Gas Leaf Blowers Prohibited or Not?

There were some recent changes in the Municipal Code that may have caused some confusion as to whether or not gasoline-powered leaf blowers are allowed in Claremont.

To clarify the status of this code, beginning on March 26, 2009, gas leaf blowers are unlawful to use in the City of Claremont. Claremont Community Improvement will actively enforce this code with the issuance of Administrative Citations and violation notices. Electric powered leaf blowers are allowed.

In preparation for this change, Community Improvement sent letters to all the licensed landscape and gardening businesses in the City. The text of the code is available on the City’s web site at www.ci.claremont.ca.us. If you have any questions regarding leaf blowing, feel free to contact Community Improvement at (909) 399-5467.

Census Address Canvassers Take To The Streets


The canvassers identify every living quarter where people live or could potentially live, and verify more than 145 million addresses.

For additional information, visit www.digalert.org.

Dig Alert is a one-call notification center that supports all of Southern California. Dig Alert representatives will visit your work site, at no cost, to mark the location of underground utilities, thus, avoiding the costly error of cutting a fiber optic cable or to the hazardous situation of damaging a power line or a gas main. So, the next time you call to report a broken water line or a telephone cable, please be patient. Chances are the repair company is waiting for approval from Dig Alert. For more information about Dig Alert, please visit www.digalert.org.

Are You Waiting for Underground Utilities to be Repaired?

In case you are wondering why it takes longer than usual to repair underground utilities, California law requires everyone to call Dig Alert at least two working days before any planned excavation. Failure to do so can result in fines up to $50,000 and you could be charged with the repair of damaged underground utilities. What is Dig Alert? Dig Alert was formed in 1976 after a construction crew working on Venice Blvd. in Culver City hit a petroleum pipeline. The explosion killed nine people and an entire city block was burned to the ground, causing millions of dollars worth of damage. Southern California found out what could happen if you hit the wrong line at the wrong time!

City Budget Update

The economic conditions throughout the nation are having an impact on the City’s operating budget. The reduction in revenues, due mainly to reduced sales and building and development created a $1.5 million shortfall for FY 2008-09 and a $2 million shortfall in 2009-10.

Through reductions in the operating budget, the City was able to close the FY 09-10 shortfall. In order to close the FY 09-10 shortfall, all of the City employees agreed to reductions in salaries and benefits. These reductions created a savings of $1.16 million. In addition to these reductions, the City Council appropriated $79,000 in one-time revenues and $117,000 from the General Fund Reserve, to close the remaining shortfall.

The City will continue to monitor its budget and make additional adjustments as necessary in the ever changing economic climate.

City To Get Its Fair Share

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) provides funding through several programs (see below). The City is working on developing eligible projects and applications to guarantee the City will get its fair share of the stimulus dollars.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

The City recently learned it would receive $147,600 from the U.S. Department of Energy through the EECEBG Program as part of the Recovery Act. These funds can be used for a variety of energy efficiency and sustainability improvements, planning and capital projects. Staff is in the process of further reviewing the guidelines and matching them with priority projects outlined in the Sustainable City and Embellishment Plan. Staff will bring recommended projects to the council in late April or early May, before the June application deadline.

Arrow Highway Resurfacing Project Funding Clarification

Governor Schwarzenegger signed ABxx20, which allocates greater funding to local agencies for eligible transportation projects. This means that the City will receive $1.12 million for the Arrow Highway resurfacing project, rather than the smaller $762,477 allocation the City was expecting to receive. As a result, the project, which includes rubberized asphalt overlay, street lighting improvements and handicapped ramp improvements will be nearly fully funded by the Federal Stimulus.

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

The City will be applying to retain three Officer positions that would have been vacant through retirement and layoffs should this funding not be available.

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The City will be applying to retain three Officer positions that would have been vacant through retirement and layoffs should this funding not be available.
Wireless 911 System Now Operational in Claremont

The Claremont Police Department has been working in partnership with the State Office of Public Safety, Wireless 911 Section, and six wireless service providers to complete the Wireless 911 project in Claremont. This program was funded through a State grant obtained through the Police Department. The program was completed on March 16, 2009.

