



## Beware the Attack of the Ticks

It's a threat that will still be with us well into the Fall. Dr. Robert R. Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control [CDC], warns that "a growing list of diseases caused by the bite of an infected mosquito, tick, or flea have confronted the U.S. in recent years, making a lot of people sick." - SEE PAGE 6



## "Barbie"

The audience is sure to eat up all the easy jokes, sweetness, sure, but they're also supposed to appreciate the film for its psychological depth and hard-hitting social commentary. Perhaps it's appropriate that I have a broad range of feelings toward the film. - SEE PAGE 7

**FREE!**

# THE FOOTHILLS

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY AUGUST 18, 2023

**SUNLAND STRONG - TUJUNGA TOUGH!**  
*A tribute to our local businesses that are re-opening.*

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 40

## Church Clean Up



The whole church team.

On August 13th, 2023, ASEZ from the World Mission Society Church of God participated in a meaningful worldwide cleanup campaign. ASEZ, short for "Save the Earth from A to Z," is a youth group of university volunteers from the World Mission Society Church of God around the world committed to addressing practical global challenges. Their rallying cry, "Save the world from A to Z," propels them into various activities to promote social service, awareness raising, victim relief, and environmental protection in our global village.

The cleanup effort on Sunday was part of the ASEZ Crime Prevention Movement, named "RCT Clean Up"

for "Reduce Crime Together." Enthusiastic members equipped with work attire, brooms, and shovels, diligently collected trash, and an array of discarded items, from furniture to broken glass, to clean the streets and alleys around Commerce Ave in Tujunga. Neighbors and passing drivers alike expressed appreciation for the transformed streets, resonating in cheerful honks of encouragement. The positive response fuels volunteers' dedication to future ASEZ initiatives, aiming to make sustainable cities and communities.

Please see **Church Clean Up**  
on Page 8



## Friday Night Bingo

Presented Friday, 18 August 2023 by  
American Legion Post 288 & VFW Post 1614



**11th Annual Community BINGO Night**  
Proceeds Benefit Veterans in the Community

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\*\*\*Tickets available from Legion and VFW members\*\*\*

\*\*\*Tickets available from CV Weekly Office\*\*\*

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\*\*\*Also available at CV Chamber of Commerce Office\*\*\*  
3131 Foothill Blvd. Ste D, (Mon, Tues & Thur: 2:30-5pm)

## Mylar and Power Lines Don't Mix

A Mylar balloon struck a power pole on Haines Canyon last Friday and caused a possible arcing explosion that led to a power outage in Tujunga that affected over 150 residents.

The incident happened shortly after 9:45 p.m. in the Haines Canyon Tujunga Canyon area, DWP workers said.

It was believed the balloon struck a power pole, and live wires began to arc, but no wires went down. The problem was located and fixed within 30 minutes and neighbors who had heard the explosion returned to their homes.

One man said he heard an explosion inside his bedroom

so loud, it scared all of the people in his house. "Like a big light, fire, like a blow-up, boom!" described Armen Kachaqurian. "Everybody came out because they didn't know what it was.

They thought it was a bomb. No injuries were reported as crews worked to fully restore power.



Neighbors gather around to watch the DWP crews reset the high voltage breakers.

Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: [thefoothillspaper.com](http://thefoothillspaper.com)





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Mobilize and Live

(Winslow Myers, Guest Editorial)

“We’ll go down in history as the first society that wouldn’t save itself because it wasn’t cost-effective.” —Kurt Vonnegut

One summer when I was in college I boarded a so-called “student ship” for Europe. This slightly down-

at-the-heels craft was called the “Groot Beer” (big bear), run by the Holland-America line, and it took eight days to cross the Atlantic. The “Groot Beer” had been built as a so-called “Liberty Ship” during World War II, one of 2700 such vessels designed to keep arms, men and goods crossing to Europe in spite of the deadly depredations of German U-Boats.

The average time to construct these 450-foot steel ships was 30 days, and the fastest time was four and a half days! Imagine the urgency, the round-the-clock teamwork of the designers, welders and riveters, tying together the modular sections, slapping on paint, and letting another steel giant slip down the runway into desperately needed service.

