

The Mid Valley News

Published in El Monte, California since 1962
A Weekly Adjudicated Publication serving El Monte & Los Angeles County

Volume 61 Issue 41

www.MidValleyNews.com

October 30, 2024



Paws & Claws

2

Health & Fitness

3

Real Estate Report

4

Eye On Finance

5

Three Dot Lounge

6

Community Corner / Legal Notices

7

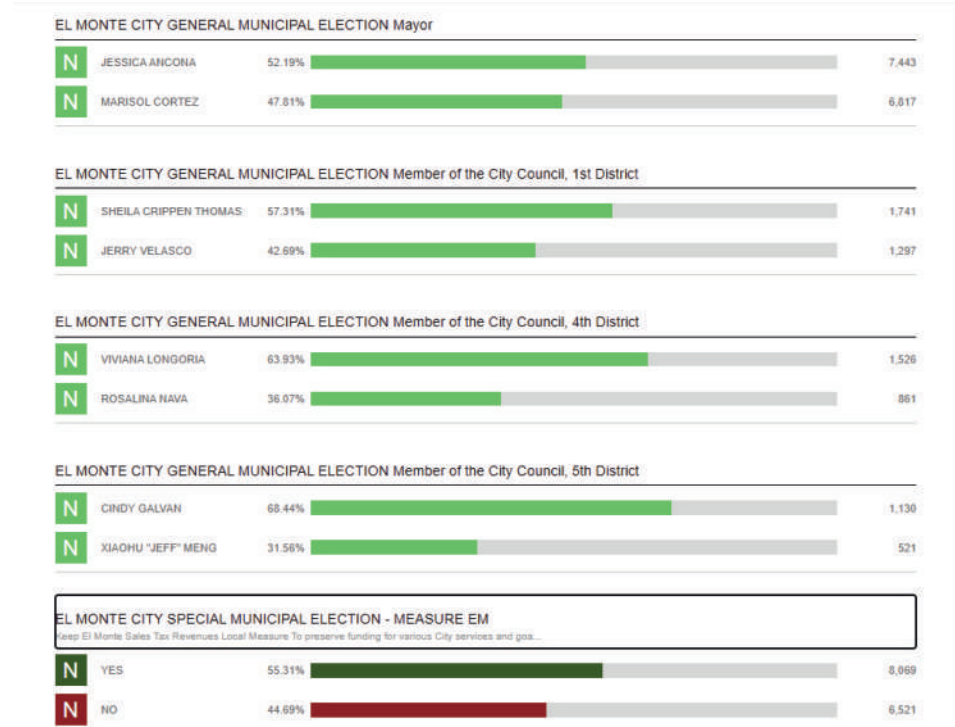
Election Results Show Close Races in El Monte as Unofficial Results Come In

The latest unofficial results from the El Monte City General Municipal Election show a series of close races shaping the city's leadership and policy direction. As ballots continue to be counted, the outcomes could have lasting impacts on the community.

In the mayoral contest, Jessica Ancona currently holds a slight lead over Marisol Cortez, capturing 52.19% of the vote, equaling 7,443 votes. Cortez, not far behind, has garnered 47.81% or 6,817 votes. This tight race is emblematic of the significant engagement and split opinions within the community regarding the future leadership of El Monte.

City council races across three districts also reflect distinct voter preferences. In the 1st District, Sheila Crippen Thomas has achieved 57.31% of the vote with 1,741 ballots in her favor, leading over Jerry Velasco who has 42.69% (1,297 votes). This lead, while notable, still leaves room for adjustments as final votes are tallied.

The 4th District shows a more decisive trend, with Viviana Longoria securing 63.93% of the votes, translating to 1,526 votes. Her



opponent, Rosalina Nava trails with 36.07% or 861 votes. Longoria's substantial lead might indicate a strong endorsement from her constituency for her approach and policies.

Cindy Galvan in the 5th District has an even more considerable margin, commanding 68.44% of the vote with

1,130 votes, compared to Xiaohu "Jeff" Meng's 31.56% or 521 votes. Galvan's dominant performance suggests robust support for her representation from the district's voters.

Apart from the council and
ELECTION >> PAGE 7

Raptors Help EMCS D Control Gophers



El Monte City School District (EMCS D) is turning to the skies to combat a growing gopher population at schools. Durfee, Gidley, Rio Hondo, and Rio Vista schools, along with Jeff Seymour Family Center have begun a unique and eco-friendly initiative that relies on birds of prey to keep gophers at bay. Pocket gophers, while small, can cause significant problems that can impact critical habitats, threaten native plants and animals, and cause extensive property damage.

Instead of turning to harmful chemicals or traps to manage the gopher population, EMCS D's Maintenance team built custom perches and owl boxes to attract their natural predators. "The perches are a great way to attract raptors such as Red Tail Hawks," explained Gerardo Torres, EMCS D Maintenance and Operations Manager. "We had witnessed a hawk picking up a gopher from our field at Rio Hondo; I thought, what if we could have hawks work the day shift and owls work the graveyard shift for 24-hour service?" Mr. Torres also attended a conference about eco-friendly green spaces and

the Healthy School Act, where he found resources to help with this plan.

Birds of prey play a crucial role in keeping the ecosystem balanced by helping control rodent populations like gophers. By giving them a place to live and hunt, EMCS D protects school grounds and supports local wildlife. To implement this project, their maintenance team worked hard to build and install perches and owl boxes around school fields to create a safe space for their new winged partners. "Our administrators have been very supportive, and the maintenance team is excited about the project. We conducted a lot of research and found helpful resources to guide us. The main challenge will be attracting the owls to their potential new home," said Mr. Torres.

Barn owls are nocturnal hunters and incredibly skilled at catching gophers. An adult barn owl can catch 10-12 gophers each night during nesting season, and a single family of barn owls can eat about 3,000 gophers in a year. With such impressive hunting abilities, owls are vital in the district's strategy to manage the gopher population.