When you dial 911 on your cell phone in the City of Claremont, the call no longer goes to the California Highway Patrol communications center; the call now goes to the Claremont Police Department communications center. However, the system is not 100% accurate. If calling within the Claremont city boundaries, the call could be sent to a surrounding city. Additionally, if the call is from the freeway within the Claremont city limits, the call is directed to the California Highway Patrol.

The system will provide enhanced service to the citizens and visitors to the City of Claremont. When a 911 cell phone call is made, the call is displayed on the Police Department’s communications center’s screens, giving the cell phone caller’s information, as well as the latitude and longitude of the caller. This information is computer translated onto a map of the City and an icon appears showing where the caller is located. This wireless 911 system will greatly reduce the wait time for police responses within the City and enhance the availability of Police and Fire Department resources.

For further information, contact Captain Stan Van Horn, Claremont Police Department, (909) 399-5411.

Street Sweeping in Residential Neighborhoods

Street sweeping in residential neighborhoods is done twice each month. It is important that vehicles not be parked along the curb on these days.

Street sweeping provides two primary benefits to the City. The more obvious benefit is the collection and removal of paper, leaves, and other visible debris that collect in the gutter. This debris can block storm water facilities, causing localized flooding during heavy rains. An equally important, but less visible benefit is the removal of metals and other hazardous waste products left by passing vehicles. Although they are virtually invisible, these particles can be extremely harmful to fish and other wildlife if they reach creeks, rivers, and the ocean. Street sweeping is an effective method of removing both the large and microscopic pollutants that collect on City streets.

This sweeping also serves as one the City’s Best Management Practices (BMP) to control and improve water quality. Last year, the street sweepers removed over 365 tons of debris from the street before it reached the storm drain. That’s an average of 1 ton (2,000 pounds) of material each day.

Please contact the Community Services Department at 399-5431 for more information about the street sweeping schedule for your neighborhood or visit the City’s website www.ci.claremont.ca.us.
New Festival Aims to Become a Claremont Tradition

The Celebrate Claremont Family Festival launches Wednesday, April 29. The Festival will join and expand on The Green Market, recently opened in the Packing House, to become Celebrate Claremont Wednesdays, “an evening of enrichment, shopping and entertainment for the whole family,” say event co-sponsors.

Claremont Wednesdays will be held every week during Daylight Savings Time from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Festival includes live music and other entertainment, taste-testing entries and specialty finger foods, fresh certified organic produce, quality wares and services of local merchants, gift-perfect arts and craft items, wellness services, products and new technologies for green living.

A whole street block, Oberlin Avenue between First and Second streets, will be transformed into a world of fun for children of all ages, featuring interactive learning activities, pottery and craft-making, a reading circle, activities provided by local cultural institutions, a climbing wall, a bounce house, a petting zoo with a learning component and other attractions.

Valuable coupons and special offers for Festival goers can be found on the event’s homepage, www.claremontfestival.org and will be available each night of the Festival at the Sponsors’ Booth, Oberlin, #1 (northwest corner of First and Oberlin). Listings about Festival musical entertainment can be found each week at www.claremontcalendar.com.

The Celebrate Claremont Family Festival is presented by the non-profit charitable organization Volunteer Network International and its beneficiary project Xela Aid (www.xelaaid.org), in partnership with the City of Claremont and the Claremont Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call (951) 733-2588.

Simple Tips to Avoid Noise Complaints

Noise complaints are a call for service common to all Police Departments. In 2008, the Claremont Police Department responded to 956 calls regarding noise disturbances, including loud parties, loud music, late night construction and a variety of others complaints.

Two different codes regulate noise in Claremont. California Penal Code section 415 is a generic section that prohibits, in part, loud or unreasonable noise. "Loud or unreasonable" is often in the eye of the beholder and this section can be difficult to enforce in some situations.