This is only one example of the extraordinary mobilization of resources, talent and will that defeated the Axis powers. Is there something about us humans 85 years later that prevents a similar mobilization against our real enemies? We possess vastly faster and more efficient productive capabilities than those that were available to Franklin Roosevelt.

But the reality of our personal and global interdependence has not yet penetrated our minds deeply enough for us to undergo a similar, now worldwide, mobilization.

Fly over any major city at night, and you will see lights burning in hundreds of skyscrapers as if global warming did not exist. Examine the military budgets of the nuclear powers and you will see trillions of dollars pouring into the renewal of nuclear arsenals—weapons for a war no one can win.

Establishment foreign policy journals are full of articles about the Ukraine war and its implications for possible hot conflict with China—themselves also

wars no one can win, except maybe the arms dealers. In the board rooms of the giant fossil-fuel companies and in the halls of Congress, executives and lobbyists rationalize slowing the inevitable transition to renewables on the basis of their obligation to maximize benefits to shareholders. Our chaotic political-media complex masks the dysfunctional juggernaut of economic and military competition with their own competition for ratings.

We humans are an odd species. In spite of all our accomplishments, there seems to be a near-fatal lag between the conditions that threaten us and the actions required for survival.

The future always belongs to the species that can adapt successfully to the conditions that surround them. These conditions now include world-ending weapons and world-stressing heat, floods and storms. Such transnational challenges dictate the nature of the changes we must make. No exceptions for any life form on earth, very much including people, rich or poor.

President Biden showed his understanding that we were in a new world when he said in Vilnius a few weeks ago:

“When others do better, we do better as well—where we understand that the challenges we face today, from the existential threat of climate change to building a global economy where no one gets left behind, are too great for any one nation to solve on their own, and that to achieve our goals and meet the challenges of this age, we have to work together. The world is changing. We have a chance to change the dynamic.”

Please see **Mobilize and Live** on Page 3



## 4 Good Reasons for Hiring an Agent

by Ed Castellanos

Homes that are for sale by owner -- when a seller decides not to hire a listing agent -- are more common that you might think. They account for about 8 percent of all home listings currently on the market. If you're on the house hunt, you're likely to come across one in your search.

What's different about buying one of these homes? What can you do to leverage the situation to get the most for your money? Here are four things to keep in mind. 1. Hire an agent. Since the seller doesn't have an agent, it's vital that you do -- if only to ensure the transaction is handled correctly and legally.

An agent will be knowledgeable about market conditions and can help you craft your offer, prepare the contracts and find the right lender to work with. 2. Be ready to negotiate. These homes are rarely priced appropriately. Sellers typically overvalue their homes due to their

emotional attachment to it. Having an agent on your side gives you access to comparable sales data to help you negotiate the right price.

3. Get a home inspection. The owner may not know that they are legally required to disclose known issues with the property, and that oversight could mean costly repairs down the road. A home inspection can shed light on potential problems before you go through with the sale.

4. Add contingencies to your contract. Contingencies give you an exit route should something go wrong during the transaction. If you can't get a loan, you're unhappy with the inspection results or the appraisal doesn't come in at the sale price, you have a way to back out and save your money.

Want to be prepared for your new home purchase? Get in touch today for help on making the best decision for your budget and goals. ■

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This is going to sound obvious, maybe even ridiculous, but I've got to say it. The houseless are people too. But unfortunately, they are the people we try to make invisible. We roll up our windows when they approach us and we keep looking forward and don't acknowledge their presence, even when annoying. And we seem to seek solutions which keep them out of sight, to make them invisible, and that is wrong.

