

**Subject:** QuePasa Grecia, May 2024

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*Que Pasa Grecia*  
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# ¿Qué Pasa?



## Que Pasa Grecia

### 2024 Update #4

#### What's New in Que Pasa

Since our last Update, we have added a portable oxygen concentrator for sale. There are also a bunch of items and properties for sale, archived updates, and recommendations posted on the site. In items wanted, we have someone [looking for](#) an electric oven, and another person looking for a pill capsule filling machine (aka a pill filler). Also, we regularly update [new real estate](#) and rental listings from our regular realtors. So, check it all out.

And 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](mailto:editorqpg@gmail.com).

#### 'Progress' Comes To Nosara - "Don't it always seem to go..."

That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?  
They paved paradise and put up a parking lot



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!**



[New Restaurant - Briselas!](#)  
on Calle Corinto

With a pink hotel, a boutique and a swingin' hot spot."

Thanks for trying, [Joni Mitchell](#), but despite some fearsome opposition, a luxury hotel development and an upscale vacation home community are coming to laidback, quiet, serene Nosara. Is it just a matter of time that more of the same kind of 'progress' will be in store for its close neighbor, the also laidback community of Samara?

Yes, this is a tropical paradise country where we have chosen to live. Its tropical allure is used as the driving force to generate large annual tourism revenues. Costa Rica depends on the tourist industry for a large part of its economic vitality. However, it is a double-edged sword for those of us that live here with each thrust forward toward enhanced economic security, we are all giving up a piece of the paradise that brought us here.

There is a petition circulating to stop these mega-hotel corps from forcing small farmers to leave their land. To find out more go to Telegram and enter Alex Zuniga's address: @inspiration11.

**For New and About-To-Be C.R. Residents**

Many of you as new, or about-to-be, residents are facing monthly CAJA/Seguridad Social payments that now include large 'required' retirement contributions that cannot be touched for 15 years. The moment I heard of this contribution being taken from new residents, in sums virtually doubling their mandatory monthly health payments, it seemed horribly wrong. You were lured to retire here and given residency based on your guaranteed minimum month incomes, mostly from retirement programs. Why would Costa Rica now require you to pay for retirement that can't be touched until after most, or many, of us will be in the ground?

Whether we call it governmental greed or merely a bureaucratic oversight, there is hope. We have it on good authority that these retirement contributions are likely being collected illegally. Fee elimination has been successfully argued in front of bureaucrats, who have dropped the retirement CAJA addition. A good lawyer with some knowledge of the topic should be able to quickly get Seguridad Social to eliminate these substantial retirement fees from your monthly CAJA assessment. As for a refund of overpayments already made, we are not quite so optimistic. I suggest that you make a few inquiries of your lawyer or a referral. We will keep you posted of any legal successes on this topic in our next update.

**Where Has All the Water Gone?**

It's quite pleasant to replace the very hot temperatures of the past Dry Season. Predictions for our rainy season, which appears to have begun, have the current El Niño dissipating and seeing the onset of a La Niña condition. In the past, this has meant increasing wet for our upcoming Green Season. Now, due to climate change, meteorologists are hedging their bets a bit, but it is still likely that it will be wetter in the latter



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.



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

**Recopie estima aumento en gasolina super 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 (cantidad de 20 litros)	€ 7.672	€ 7.533 (-€139)

Fuente: Recopie crhoy.com

**Petroleum prices for May 2024**

months of the rainy season this year than at the beginning.

Rain will come none too soon as many areas of Costa Rica are currently suffering drought or near-drought conditions. Some areas currently are on water rationing. Two recently released Costa Rican university studies show that up to 56% of all municipal water gets wasted before it can be used due to failing water delivery systems and aqua infrastructures plus user waste. The same studies point a very large finger at blatant misuse and misappropriation by the AyA of funding meant to repair, improve, and expand the country's water infrastructure over decades past. There have also been a number of recent gasoline pollution events in the eastern part of the Central Valley that have shut down water delivery and put local users on bottled water for days and even weeks.

