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Que Pasa Grecia
Serving Grecia, Sarchi, and Naranjo since 2014

¿Qué Pasa?

Que Pasa Grecia
Update #10
October 2026

What's New in Que Pasa Grecia

Since our last update, we have a listing for an electric bike in Items For Sale.

We know many of you regularly go out to eat. There is no shortage of tasty dining venues in the area. As a policy, the QPG editorial staff does not create restaurant reviews. We depend on our readers' positive dining experiences to populate the Restaurant recommended section. Please write a review to let your fellow subscribers know where you've had a pleasant meal.

Miscellaneous News

Let's Take a Hammer to Your Retirement Savings – A proposed new tax just for you. As if pressure from inflation, rising fuel costs, and the cratering dollar-to-colon exchange rate for those of us on mostly-fixed incomes wasn't enough to threaten your retirement nest egg, someone in the Costa Rica government has decided that you are making too much money. Trying not to overreact, but the current administration has sent a new 15% tax bill on foreign passive income to the Chamber of Deputies for consideration. It seems like a countering action to the lure that helped bring many of us to Costa Rica as our new retirement residence, because this country took a territorial approach to income. Meaning, your income derived from outside of Costa Rica was not subject to be taxed here.

Will this tax be passed into law? While the proposed new passive income tax law, Bill 25796, is a potential tax threat to income generated outside of Costa Rica, there are some retirement income exemptions and many unanswered legal questions, plus many logistical obstacles created that would need to be overcome in order to implement it into law.

Your editor received, from a subscriber, a summary report on the law put together by the ARCR. There are so many issues and questions, including the bill's constitutionality, and a requirement that would create a huge government bureaucracy to monitor and process tax returns as opposed to questions about how little actual government income would be generated over and above the expenses generated by the new tax bureaucracy, that its chances of being passed in its current form is highly unlikely. Your editor will continue watching the progress of this bill, and report any changes, update its status, and provide any new information in this monthly newsletter update and on the QuePasaGrecia website.

U.S. Social Security – Please do not shoot the messenger, but here's another threat to U.S. citizen retirement income. (This mention would normally be listed in the U.S. Government section below, as it could be perceived as sitting on the political periphery.)

Regardless of what solution is implemented, it is apt to affect every U.S. expat, in some way, by 2030, and you need to be aware of what could happen then. That is when the SSA retirement fund will no longer have enough resources to pay benefits to retired recipients at current rates. At that time, unless additional funding is procured by increasing or expanding Social Security taxes for the self-employed, employees, and employers, or by some other funding maneuver, automatic cuts of 22% will need to be made to every retiree's monthly benefits. That's a very large hit to every U.S. retired person, and we should be preparing to make our voices heard, and be ready to make lifestyle adjustments if they are not. (With our financial resources under pressure, see a new feature below, ***Something New.*** It's about discounts in Costa Rica and other ways to save.)

C.R. Roads – There is a new detour in San Ramon to accommodate construction of an underpass that is part of the new Ruta 1 San Ramon interchange. If you are traveling into San Ramon from the Pacific Coast on Ruta 1, the detour is a real mess. Otherwise, in and out of San Ramon on Ruta 1, the construction will not be a great inconvenience. Also, for a few days in early September, a Costa Rica court ordered Ruta 32, the primary route from San Jose to Limon, closed due to safety concerns over the frequent closures on the grade caused by flooding, landslides and fallen trees. Shortly thereafter, that same court ordered that Ruta 32 be permanently repaired. It's a great ruling, but we have no idea how they have the power to enforce their ruling.

Health Alerts – A Level 1 Health Alert has been issued by the U.S. Embassy for Hepatitis A. There have been 772 cases reported mostly in San Jose Province. Nevertheless, Hepatitis A is highly contagious, and you should be aware of your vaccination status, personal hand hygiene, and food and water sanitation. Also, there is a high-level alert for the mosquito-borne Chikungunya, a viral disease that can cause sudden high fever, severe and debilitating joint and muscle pain, headaches and fatigue, skin rash, and joint pain can last for months or years. Cases have been reported in Pavas and Rohrmoser.