The houseless, like the rest of us, are many things -- some good, some bad, some annoying and some fascinating. But think about what kind of message we send to our children when we make a houseless person invisible. So, it should not come as a shock that most attacks on the houseless are

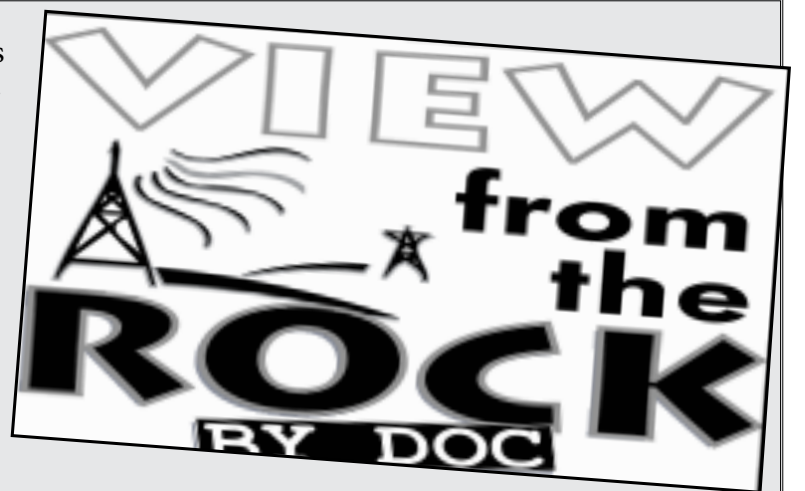
committed by young people. Is a crime against an invisible person not a crime? Of course it is, and we have got to change that. Attacks against the houseless are up by 15 percent, and of course, the police don't report it. What most people don't realize, is that the houseless are not only victims of the vagaries of the weather, but they are also targets of hate crimes and teenage pranks that can kill them. The houseless are more liable than the general population to be attacked violently, and young men thirteen to twenty-one years of age are most often the attackers.

There is the misconception that all of the houseless are where they are because of addictions, sloth and self invited poverty. In our ruthless modern economies,

where debts are not forgiven and job losses are common, unexpected physical ailments or major mental breakdowns can alter the course

of life for once productive people.

What I'm saying, is that you should make the houseless visible, and to acknowledge that they are people like everybody else. And make sure your kids know this. So, the next time a houseless person comes up to your car, instead of closing the window and looking



forward,

acknowledge their presence. Tell them you have no change or no thank you.

Or give something. But the worst thing you can do is make that person invisible.

We are part of the solution, and this time you can't say: It's The Water!■

# An Outrage

By Linda Abrams

Our community lost a wonderful long time resident in a terrible tragedy on Monday. My neighbor, an 87-year-old veteran and 35-year La Crescenta resident passed away under tragic circumstances. My neighbor had been despondent the past few months, facing imminent homelessness. He had been in a loving relationship with his partner, the homeowner, close to 40 years and his partner always told him he could remain in the home until his death, should she pass away first. Sadly, she did recently pass away and these wishes weren't in writing and her family immediately took steps to evict him.

My neighbor repeatedly begged to stay, offering to continue to pay rent as he had been doing for the past 35 years, stating this was his home and he wanted nothing more than to stay in his own home. He pleaded with the partner's family, over and over, that he was 87 years old, in poor health to include cancer, and unable to cope with the idea of having to start over. The family reportedly told him they wanted him out so they could rent the home for \$6500 which was out of reach of his federal pension. My neighbor's family got the help of a lawyer but legally the 60-day eviction was able to move forward. My neighbor was also able to get the help of Board of Supervisor's Kathryn Barger's office who was absolutely amazing.

Multiple agencies immediately mobilized and tried to help him with this situation, including Glendale PD, Adult Protective Services, the manager of Glendale Homeless Services, Legal Aid, LAHSA, Salvation Army and Mental Health Veteran's Peer Outreach Services. Sadly, my neighbor was so incredibly despondent, hopeless and helpless with his predicament he wasn't able to accept any of this help. He couldn't see beyond his desperate wish to stay in his home and couldn't fathom having to start over and leave his home at his age and physical condition.

