

Que Pasa Grecia

Serving the Expat Community since 2014

¿Qué Pasa?

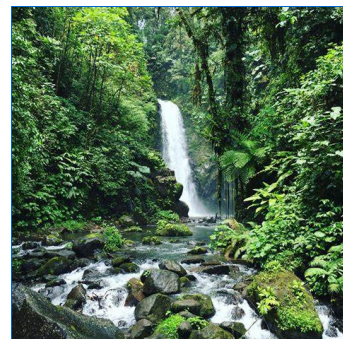


QuePasa Grecia Update #11 November 2024

What's New in *Que Pasa Grecia*

Since our last Update, there's been a lot of water under (and over) the bridge – both literally and figuratively. We'll cover a bunch in this in our Update. Welcome to our new subscribers and thank you to **Judy Burnham** of Expats Grecia for recommendations and support.

New on *Que Pasa Grecia* are listings for a fridge, microwave oven, and a single bedframe with mattress. We have a new



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!

listing for a partially furnished view apartment in the hills of El Cajon. A "day-old" bread store has opened in downtown Grecia next to the Mas Q Sabor restaurant. Diane was told that their products are not really day old. (All products had a week's worth of life before their expiration date. They also serve lunch and have other products.) There's a new listing for a bilingual lawyer in Sarchi and an assisted-living residence in Sarchi. Check it all out [on the website](#).

Bertilla Baker's 30 November concert has been postponed due to weather-related issues. The Costa Rica Lounge Lizards will perform at the **JIT Art and Craft Sale** on Friday 6 December 5:30-8:00-pm, Hotel Colinas del Sol, in Atenas. The Art and Craft event will be held 6-8 December at the same location.

A Very Wet November

Thanks to the residual impact of hurricane Sara that sailed through the Caribbean and tore into the northeast coast of Nicaragua and northward, November turned into a very wet month in Costa Rica. These wind-driven rains cause widespread flooding and landslides and displacing hundreds in C.R. There was over 18" of rain in Guanacaste in seven hours and our own El Cajon de Gracia had over 17" in 24 hours. In San Miguel and El Cajon de Grecia, there were homes sliding down hills, mudslides, flooding, and blocked roads. (The road from San Miguel to Cajon remains closed indefinitely.) Locally, folks pitched in with help, clothes, bedding, foods, personal items and cash donations. Donations are still needed, especially, for the residents of Guanacaste and locally. See the link under flooded photo at right for more info.

It appears that the worst of the rain for the season may be ending. Some say this is a transition period. However, the November rainfall totals are going to exceed the prior totals in the 11 years that I have resided in Costa Rica (most ticos report this is the worst rainy November in memory). I think, I can safely predict that water rationing this verano will not be required.

It Costs More to Become a Permanent Resident

There are two "fees" that count toward the total that residents will experience moving from 'Temporary' to 'Permanent' resident: a processing fee and a 'deportation' fee. These fees have increased since I became a permanent resident, but there is something a bit unusual that I discovered while researching this change. The 'deportation'



Microwave, refrigerator, single bed, all new listings under Items for Sale!



The Costa Rica Lounge Lizards will be playing at the Atenas Art and Craft Fair December 6, 6pm, Hotel Colinas del Sol.



You can send donated items or cash to Assn. Obras del Espiritu Santo of Costa Rica, [contact info on FaceBook](#).

Meet Manchas!

Looking for My Forever Home...

Buscando Mi Hogar Para Siempre...

Conoce a las Manchas!






- 2 year old male/Macho de 2 años
- Thirty pounds/13.5 kg
- Neutered/Castrado
- Gets along with cats and other dogs
- Se lleva bien con gatos y otros perros
- Likes to roam but good on a leash
- Le gusta deambular pero es bueno con correa
- Smart, sweet, social, independent!
- Inteligente, dulce, simpático, independiente!



13 October 2024 / 13 octubre 2024

This sweet boy is looking for his forever home!
Whatsapp 6439-0201

fee varies contingent on your nationality. For American citizens, the two combined fees are currently \$321, but if you are an Italian citizen you'll pay \$1,720. Go figure.

It also seems to be a bit confusing and entirely determined by the local region in which you reside, when you are transitioning from Permanent Resident to Costa Rica Citizen. Anyone over 65 is supposed to be exempt from paying the required monthly Seguro Social retirement contribution. However, it appears to be interpreted somewhat arbitrarily by the bureaucrats processing your application at the office in your region. Welcome to Costa Rica.

