we're so sensitive about fire danger up here in the foothills. I've been told that had

we had wind, like Altadena did during the Eaton Fire, we could've been wiped out.

But I digress.

During the Station Fire my husband worked as a volunteer with the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station. He ended up taking the cover photo – a firefighter holding his helmet while a homeowner's gazebo burned around him. It was a compelling photo that perfectly illustrated the enormity of the Station Fire.

I believe no one covers the Crescenta Valley and the surrounding areas better than the CV Weekly. It tickles me to hear that the paper is "everywhere" and that reporter Mary O'Keefe can be found everywhere.

It is true – Mary loves to tell a story – the messier the better! I consider myself very blessed to have her by my side.

Charly Shelton, like Mary, has been with CV Weekly since the beginning. He writes a lot of leisure and also covers news.

My office manager Rachelle is known by many. Rachelle is the CV Weekly's first line of defense, answering the phone (and most questions) as they come in.

see ROBIN on page 7

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 WATCH

Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O'KEEFE

I start this column with sharing CVW's thoughts and prayers for all of those affected by the catastrophic flooding in Nepal and the Grand Canyon, which occurred days apart.

By now most of us have seen video of a sudden dark wall of water raging behind buildings at Gyirong on the Chinese side of the border of Nepal-Tibet on Aug. 23, according to reporting from BBC.

The wall of water just swept away large buildings and everything else in its path.

According to reports, scientists are still working on exactly what caused this disaster but according to a timeline by CNN, at around 8:37 a.m., local time, the earth started shaking along the Nepal/China border. U.S. Geological Survey first reported it as an earthquake, then later stated the shaking was caused by a powerful glacier collapse and debris flow – equivalent to a 5.2 magnitude earthquake.

According to nature.com, satellite images showed warning signs prior to the great flooding in Nepal.

"Images revealed the accelerated movement of a glacier-rock mass just days before it collapsed, triggering a deadly flash flood," according to nature.com. "Manoochehr Shirzaei, a geophysicist at Virginia Tech in Blackburg, says that satellite images from just days before the disaster suggest that a section of the glacier and the rocks it sat on top of were accelerating in the weeks before the collapse, a concerning sign of an unstable system. The precise sequence of events remains unclear. The disaster might have begun with a massive rockslide that dragged part of the glacier downhill, or the glacier might have failed first causing rocks to destabilize into a landslide."

But this type of catastrophe is difficult to

predict without new systems dedicated to forecast glacier and rock collapses.

As of press time, there are over 1,000 people confirmed dead and about 4,000 still missing. Rescue and recovery efforts continue but it is very difficult.

Then on Saturday a massive flash flood raced along Grand Canyon National Park at Bright Angel Creek. Bright Angel Creek flows into the Colorado River on the north side of the inner gorge, near Phantom Ranch and Bright Angel Campground. According to NBC news, the park service had warned there was an elevated risk of flooding due to a devastating 2025 wildfire.

The flash flood began with torrential rains in the area, which prompted the flash flood.

According to the National Parks Service, the bodies of two hikers have been recovered who were caught in the flash flood. A third hiker is still missing.

According to reports 80 people were rescued.

The power of Mother Nature is something those who know CV history are well aware of – from fire to flood, we have seen it all. Even though it has been nearly 93 years since the great Crescenta Valley flood the memories are still very much alive.

For us now, all eyes are on the sea as Marie, just off the coast of Baja, is expected to be upgraded to a hurricane by the end of yesterday, after press time. A tropical storm is upgraded to a hurricane when it reaches sustained wind speeds of 74 miles per hour.

Marie was the storm that was forming behind hurricane Karina. A watchful weather eye is on hurricanes Karina and Lowell. Neither will come toward Southern California, however Marie has a potential to affect our Southern California beaches even if she does not make landfall.

see WEATHER on page 7

INSIDE	NEWS.....	3	JUST FOR FUN	15
	VIEWPOINTS.....	8	RELIGION.....	17
	BETWEEN FRIENDS	9	BUSINESS.....	18
	LEISURE.....	12	CLASSIFIEDS	19



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The updated kitchen features quartzite countertops, a Jenn Air range, and Bosch dishwasher, with easy access to outdoor spaces for al fresco dining. The spacious bedroom offers two generous closets, peaceful treetop views, and an updated bath. In-unit Miele laundry adds everyday convenience.

Nearly every room enjoys serene garden views. The well-maintained complex was also newly reroofed in 2026, providing added value and peace of mind. **\$599,000**



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Don't Miss Next Week's Q&A – Phyllis discusses "Who Pays the Buyer's Agent Commission When the Seller Pays Less"

NEWS

Fundraiser to Benefit 7 Seas Collective

By Mary O'KEEFE

Folks are encouraged to clean out their closets and garages on Sept. 10 to support 7 Seas Collective, a non-profit organization.

The goal of 7 Seas is to inspire a global community of citizen scientists through education to connect toward a better understanding of the changing coastal ecosystems.

The non-profit was founded by Crescenta Valley High School, and Prom Plus, alumna Jessie Shelton. She and her team – vice president Catherine Campbell and Development director Michael Berns – host several events throughout the year when individuals can help conduct a beach survey, collecting data on the changes in the sand, from wracks [the collection of seaweed, seagrass and driftwood found on the beach] to critters, like crabs. The data is sent onto a citizen scientific collection program.

In addition, the organization holds STEAM Social Hours when it gathers together specialists in a variety of science fields.

“This gives you the chance to learn from multiple science experts and go with your own flow of conversation,” according to 7 Seas.

The focus of 7 Seas is to educate the public on how the ocean is changing and the role it plays in everyone’s life, Shelton said.

Shelton grew up in Crescenta Valley but spent all of her free time at the beach. She knows how actions in her hometown



affects the ocean. She is working on developing a conference that is titled “From the Mountains to the Sea.” She will gather other organizations to share how what goes into local storm drains often finds its way to the beach and the ocean. It is a way to show how connected we all are to the ocean, including how it affects the weather.

“We want to show how the ocean

and the land are interconnective,” she said.

Shelton and Campbell have attended many outreach venues and have spoken at a variety of events, including at the Aquarium of the Pacific.

Since she was in grade school Shelton has been involved in non-profits in Crescenta Valley including Prom Plus.

“I learned through Prom



Photos provided by 7 Seas Collective
LEFT: Catherine Campbell, left, and Jessie Shelton are having a fundraiser to benefit 7 Seas Collective.

TOP: A beach survey includes the collection of critters, like crabs.
ABOVE: Working with youngsters who are part of the community of citizen scientists, Jessie Shelton demonstrates that anyone of any age can participate in the goals of 7 Seas.

Plus and by being a member of a volunteer-centered family how important non-profits organizations are,” she said.

She has learned that being the founder of a non-profit has some

challenges.
“I didn’t realize that outreach and communication would be so difficult even through the use of social media,” she said.

see 7 SEAS on page 19

IN BRIEF

COMPLETION OF LA CRESCENTA AVENUE REHABILITATION PROJECT

The City of Glendale announced the completion of the La Crescenta Avenue Rehabilitation Project, a comprehensive corridor improvement effort that concluded on Aug. 3.

An event to celebrate this completion was originally scheduled for today but it has been postponed by the City.

FRIENDS OF ROCKHAVEN ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, Sept. 20 at 10:30 a.m. the Friends of Rockhaven will have its annual meeting at the Lanterman House.

The Lanterman House is located at 4420 Encinas Drive in La Cañada Flintridge.

All are welcome to attend.

MOUNT WILSON PRESENTS CONCERT IN THE DOME

On Sunday, Sept. 6, Mount Wilson Observatory hosts the Webern String Quartet consisting of Benjamin Hoffman and Chiai Tajima on violins, Alex Granger on viola, Stella Cho on cello. Performances are at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$65 and available at <https://www.mtwilson.edu/events/concert0906256/>.

Note that access to the dome

performance level is via a 53-step staircase. Mount Wilson Observatory is a mile high in elevation so the air is noticeably thinner. There is no ADA-compliant access.

For safety reasons, children under 6 are not permitted at Concerts in the Dome.

Artistic director Cécilia Tsan curates the musical adventures under the vaulted dome of the 100-inch telescope.

APPS BEING ACCEPTED FOR LEADERSHIP GLENDALE

A diverse group of community leaders, professionals and engaged residents are part of the nine-month journey of learning, networking and civic engagement through Leadership Glendale.

Space is limited; visit <https://www.glendalechamber.com/leadership-application>, call the Glendale Chamber of Commerce for more information at (818) 240-7870 or email Taguhi Sogomonyan at tsogomonyan@glendalechamber.com or Judee Kendall at jkendall@glendalechamber.com.

CVWD PLANS LOCAL WORK

The 2800 block of Fairway Avenue and the 2400–2500 blocks of Teasley Avenue will be closed to through traffic from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8 due to paving projects done by Crescenta Valley Water District.

Residents may experience noise, dust and construction

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How Using AI Can Hinder Students

By Mary O'KEEFE

About a year ago an article for CalMatters by Lynn La titled, "AI-powered tools like Google Lens pose cheating challenge for CA classrooms" examined how an AI-powered tool like Lens has made it easier for students to cheat on digital tests by allowing them to highlight text on their laptops and having Lens share explanations or interpretation of the text.

In the article, a Los Angeles Unified School District teacher said he had noticed that students in his class who were struggling in the past were suddenly doing very well on tests.

A Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT] did a study that found that students who used AI to help them write essays had 55% less cognitive activity than those who did not use AI.

There have also been social media posts by parents sharing their concerns on how Google Lens would just "pop up" on their child's Chromebook without a

specific search being made.

Google Lens, according to its website, is a set of vision-based computing capabilities that can understand what you're looking at and use that information to copy or translate text, identify plants and animals, explore locales or menus, discover products, find visually similar images and take other useful actions.

CVW reached out to Glendale Unified School District to ask the district about the use of AI-powered tools like Google Lens; below is the response:

"We have protections in place on GUSD student Chromebooks and Chrome browsers when students are signed in with their GUSD accounts. Google Lens is blocked on GUSD student Chromebooks and Chrome browsers as part of our efforts to limit the use of tools that can capture an image of a question, worksheet or other assignment and provide information or answers.

"In addition, our web content filtering system blocks access to a broad range of AI-related websites

and services for elementary students using GUSD devices and accounts. This includes general AI platforms, tools that generate text, images, video, or audio, and services designed to detect or analyze AI-generated content.

"These safeguards are designed to limit students' ability to use AI and other outside tools to complete assignments. No technology system is 100%, and no technology system can guarantee that every workaround will be prevented. GUSD has put these protections in place to provide an appropriate level of protection on student devices."

Google Lens has been around since 2017 and many have used it without realizing that it is the application being used. For example, using a cellphone camera to read a QR [quick response] code that instantly takes the user to a link that is related to that code. The application is used as a visual search tool to translate languages, identify plants and animals and to shop, according to Google Lens.

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The issue surrounding this technology is that it allows students to get information about a subject by asking Google Lens for an answer to a question (for example). Google Lens gets and gives the answer and the student regurgitates it to homework.

On its website, it states: Step by step homework help Stuck on a problem? Quickly find explainers, videos and results from the web for math, history, chemistry, biology, physics and more.

Google Lens is part of the Chromebook.

District Addresses Hate Speech

Superintendent Darneika Watson sent out the following letter to Glendale Unified School District families:

Hello Glendale Unified Families,

Over the last few days, "flyers" with hate speech against the Armenian community were found in the neighborhood near the Glenoaks Elementary campus. As we shared in our earlier message with the Glenoaks Elementary community, Glendale Unified has absolutely no tolerance for hate speech, racism, bigotry or discrimination. No member of our community should ever have to experience derogatory language or bullying of any kind.

We are committed to ensuring every student, employee and family member feels safe and welcome on and around our campuses.

We immediately shared this information with the Glendale Police Dept. and are supporting its work to determine the source of these materials found in the neighborhood. As always, we encourage students and families to report any hate speech or other hurtful behavior they experience or witness so that we can respond and provide support. Please email or call

your principal, or submit an anonymous tip online at www.gusd.net/tipline or by phone at (323) 999-6062.

We are grateful for those who have expressed their support for Glenoaks and our Armenian American community. Glendale Unified is strengthened by the many cultures, languages and experiences represented across our schools, and we remain committed to ensuring every member of our community knows they belong.

We remain focused on championing programs that

highlight the rich diversity of our community, including the upcoming launch of the Western Armenian Dual Language Immersion program at Glenoaks. We are proud that Glenoaks will be home to this historic program and look forward to working alongside our families and the broader community as we prepare to welcome our first class of students. We distributed a form earlier this week inviting community members to express their interest in serving on the advisory committee that will provide input and

recommendations for the development and launch of the program. If you are interested in being part of this effort, please submit the interest form by Friday, Sept. 4.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out and stood with our school and local community. Your support is a wonderful reminder of the strength of the GUSD community and the values we share.

Sincerely,
Dr. Darneika Watson
Superintendent of Schools,
Glendale Unified School District

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Surrounding Areas

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital to Host 11th Annual Suicide Awareness and Prevention Conference

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital will host its 11th annual Suicide Awareness and Prevention Conference on Sept. 12 in honor of World Suicide Prevention Day, bringing together mental health experts and community resources for a day focused on suicide prevention and awareness.

The free, community-focused conference will provide attendees with education and practical tools for recognizing suicide risk factors, responding to individuals who may be struggling and connecting people with appropriate support. The event also aims to reduce the stigma

surrounding mental health and encourage more people to seek help when they need it.

Hosted in collaboration with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the conference will be available both in-person and online via Zoom. Admission is free and includes complimentary

breakfast and lunch for in-person attendees.