Desperate, and within a few days of the pending Sheriff's lockout from the eviction, my neighbor

tragically saw no other way out other than to end his life, shooting himself in the head on Monday. He left a suicide note indicating he held the partner's family completely responsible for the action he felt he had to take, as all he wanted so desperately was to live out his remaining years in the only place he knew of as home. To honor my neighbor's life, I have set up a small memorial on the 3300 block of Paraiso Way where people can place flowers and/or candles and sign a memory board with good wishes. Even if you didn't know him, feel free to honor his memory, even if just with flowers from your garden, a kind word on his memory board or a prayer. It would have been his 88th birthday this Saturday, so birthday wishes are welcome as well.

*There is help out there. The National Suicide Hotline is readily available for anyone in need simply by dialing 988. I also urge all of you to make sure your last wishes are in writing by going to a lawyer to set up a trust/will*

Tuesday, 8/8 (not sure the timing since the length of their meetings are unpredictable).

Lastly, I hope none of you ever experience the depths of depression and sadness that led my neighbor to take this tragic action. There is help out there. The National Suicide Hotline is readily available for anyone in need simply by dialing 988. I also urge all of you to make sure your last wishes are in writing by going to a lawyer to set up a trust/will. Please no negative comments as this will only add to the grief and pain for those of us trying to process this tragic loss.■

My neighbor was an amazing person and had lived a wonderful and happy life. He was a proud air force veteran and retired postal worker, and kept our Crescenta Valley community safe for over 20 years, driving the Sheriff's volunteer patrol cars around town and helping direct traffic at community events. He was passionate about philosophy and loved to engage in intellectual discussions. He was an avid gardener and took pride in his rose garden. If you care to tune into the Board of Supervisors meeting, which can be live streamed online, they will be honoring his life at the end of their meeting during their "Adjournments."

The meeting will be this coming

## Mobilize and Live continued from page 2

The eco-philosopher Thomas Berry insisted that the earth cannot be saved in pieces. Anyone who puts solar panels on their roof benefits the planet as a whole. Anyone who builds more coal-fired plants to generate electricity degrades the planet as a whole. My survival and yours depends upon both of us, all of us together, doing what is necessary for the survival of all, including trees, fish, bees, plants, and rivers, whether you are my adversary or my ally.

Military strategists warn generals not to fight the last war—in other words, to adjust their thinking to actual present conditions. But in every war around the world, the reality is we are fighting that last war, and, to an ever-increasing absurd degree, it is completely the wrong war. So how do we start to fight the right war against the right enemy—war against war itself and against global climate catastrophe?

A Peace Corp volunteer once said something that sounds like the merest bromide but is profoundly true: "The earth is a sphere, and a sphere has only one side. We are all on the same side."

Pogo said something similar: "We have met the enemy and he is us."

These snippets of folk wisdom point the way to survival. Because we are all in the same leaky boat, the right war begins with a global climate change in the way we think. Heeding Vonnegut, we can realize the true cost-effectiveness of mobilizing against our real adversaries in a way that leads to survival and even a new flourishing.

Winslow Myers, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is the author of "Living Beyond War: A Citizen's Guide."■



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## Damian Casillas

Receives degree from the  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

The University of Alaska Fairbanks honored the Class of 2023 during its 101st commencement ceremony on May 6 at the Carlson Center in Fairbanks.

Damian Casillas of Sunland received the following degree(s): Associate of Applied Science, Fire Science.

The university's first commencement took place in 1923 when the sole graduate, John Sexton Shanly, received a bachelor's degree in agriculture. This year, UAF conferred approximately 1029 degrees on 956 students. Some students received more than one degree. The ceremony included graduates from summer and fall 2022 and spring 2023.



Summit Church had it's annual Snow Day and everyone was invited. It's not something that the younger kids even know about and how to play in the snow.



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# ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD

## Beware the Attack of the Ticks: Some Can Give You Lyme Disease, Says AMAC



Tick on head of dog can be removed easily with a pair of tweezers.

It's the height of summer, a time of year when we are most vulnerable to insectborne diseases. It's a threat that will still be with us well into the Fall. Dr. Robert R. Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control [CDC], warns that "a growing list of diseases caused by the bite of an infected mosquito, tick, or flea have confronted the U.S. in recent years, making a lot of people sick."

