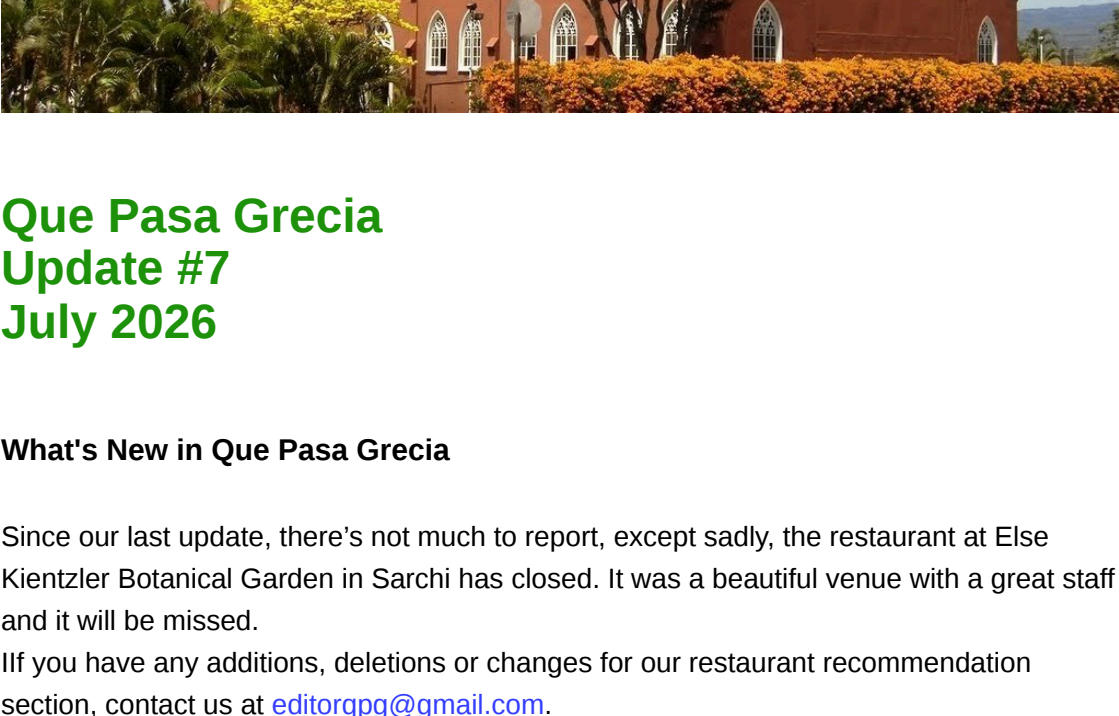


Que Pasa Grecia

Serving Grecia, Sarchi, and Naranjo since 2014

¿Qué Pasa?



Que Pasa Grecia Update #7 July 2026

What's New in Que Pasa Grecia

Since our last update, there's not much to report, except sadly, the restaurant at Else Kientzler Botanical Garden in Sarchi has closed. It was a beautiful venue with a great staff and it will be missed.

If you have any additions, deletions or changes for our restaurant recommendation section, contact us at editorqp@gmail.com.

Miscellaneous News

C.R. Gas Price – Super gas, which is still cheaper than regular by a few cents, is currently \$6.28 per gallon, or \$1.66 per liter.

Commuting – While none of us should be surprised, a recent traffic study shows that morning commutes in some places in the GAM (Greater Metropolitan Area) average speeds are 8 kms/hr. Afternoon commutes in the same locations are worse, averaging 6 kms/hr. The exponential growth of the number of vehicles, including motorcycles, on the road since 2010, and prioritizing fixing potholes over building new roads with resources available explain much of the problem. The government wants to emphasize adherence to traffic laws, building fixed rail and work-from-home solutions in helping to get commuters where they need to go sooner and getting them off the roads. Being from California, fixing traffic congestion is not easy, and I think with Costa Rica's limited financial resources, solving the problem here will be even more difficult.