Community members interested in learning more about suicide prevention are encouraged to attend. Registration is available through the event page: <https://www.keckmedicine.org/events/suicide-prevention-conference/>.



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Hahn Proclaims September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Los Angeles County

On Tuesday, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved motion by Supervisor Janice Hahn to proclaim September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Los Angeles County, directing the departments of Public Health and Mental Health to increase awareness of suicide prevention resources, including the 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Line, Teen Line, the Trevor Project LGBTQ+ Suicide Hotline and California Dept. of Public Health's Never a Bother Campaign.

"Suicide touches every

community in Los Angeles County, so we need to be raising awareness about these lifesaving resources as widely and thoroughly as possible," said Hahn. "We've poured resources into beefing up our crisis response capacity precisely because we know that they can mean the difference between life and death, so we have to be equally committed to ensuring that everyone knows they're there if and when someone needs them."

Hahn's motion also proclaimed Tuesday, Sept. 8 as 988 Day. 988 is a crisis hotline that anyone can call or text to immediately connect with a trained crisis counselor. Under

Hahn's leadership, Los Angeles County has become one of the few counties in the nation that has ensured 9-8-8 calls requiring an in-person response can be connected to mobile crisis response teams that operate 24/7, instead of to armed law enforcement. The County has recently increased the number of these mobile crisis response teams to 75, with six more in progress.

Suicide accounted for 776 deaths in Los Angeles County in 2024, with youth specifically accounting for about 10% of suicide deaths, 33% of self-harm hospitalizations, and 49% of self-harm emergency department visits.

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\$25.00 per person

Please pre-register at the glendaleteahouse.org website, or by clicking the QR Code below.

Number of participants will be limited.

Friends of Shoseian is a non-profit IRC Section 501 (c)(3) organization. Contributions can be tax deductible under IRC Section 170.



QR Code Updated 05-2026





FREE USC-VHH COMMUNITY EVENTS

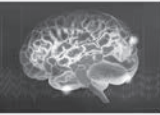
SAVE THE DATES



September 12
Suicide Awareness and Prevention Conference
An in-person and virtual conference featuring expert-led sessions on suicide prevention, healing, advocacy, and community support. Free admission includes breakfast, lunch, and access to CEU-eligible trainings.



October 3
USC-VHH Community Health Fair
A free, family-friendly health fair offering wellness screenings, hands-on trainings, kids' activities, and community resources from USC Verdugo Hills Hospital and local partners.



November 14
Brain Health Forum
A virtual half-day forum where USC experts explore aging, memory, genetics, dementia, and the latest advances in brain health research. Free to attend with opportunities for learning, engagement, and support.

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital
Keck Medicine of USC

For more information on these and all events at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, visit keckmedicine.org/events/ or scan the QR code.



CRIME BLOTTER

AUG. 31
500 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, a witness reported that as she was standing in the T-Mobile store with other co-workers three men entered the store. One of the men walked into the store and brandished a black semi-automatic handgun. Suspect No. 1 was described as a Black adult male wearing a black hoodie, black mask, black pants with three white stripes along the side legs and red and white shoes. Suspect No. 2 was described as a Black adult male wearing a red hoodie, black mask, red pants, black shoes and carrying a red, black and white colored backpack. Suspect No. 3 was described as a Black adult male juvenile wearing a black hoodie, black mask, blue and white shorts with white lettering in front and white trim strips and white shoes with black

shoelaces. In addition his left hand was wrapped with a white colored cloth and he was wearing a red and black glove on his right hand.
Suspect No. 1 gave orders to the witness, which she followed by walking to the back of the store with Suspects No. 1 and No. 2 and her co-workers. While in the back of the store the witness opened a safe and Suspect No. 1 took two demo Samsung watches, one iPhone 13; Suspects No. 2 and No. 3 grabbed other items. Then the suspects exited the store with the items.
The vehicle is described as a newer model white Chrysler four-door sedan with dark tinted windows, black rims and no license plates.
The robbery occurred at 3:14 p.m.

AUG. 30
Switzer Falls, 701 Angeles Crest Highway in Tujunga, a woman reported that she had parked her vehicle in the upper parking lot of Switzer Falls and went for a hike. When she returned she found that the rear passenger side of her vehicle had been shattered and several items were stolen between 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
AUG. 18
700 block of Angeles Crest Highway in Tujunga, a man reported parking his vehicle at the location, securing it and then going for a hike. When he returned he noticed his driver side door window was shattered, the roof liner had been cut, the passenger seat leather was scratched and several items were stolen between 6 p.m. and 9:05 p.m.

Obituary

Charles K. “Charlie” Beatty



March 1, 2026

Charles K. “Charlie” Beatty was a lifelong resident of La Crescenta who called the Crescenta Valley home for more than 80 years. At age 3, his family moved to the valley and built a home when very few houses existed. It was a community he loved deeply and proudly served throughout his life.

Charlie was a proud graduate of Glendale Unified School District, attending Monte Vista Elementary, Clark Jr. High and Glendale High School. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in government from California State University, Los Angeles where he met his soulmate Andrea McAllister. They married in 1968 and began their family in the community Charlie cherished.

From an early age, Charlie understood the value of hard work and connection. As a boy, he delivered newspapers by bicycle throughout the neighborhood. At 17, he began working for Ralphs Grocery Company, where he remained a loyal employee for more than 40 years. In the early 1970s, he became a real estate broker and notary, opening Charles Beatty Realty in La Crescenta. He and Andrea also owned and operated Village Travel Service

in Montrose for more than 35 years.
Charlie's greatest passion was serving his community. He was an active councilman and president of the Crescenta Valley Town Council from its inception, helping establish Arbor Day celebrations, student scholarships, community service projects and the beloved Montrose Christmas Parade. He was especially proud to listen to residents and bring their concerns to county leaders. In recognition of his dedication, he was honored as president emeritus.
His civic service extended to the Crescenta Valley Water District, Crescenta-Cañada Flintridge Board of Realtors, Montrose Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Community Advisory Board and numerous local, state and federal organizations. He especially treasured honoring fallen Vietnam veterans through the annual Memorial Day service in Montrose, including his dear friend Loren Engstrom.

Charlie passed away in his beloved Crescenta Valley on March 1. He now joins his wife who passed away in 2022. They shared 54 years of marriage and family life, leaving behind a lasting family legacy through their daughter Allister Traber, her husband Kevin, their three sons: Alec, Gavin and Andrew and their wives Maddalena, Brittany and Ailyn. He was also a proud great-grandfather to Tatum, Treyton, Amelia and another little one arriving in 2027.
Charlie took immense pride in four generations of his family continuing to live, learn, teach and serve in the Crescenta Valley. His legacy of love, family, hard work and community service will live on in the countless lives he touched.
A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. at Montrose Church, 2409 Florencita Drive in Montrose.

Alleged Hit-and-Run Driver Arraigned

Daniel Auther was arraigned on Wednesday where he pled not guilty. He was arrested on Aug. 8 by deputies from Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station as the alleged driver of a fatal hit-and-run accident involving a pedestrian in La Cañada Flintridge. His next court date is Oct. 27.

By Mary O'KEEFE



PATRIOT-DAY MOTORCADE

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

Starts at 8:20 A.M.
• Ralphs Marketplace Parking Lot

Presented by the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce and Early Rodders Hot Rod and Classic Car Club

TO HONOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS and thank them for all they do.

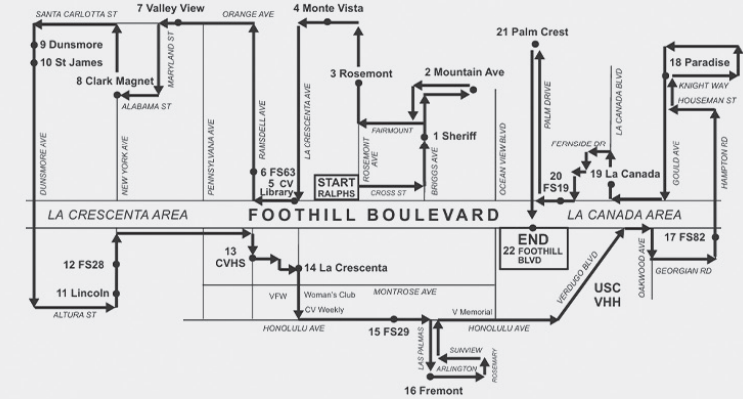
THE ROUTE

The motorcade will travel past 14 schools in GUSD and LCUSD, as well as five fire stations in Los Angeles County and Glendale.

AFTER THE MOTORCADE

Following the motorcade, a ceremony will be held to honor first responders and remember the victims of 9/11 with participating drivers and guests.

2026 MOTORCADE ROUTE



Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) per location number									
1 Sheriff	8:25	4 Monte Vista	8:42	8 Clark Magnet	8:53	11 Lincoln	9:02	14 La Crescenta	9:10
2 Mountain Ave	8:30	5 CV Library	8:44	9 Dunsmore	8:55	12 F S 28	9:03	17 F S 82	9:25
3 Rosemont	8:40	6 F S 63	8:46	10 St James	8:55	13 CVHS	9:08	18 Paradise	9:30
		7 Valley View	8:51					19 L C E S	9:38
								20 F S 19	9:41
								21 Palm Crest	9:48
								22 Foothill Blvd Disperse	

Special thanks to La Crescenta Planet Fitness for supporting the morning coffee and post-motorcade lunch.

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GCC from Cover

since 2019 while inflation for the same period totaled 29.2%. The cost of imported water has gone up 45% and the cost of electricity has increased 57% during the same time span while the cost of a gallon of gasoline has spiked 41%. The cost of a fire hydrant has soared 132%.

The agency has become “proficient in emergency repairs, deferred maintenance [and] band-aid fixes which actually end up costing ratepayers more in the long run but also has a direct impact on our ability to deliver reliable water for public health and safety,” Obegolu stated. He detailed the breakdown of a dollar spent on the proposed water plan: 23 cents of every dollar spent would go toward operations and maintenance, including inspecting fire hydrants; 31 cents would purchase water from MWD; 21 cents would be set aside for capital improvements; 8 cents would fund the debt of the cost of the bonds the city would sell to partially fund the work necessary; and 17 cents would go toward salaries and benefits.

Councilmember Brotman questioned if this is enough, doing half of what experts recommend, given that 212 miles of the city’s

pipes were installed during the 1950s or earlier. “This is a bare minimum,” he said. Councilmember Vartan Gharpetian wants a tour of all of the water facilities; he seeks to understand the patterns of Glendale’s water consumption and questions if the state has plans to build desalinization plants as are working in San Diego.

Councilmember Elen Asatryan wants a report on GWP’s public benefit programs to assist seniors and disabled customers of the utility.

Councilmember Alek Bartrosouf thanked staff for making the information so visually clear and for helping him understand the need to do this now and the justification for it.

“None of us here wants to raise rates,” he said. “That’s certainly not why I ran for the city council, but I’m not here to just do what’s popular or fun; I’m here to be a responsible steward of our assets and to make sure we’re providing reliable water for the community.”

In addition to the average rate increase of 53% for the first year, rates would go up on Jan. 1 of the following four years: 11%, 10% 10%,

and 7%. The average single-family household would see an increase of approximately \$37 per month on their water bill. Most renters would see similar, perhaps smaller, monthly increases. The new plan charges rates based on the size of the meter but maintains usage tiers that presumably reward water conservation.

Compared to neighboring cities, Glendale’s water rates remain competitive. Los Angeles DWP customers pay \$182 per month on average; Burbank water customers average \$99.65; Pasadena water rate payers average \$107. After the Jan. 1, 2027 increase, Glendale’s average rate would be \$111.30 per month.

Proposition 218 was adopted by California’s voters in 1996 to hold governmental entities accountable to set rates and taxes that accurately reflect costs and allow for public input. It requires at least 45 days’ notice of a proposed increase such as this. GWP has scheduled community outreach meetings starting on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6 – 7:30 p.m. at the Adult Recreation Center, 201 E. Colorado St.; on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 6 – 7:30 p.m. at the Sparr Heights Community Center, 1613 Glencoe

Way; Thursday, Oct. 17, 9 – 10:30 a.m. at the Brand Park Library and Art Center, 1601 W. Mountain St.; and Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 – 11:30 a.m., virtually via Zoom.

Prop 218 provides for the opportunity for the public to veto a proposed rate increase if more than 50% of the property owners affected by the increase submit a written protest.

Former Glendale City Council candidate Beth Brooks expressed her “shock,” at the council’s actions.

“All of a sudden, we have a doomsday,” she said. “Isn’t that convenient? I told people during the campaign that this was coming.”

Earlier in Tuesday night’s council meeting, several Glendale residents commented on the questions raised about the city’s use of Flock cameras to capture images of vehicle license plates. One caller wants “careful consideration of Glendale’s use of Flock camera technology or any other state-sponsored surveillance.”

“I think we all want safer streets and less crime in Glendale and supporters argue that the cameras can assist law enforcement investigations; however, anyone watching the news recently knows there are concerns about privacy, data retention, oversight, numerous reports of misuse by law enforcement across the county. Even states like Florida and Texas are scaling back their use of Flock cameras. They’re not cheap, either. Each LPR averages upwards of \$3,000 per year; Glendale has 82 cameras – that’s a quarter of a million dollars – but the city doesn’t have enough money to keep pools and libraries open, but we have money to spy on our neighbors.”

Councilmember Asatryan wants to explore the possibility of a dance series next summer with partnerships exploring

entertainment and dance opportunities. Additionally, she questions if the city’s Arts & Culture Commission is serving its mission, particularly with respect to economic development and in advance of the upcoming Olympics. Finally, she announced that 13 grand chess masters have arrived from 18 countries to play chess in Glendale this weekend. For more information, see GlendalePlaysChess.com.