On top of this, due to reduced rainfall nationwide, ICE says that the lakes and reservoirs used to generate electricity are at, or near, record lows causing the necessity of 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.

In today's climate environment often when rains do come, they seem to be stronger and more intense, capable of causing severe damage and running off to the sea before they have a chance to soak in and recharge our aquifers.

**U.S. Dollar-Driven Economy for Costa Rica?**

Since June 2022, the dollar has fallen 26% against the colon. This equates for those with dollar-based incomes into a huge loss in our consumer spending abilities and a quite noticeable drop in our spending power and big hits to our budgets. It is the same for many companies that depend on U.S. goods or dollars in their businesses. Tourism and zona franca companies rely on dollars and U.S.-supplied parts and products, or use dollars exchanged for colones to pay their employees.

The prediction is that this significant exchange rate discrepancy 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 U.S.-produced foods and consumer goods becoming unaffordable. If it continues, there is a risk of falling revenues and taxes, reduced tourism, increasing unemployment, and even the possibility of increasing inflation.

There is a movement gaining strength that is trying to emphasize or base Costa Rica's economy, specifically, its monetary system on the dollar. It would be extreme to switch to dollars, but the colon would follow the dollar's daily value; basically, unrestricted and not manipulated by Costa Rica's central bank. With the current administration, I feel, this is unlikely, but you never know—the current regime will only be in power for another 22 months.

Affordable Spay/Neuter clinic coming up on **May 11 in Santa Gertrudis Gym**, behind the church. Call to reserve a space for your pet or a neighbor's!



New Real Estate listings in Atenas!

Dra. Christina Montero now making house-calls for your veterinarian needs!

### Sarchi Tidbits

Much to the pleasure of all Sarchi residents, the formerly Listerine green main **Catholic church** on the park is in the middle of being returned to a sensible color combination – a mauve gray and cream white. To which I say, "Hallelujah!!!"

The Else Kientzler Botanical Garden now sports a restaurant and the complex is now called **Jardin Y Restaurante Else Kientzler**. The restaurant is situated in a beautiful setting near the garden entrance with seating indoors and outdoors (covered). The restaurant is run by Hector and he is currently finetuning the menu. Hector has plans to host local musicians on the weekends on the new stage. Open every day except Tuesday. Senior discounts are offered. Give the botanical garden a call for more information or to make reservations: 2454-2070/6121-9161.

Sarchi is now home to Costa Rica's longest mural. It's kind of fun and just a bit educational. Take a look next time you are in Sarchi. It begins at a northwest corner intersection and continues north along the street past Sarchi's feria de agricola and back of the stadium.

### Other Tidbits

- At the beginning of the rainy season each year, leaf-cutter queens venture out to start new nests. If you are going to spend time hunting down these critters, now is the time to destroy their nests before they get established. Good luck.
- There's not much that can be done to stop the gas and smoke spewing forth from Poás, but Costa Rica's Sala IV high court has agreed to address the issue of burning sugar cane fields. For more information on how you can get involved contact either of these citizens groups: [airelimpiovidasana@yahoo.com](mailto:airelimpiovidasana@yahoo.com) or [gadi\\_amit@yahoo.com](mailto:gadi_amit@yahoo.com).
- My lawyer informed me that the annual Costa Rica corporation beneficiary filing that is usually due by the last day of April has had its deadline extended two months to the end of June this year due to changes in the law.
- Studies show Costa Rica's educators aren't doing a satisfactory job of educating and Costa Rica' kids are exiting school unprepared for life after school. We'll be doing more on this topic in upcoming Updates.



New Registro office in Grecia



Else Kientzler Botanical Garden in Sarchi awaits you!

***“Buscar el príncipe azul”***  
***Literal translation: to look for the blue prince.***  
***Actual meaning: looking for Prince Charming.***  
***Thank you, Isabel Arguello, for your continuing contributions.***  
***Isabel teaches Spanish and does translations.***  
***Find out more about Isabel on the [QuePasaGrecia](#) website.***

Time to start watching the grass grow (and turn green again),

D. Davis, editor

Diane Cooner, webmaster

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