Tick attacks can be particularly nasty for seniors, says Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens. "They can cause several different illnesses, most notably Lyme disease. All of these sicknesses can have harsh symptoms but they rarely result in death, although the elderly have weaker immune systems and are therefore more susceptible."

According to the CDC the symptoms of Lyme disease include fever, rash, facial paralysis and arthritis and can last up to six months. The Interim Healthcare Web site notes that these "symptoms can be harsh but slow to set in a person could be infected with Lyme disease for a full month with nothing but a small rash at the bite location before more serious symptoms set in. Later stage Lyme can include increased rashes, partial facial paralysis, arthritis and joint pain, irregular heartbeat, brain and spinal cord swelling, nerve pain and short term memory loss." Not all ticks carry Lyme disease. Weber says, "it is the blacklegged tick and the western blacklegged tick that are the culprits. They are not common in all 50 states. In fact, up until about 20 years, they were common only in the Northeastern United States. But two decades later they can be found in 1,531 counties spread across 43 states. Rebecca Eisen, a research biologist at the CDC, tells us that blacklegged ticks inhabit the northeastern, mid Atlantic, and

northcentral regions of the United States, and the western blacklegged tick are found along the Pacific Coast."

Weber says he did some research and found that you can tell the difference between the blacklegged and the common dog tick [which is not known to spread disease] by the physical differences between the two. The blacklegged tick is much smaller than the dog tick and the dog tick has white markings on its back. The AMAC chief also suggests that you do not panic if you find a tick has attached itself to your body; you've got up to 24 hours before an infection can set in. So you have time to get help in removing it at an ER, for example. "Whatever you do, don't try to squeeze it out or use a lit cigarette to coax it out. If you can't get medical help, use tweezers to grip it as close as possible to its mouth to remove." And, now it is reported that a new species of tick, the "Longhorned Tick" has recently been identified in New York, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and Arkansas. According to one report, "while they have been known to transmit disease to humans in other parts of the world, health officials say more research is needed to determine whether that's possible in the U.S."

To prevent tick bites, the CDC suggests that you:

- Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin. Permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing and camping gear and remain protective through several washings.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para menthane diol (PMD), or 2-unde-canone. EPA's helpful search tool can help you find the product that best suits your needs. Always follow product instructions.



## CRIME MAPPING

<b>VEHICLE, STOLEN 231610883</b> 10000 BLOCK MARCUS AV 8/7/2023 @ 11:30 PM	<b>VEHICLE, STOLEN 231610662</b> 7200 BLOCK APPERSON ST 7/31/2023 @ 9:00 PM
<b>THEFT- 231610869</b> 10400 BLOCK MT GLEASON AV 8/7/2023 @ 12:28 PM	<b>ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON 231610631</b> 7700 BLOCK GROVE ST 7/31/2023 @ 2:15 PM
<b>VEHICLE, STOLEN 231610754</b> 8000 BLOCK KYLE ST 8/2/2023 @ 2:01 AM	<b>ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (ADW) 231610567</b> 8300 BLOCK GRENOBLE ST 7/29/2023 @ 8:00 AM
<b>THEFT FROM VEHICLE - GRAND 231610711</b> 7700 BLOCK JAYSEEL ST	

## Dog Safety Tips

With summer almost at an end and back-to-school on the horizon, I know what you're thinking: "Gimme a hotdog – I'll worry about getting into that swimsuit next year". Or maybe that's just me. The other thing I'm thinking is: "Road trip"! Let's have one last hurrah before it's back to business as usual. If you're like me, you'll want to bring your four-legged friends on the trip with you. After all, they're part of the family, too. Taking pets along when you travel does involve making a few more plans. Here's a way to make your trip safe and fun when you travel with your pets.

**1.- Check with your vet before you travel.** Dogs or cats who had health issues in the past may not be good candidates for travel. In these instances boarding may be the best choice. Even healthy pets may require a variety of items before flying or road trips. Depending on your destination your pet may need extra vaccines or health certificates to travel. Your vet can help you determine which, if any additional steps to take.