Councilmember Bartrosouf announced Glendale’s upcoming Tech Week, Sept. 23 – 26, and urges local businesses, start-ups, educational institutions, non-profits, co-working spaces and community partners to apply to host an official event at GlendaleTechWeek.com before Sept. 9.

City Manager Roubik Golanian announced that the ribbon-cutting commemorating the completion of the La Crescenta Avenue street project will be postponed and joined with the city’s Walk To School events set for Wednesday, Oct. 7.

Sam Manoukian, along with Police Chief Robert William and Fire Chief Jeff Brooks, invited the public to the sixth annual “Take It To The Track” racing event on Sunday, Sept. 20 at Willow Springs Racetrack.

“Glenoaks [Boulevard] is not a racetrack,” Manoukian explained the genesis of the event to the council. “Driving like that should only take place safely on a racetrack.”

The event supports the Grigor Gevorgyan Foundation, raising funds for children with special needs and disabilities in underprivileged areas around the world. For more information about the event, see <https://www.instagram.com/reels/DbpgRJM3Ni/>.

The Glendale council will meet next on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

WEATHER from page 2

According to NOAA in Oxnard, as of 1 a.m. on Wednesday morning Marie was still classified as a tropical storm; however, it was expected to intensify and upgraded to a hurricane later that day.

What that means for Southern Californians is possible rain, although a NOAA spokesperson said it would probably only bring 1/10 to 1/2 inch of rain ... however, it could be more.

What it will definitely bring are swells at the beach.

“Large southeast southernly swells bringing high waves,” said

the NOAA spokesperson, “and it could bring dangerous rip currents.”

Depending on how close Marie gets to the coast there may be surf advisories issued; these are issued when surf is over eight feet.

Hurricanes are fed by warm water; our normally cool Pacific temperatures are currently pretty warm. Water temperatures in LA and Ventura counties are in the mid to high 70s and Orange County has listed temperatures as high as 80 degrees for coastal waters. It has been warming for quite a few months now; our predicted El Niño

can make claim for some of the warming.

The bottom line is that hurricanes feed off warm water and weaken with cooler water. It is expected that Marie will follow the warmer water in the Pacific but move away from the California coast, however not before it brings us some rain and humidity.

Temperatures for Labor Day will be much more comfortable than last weekend. We should see temperatures in the high 70s/low 80s through next Thursday. Rain is expected on Sunday and Monday.

17 YEARS from Cover

Although CVW’s first issue was released on Sept. 4, the paper’s reporters had been on the ground since the paper received a call about a “small fire” that had started in the Angeles National Forest on Aug. 26. That small fire grew quickly.

The newspaper literally started in a blaze. Although the paper was not printed until Sept. 4, CVW reporters were out in the community early on covering the fire in local neighborhoods where they were familiar. The reporters attended every update at the fire command center at Hansen Dam. They were in constant contact with local officials including the CV Town Council, CV Fire Safe Council/Roger Young, fire departments, law enforcement and the office of the LA County Supervisor. Reporters relayed all of their reporting to Goldsworthy, who was at the news desk sending out emails to over 3,000 people – sometimes five times a day – as information became available.

CVW staff began a practice that continues today – local community members call into the paper to share stories and updates of what they’ve witnessed.

CVW staff continued to cover

the fire, along with traffic accidents, burglaries and school events. It became exactly what a community paper should be: a place that shares stories about the community.

When CVW started, the term “news desert” was a not used that often though currently it is more commonly heard. Over 17 years the number of independent newspapers that have closed across the country has grown substantially. Many have been bought by larger media companies and then shuttered, while others have closed due to receiving less advertising – the lifeblood of a newspaper.

CVW staff has always served the community, which in addition to Sunland-Tujunga, La Crescenta, La Cañada, Montrose and Sparr Heights, includes Glendale, parts of Burbank and Toluca Lake. Over the years CVW has trained young writers who have moved on to larger media outlets. The newspaper continues to offer a place for new journalists to learn at the level of an independent newspaper.

Independent newspapers, like all, survive on subscribers and advertising.

“We appreciate the community members that

continue to support us through their subscriptions and invite others to join our family of subscribers,” Goldsworthy said.

“We have seen a decrease in advertising – many have turned to social media – but the benefits of advertising in the local newspaper include reaching a targeted audience, which is supported by our outstanding readers.”

CVW has always promoted the philosophy of “shop local” and, as a small community business, continues to support other local businesses.

“Our philosophy is to showcase local businesses that make up and support our community,” Goldsworthy said.

According to a 2024 survey from the National Federation of Independent Businesses, about 76% of all small business owners reported in the last 12 months volunteering their time to work on behalf of civic groups, charities, youth sports programs, schools, religious organizations or similar activities. And 63% of small business owners reported providing in-kind contributions.

Anyone who would like to advertise or subscribe to CVW, please contact the office at (818) 248-2740 or visit www.cvweekly.com.

ROBIN from page 2

She’s a wealth of information.

A newspaper survives on advertising. I consider my sales people top in their field and appreciate the hard work they put into every single issue.

Ditto with my layout guys! Steve and Matt make sure the

paper looks sharp every week.

Finally, I’ve learned so much from our proofer Anne McNeill. Her eagle eyes spot inconsistencies I’ve never noticed.

Here’s to 17 years – and maybe 17 more...?

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VIEWPOINTS

VIEW OF THE VERDUGOS » CRAIG DURST

The Days When Tujunga Rocked

Traveling west on Foothill Boulevard one evening, approaching Commerce Avenue, a driver pressed the brakes as the traffic light went from green to yellow. While idling at the red light, the sound of music permeated the car from the passenger side. Rolling down the window, the beat permeated from the brick building on the southeast corner. The singer’s voice rang out: “And I ran, I ran so far away. I just ran, I ran all night and day, I couldn’t get away.”

The singer that evening of Aug. 24, 1990 was Mike Score, performing with his band A Flock of Seagulls. The venue was the Nite Rock Club Café at 7179 Foothill Blvd. in Tujunga. The haircut, once described as being “stranger than anything you’d be likely to encounter in a month of poodle shows,” was long gone. The band that had once filled major arenas was now relegated to smaller venues like the Nite Rock Club Café.

Opening in the late 1980s, numerous groups performed at this foothills rock-and-roll club. Scanning through the bands, I could identify those that made an appearance there were mainly independent regional bands that had limited success. Bands like Tres Flores, The Innocent, X-Piracy, Nickel Slick, Tick Tock Bang, Dirty Money, Crystal Rain, Shark Island, Helix, Clean Slate, Civil Defiance and Babylon A.D., just to name a dozen.

The 8,000-square-foot venue boasted a restaurant, an intimate stage, several pool tables, a large video screen and free parking and was located just minutes from La Crescenta, Glendale and Pasadena. Prior to its transformation into the Nite Rock Club Café, the building had served for many years as a Bank of America branch office.

Of the names of those involved with the Nite Rock, one name caught my attention. She wasn’t a performer; she was responsible for rounding up the bands. At the bottom of many of the Club’s flyers was the text: “For booking information, call Gina.” Gina was Gina Zamparelli. Still in her 20s when the Nite Rock Club Café opened in 1988, she jumped right into the responsibilities of keeping this local club rocking, week after week.

While Gina cut her teeth at Tujunga’s small rock club, she went on to found Zamparelli Productions and became a trailblazing figure in the Southern California rock and heavy metal scenes. She established herself as the first female concert promoter to produce major venue shows with national touring acts in the United States. She is widely credited with helping put iconic bands on the map, producing early landmark shows for Guns N’ Roses, Mötley Crüe, Van Halen, RATT and Great White.

Under her guidance, international artists like U2, Tina Turner, Simple Minds, Fleetwood Mac and the Foo Fighters



performed at Perkins Palace in Pasadena. Originally the Raymond Theater, this landmark 1921 venue was saved from destruction through the tireless efforts of Gina and others. For her efforts, she was presented with Pasadena’s Best Citizen of the Year Award.

Gina Zamparelli passed away at the young age of 59 after a short bout with brain cancer in 2018. I learned that as her family sorted through her large collection of rock memorabilia, several items emerged from her early days – when she was promoting and booking talent at the Nite Rock Club Café on Foothill Boulevard. The Nite Rock closed its doors for good in 1993 and the days when Tujunga rocked came to an end.

Craig W. Durst, AKA The History Hunter, is a historian of the Tujunga Rancho and President of the Friends of Verdugo Hills Cemetery. He can be reached at craig@thehistoryhunter.com.

VIEWS FROM THE VALLEY » SUSAN BOLAN

Driving the Generation Gap

I have to applaud the 17-year-old from Tujunga who wrote the “Proposes Changes to Law” letter to the editor published in last week’s paper. (You can read it at <https://www.crescentavalleyweekly.com/viewpoints/08/27/2026/letters-to-the-editor-363/>.) This student felt strongly about a perceived safety issue, sat down and crafted a proposal to correct it and submitted it to the local paper for consideration by the readers. He could have just posted a rant online about his concerns but he chose to be thoughtful and proactive. And for that, he has earned respect from me.

However, I had to chuckle about the difference in this student’s perspective versus my own as a senior, an obvious generation gap in how we view unsafe drivers. In his letter, this newly licensed driver claims that there is a problem in California with “elderly” drivers over the age of 50. He says that elderly drivers have difficulty seeing street signs, pedestrians and road hazards, and can’t remember the motor vehicle laws they once knew. The assumption is that this decline in ability leads to a high rate of fatalities. He hopes to remedy that.

The 17-year-old’s proposed

solution to this problem is a new law enacting regulations on every driver age 50 and older. These drivers would be required to take a three-part test consisting of a vision screening, written test and behind-the-wheel driving every five years to retain their licenses. This is nothing new; the Dept. of Motor Vehicles already does this, albeit far less often and usually when problems are indicated.

I don’t believe that we need a new law to restrict older drivers but rather look at better enforcement of the drivers who are currently wreaking havoc in our neighborhoods. Many nights I can hear racing on the freeway and on Honolulu Avenue. On a typical day, sporty cars are darting through traffic at high speeds and recklessly cutting off other drivers. I regularly encounter drivers turning right at a red light without even slowing down let alone stopping and looking both ways first. The violations are so plentiful that there are “only in Glendale” and similar videos devoted to the problem. These are not older seniors doing this; it’s more likely high school seniors or

young adults.

Since the beginning of 2026, accidents in the Crescenta Valley that involved fatalities included two teenagers and a 20-year-old in a roll over crash, four early 20-year-olds went over the side of Angeles Crest Highway, a 21-year old struck a 66-year old pedestrian in a crosswalk and a 35- and 40-year old were rear-ended by a big rig truck on the 210 freeway. None of these were due to the forgetfulness of an older driver.

I would like to tell this young driver that being over 50 is not the road to the old folks home. It’s a badge of honor. Personally, I am proud to have made it through 50 years of driving, never having harmed a single soul (including myself) with my automobile. The last accident I had was around 1984 when I hit a garage pillar at Sears and that was only because my foot got stuck on the clutch, and I couldn’t brake in time. My little Datsun pickup was none the worse for wear and no one was hurt by it, except maybe my pride.

Back in the 1970s, drivers’ education and behind-the-wheel

training were part of high school curriculum and students were all taught the rules of the road with strict, consistent guidelines. I still follow all of these rules. I have not forgotten them.

I wish I had the same confidence in the capabilities of young drivers. Young people today often learn to drive from their well-meaning relatives who may not have had any formal training themselves. The instruction varies considerably. The generations of drivers since my school-based training seem to be lax about following basic courtesies like taking turns, using turn signals and stopping before a crosswalk.

Here is a reminder that as a community we can all do better. We need to be more careful on the road, especially near our schools, so that children can live long and happy lives like the older seniors who have been driving for decades. Let’s give them that opportunity by being the safest drivers we can be, whether youngish or not so young anymore.

*Susan Bolan
susanbolan710@gmail.com*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meeting the Mayor

To CV Weekly readers in the Glendale annex:

I want to inform you all of something that I feel may be of interest to you.

Every Friday morning at 9 a.m., Mayor Ardashes “Ardy” Kassakhian hosts Coffee with

the Mayor at Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf (3701 Ocean View Blvd.) in Montrose. It is located on the southwest corner of Ocean View and Honolulu Avenue.

This is an opportunity for you to find out what is happening with Glendale in our area. You can either complain, compliment

– or both! Ardy will listen and is most helpful. If you have a problem, he will advise or assist to the fullest.

The meet up is informal and I, personally, have found it interesting and productive.

*Joe Kroening
La Crescenta*

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BETWEEN FRIENDS

USC VERDUGO HILLS HOSPITAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER FOR AGING

» DR ADRIA NAVARRO, PHD, LCSW

Hope – A Community Effort

Connection is powerful. Aging does not diminish a person's value or their right to feel connected, purposeful and supported. When we check in on our neighbors, speak openly about mental health and create spaces where older adults feel welcome, we build a community where no one faces despair alone.

For many years USC Verdugo Hills Hospital (USC-VHH) has taken mental health seriously, providing expertise both in the Emergency Department and through an inpatient Geropsychiatric Unit. There is also a community effort as we deliver virtually and in person the 11th annual Suicide Prevention and Awareness Conference on Sept. 12. This conference empowers hundreds of people, informing them that each of us plays a role in making our community a place where all feel seen, supported and hopeful about the future.

Aging and Suicidality

While aging brings wisdom, resilience and perspective, it may also bring challenges – losses, health changes, financial strain or shifts in identity and independence. For some, these pressures can contribute to depression or thoughts of suicide – which has become a growing public health crisis. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while nearly every age group reports an increased rate of suicide, older Americans fared the worst. Compared to 2021, suicide deaths rose 8.1% among people age 65 and over. Many factors can be easily overlooked: chronic pain, social isolation, grief after losing a spouse or close friend or feeling like a burden. Personally, some may not recognize depression in themselves, assuming sadness or withdrawal is “just part of aging,” even though it isn't. Recognizing these realities helps us respond with compassion rather than judgment. It also reminds us that mental health is a community responsibility not an individual one.