Health Alert – While dengue fever has been around Costa Rica for decades, Dengue-carrying mosquitos are commonly found along the coasts and in tropical forests. However, there have been several cases recently reported in Grecia. Reduce the chances of them breeding near you by making an effort to **eliminate standing water** on your property. Spray with insect repellent when you are outdoors for any length of time and/or wear long sleeves, pants and socks. [More info on our Alerts page](#).

Best Be Aware – Your editor has heard from a reliable source that while Hospital Metropolitano is planning to build a hospital in Grecia, a site purchase has not been finalized. Allowing for the purchase of property, surveying, architectural plans, the ordering and delivery of medical equipment and infrastructure, plus permits to be issued, construction will not start before the middle of 2027 with a hospital opening a year later in 2028. It looks like we'll have to keep making those long commutes a couple more years for our major private medical care.

No More DIMEX Post-90-Day Grace Period – Strict enforcement of Article 129 (Section 10) of the Immigration Law is being observed. If you are a temporary resident and your DIMEX passes three consecutive months past its expiration date without a formal renewal application or a booked appointment on file, your legal residency status is automatically canceled. There is no grace period after those 90 days. There is no fine that you can pay to fix it.

"Starting From Zero" Means:

If you cross that 3-month threshold, you are legally no longer a resident. To stay in the country legally, you must start the entire application process over as a first-time applicant. That means:

- **Fresh Documents:** Flying back home or hiring an agency to get a brand-new background check, birth certificate, and marriage certificate—all newly apostilled, legalized, and translated.
- **The Reset Button:** If you were counting down the years to apply for Permanent Residency, your clock resets back to day one.
- **Financial Pain:** You will easily spend \$1,500 to \$2,000+ in government fees, translations, and legal expenses all over again.
- **Frozen Accounts:** The moment your status is canceled, your CCSS (Caja) account freezes, and local banks are legally required to freeze your bank accounts until you can show a valid ID. Your monthly CCSS payment will include a retirement contribution and a CAJA health insurance contribution at the current rates, which you will find are often higher than the ones you were making before your ID expired.

Avoid the tremendous expense and major inconvenience of getting caught having to start over with your DIMEX renewal. Be aware of when your DIMEX expires and start your renewal process early.

The Government They Voted For? – President Fernandez said in a statement that the citizens of Nicaragua have gotten the government that they voted for. The government in Nicaragua is a recognized dictatorship and U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, took exception to President Fernandez's comment.

C.R. Budget Cuts – The current Minister of Finance (and former president), Rodrigo Chaves, has promised budget cuts of 5% for ministries that opposed him in his previous presidency and that further cuts would be forthcoming. Will these cuts result in Chamber of Deputies friction and retribution, a loss of citizen services, a lower cost of government, or all of the above. Only time will tell.

Rainfall

El Cajon de Grecia (Irina)

June: 30.2 cms; 11.89 ins

YTD: 55.8 cms; 21.98 ins.

San Juan de Sarchi (Tom)

June: 29.3 cms; 11.53 ins.

YTD: 54.7 cms; 21.53 ins.

June rainfall totals were about 50% of last year's, and national and international weather services say that due to the formation of a super El Niño becoming more of a certainty, rainfall for September through December will be much less than normal here. If our rainiest months of September and October don't contribute in raising our annual rainfall total at season's end, we should expect some of the areas' aquifers to be well below normal, making water rationing in some locations a real possibility. Lower rainfall will also impact hydropower and could cause brown outs, so be prepared for the possibility of intermittent power interruptions.

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 – While negotiations for an agreement to permanently end the hostilities with Iran are ongoing at various venues, the ceasefire is still in a state of flux. Israel is still at war with Hezbollah in Lebanon. The U.S. and Iran are still taking potshots at each other during a "ceasefire". Iran is firing on other nations in the Middle East, at U.S. military installations, and at ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran is keeping the Strait mostly closed. In Cuba after U.S. threats to their government, the nation is trying to implement elements of "free enterprise" to appease the U.S. regime and avoid or delay an invasion.

Immigration – After a recent court ruling, the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol will be permitted to turn back asylum seekers at the U.S. border. We can expect some of these folks to ultimately wind up in Costa Rica. Also, planes carrying deported U.S. immigrants from many nations continue to land in Costa Rica.