The Claremont Municipal Code sets specific noise standards effecting residential property. For example, amplified sound, such as a stereo, that crosses onto a residential property between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. is prohibited. The only exception is if the City has issued a permit for the noise. Another provision prohibits construction noise between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Other sections in the Municipal Code specify various types of volume and which type of noise is permitted to cross onto a residential property. The entire noise ordinance can be found online at the City of Claremont website, www.ci.claremont.ca.us >city government >municipal code. Look for section 16.154.

The City also has a policy to deter repeat responses to a noise complaint. Upon receiving a noise complaint, officers will issue a Disturbance Response notice to the person responsible for creating the noise. This notifies the person that should the noise continue and the police be called a second time, they could be subject to arrest and charged for the police officer’s time (a minimum of $100 and a maximum of $1,000 is billed for the actual time the officers spend on the call). For a police officer to take criminal action against the person creating the noise, it requires that the noise victim be willing to be named in a criminal complaint.

In most cases, people cooperate fully when notified that the noise they are creating is disturbing a neighbor and the process rarely need to respond a second time. If you plan to have a party and hire a DJ, a residence may not be the best place to hold that party. It is rare that a DJ, or similar volume of music, is present at a residence without the police being called by a neighbor. A rented facility, of which there are several available in the City, can accommodate DJ’s and bands in doors and eliminate complaints.

Similarly, a small gathering in a back yard rarely creates concern. If, however, you have dozens of people in a backyard late at night, particularly where alcohol is served, the noise from people alone will frequently generate a complaint to the police. The key is to be considerate of your neighbors and aware that there are statutes that may be enforced should the noise you’re creating offend someone.

Consider giving your neighbors advance notice of a party or other social gathering at your residence. You can provide them with a phone number so they can call you if the noise level gets to be too much. Advance notice also gives neighbors the opportunity to know if there is a planned event, allowing them to make plans for the evening. Regardless of what precautions you may take, it is important to remember how a party or other social event and its associated noise may impact your neighbors.

Street Improvements

The City of Claremont is working with the City of La Verne to repave Williams Avenue (from north of Foot hill Blvd. to Bloom Drive). Resurfacing of Williams Avenue is expected to start in May and be completed by July 2009. The material that is being used for this project is rubberized asphalt, which should divert over 3,000 California Waste Tires from the waste stream.

Affordable Housing Information

The City is compiling an interest list for the proposed Affordable Housing project located on College Avenue. For further information, call the Economic/Redevelopment Division at (909) 399-5341 and provide your email address to receive regular updates on affordable housing.

Streaming Video of City Council Meetings on Demand

Streaming video of City Council meetings will be archived and may be accessed on the City website beginning with the May 12 Council meeting. For more information, contact the City Clerk’s office at 909-399-5460.
City’s Parking Structure Receives Recognition

The Claremont Village Parking Structure was named among the best projects in North America. The International Parking Institute honored the Claremont Village Expansion Parking Structure with an Award of Merit for Architecture.

The Claremont Village Expansion Parking Structure, located at 470 W. First Street and opened in 2007, is well-integrated into the pedestrian-oriented urban fabric of the Claremont Village while providing public off-street parking to Claremont Village customers and Metrolink commuters. In keeping with the Claremont Village redevelopment, the parking structure features ground level shops and restaurants along First Street. Salvaged Cypress wood siding adds color and warmth to storefronts.

City to Consider Water Conservation Ordinance

The State has stopped short of requiring mandatory conservation measures this year, but is asking agencies to approve plans that include mandatory measures should our conditions worsen. It is these concerns, as well as ambitious water conservation goals of the Claremont Sustainable City Plan, which have City leaders considering a new water conservation ordinance.

In response to the Governor’s proclamation of a statewide water emergency in February, the State Department of Water Resources recently issued a report confirming that 2009 would be the third year of a statewide drought (see graph). The report concludes that many parts of the state will face reduced water supplies this year and calls for statewide water conservation efforts. It also warns that it is critical that all Californians not only respond to these current conditions, but also prepare for possible dry years in the future.

If you have questions about the City’s efforts to encourage and possibly require water conservation, please call Christopher Veirs, Senior Planner, at (909) 399-5486.