Everyday Connections

One of the strongest protective factors against suicidality is connection. Not clinical treatment, not complicated programs – simple, human connection.

Small actions matter more than most people realize:

•*Check in regularly.* A quick phone call, a knock on the door or a shared cup of coffee can interrupt loneliness and remind someone they matter.

•*Notice changes.* If a neighbor stops coming to gatherings, seems unusually withdrawn or talks about feeling hopeless, those are signs to reach out.

•*Listen without trying to fix.* Sometimes people need space to talk about their feelings without being told to “stay positive.”

Listening itself is an act of care.

•*Offer practical help.* Rides to appointments, help with errands or assistance navigating technology can reduce stress and strengthen connection.

These gestures don't require special training. They require presence.

Mental Health Conversations

If someone shares that they feel hopeless or overwhelmed, a calm reassuring response could be: “I'm really glad you told me. You're not alone, and we can figure out what to do next.” We don't need to diagnose or solve the problem – we just need to stay connected and help reach people who can provide care. Encourage the person to talk with a doctor, counselor or someone they trust as a supportive next step. Older adults who call or send a text message to 9-8-8 will speak to a trained counselor. Located in 200 crisis centers all over the country, these counselors are experienced in responding to people in emotional distress, including those with suicidal intent. Dialing 9-8-8 is just like dialing 9-1-1 for emergency response or 2-1-1 for information services. For more information the website is: 988lifeline.org.

Strengthening Community Support

The USC-VHH Community Resource Center for Aging (CRCA) partners with local organizations – senior centers, YMCA, faith communities and libraries – each play a vital role in preventing isolation. Programs that offer social activities, grief support, exercise classes or volunteer opportunities help older adults stay engaged and purposeful. CRCA also promotes mental health literacy by offering workshops on aging, stress and emotional wellbeing. This October – Mental Health Awareness Month – we encourage wearing a green ribbon; the ribbon helps others recognize that you understand the signs of depression and, above all, how to respond. To stay in touch and/or explore resources, by phone call (818) 949-4033 or email Aging-Resources@med.usc.edu. **Adria Navarro, PhD, LCSW**

*Program Manager
USC Verdugo Hills Hospital
Community Resource Center
for Aging*



Barlow at LCWC

The season opener for the La Crescenta Woman's Club (LCWC) will be on Sept. 9. The luncheon and program will include the screening of the PBS and Netflix short-form documentary “Our Neighbors, the Peacocks” with award winning producer/director Callie Barlow. Known nationally for her work with NatGeo, she currently has an HBO mini-series “Monsters of God” about the illegal exotic pet trade. Barlow is based locally and her “Peacock” project was an entertaining labor of love.

All are invited at 10 a.m. for the welcome back meeting; at 11:30 a.m. the LCWC will have the screening and Q&A followed by a luncheon.

Attendance is free of charge, however seats are limited and reservations are recommended. RSVP to (818) 249-9403. All are welcome. *Please advise if staying for the complimentary luncheon.

The LCWC club house is located at 4004 La Crescenta Ave.



LCFOG Annual Book & Author Luncheon

The La Cañada Flintridge Orthopaedic Guild (LCFOG) annual Book & Author Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the La Cañada Flintridge Country Club, 5500 Godbey Drive in La Cañada Flintridge. This year's event features three gifted authors: Susan Frazee, Diane Wheaton and Deanna Nese.



Susan Frazee's picture book, *Martin Snell and His Worm Hotel*, will be available for purchase and signing by the author. The book introduces young readers to composting, recycling and caring for the Earth ... one banana peel at a time. Martin scrapes plates and collects crumbs to feed the squirming guests in his worm hotel and children learn how composting works, how to start a worm bin and how every child can reduce waste at home or at school. Parents and teachers have used the book for early science lessons and Earth Day

units. Frazee was raised in La Cañada Flintridge and is a product of LCUSD. She makes her home in San Diego and is the mother of four. She continues to host a robust worm hotel.



Diane Wheaton's memoir, *Finding Loretta: An Adopted Daughter's Search to Define Family*, will be available at the luncheon. Published by She Writes Press, it received a 2026 IBPA award. Diane, a reunited adoptee, was adopted by a naval officer and his wife during the Baby Scoop Era. Growing up, she heard conflicting versions of the truth about her origins and it was not until mid-life that she decided to search for her biological family. Her memoir recounts that search and the struggle to balance her feelings for her adoptive parents amid a shocking disclosure.

Insert Deanna Nese
Deanna Nese will have her cozy mystery *Checked Out* at



the Snowy Plover Inn, set on the California coast, available at the luncheon. A California native, Deanna has published six novels in four different genres. Her short stories have appeared in *Typishly* and the *VC Reporter* and won Best in Conference at WCCW 2025. She teaches English and history to middle schoolers and is a member of Sisters in Crime and West Coast Christian Writers.

A silent auction will be held in conjunction with the luncheon.

LCFOG members have supported Lusk Orthopaedic Institute for Children, formerly Orthopaedic Hospital, since 1956. The institute provides excellent care to children with orthopaedic disorders regardless of their family's ability to pay. This year marks 69 years of LCFOG's support.

Those interested in attending the LCFOG Book & Author Luncheon can contact Joan Clevon at (818) 249-4603.

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» DR. LAURIE KELBAN, MS, DVM

Scratch Less, Live Better: Treating Itchy Pets

Did you know that one flea bite can make your pet itchy for weeks? Unless your pet is properly treated for fleas it probably has them. I thought my indoor cat wouldn't get fleas but I was wrong. Baths kill fleas on your pet but have no lasting effect, so re-infestation is likely. The most effective products are topical and oral. Most of these are prescription only. It is extremely important that the product you purchase is labeled specifically for dogs or cats. Make sure the product is labeled for your pet's age and weight. I have seen pets become ill when given incorrect flea medication. There are a few over

the counter products that work, but many are ineffective. You can call a veterinarian and ask which products are best for your pet.

If your pet is still itchy after treating for fleas, then the culprits could be pollens, molds or dust. Advances in medications have led to highly effective treatments for environmental allergens. Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitors, such as Apoquel, Zenrelia and Numelvi, decrease chemical signals associated with itching. These are oral medications given daily. Cytopoint is a monoclonal antibody that targets a specific protein causing the itch sensation. It is an

injection given every 4-8 weeks as needed and improvement is usually seen within 24 hours.

Immunotherapy desensitizes dogs and cats to specific allergens. It is the preferred treatment recommended by veterinary dermatologists. This treatment can be highly effective but results can take up to one year and is costly. If a pet improves with immunotherapy the treatment is continued for life, and can be more economical in the long run. It is best to ask your veterinarian about costs before starting.

Immunosuppressants, such as cyclosporin and steroids, can be

used in both dogs and cats. Steroids are generally limited to severe cases or flare-ups due to their potential for dangerous side effects. Cyclosporin can be used long term with less side effects, but can take up to 30 days to see maximum effect.

Medicated baths containing chlorhexidine, ketoconazole, miconazole or ophytrium should be given at least weekly. The shampoo washes allergens off the skin, protects and maintains the skin barrier, and treats the skin infection. If a skin infection is present then antibiotics may be prescribed.

The goal of treating allergies is

comfort, not cure. It can be hard work but your pet will thank you.





Atrial Fibrillation is on the Rise: Dignity Health Experts Highlight the Warning Signs and Importance of Expert Clinical Care

Atrial fibrillation – a quivering or irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) – is a leading contributor to stroke, heart failure, and other heart-related complications. The stakes are significant: medical research shows that AFib carries a five-fold increase in the risk of stroke.

In recognition of AFib Awareness Month in September, Dignity Health Glendale Memorial Hospital wants community members to know the critical importance of early diagnosis and the comprehensive cardiovascular services available to support patient health.

“At Dignity Health, we view early and accurate detection as the cornerstone of clinical excellence,” said Dr Raed Bargout, interventional cardiologist at Dignity Health Glendale Memorial Hospital. “Because AFib can sometimes be silent, many patients may not realize they are at risk until a serious event occurs. Our mission is to ensure our community recognizes the signs – such as heart palpitations, shortness of breath or fatigue – and knows that our expert cardiac teams are here to provide world-class, personalized care.”

Dignity Health's cardiovascular programs are recognized for its clinical excellence, utilizing state-of-the-art technology and evidence-based practices to diagnose and treat complex rhythm disorders. From advanced electrophysiology labs to minimally invasive procedures, like catheter ablation, Dignity Health provides a comprehensive continuum of care that prioritizes patient safety and improved long-term outcomes.

“Being a leader in cardiovascular care means going beyond treatment; it means partnering with our patients on their health journey through education and proactive management,” added Dr Bargout. “We encourage everyone, particularly those with risk factors like high blood pressure or a family history of heart disease, to talk to their physician about their heart rhythm. Early intervention can be the difference between a life-altering stroke and a healthy, active future.”

Throughout September, Dignity Health Glendale Memorial Hospital is providing educational resources to help the community better understand heart health and the specialized cardiovascular services available across its Southern California locations.

Visit Dignity Health's website (<https://www.commonspirit.org/blog/afib-what-you-need-to-know>) to learn more about AFib symptoms and risk factors or to find a cardiologist nearby.

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TRAVEL & LEISURE

» TRAVELS WITH GREG

Historic Luxury and Golden Gate Views at The Lodge at the Presidio

By Greg ARAGON

Leaving the busy city streets behind, we crossed into a coastal forest of eucalyptus and pine trees. After a few winding turns, we found a hidden fortress spread across 1,491 acres, perched high above San Francisco Bay. It was here that my family and I checked into The Lodge at the Presidio.

Located inside a 250-year-old army post, the boutique hotel beautifully balanced history and luxury – framing the international orange towers of the Golden Gate Bridge perfectly to serve as our ultimate urban home base.



The striking red-brick exterior of The Lodge at the Presidio, framing a view of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Stepping inside the Lodge revealed a deep connection to San Francisco's military past. The building sits prominently on Infantry Row, a stretch of five identical, historic red-brick barracks flanking the Main Parade Ground. Originally constructed between 1895 and 1897 to house hundreds of soldiers guarding the strategic entrance to the Bay, the hotel building has been transformed into an intimate, 42-room boutique property. The meticulous restoration honored its rugged heritage across the shared historic campus, preserving original cast-iron columns, massive multi-story windows and long corridors lined with vintage photography.

Our guest room beautifully captured this upscale comfort. Opening the door revealed a bright, expansive space anchored



The striking red-brick exterior of The Lodge at the Presidio, framing a view of the Golden Gate Bridge.

by two plush queen beds, a stocked mini-fridge, a cupboard full of spirits and an espresso machine with some of the best hotel coffee I've ever had. The spacious bathroom was equally impressive with bright marble vanities and an extra deep tub.

The bright, boutique guest rooms offered luxury, history and front-row views of San Francisco's iconic bridge.

The absolute best part of the room was the view. All it took was drawing back the curtains to see the Golden Gate Bridge stretched out right in front of us. We got to see it change all day long – from the time of the thick morning fog rolling under the bridge to the bright evening sun hitting those orange towers.

Another hotel highlight was the complimentary daily breakfast. Served in the sunlit dining area, the selection featured fresh-baked artisanal breads, flaky pastries, cereals, seasonal fruit, hard-boiled eggs, fresh juice and coffee. The cozy space boasts plenty of comfortable seating options and a warm fireplace. And when the weather is good, guests can even take their plates outside to sit on the front porch and enjoy the fresh air.



Waiting for the lemonade: The kids enjoying the Lodge's front porch before the evening reception begins.

The hotel's hospitality returned each evening at 5 o'clock for the Lodge's wine reception, held back in the dining space. Here guests could relax over a beautifully arranged spread of charcuterie, local cheeses, gourmet nuts, bite-sized desserts, fine California wine and fresh lemonade that the kids absolutely loved.

The hotel sits right on the Main Post – the historic, park-like town square that serves as the walkable heart of the Presidio – offering incredible convenience for a family looking to explore. Right next door sat The Walt Disney Family Museum, a fantastic spot founded by Disney's daughter that showcased the animator's life, early drawings and a massive scale model of Disneyland – all housed inside another one of the post's historic, retrofitted

barracks. Beyond this, the property was surrounded by miles of dedicated bike and walking paths that wove down to Crissy Field – a sprawling, former 1920s U.S. Army airfield that was restored into a massive waterfront park.

Our first major excursion took us to the waterfront where we boarded a ferry with Alcatraz City Cruises out to infamous Alcatraz Island. Sailing across the choppy bay waters offered incredible, sweeping views of the city skyline before we docked at "The Rock," one of the most legendary prisons in history. While touring the prison, we took an immersive audio tour that guided us through the old, cold cellblocks.



Inside "The Rock": Walking down the main corridor of the infamous federal penitentiary where we learned about the great escape of 1962.

We were captivated by the story of the Great Escape of 1962, when prisoners Frank Morris and the Anglin brothers used sharpened spoons to chip through aging concrete in their cells and created papier-mâché dummy heads in their beds to fool the night guards. They then slipped into the freezing, treacherous waters of the Bay on a raft made of stolen raincoats. To this day, no bodies were ever found leaving many to wonder if the inmates met a dark fate in the currents or successfully vanished into new lives on the mainland.

The next morning, we drove into the heart of the city to tackle Lombard Street, one of the crookedest streets in the world. Climbing steep sidewalk steps alongside a line of slow-moving tourist traffic was a major workout, but reaching the summit was worth the effort. The eight sharp, brick-paved hairpin turns, bordered by perfectly manicured hydrangea beds, offered a quintessential San Francisco view. Looking down from the crest, we could see past the red-brick roofs all the way to the sparkling waters of the Bay.

