

Subject: QuePasa Grecia, UPDATE Mid-May 2024

From: Don Davis - Que Pasa Grecia <editor@quepasagrecia.com>

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Que Pasa Grecia

2024 Update #5 Mid-May

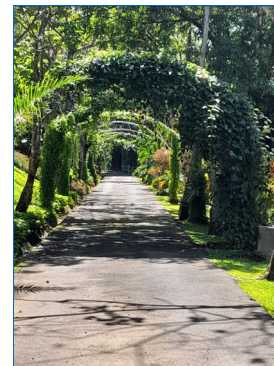
What's New in Que Pasa

Since our last Update, in [Items Wanted](#) we have someone looking for a capsule filling machine and someone looking for a standard size electric stove. If you can help, check out their listing at the bottom of our Items for Sale section. Also, for the next **four Tuesdays**, non-traditional trash item pick up will take place in Grecia communities. Find out in [Upcoming Events](#) when pick up is scheduled in your community.

Reminder: if you have a service provider, vendor or restaurant you'd like to recommend, we'd love to post it for the rest of your fellow subscribers to see. Send a brief description, location/hours/contact info, plus a photo of the vendor, their store front, their business card or their logo to editorqpg@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT: Where Has All the [Water](#) Power Gone? - Part II

ICE says that the lakes and reservoirs used to generate electricity are at, or near, record lows causing the necessity of



Que Pasa offers articles on local places to go, helpful how-to's, and general observations of life in the Grecia/Sarchi area.

Click on the photo to visit our site!



switching to less-efficient, more expensive thermal power generation. The bottom line is we should all expect our electric rates to continue to increase over the near term.

Here's the **new twist** due to the country's reservoirs being too low to generate sufficient hydroelectric power. The government has announced that there will be **rolling electrical blackouts every weekday next week beginning Monday, 13 May**. Expect the blackouts to last from two to three hours daily. They will be random and you need to check your electricity account's **NISE** number (not the account number) to find out when and for how long your blackouts will last. Go to this website and enter your NISE number: <https://www.iceelectricidad.com/Hogar/Suspensiones/Racionamiento>. If the screaming from disadvantaged customers is not loud enough, expect the blackouts to continue until the reservoirs fill back up. We also have this information posted on our [Upcoming Events](#) page.

For New and About-To-Be C.R. Residents - Part II

Well, most often what sounds too good to be true probably is. It turns out the individual who got a "re-look" at their monthly CAJA payment (that now includes a Seguridad Social retirement contribution) was a case of not "what you know," but "who you know." It is often the case here, but I was hopeful that I could pass along some encouraging news.

As you may know, about a year ago both government organizations have earlier agreed that adding a new retirement fund contribution was unfair to retirees who came here and have already proven that they paid their dues and are now collecting retirement from their home governments. The ministry working in concert with CAJA said it would abolish these monthly retirement fees paid by new residents (without the ability to use the proceeds for 15 years). And, under pressure from a higher authority, they may eventually take action, but until they do these new fees will drain into the depleted coffers of both agencies.

U.S. Dollar-Driven Economy for Costa Rica - Part II

The prediction has been that this significant exchange rate discrepancy between the dollar and the colon cannot continue without causing catastrophic economic consequences. The risk is that tourism revenues will fall off precipitously, firms implementing layoffs and/or cutting back on production or abandoning unprofitable facilities altogether, Costa Rica firms paying much more for products they use or sell and consumers finding Costa Rica-produced foods and consumer goods becoming unaffordable and being replaced in stores by foreign-produced goods. If it continues, there is a risk of falling revenues and taxes, reduced tourism, increasing unemployment, and even the possibility of increasing inflation.

The manipulation by Costa Rica's Central Bank is hurting Costa Rica's economy. The prophets say it will only get worse until the Bank steps and levels the colon exchange rate with dollar at around 600. Until the economic hurt becomes blatantly

Chalet House in Cajon Arriba Now Available for Rent! Click on photo to view page.



LOOKING FOR....
Capsule Filling Machine, aka, a Pill Filler!
In our Wanted section.



Portable Oxygen Concentrator in our For Sale section



Help San Francisco de San Isidro school - they are facing budget cut that eliminated their school cook! Click on the photo for flyer with info and to **contact Trisha Mac** about the jewelry classes she is offering to assist - ALL funds go to the school.

Recope estima aumento en gasolina súper y regular en mayo
Hidrocarburos subirían entre €15 y €31. Diésel bajaría €13

	Precio Vigente	Precio aprobado
SÚPER	€728	€743 +€15
REGULAR	€691	€722 +€31
DIÉSEL	€638	€625 -€13
GAS LICUADO DE PETRÓLEO (Límite de 20 litros)	€7.672	€7.533 -€139

Fuente: Recope crhoy.com

obvious don't expect the administration to push the Bank to move.

However, tourism businesses already complaining loudly that they have now started losing money. In addition, this week Limon's American-owned banana producers laid off 400 workers that because of the unfavorable exchange rate, the market for bananas is becoming unprofitable for them.

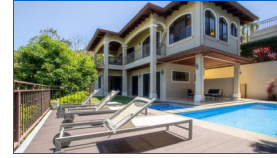
Violence in Costa Rica Trending Way Up - Part VI

By the end of April, just the fourth month of 2024, homicides in Costa Rica exceeded the total of 655 murders in all of 2023. I just don't know what to add here except please be careful, and alert out there.

“La curiosidad mató al gato”
Literal translation: Curiosity killed the cat.
Thank you, Isabel Arguello, for your continuing contributions.
Isabel teaches Spanish and does translations.
Find out more about Isabel on the [QuePasaGrecia website.](#)

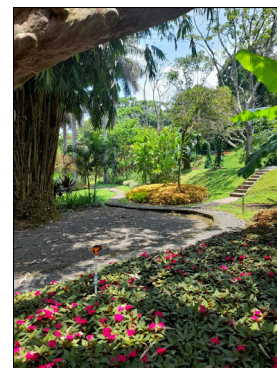
Check for your power blackout times this weekend,
D. Davis, editor
Diane Cooner, webmaster

Petroleum prices for May 2024



[New Real Estate listings in Atenas!](#)

[Dra. Christina Montero now making house-calls for your veterinarian needs!](#)



[Else Kientzler Botanical Garden in Sarchi awaits you!](#)

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