Since their installation in early October, EMCS D has seen hawks, turkey vultures, and falcons appear at the five schools. "I would love to see them at all school sites eventually," said Mr. Torres. "We picked the five sites that needed nature's support the most." Although EMCS D has not seen owls in the boxes, there is evidence they are around. Owl pellets have been

RAPTORS >> PAGE 7

Rosemead Toy Drive Spreads Holiday Joy



In a heartwarming bid to make sure that every child in Rosemead has the opportunity to experience the joy of the holiday season, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Temple Sheriff's Station are initiating their festive "Pack-a-Patrol Car Toy Drive." The ambitious drive will see local deputies collecting new, unwrapped toys, which will be gifted to deserving children aged 18 and under in the Rosemead area.

The Toy Drive, a beacon of holiday cheer, is aimed at fostering community spirit and ensuring that no child goes without a gift this holiday season. The community is invited to participate in this noble cause by dropping off toys at various locations throughout Rosemead on specified dates and times.

For those eager to donate, the collection will kick off at the Walmart Supercenter, located at 1827 Walnut Grove Avenue. Community members can bring their donations on November 14 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and again on November 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Following this, another opportunity to contribute will be at Ross Dress for Less at 3560 Rosemead Blvd on November 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The final collection event will be held at Macy's in the Montebello Town Center, situated at 1900 Montebello Town Center. This event will take place on December 3, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. These events not only offer a chance to help out but also a moment to meet local deputies who are actively part of the force behind this charitable initiative.

The Toy Drive is specially designed to make the holiday season a bit brighter for families facing challenges, by providing their children with gifts that they might not otherwise receive. It is a testament to the strong sense of duty and community that characterizes the deputies of Rosemead Special Assignment team and their commitment to the locality they serve.

Mandy Wong, the Public Safety Supervisor who could be reached at mwong@cityofrosemead.org or (626) 569-2168, is coordinating this event. She remains a pivotal contact for anyone looking for more information or interested in contributing to the drive but unable to attend the scheduled toy collection events.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Temple Sheriff's Station invite all Rosemead residents to join them in spreading festive cheer through their generosity. This toy drive is not just about gifts; it's about brightening a child's world during the festive season, showcasing community solidarity, and bringing

TOY DRIVE >> PAGE 7



Homecoming Celebrates Diversity at Mountain View



In the heart of the San Gabriel Valley, the El Monte Union High School District celebrates homecoming with a unique blend of tradition and cultural expression, particularly shining through at Mountain View High School's recent festivities. This year, the school chose an inventive Día de Los Muertos theme for their October 17 Homecoming Fashion Show, drawing inspiration from the popular animated film "Coco." This event underscored how homecoming, a tradition rooted in American educational institutions since 1911, has evolved to incorporate modern and diverse elements that resonate deeply with students and the broader community.

At Mountain View High School, the homecoming week was punctuated by a fashion show unlike any other, sponsored by Friar Tux. Students paraded in vibrant attire typical of the Mexican holiday, which celebrates deceased loved ones with joy and reverence. Faces were painted with elaborate calaveras designs, transforming the event into a colorful tapestry that mirrored the cultural heritage of many students. This integration of Día de Los Muertos into the homecoming celebration was not just about showcasing creativity; it served as a bridge between cultural identity and school spirit, infusing the festivities with meaningful expressions of the diverse backgrounds that characterize the student body.

The choice to blend Día de Los Muertos with homecoming is particularly poignant in El Monte, where cultural diversity is celebrated. By incorporating elements of this tradition, the school not only enhanced the engagement of its student body but also extended an invitation to the community to partake in a culturally enriched experience. Such events reinforce the values of inclusivity and respect for different traditions, fostering a welcoming environment for all students and their families.

Across the district, other schools in the El Monte Union also embraced spirited celebrations, with activities designed to bolster school pride and community spirit. These ranged from parades and pep rallies to sporting events, each adding to the rich tapestry of homecoming traditions

that echo through generations. The emphasis on unity, heritage, and community engagement remains at the forefront, with schools using these events as platforms to honor their histories and look forward to their futures.

Homecoming in El Monte Union is more than just a nod to tradition; it's a dynamic celebration that adapts to the changing fabric of its community. By integrating elements like Día de Los Muertos, schools like Mountain View High are setting a precedent for how cultural relevance can be woven into the fabric of American school traditions, making these celebrations more inclusive and reflective of the student population. As these traditions evolve, they continue to foster a sense of belonging and pride amongst students, ensuring that the spirit of homecoming remains vibrant and meaningful in fostering connections that last a lifetime.

The District Supports Youth at Children's Day Parade



In a vivid display of color, music, and community spirit, the El Monte Union High School District participated in the 27th Annual Children's Day Parade and Harvest Festival on October 5, 2024. This cherished event, which honors the legacy of local education advocate Emily Ishigaki, has grown into a cornerstone of community identity in El Monte, spotlighting the talents and potential of its youngest residents.

The parade this year was particularly notable for its strong participation from El Monte Union High School District's performing arts students. Local high schools, including El Monte High, Arroyo High, and Mountain View High, showcased their school spirit through lively performances from their band, cheer, and color guard teams. These students provided not just entertainment, but also a demonstration of the district's dedication to fostering an environment where young people can thrive and express themselves through the arts.

The event's route buzzed with excitement as families lined the streets, cheering for the marching bands and performers dressed in vibrant costumes. Parents and community members showed up in large numbers, reinforcing the parade's role as a celebration not just of children, but of community unity. The Harvest Festival that followed the parade continued this theme, featuring educational booths,

arts and crafts, and activities that provided fun learning opportunities for children and adults alike.

The impact of the parade extends beyond the festivities of the day. It serves as a critical engagement tool, drawing local businesses, civic organizations, and educational institutions together in support of the city's youth. Such collaboration highlights the widespread recognition of the value of nurturing potential and the role of education in securing a better future for all community members.

As The District looks forward to future events, the ongoing success of the Children's Day Parade and Harvest Festival is a reminder of what communities can achieve when they come together to celebrate and support their youngest citizens



EMRAS Hosts Successful Blood Drive Event



The El Monte/Rosemead Adult School (EMRAS) recently hosted a vital community event, a Red Cross Blood Drive, demonstrating its commitment to community welfare and healthcare support. The event successfully collected 40 pints of blood, which has the potential to assist over 115 patients who are critically in need in various hospitals. The significance of such a drive cannot be overstated, especially during times when the blood supply levels often do not meet the hospital demands.