From Lombard Street, we walked a few blocks to the historic plaza of Ghirardelli Square. Established in 1893 by Italian immigrant Domenico Ghirardelli, this massive brick complex originally served as the headquarters for his legendary chocolate company. Today, it stands as a brilliant example of historic adaptive reuse. We spent an hour wandering the plaza, viewing the antique, operational chocolate-making machinery, and treating ourselves to decadent chocolate and hot fudge sundaes.



Getting ready for chocolate at the historic, red-brick complex of Ghirardelli Square.

Our exploration concluded with a driving tour over the region's two iconic suspension bridges. First we drove across the sweeping span of the Golden Gate Bridge, looking down at the dark blue water opening out to the Pacific. Later we made our way across the double-decked Oakland Bay Bridge, which offered a completely different, breathtaking perspective of the downtown skyscrapers rising directly from the water's edge.

After navigating the busy bridges and steep hills, pulling back into the quiet roads of the Presidio felt like arriving home. We spent our final evening relaxing by the hotel's outdoor fire pit, watching the fog crawl back in over the Bay.

see TRAVEL on page 14

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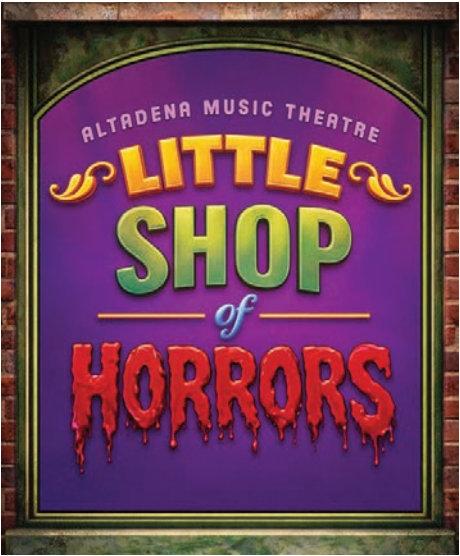
Scene In LA - September 2026

By Steve ZALL and Sid FISH

Here are some great new shows opening soon in our local theater scene!

The information presented in this column is the latest available at the time of printing; however, it should be verified with the theater before making definite plans.

Here are the shows that have announced opening dates for this month or are already running:



“Little Shop of Horrors” The story follows Seymour, a downtrodden and shy florist’s assistant whose life blossoms overnight thanks to an otherworldly – and hungry – new plant named Audrey II. But there’s a catch – it craves blood. As fame, fortune and love begin to bloom, so does the madness.

The score includes unforgettable, passionate melodies like “Suddenly Seymour” and “Somewhere That’s Green.”

Written by Howard Ashman, with music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and directed by Sarah Azcarate,

it runs today, Sept. 3 through Sept. 13 at the Mountain View Mausoleum in Altadena. For tickets, visit www.altadenamusictheatre.com.



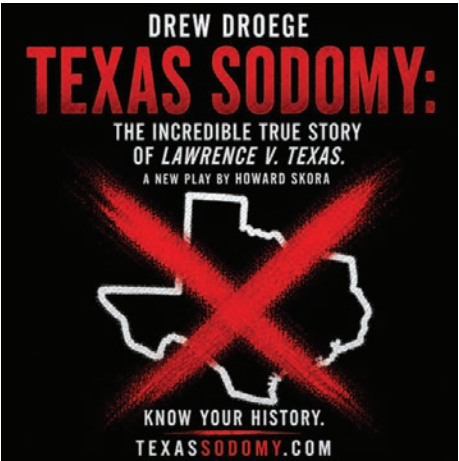
“The Nightman Cometh” plus *“The Waitress is Getting Married”* Join us for two hilarious unauthorized musical parodies inspired by the gang from It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia: No. 1: *“The Nightman Cometh”* Charlie recruits the gang to put on a musical in hopes of finally winning the heart of the woman of his dreams – The Waitress. No. 2. *“The Waitress Is Getting Married”* The story continues as The Waitress prepares to walk down the aisle ... but with this gang involved, you know things are about to go terribly wrong. Two outrageous stories. One very chaotic night. And plenty of singing, dancing, questionable decisions and Nightman nonsense.

Written and directed by It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia, it runs Sept. 4 through Sept. 6 at the Wisteria Theater in North Hollywood. For tickets,, call (818) 237-4643 or visit www.wisteriatheater.com/upcomingshows.

“Winter’s Bench” Set in a park where only one ancient tree remains, *“Winter’s Bench”* follows Gladys, an elderly woman who has spent a lifetime believing the tree spoke to her when she was a child, and who waits to hear its voice again. Blending storytelling, live music and imagination,

“Winter’s Bench” is both a memory play and a meditation on nature, aging and hope. At a time when forests are disappearing and loneliness is on the rise, *“Winter’s Bench”* invites audiences to consider what we lose when we stop listening – to nature, to one another and to the stories that shape us.

Written by Mike Kenny and directed by Debbie Devine, it runs Sept. 5 through Oct. 25 at the 24th Street Theatre in Los Angeles. For tickets, call (213) 745-6516 or visit 24thstreet.org.



“Texas Sodomy: The Incredible True Story of Lawrence v. Texas” Houston 1998. John Lawrence and Tyron Garner are arrested under Texas’ “Homosexual Conduct” law. What begins as a drunken arrest grows into a constitutional battle stretching from Houston to Washington, D.C. *“Texas Sodomy”* follows two ordinary working-class men and Lane Lewis – a Houston bartender and activist who becomes their closest ally and protector – as they join an unlikely coalition of lawyers and activists in a pivotal chapter of the American Civil Rights Movement. Blending sharp comedy, gripping drama and intimate character study, *“Texas Sodomy”* reveals the extraordinary human

story behind one of the most important civil rights decisions in modern American history.

Written and directed by Howard Skora, it runs Sept. 10 through Oct. 24 at the Whitefire Theatre in Sherman Oaks. For tickets, visit www.TexasSodomy.com.



“Bright Blue Sky: the 9/11 Musical” This original stage musical is set on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center’s North Tower on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. It has five performances only in September and is timed to the 25th anniversary of the attacks. *“Bright Blue Sky”* is about a group of people working in the World Trade Center on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. During these desperate hours, not knowing whether the day will end as it began, the characters come together through their differences to find their shared humanity. In a series of charming, endearing and deeply heartfelt vignettes, each character relives moments from their past, revealing an uplifting story of the hope amid tragedy and loss within love.

Written by Vincent Aniceto, with music by Tim Nelson, it runs Sept. 11 through Sept. 20 at the Rose Center Theater in Westminster. For tickets, call (714) 793-1150 or visit www.rosecentertheater.com/bright-blue-sky-9-11-musical.

“Frankenstein: Resurrection - An Original Musical” In *“Frankenstein: Resurrection,”* Victor Frankenstein see SCENE IN LA on page 14



75th

24

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Winter's Bench

By Mike Kenny
Directed by Debbie Devine

can trees talk?

Crescenta Valley

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SCENE IN LA from page 13

awakens in a secret laboratory beneath the infamous Paris morgue, resurrected by the brilliant Doctor Seraphina Pretorius. As Victor becomes convinced that the doctor’s sister Elsa is the reincarnation of his lost bride Elizabeth, he descends into a nightmare of obsession and madness. Guided by the Monster through the Nine Circles of Hell, Victor is ultimately forced to confront a terrifying truth: the greatest monster he ever created may have been himself. Operatic, brutal and deeply human, “Frankenstein: Resurrection” asks one haunting question: What is the cost of refusing to let go?

Written and directed by Justin Meyer, with music by Chris Thomas, it runs Sept. 11 through Nov. 1 at the Nocturne Theatre in Glendale. For tickets, visit thenocturnetheatre.com.

“Othello” Shakespeare’s classic tragedy of manipulation, madness and despair that begins when Iago, a resentful, egocentric individual who feels overlooked and undervalued by his peers, is passed over by Othello for promotion and pursues his revenge against the Moor of Venice

by constructing a plot fueled by betrayal and jealousy. Iago operates not with brute force but by psychologically poisoning others, making them act as pawns in his vendetta. And as suspicion about his wife Desdemona’s fidelity takes hold of Othello’s mind, we watch him spiral downwards towards his inevitable tragic doom.

Written by William Shakespeare and directed by Christopher Aruffo, it runs Sept. 11 through Oct. 3 at the Westchester Playhouse in Los Angeles. For tickets, call (310) 645-5156 or visit www.kentwoodplayers.org.

“September 10” One evening a woman confesses to her husband that she’s been unfaithful. The date is Sept. 10, 2001. The next morning, their private crisis is eclipsed by a national tragedy – best known as 9/11. As the couple watches coverage on television and works through their relationship, we meet various ordinary people affected by the event: a sportswriter, a firefighter, a woman rediscovering her faith, a graffiti artist, a street vendor selling American flags, an evangelist and others.

Written by Art Shulman and directed by

Stan Mazin, it runs Sept. 11 through Oct. 4 at the Two Roads Theatre in Studio City. For tickets, visit onstage411.com/sept10.

“Into the Woods” When the Baker and his wife venture into the forest to break a witch’s curse, they encounter Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood and Jack (of beanstalk fame) – and familiar tales take on clever new lives. But be careful what you wish for because “happily ever after” is never the whole story. This poignant musical comedy masterpiece celebrates its 40th anniversary with a fabulous new SCR production featuring 12 actors instead of the customary 18 or more.

Written by James Lapine, with music by Stephen Sondheim, and directed by Peter Rothstein, it runs Sept. 12 through Oct. 18 at the South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa. For tickets, call (714) 708-5555 or visit www.scr.org.

“Marisol” A dreamlike blend of magical realism, Theatre of the Absurd and Rivera’s powerfully poetic language, “Marisol” is a darkly funny, apocalyptic fable about survival, faith and hope. After her guardian angel abandons her to join the celestial battle against a senile God, Bronx resident Marisol Pérez must navigate a terrifying, unraveling world on her own while struggling to preserve her humanity.

Written by José Rivera and directed by Amanda Weier, it runs Sept. 12 through Oct. 24 at the Open Fist Theatre Company @ Atwater Village Theatre in Atwater Village. For tickets, call (323) 882-6912 or visit openfist.org.

“A Killer Night in Studio City” A genre-bending production, “A Killer Night in Studio City” blends a classic, fast-paced comedic stage play and musical performances of 1950s hits, with a fully immersive and interactive mystery experience.

It’s 1958. You’re invited to a memorial for Sophia Vance. Who killed Sophia Vance, the fastest-rising young actress in Hollywood? Could it be Johnny Turner, the A-list movie star that she rejected? Could it be Ronnie Bennett, the guy who plays a detective on television? Could it be Arthur Clarkston, the make-up artist who is the custodian of all of Sophia’s secrets? Could it be Edith Sinclair, the determined gossip columnist? Could it even be Mama Vitello? Everyone has a motive. Everyone has secrets. You’ll be given the opportunity to find the murderer as you’ll be given clues during the course of the evening at this immersive, interactive murder mystery, set at the memorial for Sophia Vance at Vitello’s, the Studio City culinary institution that’s been a favorite of Hollywood celebrities. You’ll be moving between rooms at Vitello’s, and you’ll have a sumptuous dinner with your choice of entrée: chicken, fish or vegetarian, as well as coffee, tea or soft drinks.

Written by Kevin Allen Jackson and Kristine Dickson, and directed by Noah Blake, it runs Sept. 15 through Oct. 31 at Vitello’s Restaurant in Studio City. For tickets, visit www.akillernightlive.com/studiocity/tickets.

“The Case-Book of C. Auguste Dupin” With Edgar Allan Poe’s creation of the character of C. Auguste Dupin, the master of the macabre forever changed crime fiction. Dupin was the first modern detective. He was the archetype for literary sleuths Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot, solving seemingly unsolvable crimes with logic and astonishing deductions. This play brings together Poe’s three spellbinding Dupin Mysteries: “The Murders in the

Rue Morgue,” “The Mystery of Marie Roget” and “The Purloined Letter” for an engrossing evening of murder, mayhem and meerscham pipes.

Written by John Strysik and directed by Edgar Allan Poe, it runs Sept. 17 through Oct. 18 at Theatre Forty, in the Mary Levin Cutler Theatre in Beverly Hills. For tickets, call (310) 364-0535 or visit theatre40.org.

“Catch Me If You Can the Musical” is a high-flying, splashy Broadway musical that tells the true story of Frank W. Abagnale Jr., who runs away from home in search of the glamorous life. With nothing more than his boyish charm, a big imagination and millions of dollars in forged checks, Frank successfully poses as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer – living the high life and winning the girl of his dreams. But when Frank’s lies catch the attention of FBI agent Carl Hanratty, Carl chases Frank to the end ... and finds something he never expected.

Written by Terrence McNally, with music by Marc Shaiman and lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman, and directed by Michael Donovan, it runs Sept. 17 through Oct. 18 at the Colony Theatre in Burbank. For tickets, visit www.colonytheatre.org.

“A Number” Salter thought he had only two sons: the troubled child he sent away at 4 years old, and the genetically identical copy he had created and raised in his place. Then he discovers there are more – many more. When the truth about a long-buried cloning experiment comes to light, Salter is forced to confront the consequences of a decision made decades earlier. As questions of identity, nature, nurture and responsibility collide, “A Number” turns a startling scientific premise into a gripping and deeply human family drama.

Written by Caryl Churchill and directed by James Paradise, it runs Sept. 18 through Oct. 11 at the Madnani Theater in Hollywood. For tickets, visit events.thestagecrafts.com/15047.