**2.- Pack ample food and water for your pet's trip.** Grocery and supply stores along your route may not stock the right food, so make sure to pack enough with you to last the length of your trip. Also pack water as well as refillable containers for replenishing when needed. And don't forget to pack water and food bowls for serving on the road.

**3.- Traveling long distances with your pet?** Many pets are comfortable riding around town in your car as these are often quick trips that can sometimes lead to fun. Long road trips, however, can be an entirely different matter. A good way to ensure your trips goes smoothly is to do some practice runs. Take your dog or cat on a longer ride than normal and have them sit where they would during the trip. It's important to remember that some pets, like people, can get carsick. ■



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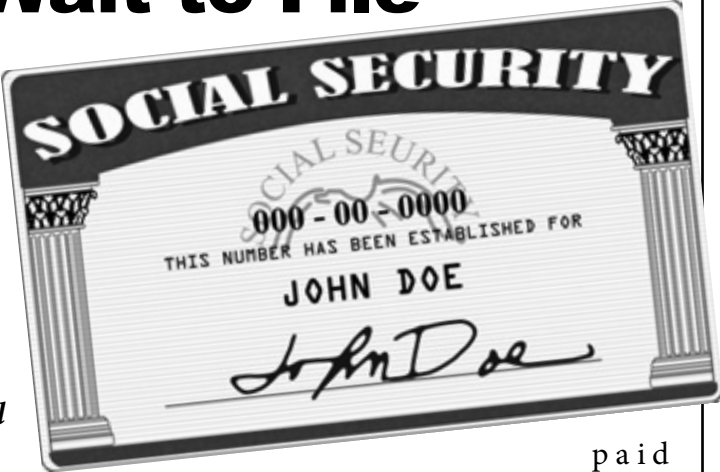
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ASK RUSTY

By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens.

# File Early and Invest vs Wait to File

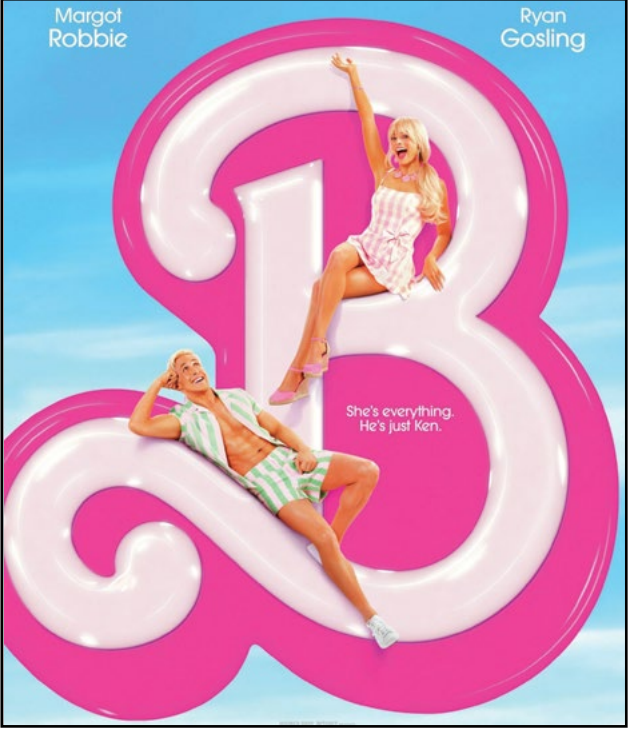
vesting it. In any event, it's one more way to look at this issue. Signed: Faithful Reader.



