

Subject: QuePasaGrecia | Update #9 September 2026

From: "Don Davis" <editor@quepasagrecia.com>

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Que Pasa Grecia

Serving Grecia, Sarchi, and Naranjo since 2014

¿Qué Pasa?



Que Pasa Grecia
Update #9
September 2026

What's New in Que Pasa Grecia

Since our last update, we have a link to a [large sale](#) of furniture and household items, and we have [house for sale in Zarcero](#) and a [house for rent in San Luis de Grecia](#). Check them out on the website. Also, there's a new restaurant, La Terraza, open at the Else Kientzler Botanical Garden.

Miscellaneous News

Dengue Outbreak – Dengue fever is on the rise in Costa Rica. There 3,437 cumulative cases reported through epidemiological week 32 of 2026. This is a 30% increase from the 2,405 cases recorded during the same period in 2025. It's mostly impacting the northern region, but still a concern for everyone. Also, observed are official vehicles driving through neighborhoods in Grecia spraying for mosquitos. Be on the lookout for mosquitos and eliminate standing water where you can.

Scams and Phishing Abound – Once again, please try to be alert when using your email, Facebook, and WhatsApp. Just this week, your editor has discovered an intrusion into our home network even though we have a credible anti-virus app. Also, be especially aware of email from someone on your email contact list inviting you through an online card or event site to a special event or party. Don't open such until you have independently contacted inviter to confirm. This stuff looks authentic and professional, because it's meant to put you at ease so you'll open it.

C.R. Independence Day – 15 September is Costa Rica's annual Independence Day. It is a national holiday and the usual government offices, banks, and commercial/retail establishments will be closed. (9 September is Children's Day, but everything should be open.)

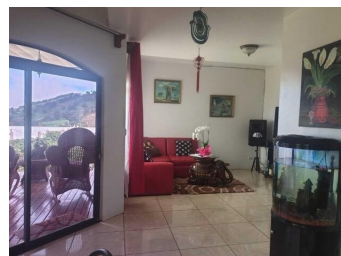
New Banking Option for U.S. Expats – A U.S. Banking Access Webinar is scheduled for 10 September at 11 am — the State Department Federal Credit Union is now available to Democrats Abroad members. This is a great opportunity for folks in need of a U.S.-based financial institution. The credit union is available to U.S. citizen



Things to do in the west
Central Valley



Lots of household items
for sale!



Home for Sale in Zarcero!



Rental available in San
Luis de Grecia.



expats and is not a U.S. government entity. The credit union offers savings accounts, credit cards, bank transfers, and many other financial services. For more information about the credit union and the informational webinar, go to the [QuePasaGrecia](#) site at Upcoming Events.

Letters Home – Tightened mail-to-the-U.S. rules were implemented a year ago to deal with issues caused by U.S. tariffs. Until a few weeks ago, your editor hadn't had to deal with the impact. Mailing a standard letter to the U.S. used to cost the equivalent of under two dollars. A form needs to be generated at Correos to accompany your letter—the cost of mailing a letter is now about \$8.00 per.

Costa Rica Citizenship – This is a bit complicado, but basically, there has been some confusion and regional inconsistencies regarding retired expat attempts to become dual citizens by adding Costa Rica citizenship and a C.R. passport to their U.S. or Canadian passport. There are the laws established regarding proof of a foreign social security recipient's income for retired expats. They are used to prove that they were already receiving the minimum or greater monthly social security benefits (benefits as eligibility to be accepted as pensionados in Costa Rica). However, on the other hand, these requirements seemed to be at odds with who was required to make monthly payments to the C.R. social security system once they became a C.R. citizen. Once your C.R. citizenship has been approved, your best bet is to make a trip to the main CAJA office in San Jose to pay the fee, and merge your permanent resident DIMEX account number with your new citizen cedula number. Then, head to the regional office of your choice to complete the citizenship process. Costa Rica citizen payments for already retired expat new citizen applicants were not being applied evenly throughout all regions. Some regional offices, including Grecia, were requiring C.R. Social Security to be paid for 15 years before ever being eligible to receive C.R. social security benefits. The Grecia office handling citizenship applications was requiring newly accepted C.R. citizens to also pay CAJA monthly contributions at an increased rate. The Grecia office may still be taking these positions for both payments. (Also, we have



Non-traditional garbage pick-up for Q3!



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.



Canasta basica - heading thru the roof. El Niño will make this worse.



been told that the Grecia office can be quite crowded and the agents there have been cited as having a bit of an attitude. The reality of this situation makes heading to the Naranjo office safer, less crowded and Naranjo has an amicable staff, thus, making it a comfortable alternative.)

For those of you in the C.R. citizenship process or considering citizenship, please confirm these changes before finalizing your citizenship application as these things are always subject to modification. In addition, once the citizenship process has been completed, getting an appointment at the Grecia post office for securing a C.R. passport is fairly simple, and your finished passport can be ready for pick up or mailing in as soon as a few days.

C.R. Gov't. Update – President Fernandez has made recent public denials that her administration is not authoritarian-leaning. Some find her actions and statements, as well as those of her team, offering indications otherwise. There is a growing outcry by opposition party leaders that Costa Rica's citizen rights and freedoms are being eroded. Keep an eye out to see if this is becoming a real threat or just political posturing. To your editor, I can see similarities with what has happened recently in other democracies around the world.

Poas Erupts – Volcano Poas erupted last week and tourist visits have been cut in half. Pre-paid reservations are still required, but there won't be as many spots available.

Flood and Mud – Despite total rainfall being down over last year, there have been isolated heavy showers, which have caused flooding and mudslides in the Grecia area. Be alert and watch for sudden changes, and road blockages and closures.