“Realm of the River” Close friends enjoy a magical night out. Fun and freedom suddenly take a dark turn when an unforeseen and insurmountable circumstance invokes a mystic force, bringing everyone face-to-face with the true work of healing. Water runs through the story as a source of danger and restoration, carrying memory and transformation with it. Bliss’s writing creates an emotional and mystical landscape that is further brought to life through projections, music, lighting and atmospheric stage design, transforming the venue into an immersive theatrical world.

Written and directed by Jesse Bliss, it runs Sept. 18 through Sept. 27 at the Rosenthal Theater at Inner-City Arts in Los Angeles. For tickets, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/realm-of-the-river-a-world-premiere-play-by-jesse-bliss-tickets-1996257931210.

“The Peterson Show” follows five former child stars who reunite as the legacy of their beloved television father collapses into scandal. With cameras swarming outside and decades of unresolved history inside, they confront old rivalries, buried secrets and the complicated bonds forged while growing up on America’s favorite sitcom. At once hilarious and heartbreaking, “The Peterson Show” raises a difficult question: What happens to a family when the person who held it together becomes the one who tears it apart?

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/LEISURE.

THEN & NOW

Montrose BBQ

Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Then: Developers Holmes and Watson had bought the southeast portion of the Crescenta Valley and laid out lots on a street plan with an unusual circular design. The town was to be called Montrose. On Feb. 22, 1913 a big barbecue was held to attract potential buyers. The Glendale and Montrose Railway, set to run on electrified tracks from Glendale, was still five months from completion, so an estimated 4,000 people drove a mix of autos and horse buggies up to the small development. Buyers sampled the “old-time California barbecue” offered by Señor Jose Romero, and sales of lots were brisk that first day. The new intersection of Honolulu and Verdugo can be seen here, with the throng of people around the barbecue to the left in this photo taken that day in 1913. The location of the natural spring (which later became Indian Springs swimming pool) is indicated by the grove of oaks in the bottom right and beyond that, between Montrose and the Verdugo Mountains, the extensive citrus orchards of Mr. Sparr can be seen.



Now: The lots have all been sold – and sold again. At the same spot where people feasted on old-time California barbecue, people now sample Asian food from New Moon. The empty dirt road of Honolulu has sprouted gorgeous tree-lined sidewalks and an array of shops and restaurants in a tree-covered shopping park. The fruit orchards of Mr. Sparr are gone but the community’s name of Sparr Heights pays tribute to him. In the background of the Verdugo Mountains one of the Oakmont subdivisions marches starkly up the hill, while beyond it wooded hillside has been permanently preserved by forward thinking citizens. Despite the development of Montrose, it’s still a beautiful place to live and shop.

TRAVEL from page 12

It proved that the Lodge at the Presidio is more than just a place to sleep – it’s a peaceful, historic anchor that turns a family trip to San Francisco into an unforgettable journey.

For more information on planning your

stay or making reservations at The Lodge at the Presidio, call (415) 561-1234 or visit presidiodlodge.com. To book a ferry to Alcatraz, secure your timed tickets in advance at Alcatraz City Cruises

JUST FOR FUN

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES Provided by horoscope.com August 31, 2026 - September 6, 2026

ARIES *March 21 - April 19*
It's time to be a little more adventurous concerning your health. There's nothing more boring for you than eating the same food or doing the same exercise day in and day out. It seems to gnaw at your soul. This week, determine to do it differently. Try a new form of exercise and experiment with recipes that make your mouth water. It will be worth the effort and you'll look great.

TAURUS *April 20 - May 20*
This may be a good time to consult with the experts if you need help overcoming certain symptoms or want to reach the peak of fitness. Think about getting in touch with someone who has a lot of experience. This person may save you time and energy by helping you get the results you want far more quickly and efficiently. A health coach may be the answer.

GEMINI *May 21 - June 20*
This isn't a good time to have vague health goals. You need to be more precise and detailed if you want to get anywhere. Lack of clarity has been a problem for you for some time, so don't let this issue lead into your health zone. Write down what you want to achieve in terms of losing weight or reaching certain levels of fitness. Knowing what you want means you're almost halfway there.

CANCER *June 21 - July 22*
This is an excellent week to transform your outlook on your well-being. It's time to break old patterns that are keeping you from achieving as much as you can. You can do so much more - you only need to let go of your doubts and fears. If you can make a firm decision to commit to being as healthy and well as you can be, this will be a great start.

LEO *July 23 - August 22*
The temptation may be to give in to those minor aches and pains that occur on a daily basis and gradually become a habitual feature of your body's landscape. As a result, you may decide not to exercise only to find that they never really get better by doing nothing. Try exercising regularly every day – start gently – and you'll become more and more flexible.

VIRGO *August 23 - Sept. 22*
You're thinking a lot about health and exercise, but that isn't what will help you to reach your fitness goals. This week you need to focus on taking action on a regular basis. That means getting on an exercise bike and not just looking at it. It also means making sure you have the right food in the house so you can begin your new diet.

LIBRA *Sept. 23 - Oct. 22*
There's certainly something stirring in your health zone. Mars in Scorpio means that the cosmos has given you a chance to dig deep and find the reasons for some of your most pressing health issues. This isn't the time to bury your head in the sand. If you're having problems, get them checked out and get something done. Ask yourself why you've avoided looking after your body.

SCORPIO *Oct. 23 - Nov. 21*
The temptation to dive into a mountain of ice cream, cake, and chocolate could be too much. What you need to ask yourself is why do you want to eat like this and sabotage your best attempts at staying in great shape? If hidden emotions are causing you problems, it's best to get them out in the open and resolve them.

SAGITTARIUS *Nov. 22 - Dec. 21*
Use the power of the stars to understand your health issues. The problems you're experiencing with your body may be partly due to issues and patterns of thought that are creating illness. This is a good time to learn the benefits of letting go. By releasing bitterness and resentment, you allow your body to heal much more quickly. If you need the help of a professional to achieve this, then go for it.

CAPRICORN *Dec. 22 - Jan. 19*
Make sure you remain flexible. Though you may not feel like exercising or even going for a walk, it's essential that you do so. It's most important that you enjoy the kind of exercise you do. If it becomes a source of joy and happiness, then you're more likely to devote half an hour a day to remaining in peak condition. Start slowly, but be consistent.

AQUARIUS *Jan. 20 - Feb. 18*
Envision what you want to achieve in terms of your health and fitness, then decide to take action. First of all, you need to see yourself achieving your goals. You also need to visualize yourself enjoying being in your new body on a daily basis. The more you can do this using all of your senses, the easier it will be to have the body of your dreams.

PISCES *Feb. 19 - March 20*
Your health is in your hands now. It's up to you to take the kind of action that will produce the best results. You may also want to look at why you sabotage your best intentions. This is a common problem and one that doesn't serve your health or overall well-being. When you get it right you'll be invincible. You can be virtually symptom-free.

CALENDAR this

KIWANIS CLUBS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. On Sept. 4, the Club is dark in observance of Labor Day. On Sept. 11, a representative from USC Verdugo Hills Hospital will make a presentation on Building the Future of Community Healthcare.

The cost to attend Friday meetings, which includes lunch and program, is \$25. All are welcome.

The Club meets at the Elks Lodge, 120 E. Colorado St. in Glendale.

The La Cañada La Crescenta AM Club has a free weekly meeting held from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall of Lutheran Church of the Foothills, 1700 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada.

DOLL SHOW AND SALE

The Jewel City Doll Club, a member of UFDC, is hosting the annual 47th annual doll show and sale on Saturday, Sept. 5 (new date) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is being held at the air conditioned Burbank Elks Lodge.

Dolls of all ages plus accessories, toys and treasures will be available for purchase.

Admission is \$10 per person (those under 12 are free) – cash only.

Free parking and food for purchase.

The Burbank Elks Lodge is located at 2232 N. Hollywood Way in Burbank.

SIGN UP NOW FOR MODERN SQUARE DANCING

A new 14-week beginner's class in modern square dancing starts on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 7:45 p.m. at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3561 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta. The first two classes are free. No partner needed.

Meet new people while getting exercise for both body and mind. Learn the "steps to fun!"

For info, email illi313@yahoo.com or visit www.setsinstep.org.

DANCING AS EXERCISE

Dancing As Exercise is a free event sponsored by the Los Angeles

County Park program for seniors (50 plus).

There will be music from 10 a.m. to noon each Friday in the Park's building at 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. Light refreshments and water are provided along with socialization and information about other park activities.

Dancing, per se, is not required; single persons are welcome.

AWH RAISES A GLASS

AHEAD with Horses is having a WineFest on Sept. 12 and Sept. 13. Tickets begin at \$80 (plus applicable fees) and available at <https://www.lawinefest.com/squadup-tickets/>.

It will be held in the afternoon at the LA Equestrian Center, 480 Riverside Drive in Burbank.

For more information, visit www.LAWineFest.com.

RIVERWALK WORKDAY

On Saturday, Sept. 12 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. volunteers will be removing invasive plants from the landscaped areas along the LA River. Participants are asked to wear sturdy shoes and protective clothing, and bring sunscreen, sunglasses, water and a hat. Tools, gloves, drinks and snacks will be provided.

Families, individuals, clubs and students needing community service hours are welcome. In case of rain, this event will be canceled. RSVP and sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/3nv427m8>.

Glendale Narrows Riverwalk, 300 Paula Ave., Glendale

THE BUZZ ON BEES IS COMING TO EAGLE ROCK

The Women's Twentieth Century Club and Bee Like Jelly is hosting a morning of honeybee education, an interactive live hive, arts & crafts and a short film screening.

All ages welcome!

The event takes place at the Twentieth Century Club on Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at the clubhouse at 5105 Hermosa Ave.

\$5 is the suggested donation (no one turned away for lack of funds).
see CALENDAR THIS on next page

» ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE

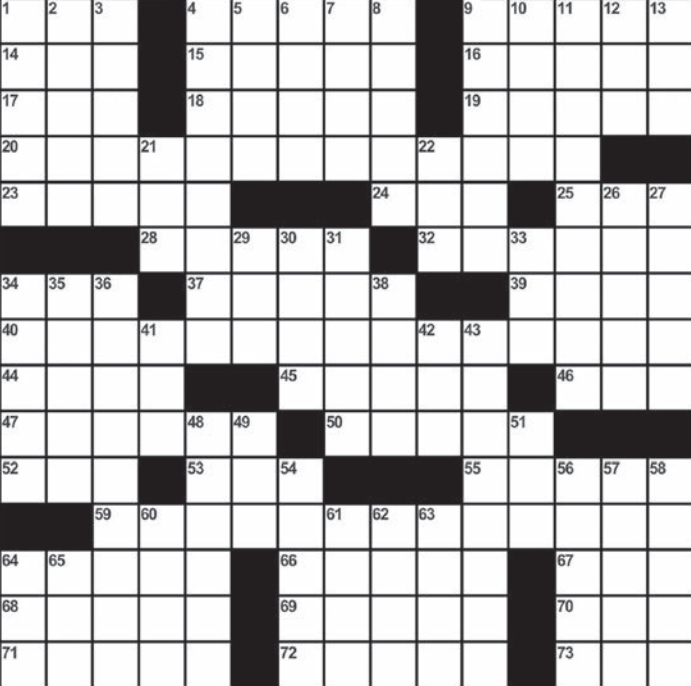


ACROSS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) One Mr. Rogers | 44) Round coif |
| 4) Frets | 45) Small finch |
| 9) Like the color purple | 46) Hr. at the prime meridian |
| 14) Aboriginal food source | 47) Doorframe part |
| 15) About three grains of troy weight | 50) Music-score sign |
| 16) Soft palate attachment | 52) Place for experiments |
| 17) ___ du Flambeau, Wisc. | 53) Grassland |
| 18) Drop, as a vowel sound | 55) Mouthy exams |
| 19) "Itty" follower | 59) Impossible to put into words |
| 20) Beyond one's imagination | 64) Contradict |
| 23) Beauty pageant wear | 66) "I ___ return" |
| 24) Barely make (with "out") | 67) "Dig in!" |
| 25) Apprehend | 68) Luxury auto, for short |
| 28) Cavalry group | 69) Top Boy Scout |
| 32) Fit for farming | 70) Last words of Little Jack Horner |
| 34) Volcanic spew | 71) Start of something |
| 37) Dentist's filling | 72) Hairdresser's handful |
| 39) Beaks | 73) Supply with staff |
| 40) Like an offer one should avoid | |

DREAM TEAM

By Timothy E. Parker



DOWN

- Kindled anew
- Certain Arab
- Southwestern desert plant
- Screenplay outline
- Absorbent after-bath powder
- Lake near Niagara Falls
- Dry riverbed
- McQueen of "The Great Escape"
- Kind of stamp
- Like Lucifer
- Noted Bible printer
- Computer keyboard key
- What hens do
- Food crumb
- Alias
- Vinyl collectible
- Assail
- Lennon's bride
- Cutlass, e.g., briefly
- Rich spreads
- Queen of the hill?
- ___ costs (by any means)
- Balkan capital
- Tropical birds with curved beaks
- Antiquity
- Grasped
- Magnanimous
- Bestows a title upon
- Firstborn
- "I'm Sorry" singer Brenda
- "... blessing ___ curse?"
- Liability's **opposite**
- Crosswise, on deck
- Andean animal
- ___ motion (begin)
- African river
- Blacken on a grill
- Fierce anger
- Misfortunes
- "My man!"
- Long, long time

see ANSWERS on following page

How To Find \$4,762 When Comcast Says It’s Gone.

Adriana Gores accidentally overpays her Comcast bill by nearly \$5,000 and receives a prepaid debit card as a refund. When the balance mysteriously plummets to \$82, she finds herself trapped in a customer service maze. Can she escape?