Blood drives like the one organized by EMRAS are integral to addressing the ongoing need for blood donations, which can significantly dwindle especially during certain times of the year like holidays or in the wake of global pandemics. Each pint of blood can help save up to three lives, according to the American Red Cross,

and with 40 pints collected, the impact of this single event is tremendous, offering a lifeline to potentially over a hundred patients ranging from surgery recipients and accident victims to patients battling severe illnesses.

Additionally, the event played a crucial role in raising awareness within the El Monte and Rosemead communities about the importance of donating blood. By stepping up to host this drive, EMRAS not only fulfilled a community need but also educated and encouraged individuals to become regular donors, highlighting how straightforward yet profoundly impactful donating blood can be.

The collaborative effort brought together not just the donors but also volunteers and Red Cross personnel, creating a ripple effect of community engagement and solidarity. Such events foster a deep sense of community and collective responsibility, attributes that strengthen communal ties and nurture a supportive environment.

Moreover, for the donors, the act of giving blood is often accompanied by a profound sense of fulfillment. Knowing that their contribution could save lives brings about a personal satisfaction that can incentivize future participation. It also instills a sense of community duty and personal health awareness among participants.

Healthcare facilities, especially local hospitals that often face the challenge of maintaining an adequate blood supply, directly benefit from such community-driven initiatives. Consistent community involvement ensures better preparedness against routine treatments as well as emergency situations requiring immediate blood transfusions.

As we move forward, the successful outcome of the EMRAS-hosted blood drive should serve as a motivating example for other institutions and community groups in the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. Investing in regular community health events like blood drives not only addresses immediate medical needs but also builds a foundation of resilience and mutual support within the community.



Health & Fitness

Parks Bring Fitness and Community Together



In the heart of the San Gabriel Valley, cities like El Monte, Baldwin Park, and Rosemead are prioritizing public health through well-planned community fitness programs and recreational facilities. From expansive walking trails to outdoor fitness equipment, these local amenities aim to create accessible health and wellness opportunities that help foster a stronger sense of community and encourage active lifestyles.

El Monte has become a beacon for community fitness with its Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, a sprawling green space that offers more than just scenic views. This park is equipped with miles of walking and biking trails, as well as fitness stations that line the paths, giving residents the chance to build exercise into their daily routine without requiring gym memberships. The recreation area also hosts regular fitness events, including free yoga and Zumba classes that bring together residents of all ages. These group exercise classes have become increasingly popular, offering not only a way for individuals to stay active but also a means of connecting with their neighbors.

Baldwin Park has likewise embraced fitness-focused initiatives that benefit local residents. Morgan Park, situated in the heart of the city, provides access to outdoor fitness equipment, a well-maintained walking track, and playground areas where families can enjoy physical activities together. The city's recreation department has also introduced a variety of fitness programs tailored to different age groups and fitness levels. Programs such as senior fitness classes, youth sports leagues, and group aerobics encourage people to stay active while meeting others with similar interests. The city has prioritized community health by making these programs accessible at little to no cost, ensuring residents of all economic backgrounds can participate.

Rosemead's Garvey Park is another local gem for those seeking outdoor exercise options. The park offers a combination of walking trails, basketball courts, and outdoor workout stations where visitors can engage in bodyweight exercises and strength training. The park's weekly fitness programs, hosted by local trainers, include activities like boot camps and Tai Chi sessions. These sessions attract a diverse crowd, from

young professionals to retirees, each looking to improve their physical health in a welcoming environment. Rosemead has emphasized the importance of community fitness through initiatives that encourage healthy lifestyles, while simultaneously creating safe spaces for social interaction and relaxation.

Local officials have underscored the value of these parks and programs as tools for public health, noting that accessible fitness facilities and group classes play a crucial role in reducing chronic illnesses like diabetes, obesity, and heart disease. By making exercise opportunities readily available, they hope to promote a culture of health that reaches residents across all demographics. Community members have expressed appreciation for the parks, sharing that these spaces not only support physical fitness but also enhance mental well-being by providing peaceful, nature-filled escapes from daily stressors.

These community parks and programs represent a broader commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the Mid Valley region. By investing in recreational spaces and organized fitness activities, El Monte, Baldwin Park, and Rosemead are taking significant steps toward building healthier, more connected communities. With ongoing support and involvement from local residents, these fitness initiatives are expected to grow, further cementing the role of public spaces in fostering wellness and community spirit throughout the region.

New Programs Tackle Mental Health



In the Mid Valley region of the San Gabriel Valley, mental health is increasingly recognized as a critical component of overall wellness. Cities like El Monte, Irwindale, and neighboring communities have seen a rise in initiatives to make mental health services more accessible, responding to growing awareness of mental health's impact on quality of life. Nonprofit organizations, schools, and clinics in these areas are working to provide resources tailored to the community's diverse needs, including free and low-cost services for those facing economic barriers.

Nonprofit organizations play a key role in addressing the demand for mental health support in El Monte and surrounding areas. Groups like Pacific Clinics, based in the San Gabriel Valley, offer a range of services to individuals and families, including counseling, case management, and crisis intervention. These services are often provided on a sliding fee scale or free of charge to qualified residents, aiming to eliminate financial barriers to mental health care. Some nonprofits have also partnered

with local schools to provide on-campus mental health support, recognizing that early intervention can help young people develop resilience and coping skills in a supportive environment.

Schools in the Mid Valley region are increasingly aware of the mental health challenges faced by students. In response, many school districts, including the El Monte Union High School District, have introduced programs to support students' emotional well-being. School-based counseling services and peer support groups have been established to help students manage stress, anxiety, and other common mental health concerns. With the support of mental health professionals, these programs seek to foster a healthy learning environment where students feel safe and supported. For families concerned about the cost of therapy, school-based services provide a valuable resource, ensuring students have access to care without the need for additional financial strain.