C.R. Gov't. Update – President Fernandez just fired Manuel Tovar, Costa Rica's foreign minister, while he was attending the United Nations General Assembly in NYC. Her reason was that he did not inform the president of a "high-level diplomatic meeting" (Shield of the Americas) that he attended in his capacity as Costa Rica's foreign minister or give her an opportunity to fly to New York City to attend the meeting in his stead. However, she had said back in July that she was too busy to attend the UN General Assembly.

Also, ex-president Chaves reverted to insulting opponents from other parties and the courts by using colloquial childhood taunts during an Independence Day speech in Cartago. The net result of Chaves' speech: it did not go over well with the audience, and the public and the media will not remember what anyone else said there that day.

Rainfall

El Cajon de Grecia (Irina)
September: 49.5 cms; 19.5 ins.
YTD: 152.5 cms; 60.1 ins.

San Juan de Sarchi (Tom)
September: 43.3 cms; 17.0 ins.
YTD: 152.0 cms; 59.9 ins.

Note: The El Niño currently impacting our Costa Rican weather is now predicted to last until June 2027. El Niño is estimated to bring much less precipitation until then. However, not every canton, or even every barrio will be impacted in the same ways. For instance: 40 homes were flooded in various areas of the Caribbean and the Pacific by rainfall in late September; at the same time, September 2026 rainfall in Sarchi exceeded that of September 2025 by almost 3 inches; while in parts of Guanacaste Province, 74 water districts have already implemented various forms of water rationing. Please, conserve your water usage, and do your part to try to avoid water rationing later during our summer months and early into next year's Green Season.

Something New – Many, probably the majority, of our subscribers are on fixed incomes. Fixed income or not, today, there are so many pressures on your funds available every month. For instance, the U.S. dollar against the colon is hovering near an all-time low, U.S. inflation is above 4% for the year-to-date, the impact of tariffs and rising fuel prices are causing us to pay more for goods and products produced in the U.S. and Canada and shipped to Costa Rica. And then, there are the pending threats to the Social Security fund. Your editor has made a big deal about the advantages of budgeting. To complement that theme, a new addition to this update will be ideas about how to stretch your limited funds here in Costa Rica. A few ideas have been mentioned before. However, we are also soliciting, you, our subscribers, to chime in with money saving ideas of your own. Send your suggestions to: editorqpg@gmail.com.

Ways to Save – The first broad category is formal discounts. There are many discounts available if you know where to find them. In this update, we'll mention discounts that you can find in healthcare-related services. If you are receiving non-CAJA-provided health care, several private hospitals and clinics have discount programs, such as Medismart, where you join and pay a monthly member fee to receive discounted care. Among the hospital networks that offer some form of discount are Hospital Metropolitano, Hospital Catolica, and Clinica Biblica. There are also two discount programs by SANA SANA and Davivienda for Hospital CIMA. In the case of Hospital Metropolitano, they also have affiliated physicians and other medical services not located at any of their 11 Costa Rica facilities that also offer discounted care. The discounts may vary by program, but most discounts include physician visits, medical service, diagnostics, surgery, and pharmaceuticals. Savings via these discount programs can be quite significant. The bottom line before receiving care, always ask if there is a discount or discount program available. The worst they can say is "no."

Note to Readers:

The following section, **U.S. Government Changes Impacting Expats**, is accurate at the time of writing, but may contain information, conclusions, and/or suggestions with which some readers may disagree, cause discomfort, or find objectionable. For those individuals, we recommend that you finish your Que Pasa Grecia update reading here and skip to the Costa Rican saying. For the rest of our readers, we hope you find value in reading the section below.

