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Que Pasa Grecia

Serving the West Central Valley since 2014

¿Qué Pasa?



Que Pasa Grecia

Update #2

February 2026

What's New in Que Pasa Grecia

Since our last update, there's a listing for a 13-piece wall art, an almost new quilting sewing machine, and a house for rent in San Pedro de Sarchi. We have recommendations for Rejn Asian Fusion Restaurant (at the former location of Arte Latte downtown), the new upscale Restaurante AndaLuz (downtown next to Papa Johns), and a new Grecia café-bakery. The Costa Rica Lounge Lizards will perform again at AndaLuz on Thursday, 5 February, at 2 pm in the Bamboo Bar. Again, we mention the 10th Annual Costa Rica Blues Festival at Club Campestre, Grecia, on Saturday, 21 February (for more info and to purchase \$75 tickets go to: costaricablues.com). We have added Grecia's 2026 non-standard trash item pick up calendar. There are Webinar 2026 Tax Seminars sponsored by Democrats Abroad now through 14 March. (These seminars are non-partisan and cost \$12.50 per session). See our [Events](#) page. We also have new listings for Atenas real estate.

A number of **Donald Voelker** paintings are being offered for sale to benefit the Costa Rica Humanitarian Foundation and their projects for the needy in Barrio La Carpio. We hope to have photos of the paintings to be auctioned soon. As soon as we have them, they will be posted on our website's Contributions page. Go there for more information and viewing gallery.

Gracias - QPG's Operating Costs Are Covered

We've received sufficient donations to keep QPG's doors open for 2026. To those who donated, our sincere thanks!

Miscellaneous News

Donations for Sarchi Children's School Uniforms -

For those of you new to Costa Rica, a free education is available to every child. However, those children without uniforms are not allowed enter classes. A basic education gives children a fighting chance at a better future.

For the last ten years there has been a program in



[Things to do in the West Central Valley](#)



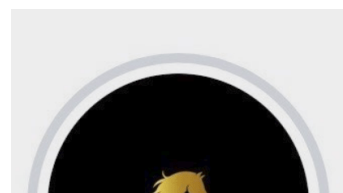
[Like New - Quilting Machine](#)



[13 piece wall art for sale](#)



[Voelker paintings - 2nd Benefit Sale](#)



Sarchi to help provide uniforms to children from the poorest families. School starts again this month and it's time to ask your help to buy uniforms for kids from the most-neediest families. The annual fundraiser is underway. Let's make sure these kids get an education and a chance for a better life. Contact: Karen Temple-Davis, ktdcasacostarica@gmail.com, Diane Cooner: cr.amani.amor@gmail.com, or editorqpg@gmail.com to make a contribution. (Despite the recent loss of the project's founder, they are reorganized with a retired Sarchi teacher leading the team. The team is enthusiastic, and ready to get children of Sarchi's poorest families in approved uniforms and back in school.)



[New restaurant in Downtown Grecia](#)



Be Aware of Scams!!

BEWARE--Bank Phone Scam – (I'm going to spend a bit of time on this as it is really important.) In Costa Rica, unless someone from your bank branch that you know personally (your branch manager of another branch employee) contacts you and asks you to come to the branch, any attempted contact **IS part of A SCAM!!!** If you are contacted by phone by anyone who you don't know representing themselves as an employee of your bank requesting account info or personal info, no matter how seemingly insignificant, **IT'S A SCAM!!!** Your bank will **NEVER CONTACT YOU BY PHONE**, unless it is a request specifically by your bank branch to come in as soon as possible to your branch. Someone that you don't know will never contact you to set up a specific time for a future appointment, and if they are requesting any of your personal or bank info to schedule an appointment, **IT'S A SCAM!!!** The safest thing to do is **HANG UP**.