Local clinics and health centers are also working to meet the community's mental health needs. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in El Monte, Baldwin Park, and surrounding areas offer mental health services as part of their comprehensive care. These centers, which receive government funding to serve low-income populations, typically provide therapy, medication management, and case management services at reduced rates. In El Monte, for instance, the Behavioral Health Center at El Monte Comprehensive Health Center offers mental health services that address depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and other conditions common in underserved communities. By integrating mental health care with primary care services, FQHCs make it easier for residents to access the help they need within a familiar healthcare setting.

The accessibility of mental health services is crucial in a region where many residents face financial challenges, language barriers, and other obstacles to care. Community clinics often employ bilingual staff to better serve Spanish-speaking populations, a step that reduces cultural and linguistic barriers that can prevent people from seeking help. In addition, outreach programs educate residents about the importance of mental health and available resources, helping to reduce stigma and encourage more people to seek care.

Overall, the Mid Valley region's network of nonprofit organizations, schools, and clinics plays a vital role in supporting mental health. These services provide an essential foundation for the well-being of residents, especially for those who might otherwise lack access to care. As mental health continues to gain recognition as an integral part of overall health, the commitment of local providers to accessible and affordable services will be key in fostering a healthier, more resilient community. With sustained support and investment, these efforts can ensure that all residents have the resources they need to thrive mentally and emotionally.

Affordable Fresh Food in Mid Valley



In the Mid Valley region of the San Gabriel Valley, access to affordable, nutritious food is essential for community health. Farmers' markets, community gardens, and local grocers in cities like El Monte, Baldwin Park, and Rosemead offer fresh produce that supports healthy eating, but residents still face barriers in maintaining a nutritious diet.

Farmers' markets are popular in the area, with weekly markets in Baldwin Park and nearby Arcadia that bring fresh, locally grown produce to residents. These markets often accept EBT cards and offer discounted prices on seasonal fruits and vegetables, making fresh food more accessible to low-income families. Community gardens, such as those in El Monte and South El Monte, also play a role by allowing residents to grow their own vegetables, reducing grocery costs while providing a direct source of nutrition.

Local grocers like Superior Grocers and Northgate Market cater to the community with affordable produce sections, often featuring culturally relevant foods. These stores provide alternatives to pricier chain supermarkets, offering quality fruits and vegetables at lower costs. Yet despite these options, some residents still struggle with barriers such as time constraints, limited transportation, and the higher cost of fresh food compared to processed items.

To make nutritious eating more manageable, residents can plan meals around seasonal produce, which is often cheaper, and consider buying in bulk where possible. Freezing excess fruits and vegetables also reduces waste and extends their usability. Additionally, preparing simple, plant-based meals can keep costs down while supporting a balanced diet. With a combination of local resources and practical shopping strategies, residents of the Mid Valley region can make healthier choices that fit within their budgets.

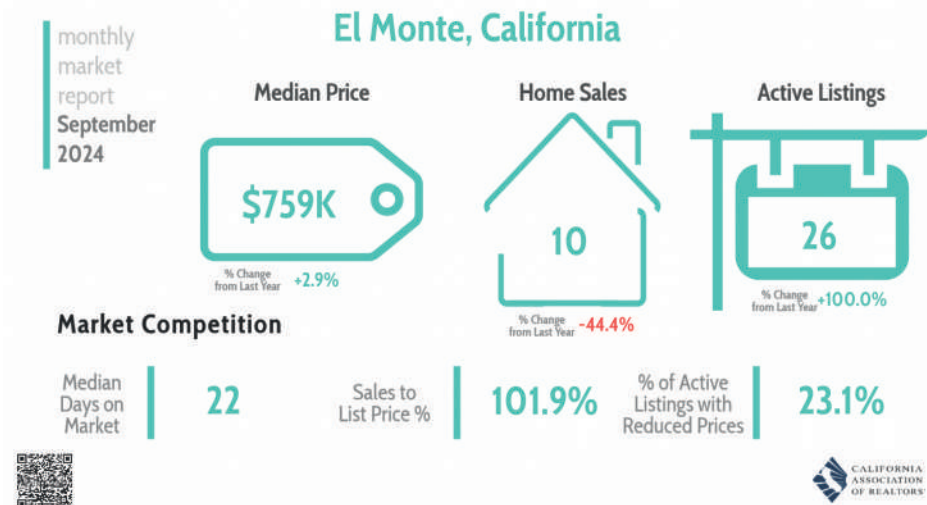




Real estate REPORT



Increased Listings Offer Hope for Buyers of El Monte Real Estate



In September 2024, the real estate market in El Monte experienced significant shifts, with notable trends in both home pricing and market activity. The data reflects a complex market influenced by reduced inventory, heightened competition, and fluctuating demand.

The median price for single-family residences (SFRs) in El Monte reached \$759,000 in September. However, this represents a 2.9% increase from the previous year, which contrasts with a noticeable decline in sales volume. Specifically, existing single-family home sales saw a drop of 44.4% year-over-year, highlighting reduced market activity despite the steady pricing. This may indicate buyer hesitancy, influenced by factors such as higher interest rates, limited housing options, or shifting economic conditions.

Homes are selling quickly, with a median of 26 days on the market, underscoring strong buyer demand for the properties that are available. The speed of these transactions suggests competitive dynamics, where prospective buyers are willing to act decisively to secure a home in a limited inventory environment. Furthermore, the sales-to-list price ratio stands at 101.9%, implying that many properties are selling at or above the listed price. This metric is a key indicator of demand, as it suggests that buyers may be offering premiums to outbid other interested parties, driving sale prices above the asking rate.

In terms of active listings, El Monte's market is experiencing a 100% increase in available properties compared to the previous year. This influx of new listings could be due to various motivations, including homeowners aiming to capitalize on the elevated price levels. However, about 23.1% of active listings have reduced prices, indicating that while demand remains strong, some sellers may be adjusting expectations to meet market conditions. This could reflect an awareness among sellers that, while competition exists, buyers may be increasingly price-sensitive amid economic uncertainties.