U.S. Government Changes Impacting Expats

Foreign Entanglements – We have mentioned all of this before. The U.S.-Iran War has both sides showing signs of negotiation—and, not. The Strait of Hormuz still impacted, shipping through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal is also threatened, and the Saudis are looking for military support. A cost of a barrel of oil is at or near $100/barrel. Gas, diesel, and propane and fertilizers will remain in short supply, which means prices will continue to be high. Add in hostilities between Ukraine and Russia that will continue to put further upward price pressure on oil and grains. There continues to be U.S. pressure put upon the governments in Venezuela and Cuba, which could wind up impacting Costa Rica and even expats residing here.

Immigration – ICE has continued its quiet, accelerated apprehension and deportation of both illegal and legal immigrants, most of whom have no criminal records. Many are being separated from their families in the U.S. and deported to "third-country" nations (nations that are not their country of origin). Costa Rica is one of 25 international third-country deportee destinations cooperating with the U.S. C.R. is accepting up to 25 non-citizen U.S. deportees per week. So far, Costa Rica has accepted somewhere between 450 and 600 of these deportees from countries on five continents, and most arrivals don't know their destination until they land in Costa Rica. They are initially put up in hotels in the GAM, but Costa Rica is not being very forthcoming about exactly where they are located, how they are being cared for, how much legal assistance is being provided, if they are receiving necessary medical care, and what their future employment prospects might be. According to the few deportees who have been located and are willing to talk, not much official assistance is being provided. These deportees can request a return to their home country, to another nation, or apply for asylum in Costa Rica, where there are 200,000 asylum-seekers (mostly Nicaraguans) already in line.

Your editor feels these U.S. third-country deportations and the way my country, and Costa Rica, are treating these people is an enormous violation of their basic human rights. As an American, I am angry and embarrassed. I have made some progress in trying to find out more about who is in contact with these deportees and what ways we might be able to offer to help them while they are involuntarily stuck in Costa Rica. When I have any substantive information, I will pass it on, along with any suggested ways that expats may be able to help deportees who are here until they can leave, or help for those who chose to stay.

Tariffs, Retirement Savings, and the Cost of Living – In addition to rising prices, new things that will potentially impact us here have already been mentioned above (possible Social Security cuts by 2030 and a potential new Costa Rica tax on outside income).

The official exchange rate for the dollar to the colon is about $1 = 457 colones, but you are more likely to get closer to what your editor receives at his bank, $1 = 449 colones. Fuel prices are going up again. Beginning today, the prices will be: regular, 719 colones/liter; premium gas, 764 colones/liter; and diesel, 785 colones/liter. In U.S. dollars per gallon, regular, premium, and diesel in C.R. (at ₡449/$1) equates to $6.04, $6.44, and $6.62, respectively.

Americans Vote! – U.S. citizens, again, it's still not too late to cast your vote in the 3 November election. This is such an important mid-term, please vote. If you are registered to vote and concerned about your voice being heard, please vote. Your rights and freedoms need defending, so please vote. Check your state as voting rules are different in every state.

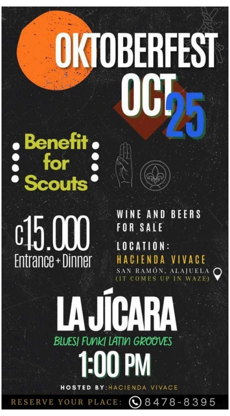
"Con dinero baila el perro."

Equivalent meaning: For money, the dog will dance.
English meaning: Money Talks.

It may be a challenge, but respiro profundo, and have a great month,
D. Davis, editor
Diane Cooner, webmaster
Quepasagrecia.com

Things to do in the west Central Valley

Electric Bike for Sale



OKTOBERFEST
OCT 25

Benefit for Scouts

₡15.000
Entrance + Dinner

WINE AND BEERS FOR SALE

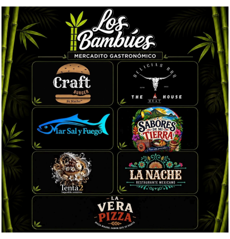
LOCATION:
HACIENDA VIVACE
SAN RAMÓN, ALAJUELA
(IT COMES UP IN WAZE)

LA JÍCARA
BLUES| FUNK| LATIN GROOVES
1:00 PM

HOSTED BY: HACIENDA VIVACE

RESERVE YOUR PLACE: ✆ 8478-8395

Featuring Andy's sausages and sauerbraut!