Question: I accidentally overpaid my Comcast Xfinity bill online – I meant to pay my credit card but sent the money to Comcast instead. It was a massive mistake, totaling \$4,762. Eventually, Xfinity issued a refund via a prepaid debit card for the full amount.

Initially, I forgot about the card. When I found it, I realized it had an expiration date. I had to demand a new one because the company tried to tell me the funds would expire. I was afraid to carry the card around because it was as good as cash so I barely used it. I did manage to transfer \$1,000 to my bank account but the system wouldn’t let me move any more than that.

When I recently checked the balance again, the card claimed I only had \$82 left. I’ve spent hours on the phone with various Xfinity departments and even went to a brick-and-mortar store. Absolutely no one can validate how my balance went from over \$4,000 to double digits. Every method they offer for listing transactions – the website, the phone tree, the issuing bank –

has been a dead end.

Meanwhile, the bank noted a \$1,400 charge for patio furniture that I’m certain I didn’t buy with this card. The transaction list on the phone tree initially said there were no transactions then suddenly showed that purchase.

I feel that if this is Xfinity’s method for refunding customers, it should be able to show proof of how the money was spent. Since it can’t, I believe it still owes me the money. I want a detailed list of transactions or a refund by check. I don’t want another debit card.

–Adriana Gores, San Francisco, California

Answer: Comcast should have handed over your money without the high-wire act. When a customer overpays, the company shouldn’t treat the refund like a gift card to a mall. It’s your money, not a reward.

Ideally a company should refund you via your original payment method. If that’s not possible, it should issue a check.

But a prepaid debit card that expires? Nope.

You have certain legal protections against errors on accounts (check the Electronic Fund Transfer Act for details) but prepaid cards can be a regulatory gray area depending on how they’re branded and where you live.

You did the right thing by calling and visiting the store but quickly hit a roadblock. The workaround is to stop talking and start writing. A thorough paper trail can vault you over the wall. When you’re using the phone, the promises vanish into the ether the moment you hang up.

Next time, consider sending a brief, polite email to one of the Comcast executive contacts I list on my consumer advocacy site Elliott.org. (It looks like you tried to find the contacts on my site but couldn’t. I’m going to have to talk to my developers about that!)

I contacted Comcast on your behalf. A representative from its support team reached out to you and finally provided the transaction information you were looking for.

“Our support team connected



Illustration by Dustin ELLIOTT

with the customer and shared the requested transaction information related to the refunded prepaid debit card, which they did not dispute, thus resolving their concerns,” a spokesman told me.

It turns out the money hadn’t vanished into a black hole. It had been spent (along with a few other purchases) though the lack of a clear statement made it feel like a heist. If a company tries to refund your thousands with a piece of plastic just say “no.” Demand real money. It’s harder to lose, it doesn’t

expire and it doesn’t require a login to see if your money is still there.

Oh, and be more careful the next time you pay your credit card bill online.

Christopher Elliott is the founder of Elliott Advocacy (https://elliottadvocacy.org), a nonprofit organization that helps consumers solve their problems.

Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help by contacting him at https://elliottadvocacy.org/help/.

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CALENDAR THIS from previous page

Folks are encouraged to bring a picnic to share on the lawn.

Please note: Due to live bees on-site, this event isn’t recommended for those with bee allergies.

SHELTON GUEST SPEAKER AT AAUW

The Glendale Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will hold a branch meeting on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. at the Oakmont Country Club, 3100 Country Club Drive in Glendale.

The guest speaker is Jessie Shelton, founder and CEO of 7 Seas Collective, a non-profit coastal science community dedicated to creating ocean stewards and influencing environmental policy.

Shelton holds a B.S. in environmental science and resource management with an emphasis in marine science from CSU Channel Islands. She has a deep love for the ocean and has always felt responsible for making sure the land and sea have a strong voice behind them. Her work includes outreach, science communication, and data collection. She is also a licensed SCUBA instructor.

7 Seas Collective inspires a global community of coastal citizens

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22	I	N	C	O	N	C	E	I	V	23	A	B	L	E	24	25	
26	T	I	A	R	A	28	30	31	32	E	K	E	N	A	B	33	
34	A	S	H	35	T	R	O	O	P	36	A	R	A	B	L	E	37
38	T	O	O	G	O	O	D	T	O	B	E	T	R	U	E	39	40
41	A	F	R	O	42	S	E	R	I	N	G	M	T	43	44	45	46
47	L	I	N	T	48	S	E	G	N	O	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
56	L	A	B	57	L	E	A	58	O	R	A	L	S	59	60	61	62
63	I	N	D	E	S	C	R	I	B	A	B	L	E	64	65	66	67
68	B	E	L	L	69	S	H	A	L	L	70	E	A	T	71	72	73
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dedicated to the stewardship of marine ecosystems through citizen science, education, and connection. The organization aims to change mindsets through education, gain a better understanding of changing coastal ecosystems, and shape policies that protect oceans and foster a sustainable future for marine life and coastal communities. Information on her organization can be found at https://www.7seascollective.org/

For information about AAUW Glendale Branch or to RSVP for branch meetings contact news@aauwglendale.org.

SCAM SEMINAR BY LOCAL REALTOR

Realtor and certified senior housing professional Diana Tyson will host a free fraud and scam prevention seminar on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 11 a.m. at the La Crescenta Library. The seminar is part of Tyson’s ongoing Senior Education Seminar Series and is open to seniors, family members, caregivers and other interested members of the community.

Detectives from the Glendale Police Dept. will share information about current illegal activities and fraudulent schemes they have encountered.

La Crescenta Library is located at 2809 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta.

CV PARK ACTIVITIES

CV Park has the following activities planned for the remainder of the year:

Friday, Sept. 18 from 5 - 7 p.m. the park presents Hispanic Heritage; on Friday, Oct. 30 from 4 - 7 p.m.,

it’s Trick or Treat Village; on Friday, Nov. 20 from 4 - 7 p.m. it’s the Harvest Festival; on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Holiday in the Park is being held.

CV Park is located at 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta.

CCLCF EVENTS

The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge (CCLCF) hosts a variety of events for the community. Among them:

•CCLCF Presents. September marks the start of the new CCLCF entertainment series, dedicated to bringing exceptional monthly programming to the community. The inaugural event is Jazz Night on Saturday, Sept. 19. Tickets are available at cclcf.org/events.

•Thanksgiving Run: The 33rd Annual Thanksgiving Day 5K & Kids Mile is coming up on Nov. 26. Summer sale runs through Sept. 30. Learn more at cclcf.org/run.

•Volunteer Opportunity: The community is invited to participate in the Angel Project on Saturday, Sept 26 from 11 a.m. to noon. In partnership with Small Acts Big Change, CCLCF is decorating card stock angels to help lift the spirits of local children in need. Learn more at cclcf.volunteerlocal.com.

Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge is located at 4469 Chevy Chase Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, (818) 790-4353.

CLASSIC FILMS UNDER THE STARS

Classic Films Under the Stars Series at the Doctors House in Glendale is presented by the Alex Film Society, the Northwest Glendale Homeowners Association, Brand Associates and The Glendale Historical Society. On Saturday, Sept. 26 the film “The Quiet Man” will be screened.

Gates open at 6 p.m., movie starts at 7:30 p.m. Picnicking encouraged!

Admission is free, but RSVP requested. RSVP at https://tinyurl.com/366cyaa4.

The Doctors House is located at 1601 W. Mountain St. in Glendale.

SPARR HEIGHTS DISASTER POD BINGO 2

C.E.R.T. – Community Emergency Response Team – is having a bingo on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Healy Hall at Holy Redeemer, 2411 Montrose Ave. in Montrose. The cost is \$30 per person, which includes 10 games with featured payouts of up to \$250! Doors open at 5 p.m., the first game is at 6 p.m.

A snack bar will feature food for purchase.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Those who can, do; Those who can do more, volunteer. Author Unknown Little Landers Historical Society is seeking volunteers to help support its mission, “To preserve and maintain Bolton Hall Museum and the historical record of Rancho Tujunga.”

Positions on the Bolton Hall 2026 board of directors are open. Other opportunities to volunteer include museum docents, committee members for ongoing projects, special event and exhibit coordinators, administrative, archival or library assistants, facilities maintenance and more.

Potential volunteers are asked to reach out with questions. Email LittleLanders@BoltonHall.org, phone (818) 352-3420 or send a letter so P.O. Box 203, Tujunga, CA 91043.

MONTROSE LIBRARY EVENTS

•The Montrose Library hosts canasta on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
•The Back Alley Painters is a

vibrant group of adult artists who gather to create, share their work, offer constructive feedback and enjoy each other’s company.

Participants are asked to bring their own art supplies – whether watercolor, acrylic, ink or pencil (no oil paints). Meetings are every Monday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

•Mahjong is a game of skill, strategy, calculation and a degree of chance. Players of all levels are welcomed! Players meet every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Montrose Library.

The Montrose Library, 2465 Honolulu Ave. in Montrose (818) 548-2048.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING

Community members are invited to join the Glendale/La Crescenta Stamp Club, a community of stamp enthusiasts that meets regularly to share their passion for this timeless hobby.

The Glendale/La Crescenta Stamp Club meets every third Tuesday at the LA County Library - La Crescenta located at the corner of La Crescenta Avenue and Foothill Boulevard, 2809 Foothill Blvd., at 7 p.m. in the second floor community room.

For more information about the club and upcoming meetings, call (818) 903-4451.

ACTIVITIES AT SUNLAND SENIOR CENTER

The Sunland Senior Center offers a selection of classes and activities daily. Whether seniors are looking to exercise or dance or are interested in art, theater, or knitting, the Center has something for everyone. Sunland also hosts bingo on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and a movie matinee on the big

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/CALENDARTHIS

RELIGION

RELIGION SERVICE DIRECTORY



Center for
Spiritual Living
La Crescenta

4845 Dunsmore Ave, La Crescenta, CA 91214

Sr. Minister, Rev. Mary Morgan

Meditation at 9:30-9:45 am

Service at 10:00 am

Come share Faith, Love and Community.
We offer a Sanctuary for the Soul and a
Home for the Heart

CSLLaCrescenta@gmail.com

Chabad Of The Crescenta Valley

Your home for all things Jewish

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cvchabad.org

Contact Us Today!

Rabbi@cvchabad.org • (323) 308-5727



SPIRITUALLY
SPEAKING

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Jon Karn of Light on the Corner Church; Rabbi Janet Bieber; Rev. Mary Morgan and Laney Clevenger-White, RScP, Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta; Rev. Dabney Beck; Rev. Karin Ellis; La Cañada United Methodist Church; Guy Leemhuis, St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church; Kyle Sears, La Cañada Congregational Church; Holy Redeemer/St. James the Less churches; Dr. Mouris Yousef, La Crescenta Presbyterian Church; Pastors Andrew & Maria Segovia, Higher Vision Church; Dot Kim, La Crescenta Presbyterian Church.

Responses are offered from the perspective of individual Spiritually Speaking respondents, which may or may not be in agreement with other respondents of Spiritually Speaking nor the editor and staff of the Crescenta Valley Weekly.

Crescenta Valley
United Methodist Church



WORSHIP
Sunday 10am

Childcare and
Sunday School
offered at 10am.

PASTOR KEVIN KANG

2700 Montrose Ave
Montrose, CA 91020

www.cvumc.org

HC

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAYS @ 10AM

4441 LA CRESCENTA AVE

818-249-5832

WWW.HIGHLANDSLA.COM



Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

LA CAÑADA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE LIGHTED WINDOW

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

La Cañada Congregational Church is the
oldest church in the Crescenta Valley. For over
125 years, we have been shaped by the stories
of our community and the story of God.
We invite you to join us in writing the
future of our community!

1200 Foothill Blvd, La Cañada Flintridge
(parking lots on Foothill or Verdugo)
www.lacanadachurch.org

Light on the Corner Church



Pastor Jon Karn

1911 Waltonia Drive
Montrose

(818) 249-4806

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:45 a.m.

www.lightonthecorner.org

Lutheran Church
in the Foothills

1700 Foothill Blvd.
La Cañada Flintridge



WORSHIP WITH US!

In Person and on YouTube

Sundays at 10 AM

Services available on our website
during the week.

www.lcifoothills.org / 818-790-1951



Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

3561 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta

office@molc.org • (818) 248-4253

Sunday Worship Service

(with Sunday School for kids) 9:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study

6:30 PM

Check out our Website!

www.molc.org

See us on Facebook!



COME MEET US!

St. Luke's
of-the-Mountains
Episcopal Church

Sundays

Gathering 9:30AM

Worship 10:00AM

Domingo Misa en Español a las 12:00PM

Sunday School and Child Care

All are Welcome

2563 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta

818-248-3639

http://stlukeslacrescenta.org/
www.facebook.com:

St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church

ADVERTISE
YOUR RELIGION
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Call
(818) 248-2740

NOTES & NODS

DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AT LCIF

Lutheran Church in the Foothills (LCIF) is gearing up for a day of community service on Sunday, Sept. 13, inviting local volunteers to assemble school supply bags for children in need around the world. The event will take place in the church's Fellowship Hall immediately following 10 a.m. worship. The project caps off a summer-long school supply drive hosted by the church. Thanks to the generosity of church members and the local community, as many as 100 children will receive bags filled with brand-new school supplies. The

completed kits will be distributed internationally through Lutheran World Relief.

The local effort coincides with "God's work. Our hands." It's an annual nationwide day of service sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the governing body of LCIF. The initiative unites congregations across the country to focus on serving those in need. As the ELCA notes of the church-wide effort, the day of service is an opportunity for congregations to explore "our convictions as Lutherans: that all life in Jesus flows from a living, daring confidence in God's grace." ELCA

Question: Right now, my world feels incredibly shaky. I'm carrying a weight that I don't know how to put down and it's tied to my faith – or, more accurately, the lack of it right now.