DEKRA Comes to Grecia

The long-promised portable DEKRA site is now open across from the CoopeVictoria gas station. The protocol is the same: get on the internet to make appointment. It's much closer and more convenient than the permanent DEKRA station off of Ruta 1 in Alajuela. When your annual vehicle inspection comes due, please use it, or we're apt to lose it.

Is an Influx of New Neighbors Expected?

After every U.S. presidential election, regardless of the political party coming to power, there always seems to be lots of talk about dissatisfied citizens who supported the losing side of the ticket looking to, literally, make a move. However, the policies and fiscal changes (including cost-cutting of funding for some social programs) being advocated by the incoming administration may have recent retirees taking a more-serious look at relocating. If this even happens, and if they should chose Costa Rica, is pure speculation. If it does happen, the one thing that might impact us is housing (rental and purchase) costs here may rise.

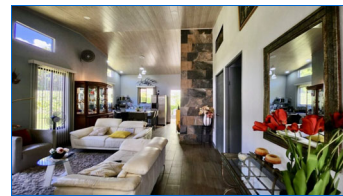
Miscellaneous News

RVS and COVID Boosters While injections for respiratory illnesses have been promised by CAJA, they are still not available at most local EBAIS clinics. I put my name on a list to be called when they do become available. Your EBAIS office probably has a similar list and a local physician has told me that he feels the boosters availability is imminent.

Due Soon 'Tis the season for annual payments. *Marchamo*, the road tax-insurance for all vehicles must be paid before 31/12/2024 (payable at INS offices and most banks). Property taxes are due beginning 1 January through the first quarter of



[Blooms invites you to get social! Monthly meetings in the Western Central valley.](#)



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



[Evolution is Here. Will an AutoMercado be enough to make it palatable to the community?](#)



[The characteristic symptoms of mild dengue are sudden-onset fever, headache \(typically located behind the eyes\), muscle and joint pains, nausea, vomiting, swollen glands and a rash. If this progresses to severe dengue the symptoms are](#)

2025, and can be paid along with trash collection fees (payable at city hall). Corporate taxes are due and payable without penalty by 31 January (payable at BCR branches). And, don't forget to pay the annual *aguinaldo* (Holiday Bonus) to all of your 'employees,' which includes all full and part-time service workers such as: housekeepers, caregivers and gardeners. Aguinaldo is required by Costa Rica law and is due to be paid on 1 December. It is the equivalent of one-month's salary (or pro-rated for anyone working less than a full year).

October Rain Gauge Irina reported 57.4 cms (22.5") of rain in El Cajon de Grecia and Tom recorded 64.0 cms (25.2") in San Juan de Sarchí. Well, October was NOT our wettest month of the season. Even if we don't get another drop, just wait for the totals coming for November.

Enjoy Your Cup of Coffee Coffee prices are expected to skyrocket in our future. Here's a Wall St. Journal video explaining why: <https://youtu.be/5UP5wBZH5E4?si=4t6nezk7fNKuxicn>

Still Trying to Make a Difference

We're active and focused on changing lives. Please consider volunteering or making a donation to the **Caribe Sinfónico** project. Give me a call for more info. You can also check out the new webpage: <https://caribesinfonico.com> or visit my GoFundMe page: <https://gofund.me/32e8dcc0>.

“Sentir mariposas en el estómago”

Meaning: having butterflies in your stomach

***Thank you, Isabel Arguello, for your
continuing contributions.***

Isabel teaches Spanish and does translations.

***Find out more about Isabel on the
[QuePasaGrecia](https://www.quepasa-grecia.com) website.***

With great optimism, the dry weather is almost here,
D. Davis, editor
Diane Cooner, webmaster

Contact us at: editorqpg@gmail.com

severe abdominal pain,
persistent vomiting, rapid
breathing, bleeding gums or
nose, fatigue, restlessness,
blood in vomit or stool,
extreme thirst, pale and cold
skin, and feelings of
weakness.



**Heads up - Fraud is real
and on the increase.** This is
the latest scam - finding a
bogus ticket on your car.
"Scan the QR code to see
your fine" - Don't do it! This
is NOT legit.



**Caribe Sinfónico asks
for your support!**