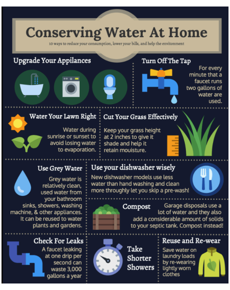


New eats in Bolivar (Cajon) district - 6 restaurants and cafeteria style seating under one roof! Plenty of parking! Live music! Rave Reviews!

Mercadito Gastronomico
Los Bambues.

There's still time to get your ballot and vote!

Seniors ride free locally with Dimex card, half price Grecia to San Jose.



Conserving Water At Home
10 ways to reduce your consumption, lower your bills, and help the environment

Upgrade Your Appilances

Turn Off The Tap
For every minute that a faucet runs two gallons of water are used.

Water Your Lawn Right
Water during sunrise or sunset to avoid losing water to evaporation.

Cut Your Grass Effectively
Keep your grass height at 2 inches to give it shade and help it retain mouisture.

Use Grey Water
Grey water is relatively clean, used water from your bathroom sinks, showers, washing machine, & other appliances. It can be reused to water plants and gardens.

Use your dishwasher wisely
New dishwasher models use less water than hand washing and clean more throughly let you skip a pre-wash!

Compost
Garage disposals use a lot of water and they also add a considerable amount of solids to your septic tank. Compost instead!

Check For Leaks
A faucet leaking at one drip per second can waste 3,000 gallons a year

Take Shorter Showers

Reuse and Re-wear
Save water on laundry loads by re-wearing lightly worn clothes

Practical tips to monitor your home water use.

Stay
HYDRATED
STAY HEALTHY!

Watch your water use, but be sure you are consuming enough in your body. Even if it's not sunny, the heat leads to dehydration, which can lead to all sorts of symptoms.

ALERT!
PHONE SCAM

Always be alert to scams, they are never ending. The latest involves an invitation to a Special Event or Party from someone you know but don't always correspond with regularly. DO NOT OPEN! That just spreads the virus further.

Real Estate For Sale - Atenas

Caribe Sinfónico would love your help! Learn more here and to donate.

Chikungunya is transmitted by the same mosquito that spreads dengue - Aedes aegypti. It does it's work in the daytime. Be on the lookout, protect yourself. Eliminate standing water sources on your property, keep house screens intact. Dengue is now active in Grecia, Cajon, San Isidro and other ridges in the area. Chikungunya is in Pavas - now spread by local mosquitos.

Symptoms of chikungunya are similar to dengue and usually appear 3 to 14 days after a mosquito bite and can last 2–7 days. Typical early signs include sudden high fever (102–104°F / 39–40°C), severe headache, retro-orbital pain (pain behind the eyes), intense muscle and joint pain (which can last weeks or even months), nausea, vomiting, swollen glands, and rash.

Book Readings with Edie, Continuing in October, in Tacares. All forms of informality, including cussing, wine, unique lifestyles, and different faiths, are invited.
Click here for details.

Aldair was in Costa Rica in late August for a special blood test - results showed that there currently isn't much else the medical establishment can do for him other than to keep him on weekly chemo and medication until such time as another alternative treatment emerges. This is sad news - there may be gene-editing techniques on the way, but at least 5 years before they show up.
Of 26 line items in his hematology report, 12 show increases or decreases from the norm. Aldair says he will continue this course until he can no longer bear it.
When you support Aldair's fight against leukemia, you support his entire family - Romeo, Adriana, Valentina - of ceramic artists. Blessings to all, they remain grateful for your continued support!

Read the current update via our GoFundMe Campaign.

If you would like to unsubscribe, please click here.

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