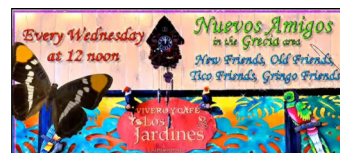


[Regular recycling dates for 2026](#)



[See our Alerts page for Big News between our regular Updates.](#)

These phony employees may contact you at some point by phone/WhatsApp, email, or SMA text. Contact will probably even include convincing bank logos and graphics, realistic-looking working bank applications, convincing security procedures and official-looking written instructions, a communication connection that appears to be part of your bank's phone or computer system, and a convincing reason for communicating, but **IT'S A SCAM!!!** These thieves are sophisticated and professional, and their contact with you is intended to appear authentic and official. They work in teams and can have a co-conspirator contact you to convince you



that their associate is a genuine bank representative. It seems very real, but IT'S A SCAM!!! And, they are determined to clean out your account.

A current scam involves setting up an appointment at your branch to download a new bank username and security "token" to enable improved international account access on cellphones or computers. These criminals are now active with customers of Davivienda, Banco Popular and any number of other Costa Rica banks. My branch manager was very clear, customers will never be personally contacted by phone or email, unless it's a personal request by the manager to come into the bank right away, but never to set up an appointment in the future or ask for personal or bank information. Your editor's advice if you are ever even the slightest bit unsure, HANG UP OR DELETE THE EMAIL and contact your bank branch in person. No one from the bank is going to contact you by phone. Always exercise caution and NEVER GIVE ANY PERSONAL OR BANK INFO OVER THE PHONE OR EMAIL. IT'S A SCAM!!! HANG UP!!! Phone and internet scams are on the rise and these folks are experienced at overcoming objections, and **very good at getting your money.**

Costa Rica Presidential Elections – Sunday, 1 February, was Costa Rica's presidential "primary" election. Out of 20 candidates, President Chaves' chosen successor from his party, Laura Fernandez, got over 40% of the vote. If the leading vote getter receives 40% or more in the primary, they are elected without a run-off being necessary. So, Laura Fernadez, will be inaugurated as Costa Rica's "presidenta" for a four-year term in May.

New Local Medical Provider – Your editor has confirmed that *Que Pasa Grecia* subscribers will soon have another local medical service provider located in Grecia: Hospital Metropolitano. Metropolitano will decide soon if its local presence will be a hospital, a clinic offering broad diagnostic procedures, or expanded affiliations with local physicians, clinics and diagnostic services, but it will be a major presence. Hospital Metropolitano has clinics and hospital operations throughout six of Costa Rica's seven provinces. They accent medical insurance and also have a discount



"Newcomers" Brunch
Wednesdays at noon, Los Jardines in Grecia



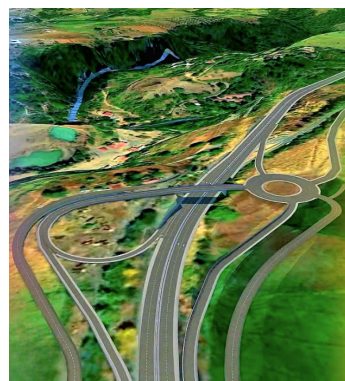
Laura Fernández will be sworn in as president on 8 May.



[Real Estate For Sale](#)



About time! With a projected 30,000 people moving to the area, our local hospital won't stand a chance.



Artist's Rendition of planned

accept medical insurance and also have a discount program for all medical services called MediSmart.

Local Road News – The initial construction effort of the Ruta 1-Ruta 154 overpass transition south of Grecia has finally begun. Expect inconvenience during the construction period. When the transition will be complete is always a mystery. Design plans for the San Ramon overpass transition have also been announced with a dubious claim that this transition will be completed by the end of 2026. A bridge on Ruta 146 to Parque Nacional de Poás will be getting major repairs or replacement. In the meantime, a one-lane Bailey will be used as a substitute. Expect minor delays. If you have reservations to visit the park, check to be sure that the road is open.

Taxes Due – For homeowners, property taxes must be paid by the end of this first quarter of 2026 at your municipalidad. (Paying in advance for basura pick up for the quarter or the year can be paid at the same time.)

Coin of the Realm – As of 1 July, some versions of current small denomination coins will no longer be accepted. They being replaced by newly designed coins using new longer-lasting alloys and offering more security. They are: the old aluminum ₡10; the old brass ₡25. The aluminum ₡5 is no longer being produced, and will not be replaced. It will no longer be accepted after 30 June. The ₡50 coins have already been replaced and the brass ₡100s are in process of being replaced by new versions. Spend your old versions or take them to the bank to be exchanged after a later date. Nacional banks will also exchange them or deposit them for you after 30 June.