Overall, the El Monte real estate market shows resilience and demand,

though it's tempered by affordability concerns and a volatile economic landscape. The increase in active listings may provide some relief for prospective buyers in a previously constrained market, while the number of price reductions indicates some softening that could stabilize the local housing sector.

In summary, El Monte's market data from September 2024 suggests a competitive yet shifting real estate landscape. While home prices remain robust, fluctuations in sales activity and price adjustments on listings point to a dynamic market where both buyers and sellers are recalibrating expectations. For potential buyers, staying informed about market trends and financing options will be crucial as they navigate this competitive environment. For sellers, accurately pricing homes will be essential to capture interest in a market that is both active and, increasingly, price-conscious.

Mortgage Rates Hit 7%, Applications Decline



In recent financial developments, mortgage rates have escalated to their highest level in three months, touching 7%, a peak last observed in early July. This increase, as reported by Mortgage News Daily, poses significant implications for prospective homebuyers and the real estate market at large.

As mortgage rates climb, the direct impact on mortgage applications is unmistakable, evidenced by a downturn in both purchase and refinancing applications. According to The Mortgage Bankers Association's weekly survey, for the week ending October 18, the adjusted purchase index saw a decline of 6.7% compared

to the previous week. However, when not seasonally adjusted, there appears to be a silver lining with a 3% increase from the same week a year ago, suggesting some underlying resilience in the purchase application sector.

On the refinancing front, the situation appears bleaker. The Refinance Index saw a significant drop of 8% from the previous week, which sharply contrasts with the same period a year ago, where refinancing activity was 90% higher. This stark discrepancy underscores the immediate effects of rising rates on the refinancing market, highlighting potential concerns for those looking to leverage better terms on existing mortgages.

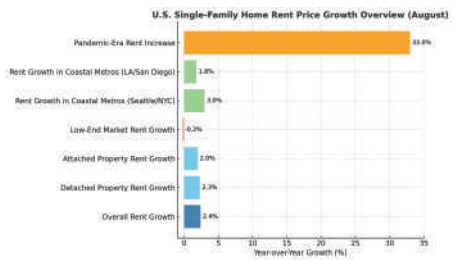
This uptrend in mortgage rates follows a period of historically low rates, fueled by monetary policies aimed at stimulating the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with inflation and other economic factors at play, the Federal Reserve has indicated shifts towards higher interest rates, directly influencing mortgage rates.

The escalation to a 7% mortgage rate carries broader economic implications. Higher borrowing costs can dampen home buying activity, which in turn can slow down the housing market—a critical component of overall economic health. This slow down is already being felt, with the real estate market experiencing a cooling period, as evidenced by the downturn in mortgage applications.

For existing homeowners, the rising rates mean less financial incentive to refinance, potentially leading to higher long-term costs if rates continue their upward trajectory. Similarly, for new buyers, the higher rates mean increased monthly payments, potentially pushing the dream of homeownership out of reach for many.

Real estate professionals, economists, and policymakers will be watching closely to see if this trend continues into the upcoming months and what measures might be needed to stabilize the market and ensure sustainable homeownership rates. As rates edge upward, the broader economic landscape will undoubtedly feel the ripple effects, making this a key area of focus for stakeholders in the housing and financial sectors.

US Single-Family Rent Growth Slows to 2.4%



In August, the growth in U.S. single-family home rent prices hit its slowest pace since the previous fall, increasing by just 2.4% year over year, according to data from the CoreLogic Single-Family Rent Index. This marks a significant slowdown from earlier peaks, reflecting broader trends in the housing and rental markets.

The report indicates a divergence in the rental market, with detached properties experiencing a modest increase of 2.3%, while attached properties saw an even smaller rise of 2%. In contrast, rents in the low-end market slightly declined, dropping by 0.2%.

Notably, coastal metropolitan areas, including Seattle and New York, witnessed the highest increases in rent prices. However, this trend was not universal across all coastal metros. Notably, Los Angeles and San Diego saw more subdued increases, with rent growth staying below 2%.

Despite regional variations, the overall U.S. annual single-family rent growth remains modest, staying below the 3% mark.

Researchers and analysts suggest that this cooling in the rental market may be reflective of a broader stabilization in the housing market, which has seen significant upheaval and overheating during the pandemic years.

As we edge closer to nearly three years since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the rental market has largely transformed. Single-family rent prices remain nearly 33% higher than they were at the start of the pandemic.

This stark increase over such a short period highlights the volatility and the pressure that has been placed on renters and the rental market over recent years.

Looking ahead, real estate analysts will be keeping a close eye on several factors that could influence future rent dynamics, including economic indicators, migration patterns, and the potential impacts of inflation and interest rate adjustments.

For now, renters and investors alike will likely need to navigate a landscape that, while possibly stabilizing, still carries the aftershocks of one of the most turbulent periods in recent real estate history.

FOR RENT

We Can Help.
It's What We Do.

Learn More

Ramona Property Managers, Inc.
W RamonaPro.com



Eye On Finance

Employment Trend Shows Mixed Signals



The U.S. Department of Labor's latest weekly report highlights a mixed picture of the country's employment landscape, showing a notable decrease in initial jobless claims even as the number of people receiving unemployment benefits remains at a historically high level.

In the week ending October 14, the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits fell by 15,000 to a total of 227,000, down from 242,000 the previous week. This decline suggests a continuing resilience in the labor market, potentially signaling fewer layoffs and a stable job environment for many.

However, the report also indicated a rise in continuing claims, which count people who have already received unemployment benefits for a week or more. As of the week ending October 12, continuing claims reached 1.897 million, the highest since November 2021 when they stood at 1.974 million. This rise in continuing claims could suggest a tightening in the job market, making it progressively difficult for those out of work to find new employment opportunities.

This conflicting data presents an intriguing scenario for analysts and economists who are attempting to gauge the overall health of the job market amid various economic pressures. High continuing claims may point to a situation where workers who have lost their jobs are finding it challenging to secure new positions, despite a robust number of job openings in many sectors reported in other economic indicators.