Travel – The World Cup is hosting record crowds in the U.S. (Canada and Mexico). There has been little within the U.S. reported about travel issues involving foreign visitors. The one exception is **ranch dressing**. World Cup visitors have fallen in love with it. They are being told that bottles of the dressing must be packed in checked baggage and cannot be placed in carry on. One ranch dressing producer is now making TSA-compliant ranch dressing and another is producing dry ranch dressing packets for carry-on baggage. (Just add buttermilk and mayo when you get home.) At many airports, signs to inform foreign travelers of ranch dressing restrictions have been placed at check-in and at security check points—seriously.

Tariffs, Retirement Savings, and the Cost of Living – Annual inflation in the U.S. has spiked up to 4.1%. In Costa Rica, the dollar is still at almost its weakest exchange with the colon ever, now at about 456 colones to the dollar. That combination puts stress on those of us on fixed incomes and the Costa Rica economy, as well. Watch your expenditures and share travel costs with friends and neighbors.

Filing U.S. Taxes – The IRS can make your life anywhere from uncomfortable to a living hell. Your editor just found himself somewhere between those two stake posts. Our 2025 taxes were prepared by a U.S. CPA headquartered in Costa Rica and filed on time. We just received a letter informing us that they decided not to accept our filing until we could prove it was us who had filed this return. The first task according to the letter was to register on the U.S. government's "**ID.me**" website, which as permanent residents for many years, turned out to be more than just a bit difficult due to the limited I.D. proof options available to non-residents. (I recommend that you keep easily accessible: valid passports; birth certificates; recent SSA 1099s; and hard or digital copies of your last two years of tax filings.) After your "**ID.me**" proofs are submitted, you will have to have a video interview to show that you are real and in possession of the proofs you submitted. Once your "**ID.me**" is approved, you will be directed to the IRS website, where the chances are very high that your online submission of required I.D. proofs will be denied and you will be required to have a phone interview with an IRS agent. I guarantee that they will ask minutiae questions about you, your parents, finite info of 1040 filings from this year and last and specific figures appearing on your 1099s. **My advice:** have everything that they mention in the letter handy as you will need to refer to them during the call; call early as the phone queue fills up quickly and the later you call the greater the chance that you will be turned away and will need to try again another day; if you file jointly, have your spouse handy as they may ask to speak to them during the call; keep your cool; and be nice, as I am told if they don't like your attitude, they will hang up on you and you will need to start over. Sound like fun? Not!!!, but doable.

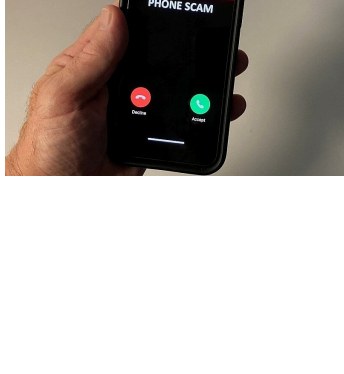
"Estar hasta las narices."

Equivalent meaning: To be sick to death with, to be fed up.

Happy 250th to our U.S. subscribers,
D. Davis, editor
Diane Cooner, webmaster
www.quepasagrecia.com



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



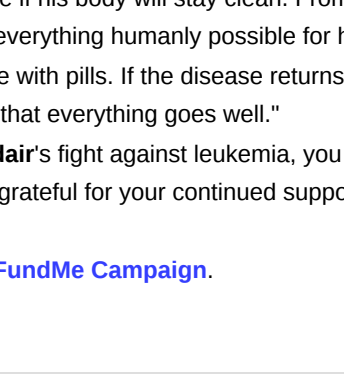
Seniors ride free locally with Dimex card



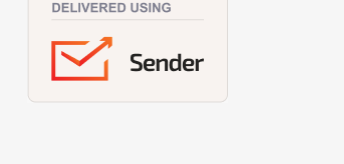
Carpooling, the best way to save on gas!