**Dear Rusty:** I read your article entitled "Doing a Breakdown Analysis" and noted that the article was in response to a reader question about when to take Social Security Benefits. The writer commented "I'm in pretty good health and don't really need the money right now." The breakeven analysis you suggested is a great help in determining whether to claim early or wait to take Social Security benefits; however, and in light of your reader's comment that "he did not need the money right now," perhaps another element should be added to the breakeven analysis. That element is to roll the figures based on taking the money early and investing that money month after month for the 48 months in question. The end result should also help in determining an appropriate course of action. I was in the same position back in the mid 90's and made out far better by taking the money early and in-

vesting it. In any event, it's one more way to look at this issue. Signed: Faithful Reader. **Dear Faithful:** Thanks for your feedback. I certainly agree that there's more than one way to look at the question of when to take Social Security. And, yes, I'm quite familiar with the strategy of taking benefits early and investing them. But since I'm not a Financial Advisor and not qualified to give investment advice, I'm required to restrict my remarks to only the Social Security aspects relating to questions I'm asked. You might be interested to know, however, that many financial advisors today do not recommend taking Social Security benefits early, investing the money, and trying to earn more than the Social Security benefit growth they'll realize by waiting. Unlike the investment opportunities of the 90's, it's pretty hard these days to beat the 6.7% annual growth in one's Social Security benefit realized by waiting until full retirement age (FRA) to collect, as well as the 8% annual growth one realizes by waiting beyond full retirement age. And those higher benefits are

paid for life, which is significant when considering that average life expectancy is now well into the 80's and living into the 90's is now relatively common. Another consideration when taking benefits earlier than one's full retirement age is that there is an annual earnings limit which, if exceeded, will result in Social Security withholding benefits, so a person's intentions for continuing to work could have a financial impact and should be included as part of any financial analysis. And yet another is that Social Security benefits are taxable if certain income thresholds are exceeded, so taking benefits early when someone is still earning a large salary will increase their income tax liability. The point is, it's never an easy or clear-cut decision as to when to start Social Security, and many factors such as those mentioned above need to be evaluated. And the breakeven analysis, which compares cumulative benefits at different claimages, should only be one piece of the puzzle.■



# "Barbie"

By Bob Garver

“Barbie” prides itself on inspiring a full range of feelings – both in its characters and its audience. The characters tap into dark, sad sides they never knew they had, and they find out life is more rewarding for it. The audience is sure to eat up all the easy jokes and sweetness, sure, but they’re also supposed to appreciate the film for its psychological depth and hard-hitting social commentary. Perhaps it’s appropriate that I have a broad range of feelings toward the film. I think there are portions that work very well, and there are entire storylines and characters that could be cut. There are jokes worth laughs, and jokes worth a cold stare. Some of the film’s insights opened my eyes, others made me roll them. But at least the movie is ambitious enough to attempt so many jokes and insights. Barbie (Margot Robbie) lives in Barbieland with every other Barbie ever created. Most have careers, like President Barbie (Issa Rae) and Doctor Barbie (Hari Nef) and more, but Robbie is Stereotypical Barbie, whose life has no purpose except to be perfect.

Please see "Barbie" on Page 8





Last Friday, we concluded our Summer Movie Nights at Hansen Dam Aquatic Center with a screening of Finding Nemo. Over 1,000 community members gathered to enjoy the pool, food trucks and to partake in learning about city resources. Every summer, I enjoy the movie nights and love being able to connect with all the families in attendance. As a kid growing up here, we never had events like this; it's why I make these community events a huge part of my administration - because coming together is how we create sustainable change for the better.

It's with that same spirit, this year I'm proud to be the Madrina for the commencement of Latino Heritage Month, on September 15th, with the annual tradition of celebrating El Grito: A Celebration of Mexican Independence.

El Grito is a free event that happens every year at the steps of City Hall that commemorates the history of the moment when ordinary citizens heeded the call in the fight for Mexican independence from Spanish rule. This time-honored tradition is one that I especially love, because it celebrates our rich cultural history and influence here in our city.

This event will be filled with live music, artisans, and vendors curated by Goddess Mercado, a silent disco, and much more. Please save the date for this special event.

#### Transfer of Ownership in Rental Properties

In our ongoing efforts to create a fair and equitable housing landscape, it is crucial that we address the growing trend of corporate entities owning rental units across the nation. Recent data reveals that 43 percent of all rental units in the City of Los Angeles are now under corporate ownership. This shift has been fueled by advantageous tax and regulatory policies incentivizing corporations and by a complex bureaucratic maze of rules that are often difficult for "mom-and-pop" landlords to navigate. It is why I introduced a motion that instructs the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) to conduct a study on the concentration of ownership and corporatization trends in the City's housing stock by the end of each calendar year. I am also asking LAHD to recommend actions be taken to help "mom and pop" landlords retain their properties.

