

**Subject:** Que Pasa Grecia Update, October 2024

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**Date:** 10/19/2024, 12:48 PM

*Que Pasa Grecia*

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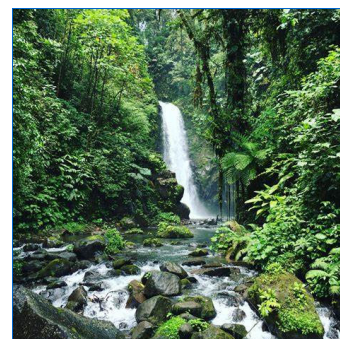
# ¿Qué Pasa?



## QuePasa Grecia Update #10 October 2024

### What's New in *Que Pasa Grecia*

Since our last Update, we have listings for a green waste shredder, air tools, and men's boots; plus we have someone looking for a [whole-room dehumidifier](#). "The Costa Rica Lounge Lizards" will be playing in Grecia on 7 November. There's been a surge in new and relocated restaurants in Sarchi. In addition to the botanical garden restaurant, there's a nice new restaurant on the grounds of La Eva, Sarchi's coffee-processing facility. It serves



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!**

lunch and dinner and breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday. With indoor and outdoor seating, the restaurant is great at night—nicely landscaped and lighted. Also, the popular *Enrrolato* restaurant is relocating across from the giant ox-cart in the premises last occupied by Plaza Mexico.

### **CAJA Waits Worsen**

The Costa Rica government stepped up in November 2023 to force CAJA to create a solution to reduce the life-threatening delays in scheduling surgeries and diagnostic procedures. Dubbed "Ruta de la Salud" ("Health Route"), it has been a dismal failure and wait times continue to lengthen. Last August, the surgical waiting list was 175,151 people, a year later, in August 2024, that figure increased to 187,546. Thousands of patients appealed to Sala IV, the national appeals court, for relief. There has been no solution forthcoming. On top of that, several governing CAJA administrators have been forced out in an influence-for-sale scandal. Sadly, if you are depending on CAJA to provide potential life-saving procedures or surgeries, you might want to consider looking to Costa Rica's private for-fee medical services (see our [Medical Information](#) page) or going back to the U.S. or Canada if you have coverage there.

### **Vehicle Accidents and 2025 Marchamo on the Rise**

Reported vehicle accidents involving damage or injuries were up in 2024 by 15.5% over 2023. Accident fatalities were also up headed by motorcycle fatalities, which is no surprise to your editor. (To date the moto fatality count is over 150—in 2023 the total for the year was 128.) Marchamo insurance fees are going up accordingly, but your editor could not determine if the increase is by 15.5% or a different percent.

You can start paying Marchamo at any bank, credit union, or INS office beginning 1 November. The insurance fee must be paid no later than 31 December. Remember, there is no grace period and the transit police will be out in force beginning 1 January to catch laggards. As an aside about the transitos, they are also looking at everyone for any violations that will pull in funds. A friend of QPG recently was stopped by a roadside transit set up and fined USD\$50 when it was found that her required fire-extinguisher was out of charge date. Be safe - check the date on yours. It's under 10 mil to get it recharged.



Electric yard waste shredder, in Items for Sale!



Avenue 3 in Grecia, look for the Big New Imperial sign!



Caja - Hurry up and Wait.



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

## **Deadbeat Dads Plus an "In Reverse" Scenario**

Not many of us will be directly impacted by this information, but I found it interesting. Costa Rica is serious about discouraging "deadbeat dads." They go to great lengths in the legal system to make sure fathers assume financial responsibility for the children they sire. Alimony payments are also enforced. Prison time is the alternative for non-payment of either. Imprisoned "deadbeat dads" over 65 will now be released from prison, but solely for the purpose of repaying their wives and children.

In a bit of an unusual twist, fathers (and mothers) can also sue their children for support. However, children can avoid these support assessments if, in court, they can prove that dad or mom was the deadbeat variety and neglected their parental responsibilities while their kids were growing up.

## **A New U.S. STEP Program**

The Department of State has launched a new version of the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). You must re-enroll in the new system at [step.state.gov](https://step.state.gov) to continue receiving alerts. The new STEP platform allows you to use a login.gov account to customize your subscriptions and to receive country-specific email alerts during the timeframe of your choice. You can enroll multiple trips or locations at once and modify your subscriptions or unenroll at any time. Enrolling in STEP makes it easier for the nearest U.S embassy or consulate to contact you during an emergency and to send you safety and security alerts. We strongly encourage all U.S. citizens traveling or living abroad to enroll or re-enroll today to take advantage of new functionality.

## **Actions to Take:**

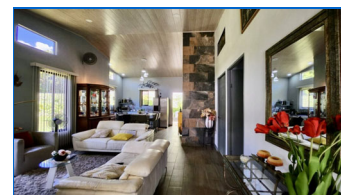
- Visit [step.state.gov](https://step.state.gov) to enroll in the updated STEP to set your preferences and continue receiving alerts and messages from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.
- Encourage friends and family traveling or living internationally to enroll in STEP. Travelers may choose to sign up for alerts for individual trips or to receive alerts long-term for specific countries where they or their loved ones are visiting or residing.



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



Almost new! - Cenizaro wood dining set



New Real Estate listings in Atenas!



Local Alert about eggs - be sure yours are fresh, watch out for discounted prices.



- Follow the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs on social media (@travelgov) as well as the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

## **Miscellaneous News**

**Evolution Is Hiring** The new, gigantic Industrial/Commercial/Business/Residential development located along Ruta 1 in southern Grecia, Evolution, is becoming a reality. When completely built out, it will have 30,000 people either living or working there. Commercial interests there are now hiring and the realization is upon us that there is going to be a heavily concentrated population there daily. Your editor is trying to keep a positive perspective that its addition to the community will be a net positive, but I suggest learning the alternate routes during commute hours for getting in and out of Grecia.

**Dengue Fever** Just a reminder that mosquito-borne dengue fever cases are still on the rise. I know that I've seen more mosquitos around our property than I can remember in the past. Get rid of standing water around the house, including water that collects at the base of leafy plants like caña india, bananas and palms.

**September Rain Gauge** Irina reports 64.35 cms (25.3") of rain in El Cajon de Grecia and Tom recorded 50.1 cms (19.8") in San Juan de Sarchí. Well, October is traditionally our wettest, but last big, wet month of the season in the Central Valley. So far it is, and I'll not be surprised at the totals.

In addition, we have another tropical wave on its way and just had 6.6 earthquake on October 12 (with no reported damage) off the coast of Tamarindo. Never a dull moment!

## **U.S. Citizens: Please Plan to Vote**

We're less than twenty days until the Tuesday, 5 November U.S. Presidential Election, but it's not too late to vote. Check our QPG Update archives for details on how to get it done, or see the link at right.

## **Still Trying to Make a Difference**

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



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 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.



It's not too late! Write to [help@votefromabroadcr.org](mailto:help@votefromabroadcr.org) or call 7137-3570 for voting

visit my GoFundMe page: <https://gofund.me/32e8dcc0>.

assistance from Costa Rica.

### ***“Lágrimas de cocodrilo”***

Literally: tears of the crocodile  
Actual Meaning: tears or expressions of  
sorrow that are insincere

*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.*



**Heads up - Fraud is real  
and on the increase.**

Whether it's FaceBook,  
Whatsapp, Messenger or  
your text messages, if you  
are uncertain who is trying to  
contact, don't answer!

Hang in there. It's almost time to hang up  
your umbrella,

D. Davis, editor

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