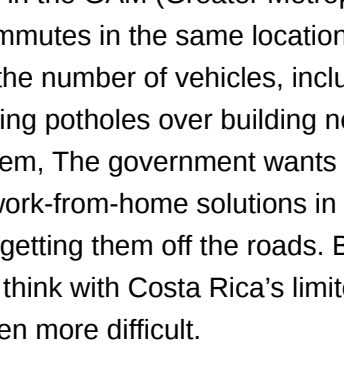
[Roland keyboard, like new out of the box!](#)



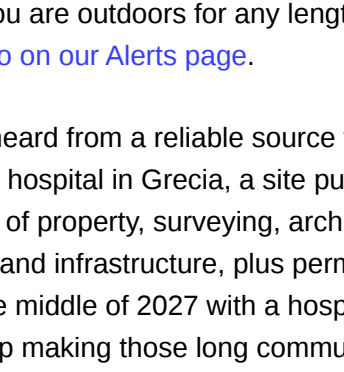
Aedes aegypti does it's work in the daytime. Be on the lookout, protect yourself.



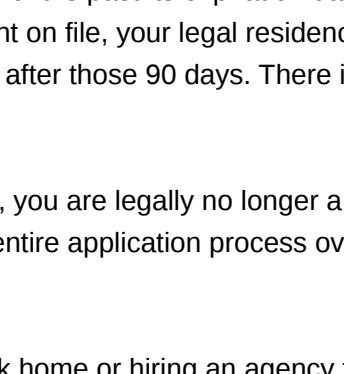
Book Readings with Edie, Tuesdays at 1pm. All forms of informality, including cussing, wine, unique life-styles, and different faiths, are invited.
[Click here for details.](#)



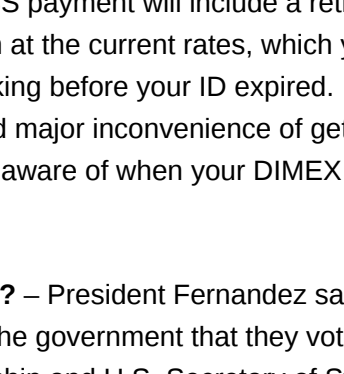
[VW TCross for Sale](#)



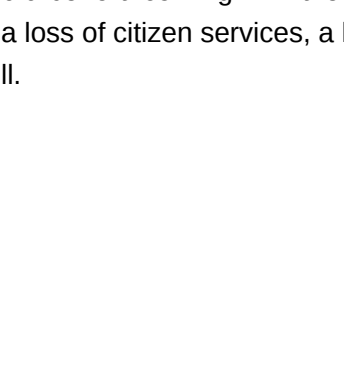
Practical tips to monitor your water use!



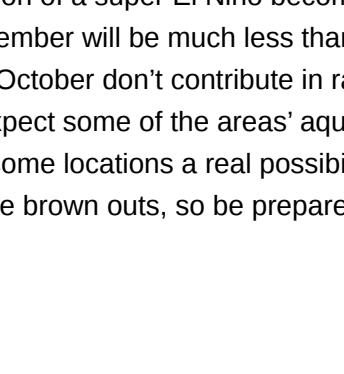
Watch your water use, but be sure you are consuming enough in your body! The heat, even if it's not sunny, leads to dehydration, which can bring on symptoms of dementia among other things.



Be Aware of Scams!!
They are never ending.



[Real Estate For Sale - Atenas](#)



Caribe Sinfónico would love your help! [Learn more here and to donate.](#)



Aldair turned 24 on July 3, which would not have happened without this community's support. After another year of intense chemo treatments for leukemia, and on the heels of a previous months long regime in 2025, we are waiting to see if his body will stay clean. From his father Romeo, "The doctor says we should pray, that they are doing everything humanly possible for him to achieve a definitive review. If everything goes well, he will continue with pills. If the disease returns, there will be no more chemotherapies, so we pray to God that everything goes well."

When you support **Romeo's** son **Aldair's** fight against leukemia, you support this entire family of ceramic artists. Blessings to all, they remain grateful for your continued support!

NEW LINK:

Read the current update via our [GoFundMe Campaign](#).