Streamlining Employment Authorization for Asylum Seekers

According to Section

208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, asylum seekers must wait at least six months after submitting their asylum application to receive work authorization in the United States. During this waiting period, asylum seekers stay in shelters or hotels. I introduced a resolution supporting S.2175 (Gillibrand), which would amend Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to reduce the waiting period for employment authorization for asylum applicants from six months to one month. Providing much-needed assistance to this community is crucial in ensuring asylum seekers can become self-sufficient.

Celebrating 100 Years of Los Angeles City Hall

City Hall will celebrate 100 years in 2028, mere weeks before the world arrives in the City for the Olympics. It is important to recognize this anniversary in a way that honors all the achievements that have happened within the walls of the building and throughout our vast City. This week I introduced a motion requesting Project Restore, who were leaders in the restoration of historic City Hall, to report to the Council on plans to honor the 100th anniversary of City Hall!■



Enjoying their work on Commerce Ave.

#### Church Clean Up continued from page 1

ASEZ, Saving the Earth from A-Z is a global volunteer group that consists of young adult university students from the World Mission Society Church of God. With over 8,000 churches in 175 countries the group affiliates with the United Nations SDGs which consist of 17 Goals to address a wide range of problems humanity is facing, including poverty, disease, education, environmental destruction, and economic problems. The power of one person is weak, but if all of us work together to solve the

problems each community is facing, the hopeful future of humanity will soon become a reality.

Their commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship has earned them prestigious awards, including the UNCCD Executive Secretary's Award in 2022, the Gold Green World Award in 2020, the International Green Apple Award in 2018, and the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award from the U.S. These accolades underscore ASEZ's exceptional efforts in making a positive difference on a global scale, reinforcing their role as a driving force for a more sustainable and greener future.■

#### "Barbie" continued from page 7

Equally bland is Ken (Ryan Gosling), whose only traits are that he enjoys the beach and pines after Barbie. He and the other Kens (Simu Liu, John Cena, and more) and one guy named Allan (Michael Cera) are happy to let the Barbies run things while they live like second-class citizens. In fact, everyone in Barbieland is happy all the time, until one day when Barbie is suddenly unhappy.

She goes to see the wizened Weird Barbie (Kate McKinnon), who sends her on a quest to the real world to find the source of her nagging thoughts of death and cellulite. Ken comes along, and both are shocked by what they find. Barbie discovers that she's not the feminist icon she thought she was, as despite the disparate models and careers, the entire toy line is still considered pretty vapid. Ken learns that most of the world is run by a patriarchy, and that seems to be working out pretty well. Barbie visits Mattel headquarters, where the CEO (Will Ferrell) wants her to return to the status quo, but she's not sure that's what she wants anymore. She escapes with the low-level employee that's been affecting her mind (America Ferrera, who gets an amazing monologue late in the movie) and her cynical daughter (Ariana Greenblatt). Together they all return to Barbieland, where they have to stop the newly-power-hungry Kens and... learn to get more out of life, I guess.

Admittedly, I'm not doing the story much justice, but in fairness, neither does the movie itself. Writer/director Greta Gerwig knows that she wants a number of story beats and ideas explored. But they aren't tied together smoothly. For example, to what degree are the characters supposed to be literal dolls? Sometimes they move like normal humans, other times they're affected by a lack of joints (and a lack of other body parts too, don't think the movie isn't going to address "that"). Why has it taken decades for certain concepts to reach Barbieland, and why now? What effects do Mattel and Barbieland have on each other, exactly? The movie dismisses these qualms in the laziest way possible, with a joke that follows the structure of "Is it A or is it B?" "Yes!" Frankly, I think the entire Mattel portion of the film could have been cut and Gerwig should have come up with another way for Barbie to have an important conversation with creator Ruth Handler (Rhea Perlman).■