DMV Promotes Online Services

In order to efficiently serve the public, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is working harder than ever to promote its increased online services and enhance its efforts to reach drivers with important messages about safe driving and the rules of the road.

The DMV’s website, www.dmv.ca.gov, offers a multitude of online resources that you’ll find useful and convenient - saving lots of time, and even money. Residents can now complete many DMV-related transactions online, including renewing their driver license, renewing their vehicle registration - and with convenient online appointment system, you can even make appointments up to 30 days in advance. All of these services are offered free of charge.

Know Your Money

How to detect Counterfeit Money

Even though the City of Claremont has not had many counterfeit incidents, it is good to be aware and maintain the integrity of U.S. currency. You can help guard against the threat from counterfeiters by becoming more familiar with United States currency.

Portrait

The genuine portrait appears lifelike and stands out distinctly from the background. The counterfeit portrait is usually lifeless and flat. Details merge into the background, which is often too dark or mottled.

Federal Reserve and Treasury Seals

On a genuine bill, the saw-tooth points of the Federal Reserve and Treasury seals are clear, distinct, and sharp. The counterfeit seals may have uneven, blunt, or broken saw-tooth points.

Borders

The fine lines in the border of a genuine bill are clear and unbroken. On the counterfeit, the lines in the outer margin and scrollwork may be blurred and indistinct.

Serial Numbers

Genuine serial numbers have a distinctive style and are evenly spaced. The serial numbers are printed in the same color as the Treasury Seal. On a counterfeit, the serial numbers may differ in color or shade of ink from the Treasury seal. The numbers may not be uniformly spaced or aligned.

Paper

Genuine currency paper has tiny red and blue fibers embedded throughout. Often counterfeiters try to simulate these fibers by printing tiny red and blue lines on their paper. Close inspection reveals, however, that on the counterfeit note the lines are printed on the surface, not embedded in the paper. It is illegal to reproduce the distinctive paper used in the manufacturing of United States currency.

If You Receive a Counterfeit

$ Do not return it to the passer. $ Delay the passer if possible. $ Observe the passer’s description, as well as that of any companions, and the license plate numbers of any vehicles used. $ Contact the Claremont Police Department at 909-399-5415. Write your initials and the date in the white border areas of the suspect note. $ Limit the handling of the note. Carefully place it in a protective covering, such as an envelope. $ Surrender the bill only to a properly identified police officer.

Further information regarding counterfeit money visit the United States Secret Service website at www.secretservice.gov or www.moneyfactory.gov.
**Tai Chi**

Enjoy lovely meditation through movement in this popular class. Tai Chi is wonderful for balance, circulation, and overall wellbeing. Beginners level course is perfect for anyone who wants to learn more about Tai Chi or get back into their practice. Intermediate level class is for anyone who is already familiar with basic Tai Chi patterns.

**Beginner Class**
- Mondays  May 4-Jun 1 10-11 a.m. $5 Per Class

**Intermediate Class – NEW!**
- Mondays  Jun 8-Aug 24 11-12 p.m. $5 Per Class

**Adaptive Chair Pilates – NEW!**

Have fun and get in shape with this chair-based exercise class. No experience necessary! A skilled instructor from the Claremont Body Center will provide the direction you need. This unique class will meet you where you are and provide an appropriate challenge for the results you want to get. Class will meet at the Joslyn Center. Pre-registration highly encouraged.

**Thursdays  May 7-28 10-10:45 a.m. $5 Per Class**

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**Claremont Senior Computer Club**

The Claremont Senior Computer Club will be offering the following classes this season at the Joslyn Center:

**Intro to Computer Genealogy**
- Tuesday  May 5 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. $10

**Basic Windows XP**
- M/W/F  May 11-22 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. $15

**Microsoft Word**
- Tuesday  May 26 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. $15

**Weekly Meetings:**
- Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Hughes Center
- Computer Workshop: Fridays, 1-4 p.m. at Joslyn Center
  Call 399-5488 or visit www.cssclub.org for more information.

The CSCC will be on summer break beginning June 17.