Verano (Summer) Is Here – Los vientos de navidad (the Christmas winds) are still with us and warm or hot afternoons have again become the norm.

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

Grecia interchange



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When you support **Romeo's** son **Aldair's** fight against leukemia, you support this entire family of artists. Read the current update via our [GoFundMe Campaign](#). Romeo is currently in Costa Rica with new pieces; his son just went through his 3rd round of intense chemo and is now at home resting until round 4.

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 – There continues to be great uncertainty over the situation in Venezuela—who will govern the country?; will small boats and oil tankers off the Venezuelan and Pacific coasts continue to be intercepted and boarded or destroyed?; what is the situation regarding Venezuelan security and U.S. and Venezuelan military operations?; will U.S. oil giants invest in oil production there?; and who will benefit from confiscated tanker oil revenues? Due to Venezuela’s proximity to Costa Rica and Costa Rica’s relationship with the U.S., all of this may have an indirect political, military, or economic impact on Costa Rica.

Having an additional military presence, and/or authority to mine various precious metals in Denmark’s Greenland seems to be the basis of a memo of understanding between the two countries and the European members of NATO. An increased threat of tariffs for the E.U. is still possible until a deal is finalized. Any military action in Greenland appears to be off the table. The NATO-E.U. nations banded together to take a tough stand against the president, and it seems to have resulted in little change from the U.S.-Denmark agreement on Greenland already in existence.

A Confused Economy – In the U.S., “affordability” seems to be the public’s new political-economic watch word. Polls show a majority of Americans are complaining about the increased cost of living. We may all benefit from a \$2,000 rebate that is rumored to be slated for every adult. However, will tariff revenues cover the cost or will the rebates add to the ever-growing national debt, now near \$40 trillion.

Travel – The U.S. Department of Transportation has issued a warning to airlines and travelers destined for Mexico and Central America of possible delays, diversions, or flight interruptions due to possible military activity. This is a rather ominous caution that could be

warning of expected military action impacting the area. Check with your carrier before your flight.

While this will not directly impact those of us traveling with our passports as our valid I.D., the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that it will refer all passengers who do not present an acceptable form of ID and still want to fly an option to pay a \$45 fee to use a modernized alternative identity verification system, TSA ConfirmID, to establish identity at security checkpoints beginning on February 1, 2026.

We mention again an excellent 15-minute video explaining most of the recent travel changes and how to comply: <https://youtu.be/mJJy2V9Jdqs?si=38MIhPAPf1rFtOrR>.

Immigration – Since mentioning it last month, we have not seen anything more about a pending new requirement of providing five years of a traveler’s social media activity at entry to the U.S. for most non-U.S. citizen travelers.

There are now 75 countries who will no longer have visa applications processed by the U.S. including Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Columbia. This may put added pressure legal and illegal immigration into Costa Rica. The first repatriation flights of U.S. immigrants to Venezuela since Maduro was taken into U.S. custody took place in late January.

Dual Citizenship – A bill has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would require U.S. citizens holding citizenship in another country to declare a single country of citizenship; thus, eliminating dual citizenship for U.S. citizens. People who track these things estimate that the bill has only a 7% chance of being passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law. Obviously, it has major implications for any expats who hold dual citizenship in the U.S. and Costa Rica. We will monitor this bill’s progress and keep our readers informed of its status.

Tariffs, Retirement Savings, and the Cost of Living – SCOTUS has yet to rule on the legality of the tariffs that

have been implemented, but expect a ruling soon. Most prognosticators believe that the regime will use established rules to implement new, specific, targeted tariffs. The E.U. has a new trade treaty with Latin American nations that could have a positive impact on prices of imported goods from Europe as well as possibly opening new markets for C.R. The dust hasn't settled on how this will all turn out, or exactly how Costa Rica will be impacted. Film at 11.

"Más inútil que escobillas en submarino."

Literal translation:

More useless than brooms in a submarine.

Source: From A lo Tico, a book of Tico sayings and expressions by Alf A. Giebler Simonet.

Keep your head down. It's been a crazy start to 2026,

D. Davis, editor

Diane Cooner, webmaster



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