The labor force participation rate and employment rates, often seen in the monthly jobs report, will be vital for providing a more comprehensive picture. The intricacy of the job market scenario is further compounded by ongoing debates in monetary policy spheres regarding interest rates, which indirectly affect employment through business investment and economic confidence.

As the labor market continues to be a critical indicator of overall economic health, considerable attention is being given to the upcoming official October jobs report, due to be released on November 1. This report will be key in confirming trends suggested by

weekly jobless claims and continuing claims figures. It will provide essential insights into whether the U.S. job market is indeed tightening and what that might mean for economic policies moving forward.

In the interim, businesses, policymakers, and workers will be watching closely, understanding that the labor market's strength is integral to economic stability and growth, especially in a phase of economic recovery and potential headwinds from global factors.

Mixed Inflation Expectations: Short vs Long-Term



As per the most recent results from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's September 2024 Survey of Consumer Expectations, Americans hold a steady view of the inflation landscape over the next year but express growing concerns about inflationary pressures in the longer term.

The survey, which tracks consumer expectations about overall price increases, showed that median inflation expectations for the next 12 months remained stable at 3.0%. However, there is a significant shift in sentiment when looking further ahead. At the three-year horizon, inflation expectations edged up from 2.5% in the previous report to 2.7%. This trend continues even further out, with five-year inflation expectations rising from 2.8% to 2.9%.

An intriguing aspect of the report is the variation in inflation expectations based on educational attainment. Respondents with a high school education or less are particularly wary of inflation, anticipating higher rates than their more-educated counterparts. This group's expectations for inflation are markedly more pronounced at the three- and five-year markers, suggesting a more deep-seated anxiety about the economic future.

This disparity could be attributed to a few factors. First, lower-income and less-educated individuals often spend a larger proportion of their income on essentials like food, housing, and transportation—expenses that are highly sensitive to inflation. As prices increase, these consumers may feel the impact more acutely, contributing to their heightened inflation expectations.

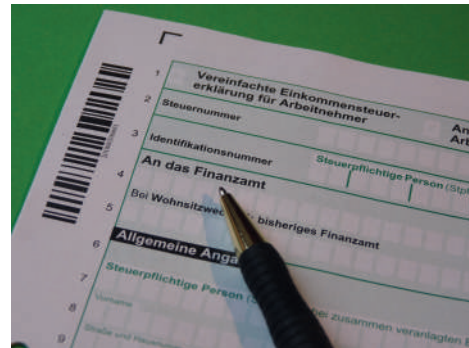
Furthermore, the issue of housing affordability looms large. With property prices and rents continuing to climb in many parts of the country, those on the lower rung of the socioeconomic ladder might be foreseeing tougher times ahead in terms of finding affordable housing. This concern is likely exacerbated by the sluggish wage

growth that disproportionately affects lower-income workers.

These findings come at a time of considerable economic uncertainty. While the Federal Reserve has been actively attempting to stabilize prices through interest rate adjustments, the mixed signals from short-term and long-term inflation expectations indicate that the path ahead is still unclear. Consumers' heightened long-term inflation expectations could suggest a lack of confidence in the ongoing policy measures to curb inflation robustly without hampering economic growth.

Deciphering these signals is crucial for policymakers, who must balance efforts to curb inflation without stifling economic recovery. As the situation evolves, understanding the nuanced perspectives of different demographic groups will be key in crafting responses that are both effective and equitable. Rattled consumer sentiments, as highlighted in the survey, underscore the ongoing challenges in navigating the post-pandemic economic landscape.

Strategic Tax Planning for Success



As tax season approaches, the common reaction among business owners tends to be one of apprehension, often viewing it as just another stressor amidst an already hectic schedule. However, adopting a more strategic approach to tax planning can not only alleviate stress but also enhance both personal and business growth.

Traditionally, tax season is met with a reactive stance—hurriedly compiling documents and coordinating with accountants at the last minute. This method can lead to unforeseen costs and missed opportunities. By shifting to a proactive mindset, business owners can transform tax planning into a fundamental part of their financial strategy, bringing significant advantages.

Cornerstone of transforming tax planning from a liability to an asset is to treat it as a year-round endeavor. Instead of seeing taxes as an annual headache, they should be integrated into regular business operations. By reviewing tax obligations and potential deductions quarterly or biannually, business owners can stay ahead of changes in tax laws that might affect their financial strategies, make informed business decisions, and explore new avenues for financial growth.

Engagement in high-level tax decisions is crucial, even when delegating the specifics to financial advisors or CPAs. Understanding how these tax strategies fit within broader business and personal financial goals is essential for effective planning. For instance, major business decisions—like equipment purchases or operational expansions—should incorporate tax considerations to optimize benefits and prevent unexpected tax implications.

Furthermore, strategic tax planning extends into structuring compensation. Adjustments to salaries, bonuses, and retirement contributions can significantly alter tax liabilities, potentially yielding substantial savings over time. This nuanced approach requires a deeper involvement in financial strategizing beyond mere compliance.

To alleviate the burden of tax season, business owners should cultivate a habit of organization and early preparation. Keeping a regular check on finances and maintaining clear communication with advisors will foster a sense of readiness and control. Implementing streamlined processes, such as automating tax payments and maintaining organized records, can further reduce the strains associated with tax preparation.

Moreover, aligning business decisions with personal financial goals such as retirement or real estate investments ensures that tax strategies bolster long-term aspirations. This holistic approach not only aids in coherent financial planning but also positions business owners to take full advantage of their fiscal decisions.

Lastly, while business owners need not be tax experts, a basic understanding of new and existing tax laws is invaluable. This knowledge aids in making informed decisions, anticipating future changes in the business landscape, and planning for events like succession or expansion.

Stay Informed. Stay Connected. Get Your Free Subscription Today

Subscribe Now

midvalleynews.com

Mid Valley MVMC Media Center

Done For You Video Ads That Builds Your Business!

video.midvalleymedia.net

Find Out How

Three Dot Lounge...