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**Claremont Macintosh Users Group (C|MUG)**

The C|MUG will be meeting on the first and third Thursday of the month at the Joslyn Center from 7 - 9 p.m. Meetings are open to any Macintosh user and to those who are interested in learning more about Apple computers and related software.

**C|MUG will be offering the following Mac class this season:**

**The Big Mac Class**

For those new to the Macintosh, switching from Windows, new to Apple’s OS X Leopard or who feel that their computing skills have grown rusty, the Claremont Macintosh Users Group (C|MUG) offers “The Big Mac Class.” An information rich series of 12 classes (24 hours of instruction) will provide the user with the core skills and knowledge to manage their computer and surf the internet with ease. For a detailed agenda and/or to register for this class, please call the instructor, Michael Rosenthal, at (909) 626-2045 or email mjr1@verizon.net. Classes are held at the Joslyn Center.

**M/T June 1-July 7 12:30-2:30 p.m. $90**

**M/T June 1-July 7 7-9 p.m. $90**

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**Free! Senior Topics Seminars**

A series of free seminars will be offered at the Joslyn Center on a variety of topics relevant to seniors:

**Bet-Tzedek Legal Services for Seniors**
- Wednesday, May 20 • 10-11:30 a.m.

**The Road Ahead: Long-Term Care Options**
- Wednesday, July 22 • 10-11:30 a.m.

**Beat the Heat! Summer Movie Series**

Take a break from the sun and join us for some cinema fun! We will be showing a wide variety of films from proven classics to the latest Hollywood blockbusters. Light refreshments will be served. Please call for list of upcoming films.

**Healthy Summer Workshop Series**

Stay healthy this summer with a series of workshops geared to keep you well informed and aware of the most up to date information regarding health conditions and interests that often affect the older adult population. Inter Valley Health Plan sponsors this program. All workshops will be held at the Joslyn Center starting at 9:00 am.

**Five Wishes – Preparing for the Future**
- Wednesday, June 10

**Diabetes & Nutrition with FREE Glucose Screening**
- Wednesday, July 15

**Maintaining A Healthy Brain**
- Wednesday, August 12

**Senior Prom: Casino Night**

For one special night you will experience the magic of Prom all over again! Please join the National Honor Society of Claremont High School and the City of Claremont Senior Citizens Program on Friday, May 29 from 6-8 p.m. for one delightful evening. Dancing, fun, and prizes! Tickets are available for $1 at the Joslyn Center. The Kiwanis Club of Claremont sponsors this program.

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**Senior Program Staff**

Superintendent - Melissa Vollaro
Supervisor - Jason Lass
Receptionist - Darlene Boon
Social Services Specialist - Rose Ash
Senior Recreation Leader - Shannon Glaudi
Social Services Assistant – Tracy Sutherland
Joslyn Nutrition Site Manager - Bobbie Obert
Blaisdell Nutrition Site Manager - Meredith McDowell
"Sharing the Delight"
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Hughes Center
Fridays, 1-4 p.m. at Joslyn Center
Call 399-5488 or visit www.cssclub.org for more information.

The Big Mac Class

For those new to the Macintosh, switching from Windows, new to Apple’s OS X Leopard or who feel that their computing skills have grown rusty, the Claremont Macintosh Users Group (C|MUG) offers “The Big Mac Class.” An information rich series of 12 classes (24 hours of instruction) will provide the user with the core skills and knowledge to manage their computer and surf the internet with ease. For a detailed agenda and/or to register for this class, please call the instructor, Michael Rosenthal, at (909) 626-2045 or email mjr1@verizon.net. Classes are held at the Joslyn Center.

**M/T June 1-July 7 12:30-2:30 p.m. $90**

**M/T June 1-July 7 7-9 p.m. $90**

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**Dinner At The Oak Room**

Fabulous & Fun • Full Course Dinner (Dressy Attire Recommended)
$5 per person
Nancy Osborne
A Tribute to the Ladies of Swing
Friday, May 1 • 5 p.m.
Special Guest TBA
Friday, June 5 • 5 p.m.
Reservations Required
Call 399-5488 • Joslyn Center
(No Oak Room July 3)
Sponsored by Inter Valley Health Plan & Claremont Place
Senior Support Group

Groups meet regularly to help each other cope with the challenges of aging. All support groups meet at the Joslyn Center, unless otherwise indicated.