I find myself standing in a place of complete confusion. For years, I believed that there was a plan, a purpose and a protector watching over us. But looking at the pain around me that belief feels like a house of cards that just collapsed. If God is good and all-powerful, why did this happen? How am I supposed to trust a divine plan that breaks my heart?

–Doubtful

Dear Friend,

What you're describing isn't the absence of faith. It's faith in its hardest hour.

The book you may feel you've fallen out of is full of people saying exactly what you just said. Job

refuses every tidy explanation his friends offer him. The psalmist demands, "How long, O Lord?" And Jesus, dying, cried out that God had forsaken him. The church never edited that line out. We kept it. We read it aloud every Good Friday. That should tell you something about what kind of house this is.

I don't believe God authored your pain. The idea that suffering is part of a plan tries to comfort us by making God the cause of it and I would rather be honest with you: I don't know why this happened. What I trust isn't a plan. It's a presence – a God who did not stay at a safe distance from our grief but climbed down into it and has not left.

So yes, something collapsed. Not your faith, I think, but a particular idea of God as a protector who prevents things. That idea falls on all of us eventually. What's left underneath is smaller and far sturdier. Our sanctuary was built

by neighbors carrying river rock up from the wash by hand. Heavy, plain, still standing.

The psalmist who cried "How long?" also wrote this: "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." He does not promise the night will be short. He promises it will end. Six centuries ago, gravely ill and in her own long night, Julian of Norwich heard the same assurance: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." She was not being cheerful. She was being faithful.

Don't carry this alone. Call a priest, a counselor, a friend who won't rush you. Doubt isn't exile – and none of us walks it by ourselves. Bring it through the door. We're in this together.

The Rev. Guy A. Leemhuis, Vicar
St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church in La Crescenta

LCPC Hosting Chuseok & Mid-Autumn Festival

La Cañada Presbyterian Church (LCPC) invites families, friends and neighbors from throughout the surrounding communities to its annual Chuseok & Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 13 at LCPC, 626 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge.

Chuseok, celebrated in Korea, and the Mid-Autumn Festival, celebrated throughout China and many parts of Asia, are beloved traditions centered around family, gratitude, gathering and sharing food together. LCPC's celebration brings these traditions together as an opportunity to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the community while giving thanks for the blessings that bring people together.

The Sunday morning services at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. will feature multilingual worship with special music and cultural elements, followed by an intercultural community celebration featuring Korean and Chinese cuisine and fellowship for all ages.

The celebration is part of LCPC's ongoing commitment to becoming a growing intercultural church and building meaningful relationships with the diverse communities in and around La Cañada Flintridge.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of cultural background or church experience. Community members are especially encouraged to invite friends, neighbors and families to experience this joyful celebration together.

This event is free and open to the community. All are invited to come and celebrate together.

leaders also highlight that "God's work. Our hands." serves as an opportunity for people of different ages and abilities to work alongside one another in local and or global outreach. Organizers welcome anyone wishing to help assemble the school supply kits to participate following the morning service.

Weekly worship at LCIF begins at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Children's Church takes place at the same time and includes a Bible lesson, snack, games and crafts. All are welcome.

For more information on all church events, or to receive pastoral care, visit lcifoothills.org, email office@lcifoothills.org or call (818) 790-1951.

The church is located at 1700

Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

WOMEN'S NONDENOMINATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

Seasons of Life Bible Study offers two classes to choose from:

- * Joy of Living is studying Acts 1 and 2.
- * Women of Faith will be studying Prayer with Power and In His Eyes.

Classes are held on Thursday mornings from 10 – 11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 24 through April 15 at Highlands Church (4441 La Crescenta Ave. in La Crescenta).

If interested, please contact the

church at (818) 405-0763 or call Lynda Hessick at (818) 640-6022 or email lyndahessick@gmail.com. The deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 6 to have the book you select ordered for you.

CSL OFFERS GENTLE MOVEMENT CLASS, SOUND BATH

The Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta is offering a gentle stretch and relax chair movement with Michelle Gillette. It takes place every Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is a \$10 donation.

The class is at Chaffee Hall in the Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta. The Center for Spiritual Living is located at 4845 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. For more information, call (818) 249-1045.

BUSINESS

NEWS FROM THE CV CHAMBER » ROBIN GOLDSWORTHY

Chamber (and Everyone Else) is Heating Up

The Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce is looking ahead to a fall that will (hopefully) be cooler but equally busy. But first, let's recap how August went.

On Aug. 13, the CV Chamber had a mixer at Faced in La Crescenta at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue. Two speakers made presentations at the mixer: Kira Antuna, who owns Faced (<https://www.bykna.com/>) and is also a member of the CV Chamber board of directors, spoke about the value of taking care of your skin. With her was Dr. Mark Anthony (<https://www.lacrescentachiropractor.com/>), who spoke on holistic wellness and longevity. It was a fascinating evening and we appreciate them donating their time.

On Aug. 26 we had our monthly social hour, which was held at John Sparr Tavern in Glendale/Montrose (Sparr Heights). We saw some familiar faces and met some new friends! The food was delicious and the company interesting.

Social hours are designed to be an informal way for folks to meet, talk and share their business and residential ideas. They're held in the Montrose area to support local businesses. Come to our next social hour, planned at Thee Elbow Room, 2418 Honolulu Ave. in Montrose. The social hour is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Looking ahead, on Sept. 11 the Chamber will be co-hosting with the Early Rodders the annual Patriot Day Motorcade. The motorcade travels by our local sheriff's station on Briggs Avenue, then past several schools and fire stations. It's an opportunity to remember those who perished on Sept. 11, 2001 while thanking those who fight local wild fires. It's a solemn occasion; local residents and businesses are asked to come out and acknowledge the motorcade when it passes by. (To see a map visit the Crescenta Valley Weekly website at www.cvweekly.com/NEWS.) The motorcade begins at 8:20 a.m. at the Ralph's Marketplace.

Planning for the future, keep Oct. 17 open when the CV Chamber hosts Waffles & Mimosas at Sadler Hall on the campus of St. Luke's of the Mountains, 2563 Foothill Blvd. It's from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For a nominal fee, you'll enjoy (what else?) waffles & mimosas!

On Oct. 18, the CV and Montrose-Verdugo City chambers are having a joint ribbon cutting for i9 Sports. It's at 10 a.m. and will help the iconic company kick off its fall season.

Then on Oct. 29 at 6:30 p.m., the CV Chamber is hosting the screening of "Coroner to the Stars – the Thomas Noguchi Story." It is also being held at St. Luke's of the Mountains, 2563 Foothill Blvd. Our special guest will be Vidal Herrera of 1-800-Autopsy, a private pathology service and new member of the CV Chamber of Commerce. For non-Chamber members the cost is \$5; for members, it is a free event!

Welcome, more new members!

We are constantly updating our website with new members! Visit www.crescentavalleychamber.org to see the list of all of our members including:

- ZenBusiness*: ZenBusiness is an AI-powered platform that helps entrepreneurs start strong and stay compliant. ZenBusiness combines human expertise and AI innovation to set small businesses up for long-term success. ZenBusiness is located at 5511 Parkcrest Drive, Suite 103 in Austin, Texas. Call (844) 493-6249 or visit the website <https://www.zenbusiness.com/>.
- 65ishere*: Built in Glendale. Focused on LA County. "65ishere was founded for a simple reason: turning 65 shouldn't feel like a maze. We do the legwork. We compare every major plan, side-by-side, against your doctors, prescriptions and budget – and then explain it in plain English. No pressure. No carrier loyalty. Just a clear path forward." 65isHere Insurance, Julius Baradas, 3746 Foothill Blvd. #161 in La Crescenta/Glendale 91214. Call (213) 422-1500 or visit 65ishere.com.
- Ascencia*: Providing housing & retention services to unhoused individuals & families since 2006. Ascencia is located at 1851 Tyburn St. in Glendale. Call (626) 340-8065 or (818) 630-7549 or visit www.ascenciaCA.org.

To learn more about the Chamber visit us www.crescentavalleychamber.org or click on the QR code.

Robin Goldsworthy, President
CV Chamber of Commerce



NEWS FROM THE MONTROSE-VERDUGO CITY CHAMBER » MOLLY BURKE

The Road to Oktoberfest Is Here!

September is here and that means Oktoberfest season has officially arrived! Before we jump into everything ahead, thank you to everyone who joined us for our Sip, Style, & Socialize mixer at Mosaic Hair Studio. We loved seeing familiar faces, meeting new ones and spending another great evening connecting with our local business community. A special thank you to everyone at Mosaic Hair Studio for welcoming us into their space and helping make the evening possible!

Next up, get ready to play, win and prost at Road to Oktoberfest Bingo at the Glendale Elks Lodge on Sept. 12! Your \$25 entry includes 10 rounds of bingo for cash prizes, with bonus games and raffles adding even more chances to win throughout the night. Come hungry because the Elks Lodge will have food and drinks available for purchase and The Cozy Cookie Company will be there with plenty of sweet treats! Doors open at 5 p.m. with the first game beginning at 6 p.m. Grab your friends, test your luck and join the fun!

Then comes the big one! The 47th Annual Montrose Oktoberfest, proudly supported by Babaians Law Firm, returns on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 12 p.m.–10 p.m. on Honolulu Avenue. Get ready for a full day of carnival rides and games, delicious food, beer and wine, contests, kids activities and live entertainment across three stages. This year, we're revamping the entertainment at our Bavarian Stage to bring even more fun to the celebration. There's plenty more to come as we get closer to the big day, so follow us on Instagram at @montroseoktoberfest for the latest announcements, entertainment schedules and Oktoberfest updates!

October 3 will be here before we know it so mark your calendars, gather your family and friends, and get ready to celebrate Oktoberfest in the heart of Montrose. We'll see you there!

Celebrating Our New MVCC Members:

- Von Adelung Wealth Management – "Our mission is to help our clients create wealth by managing or reducing client debt and providing strategies to help them increase their cash flow." vonadelungwealthmanagement.com
- Everson Clare Boutique – A La Cañada Flintridge boutique offering a thoughtfully curated collection of women's clothing, accessories and gifts for every occasion. eversonclare.com

Celebrating Our Returning MVCC Members:

- * *Babaians Law Firm* – "We are committed to protecting personal injury victims, offering extensive experience and personalized representation to help clients obtain the justice and compensation they deserve." bianslaw.com
- * *Printefex* – Printefex combines cutting-edge technology and superior craftsmanship to deliver results that meet your specific printing requirements. printefex.com
- * *Noa Health* – Offering acupuncture treatments for a wide range of conditions, including pain management, mental-emotional health and gastrointestinal issues. Noa Health provides individualized solutions to unique health challenges. noaheal.com
- * *Anawalt Lumber* – Your local high quality, family lumber yard and hardware store since 1921. anawaltmontrose.com
- * *Chuck Lamm* – With experience in foreclosures, trustee sales, probates, land trusts, and all types of properties, Chuck has helped hundreds secure dream homes, investments and retirement income real estate. chucklamm.com
- * *Captured Celebrations* – Award-winning bilingual photo booth rentals for weddings, birthdays and corporate events across Los Angeles County. capturedcelebrations.com

MVCC Upcoming Events:

On Saturday, Sept. 12: Road to Oktoberfest Bingo at Glendale Elks Lodge #1289, 120 E. Colorado St. in Glendale. The doors open at 5 p.m. with the first game starting at 6 p.m.! Buy your tickets at bit.ly/oktoberfestbingo26.

On Saturday, Oct. 3: 47th Annual Montrose Oktoberfest from 12 p.m.–10 p.m. in the 2200-2400 blocks of Honolulu Avenue in Montrose. Go to bit.ly/montroseoktoberfest for more information!

Remember to shop local!
Molly Burke, Montrose-Verdugo City Chamber President/CEO

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7 SEAS from page 3

She does, however, realize how important fundraising is and how getting as many people involved as possible is something that has to be worked on constantly.

This fundraiser collects clothes, household textiles, small household goods and books. Individuals can drop off items at the Fire House, 2563 Foothill Blvd., from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sept. 10.

Clothes are wanted – men’s, women’s and children’s coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc. Household

textiles wanted include bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc. Small household goods, including kitchen items such as pots, pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces and hand-held appliances and home decorative items, knick-knacks, toys, games and small electronics are also wanted. Books and media, whether paperback or hardcover, regardless of genre, are also wanted. Note that media needs to be boxed and no encyclopedias or text books will be accepted.

FIRE SAFE from Cover

The CVFSC had expanded its reach to include all of the Crescenta Valley and the areas along the foothills. The Eaton and Palisades fires of January 2025 have ignited [pun intended] former and new board members to reach out to inspire more involvement from the community.

Last week, the CVFSC voted in a new slate of officers that includes Daniel Limonadi as president and Dede Mueller as vice president. There will be a meeting held at St. Luke’s of the Mountains Episcopal Church in Sadler Hall on Oct. 22 at 7

p.m. until about 8:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to reintroduce CVFSC to the public, offer new memberships to the board and allow the community to increase its preparedness for future fires, according to Limonadi. The meeting is only scheduled to last one hour with time set aside for questions.

There are new fire prevention requirements that have been issued, including Zone Zero. Zone Zero is the five feet of defensible space around a structure; the area is considered critical because wind-driven embers during wildfires

frequently ignite items in that area rather than the building’s main walls.

These are issues in which the CVFSC can help with distributing information and partnering with fire departments, U.S. Forest Service and CalFire. In addition, CVFSC can work with elected officials on specific issues in the area and partner with other fire safe councils.

Everyone is invited to the Oct. 22 event to learn not only how CVFSC supports the community but how to get involved.

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