Working OverTime

by Cynthia Huizar



So much to do, last week Profe and I attended the play “!Pasaje!” at the Sierra Madre Playhouse that everyone is talking about. Written by local students from South El Monte. The story is about an 18 year old, Andy, as he embarks on a journey from his home in Flagstaff, AZ. To the culturally rich community of South El Monte in search of his estranged father. As Andy immerses himself in the neighborhood, he begins to uncover his Latino heritage, forming deep connections with the people he meets.

The first act builds to a dramatic moment when his mother, Angela, unexpectedly arrived. But the play has many delightful twists and turns first. In one ensemble dance sequence, the theme was “Chisma”, the Spanish word for gossip. Profe swears that the actress/dancer Luzma Ortiz was pointing right at me as she sang, and it was particularly entertaining. Then in the second act long hidden family secrets come to light as Andy’s personal journey of self-discovery continues. Bonding with the beautiful dancer Marcelina, they both began to understand their identities and the enduring strength of family and community.

I connected to the story by J. Quiroz, I was adopted, never knowing my birth parents. I moved around a lot until I came to live with my Hispanic family in East LA. and for the first time had a home and a family. Cruising Whittier Blvd., long black hair, white eye liner and thick eyelashes, I learned to fit in. Watching the play I understood how Andy felt about himself not knowing his heritage. Seeing this play can help transform oneself to understand how we fit in society. And have fun along the journey.

Cracker Barrel

by Mike McClure



...so the other day I was watching the news and who’s face popped up? My pal “Gil the Bus driver”. There he was at the parade downtown celebrating the Dodger’s World Series win over their old rivals, the New York Yankees. Gil was with his lady friend but I am not sure I should divulge her name, she is a teacher and I think she was playing hooky. Truth be known I think there were a lot of people in the crowd Friday morning that were playing hooky.

The rivalry between the Dodgers and the Yankees is probably the oldest and richest one in sports. Of course the Giants are part of it too, all three teams once played in New York. The Dodgers and the Giants, both being in the National League and both coming out to California about the same time, have kept a local rivalry going. But it is the Yankees that provide the greatest show, every time these two meet it is memorial. Freddy Freeman may have won the World Series MVP with Atlanta but his walk off grand slam in the first game of these World Series and the winning of the MVP this time will cement his name in the memories of future generations of baseball fans.

Gil the Bus Driver has had a pretty good time lately with his beloved Dodgers and gets a well-deserved “Hat’s Off!” for his dedication, its sometimes a bittersweet experience to be a true fan so when your team does go all the way it all seems worth it, and playing hooky to go to the parade is well earned. Now if only his beloved Raiders could only get their act together...oh well that’s the ups and downs of fan-hood.

{Note: When Tom Brady retired I suggested to Gil that although I know that all good Raider fans hate Tom Brady, still they should try to get him to come out of retirement to quarterback them, especially now that he is becoming a minority owner. But I think that time has passed for the 7-time Super Bowl Champ to play, just thinking out loud.}

SUDOKU

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082990 0083445

9			7			8		
		6						9
5			9			4	6	2
6	2						4	7
	3							8
				6				1
7		4				3		
	1		5					
			8	2				

© StatePoint Media

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
13					14			15							
16					17			18							
19					20			21	22						
				23				24							
25	26	27		28	29			30	31	32	33	34			
35				36				37							
40								41			42		43		
44								45			46		47		
48								49			50		51		52
								53			54		55		56
57	58	59	60					61			62	63			
64								65	66			67			68
69								70				71			
72								73					74		

SWITCH & GET

\$25

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

Off First Month of New Service!

USE PROMO CODE: GZ590

Consumer Cellular

THEME: FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

ACROSS

1. Eight performers
6. Air traffic control controlling org.
9. 100-meter race
13. *Fauna, Merryweather and _____, fairy godmothers
14. Adam's body part in Bible
15. Stone fruit
16. Type of bulrush, pl.
17. *"Dawn of a new _____"
18. Pertaining to ear
19. *"_____ list"
21. *"Your wish is my _____"
23. Actor Danson
24. Pottery oven
25. *Migos: "Look at My _____"
28. Cold cuts counter
30. Inner skin layer, pl.
35. Riyadh native
37. One thousandth of a liter, pl.
39. *"Till _____ do us part"
40. Inconclusive
41. Where there's trouble?
43. On a cruise, e.g.
44. Man-made stone pile
46. Purse for a formal affair
47. Animal house
48. When a 3rd party holds assets
50. Prefers
52. Desk well content
53. Withdraw gradually
55. Black and white sea bird
57. *"_____ up the wrong tree"
61. *"A date which will live in _____"
64. Certain monochromatic cookie, pl.
65. Weary traveler's destination

Mid Valley MVMC Media Center

Done For You Video Ads

That Builds Your Business!

video.midvalleymedia.net

Find Out How

67. Robin Hood's companion Tuck
 69. September stone
 70. Tolstoy of "War and Peace" fame
 71. Salon file
 72. Hurly burly
 73. Immeasurable period
 74. Raja's wife
- DOWN**
1. Oftentimes, poetic abbreviation
 2. *"Welcome to the _____"
 3. Cough syrup balsam
 4. Not slouching
 5. Assigned a chore
 6. Worry
 7. *"I'm walkin' on _____"
 8. Old-time calculators
 9. Ringo Starr's instrument
 10. Ambience
 11. Bridge, e.g.
 12. Kept together
 15. *F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Beautiful and the _____"
 20. Possible allergic reaction
 22. *"What's _____ is new again"
 24. One thousand tons
 25. *"_____ like no one is watching"
 26. La Scala solos
 27. Fundamental
 29. *"_____ is like a box of chocolates"
 31. Madrid's Club de Fútbol
 32. Kenyan warrior
 33. Dined at home
 34. *"Jump the _____," what Fonzie did
 36. 100 cents in Ethiopia
 38. *"No _____ for you!"
 42. Previously an Oiler
 45. In no manner, archaic
 49. Skin cyst
 51. Bear pain
 54. Quick and light on one's feet
 56. Deserved consequence
 57. *"You're gonna need a bigger _____"
 58. Jason's vessel
 59. Use a book
 60. Japanese zither
 61. Involved (2 words)
 62. Demeanor
 63. Ready and eager
 66. New, prefix
 68. *J.D. Salinger's "Catcher in the _____"

Your Brand Hand Delivered To Your Audience.