Bereavement Support Group
-Every 1st and 3rd Monday from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Blaisdell Community Center.

Support Groups

Groups meet regularly to help each other cope with the challenges of aging. All support groups meet at the Joslyn Center, unless otherwise indicated.

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Bereavement Support Group
-Every 1st and 3rd Monday from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Blaisdell Community Center.

Breathing Buddies
-First Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Caregivers Support Group
-Every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
-Every 4th Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
-First and third Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Overeaters Anonymous
-Every Friday from noon to 1 p.m.

P.A.C.E. (People with Arthritis Can Exercise)
-Weekly exercise class and support group meets Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m.

Parkinson’s Explorers Group
-Second Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon.

Senior Support Group
-Every Friday from 10:30 a.m.

White Cane Society
-A weekly gathering for older adults struggling with the loss of their vision meets each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Support Services for Seniors
Advocacy, Referrals & Case Management
Trained staff will assist with information and referrals regarding age-related concerns, including Social Security, Medicare, HMO’s, MediCal, Medicare Supplements, and long term care. Case management is also available at Joslyn from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Claremont Meals on Wheels
Provides nutritious meals to homebound adults. Actively seeking new clients and volunteers. For information, please call 621-4018.

FREE Blood Pressure Screening
Mondays at the Joslyn Center from Noon to 1:30 p.m., and Thursdays at Blaisdell from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Friendly Visitors
Trained volunteers are available to provide companionship and camaraderie to older adults.

FREE Legal Services
Seniors can obtain legal assistance in a variety of areas from Bet Tzedek at Palomares Park. Call 620-2324 for details and appointments.

Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program
A Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program Counselor will be available to assist with Medicare and MediCal related questions on a weekly basis at no charge. Appointments are available on Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Phone Assurance Line (PAL)
Daily, friendly calls made to homebound seniors through this volunteer program.

Daily Lunch Program
Join us for lunch Monday through Friday at the Blaisdell Park Community Center at noon, or at the Joslyn Center at 11:30 a.m. Suggested donation for adults age 60 and over is $2. This program is funded, in part, by the Los Angeles County Agency on Aging.

Handy Helper Project
The Kiwanis Club of Claremont is providing free assistance to low-income elderly or disabled persons. For referrals, please contact 399-5488. Interested volunteers call 241-2333.

Senior Event Calendar

May
1 – Dinner at the Oak Room
2 – Senior Forum
7 – Mothers Day Tea
14 – Senior Trip to Medieval Times
20 – Senior Topics Series
23 – Senior Forum
25 – Memorial Day (City Offices Closed)
28 – Blaisdell Social Hour

June
5 – Dinner at the Oak Room
10 – Five Wishes – Preparing for the Future
13 – Senior Forum
17 – AARP Defensive Driving Refresher Class
25 – Blaisdell Social Hour
25 – Daytrip to Norton Simon Museum
27 – Senior Forum

July
3 – Day before Independence Day
(City Offices Closed)
15 – Diabetes & Nutrition Presentation with Free Glucose Testing
23 – Blaisdell Social Hour

Senior Forum Series

The Senior Forum is a lecture series that focuses on the interests of seniors, sponsored jointly by the Claremont Senior Program and the Claremont Adult School. The forums listed below are held on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., at the Joslyn Center. The program is free and open to the public.

May 2 Understanding Contemporary Venezuela. Presented by: Miguel Tinker Salas, Professor, Department of History, Pomona College.

AARP Defensive Driving Refresher Course
This classroom defensive driving course is designed for persons 55 and older who are seeking to sharpen their driving skills, prevent accidents, and to keep older drivers on the road safely. After four and a half hours of instruction, a DMV certificate will be issued entitling them to a discount on their automobile insurance. Please note that the refresher course is only available to those who have taken the AARP Defensive Driving Course within the last three years. Reservations and prepayment required.
Fee: $12 (AARP members)/$14 (non-members).

June 17 – 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.