Rainfall

El Cajon de Grecia (Irina)

August: 23.2 cms; 9.1 ins.

YTD: 103.0 cms; 40.6 ins.

San Juan de Sarchi (Tom)

August: 31.3 cms; 12.3 ins.



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



Practical tips to monitor your home water use.



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.



YTD: 106.7 cms; 42.9 ins.

Note: this is the first time since we've been tracking rainfall measurements that Sarchi rainfall annual totals have been greater than Grecia's totals this late in the year. August rainfall totals in Sarchi were slightly above the 2025 August totals. However, there is a super El Niño estimated to bring near-record amounts of moisture to the U.S. Pacific states for the rest of the year. The same meteorologists, who put together that prediction, estimate that Costa Rica's rainfall for September and October, typically our wettest two months in the Central Valley, will be much drier. Conserve your water usage, and do your part to try to avoid water rationing later during our summer months.

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 – The U.S.- Iran War is a bit of an on-again, off-again affair, with the Strait of Hormuz still closed to most shipping. We should expect to see the cost of a barrel of oil (the current price is over \$92/barrel) continues to rise, which means gas, diesel, and propane will continue to rise, as well as, the cost of fertilizers originating in the Middle East, which currently aren't being shipped through the Strait. Ukraine and Russia, both major exporters of wheat and other grains, are still attacking each other's shipping, which is apt to cause grain shortages on the world market. If it continues, grain prices and products created from wheat and other grains are likely to rise. The U.S. president has made a deal for ownership of Venezuelan oil. It is unclear if this will have any impact

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.](#)



Aedes aegypti does its work in the daytime. Be on the lookout, protect yourself. Eliminate standing water sources on your property, keep

on global oil prices or our regional politics.

Immigration – There is increased monthly apprehension and deportation of both illegal and legal immigrants by ICE and cooperating local police departments under 287(G) in the U.S. We should not expect the 25 deported immigrants being dumped in Costa Rica every week to let up.

Tariffs, Retirement Savings, and the Cost of Living – Renaming Lake Ontario aside, the U.S. and Canada, the U.S.'s largest trading partner, have started a \$50-billion trade war with 50% tariffs levied on a long list of products and raw materials on both sides of the border. Expect the cost of things originating in either nation and purchased by the other country to be much more expensive if sent for sale in Costa Rica. Even things produced within either country that make their way here may be more expensive due to the higher cost of raw materials, because of tariffs' increased demand. Let's hope that this pointless trade war is short lived.

The official exchange rate for the dollar to the colon is about \$1 = 446 colones, but you are more likely to get closer to what your editor receives at his bank, \$1 = 443 colones. Premium gas is 701 colones/liter, which is still cheaper than regular. In U.S. dollars, Premium gas in C.R. equates to \$5.87/gallon.

Health – The UN is planning to make major cuts across the board, because of greatly reduced funding from the U.S. Agencies such as USAID, which once had a large presence in Costa Rica, are virtually non-existent and their absence will have an impact on immunizations and insect-borne diseases and that can be present in our tropical environment.

Americans Vote! – Regardless of your political affiliation, if you are registered to vote and concerned about your voice being heard, exercise your rights and your duty and vote. Your rights and freedoms need defending and your vote puts people in Congress that work to protect rights. Take actions that need to be made, and make your voice heard. Remember, voting rules are different in every state.

house screens intact.
Now active in Grecia, Cajon, San Isidro and other ridges in the area.

Dengue symptoms 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, nausea, vomiting, swollen glands, and rash. These flu-like symptoms are sometimes called "breakbone fever" due to the severe body aches and joint pain they cause.



Book Readings with Edie, Continuing in September, in Tacares. All forms of informality, including cussing, wine, unique lifestyles, and different faiths, are invited.

[Click here for details.](#)



Your Editor's Great Concern: I do not mean to create unnecessary fears, many citizen rights appear to currently be at some risk. There are active attempts by this regime to eliminate voting groups by trying to limit their ability to vote by mail by requiring states to supply voter registries in order for the USPS to deliver ballots for those states. Also, local governing bodies are trying to eliminate polling places where minorities and seniors reside. This may be just the beginning. Your editor's fear is that expats residing outside the U.S. borders are low-hanging fruit for this regime to attempt to enact voting restrictions or even implement ballot denials. While it may be illegal to attempt to deny citizen's ability to vote, an executive order or two cast upon the waters meant to prevent citizens not residing in U.S. states and territories from voting. This could easily create chaos and put expat voting rights at risk. The inaction of this Congress and the supportive actions for this regime by the current Supreme Court do not give me great confidence that our right to vote as non-resident citizens is assured. Please, if something of this nature is attempted, be vocal and active with your objections and indignation. Another concern: If non-resident citizen voting denial becomes a fact, how long will it be before an executive order says, if you don't reside in the U.S., you can't receive Social Security benefits. (The American Revolution was predicated on taxation without representation so the irony is infuriatingly bitter.)

"Cada loco con su tema."

Equivalent meaning:

Different strokes for different folks.

Vote, and watch your step when on the internet,
D. Davis, editor
Diane Cooner, webmaster
www.quepasagrecia.com



Romeo, Diane & Aldair in
Grecia, 27/8/2026.

Doctors managed to get Aldair's blood count stabilized enough that he was able to travel to CR in late August for a special blood test to determine if there is another medical path he can take to conquer the aggressive leukemia that he is fighting. His current regime is chemo once per week along with daily medication. Results of blood test due by mid-month.

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](#).

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