Tell Your Story. Build Your Business.

LEARN MORE

midvalleymedia.net

Riddles

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

What bone has a sense of humor?

What kind of dog chases anything red?

What kind of dog has no tail?

What shoes should you wear when your basement is flooded?

What is Measure ME?



Measure ME is a School Facilities Bond that will appear on the November 2024 ballot. It aims to:

- Modernize classrooms and expand outdoor learning and green spaces
- Improve performing arts facilities and enhance school safety systems
- Create more energy efficient schools to improve overall health and safety of school communities.

EMCSD is seeking \$105 million in local tax revenue to complete necessary improvements to ensure EMCSD schools operate at the current educational standards. EMCSD has growing Visual and Performing Arts, Sports, and STEAM programs and the bond is designed to ensure these programs continue to feature state-of-the-art equipment and spaces to allow students opportunities to tap into creative interests at school.

To learn more information about Measure ME, please visit our website at www.emcsd.org/MeasureME/

Modernized classrooms, natural lighting & energy efficient units



Cooler Outdoor & Green Spaces



Upgraded Visual & Performing Arts Spaces



Election From Page 1

mayoral elections, Measure EM, a pivotal tax proposal, is also part of this election's critical decisions. This measure proposes increasing the city's transactions and use tax from 1/2% to 3/4%, which would potentially add an estimated \$3.5 million annually to the city's budget. These funds are earmarked to enhance essential services including fire protection, and maintenance of streets, sidewalks, and parks, as well as supporting youth and senior programs. Currently, the measure is leading with 55.31% approval, showing a favorable inclination from the voters towards improving city infrastructure and services through this tax adjustment.

These results, while still pending final certification, offer a glimpse into the voting trends of El Monte's residents and their priorities. The outcomes of these races and the tax measure could significantly influence the city's governance and strategic initiatives, impacting every facet of life in El Monte. The community now awaits the official certification, which will confirm the new leadership and policy directions determined by this critical election.

Raptors From Page 1

found by custodial and maintenance crews, and upon examination, they found fur and bones in them.

"This is our first-ever EMCSD partnership with our feathery friends!" said Mr. Torres. "They need a quiet, undisturbed space, so we tried to set them in low-traffic areas where they can flourish. I feel this can be a great learning experience for our kids. We even thought of mounting a camera in the boxes to be able to monitor them."

EMCSD hopes to see owls begin nesting as the winter months come. Until then, students and families can see other birds of prey hunting around their fields throughout the day when fields are not in use for school activities.

Toy Drive From Page 1

smiles to the faces of Rosemead's youngest residents. The effort underscores a powerful message of unity and the joys of giving, reverberating well beyond the holiday season.

Tell Your Story. Build Your Business.

With a Free Ad in the Mid Valley News

Claim Your Free Ad Today

midvalleymedia.net

A \$299 Value!

The Mid Valley News

Subscribe & Support Your Local Newspaper

with a Free Subscription

LEARN MORE

midvalleynews.com

We Can Help.

It's What We Do.

Learn More

RamonaPro.com

The Mid Valley News is published weekly every Wednesday by The Mid Valley Media Center, LLC

Business and Editorial Offices are located:
11401 Valley Blvd, Suite 208,
El Monte, CA 91731
(626) 522-1944
info@midvalleymedia.net

Publisher
Mid Valley Media Center, LLC

Editor
Kenneth Ferreira
kenfer@midvalleymedia.net

Community Engagement
Michael McClure
mmclure@midvalleymedia.net

Contributing & Staff Writers
Kenneth Ferreira
Logan Ferreira
Michael McClure
Cynthia Huizar

All contents herein are copyrighted and may not be reproduced in any manner, either in whole or in part, without the expressed written consent of The Mid Valley Media Center, LLC.

The views and opinions expressed in The Mid Valley News or any other channel of content distribution controlled by The Mid Valley Media Center, LLC are those of the content creators and not those of the organization, affiliates, staff, or employees.

The Mid Valley News is adjudicated as a paper of general circulation in the City of Of Monte, County of Los Angeles Superior Couty, November 7, 1973 No. C68383 and adjudicated as a peper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles on July 18,1992, No. BS016380

Puzzle Answers



 MID VALLEY NEWS
The Voice of the Valley

ELEVATE YOUR BRAND

Book Your Ad Today!

Learn More

midvalleynews.com




COMMUNITY CHURCH OF EL MONTE

Join Us In Celebrating The Lord
4602 N. Peck Rd, El Monte, CA 91732
Sundays @ 1:00 P.M
All Are Welcome
(626)643-8417

WELCOME FROM THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY FAMILY CENTER

The San Gabriel Valley Family Center is a community based, not-for-profit organization serving the cities of El Monte, South El Monte and surrounding communities. It was founded in 1964 by members of the El Monte Civitan Club.

The Family Center conducts two food pantries, reaching over 350 local families each week. The Center fills an important role in helping to maintain community health by providing nutritious food to families in need.

The Center serves extremely low-income neighborhoods with high rates of poverty, unemployment and large number of elderly persons.

We invite you to visit our website for more information at www.sgvfamilycenter.org.



 Ramona Property Managers, Inc.

We Can Help.

It's What We Do.

Learn More

 RamonaPro.com

Tell Your Story.
Build Your Business.

With a Free Ad in the Mid Valley News

Claim Your Free Ad Today

midvalleymedia.net



A \$299 Value!

 CITY OF **BALDWIN PARK**

33RD ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

11.11.2024 AT 1 PM

MORGAN PARK CESAR E. CHAVEZ AMPHITHEATER
4100 BALDWIN PARK BOULEVARD

The public is invited to share military memorabilia including, Veteran photos, mementos, medals, etc. Refreshments immediately following the ceremony. All veterans are encouraged to dress in uniform.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT (626) 813-5245, EXT. 302