



July '20 Newsletter



Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee Newsletter



Carlos Velasco

Hello Sister city members....As Puerto Vallarta enters the third month of the worldwide pandemic, we have seen a precarious drop in employment for the people in Vallarta as tourism is the main source of income for the people there. We have seen long lines for the food banks and the people are struggling for their daily survival. Santa Barbara sister city has been sending funds for the Los Volcanes food bank and is feeding over 500 families there. We will continue to send what we can to help the needy. Please be generous and donate to the foodbank, anything helps! Ten or twenty dollars goes a long way to feed the needy! Please be safe....wear your mask...wash your hands...social distancing and most importantly drink some good tequila !

Carlos Velasco

June 18, 2020

Vallarta Daily News

Jalisco

JALISCO RECORDS 22 DEATHS FROM COVID -19 TODAY

**SBPV VIRTUAL MEETING—WED. JULY 1ST
BEGINNING AT 6:00 p.m.**

The program committee is excited to announce that at our next general membership meeting a special Sister City member will entertain us prior to the start of our meeting. Mitch Kushner a member from Ojai has been singing and playing the piano since his college days. **Mitch Kushner will provide live musical entertainment from 6:00-6:30pm for our members to enjoy**

Mitch is a retired medical doctor who studied his first two medical years in Mexico. He has a beautiful home in Gringo Gulch in Puerto Vallarta and currently lives in Ojai. Please help us welcome Mitch at the July membership meeting.

PROGRAM::Bret Russell OF The International Firefighters Training Association in México and Central America. Bret will be speaking about how IFTA utilizes resources to create a strategic plan to meet the needs for equipment and progressive training to enhance the operations of fire departments in Mexico and Central America. He strongly supports the fire-fighting in Puerto Vallarta.

Please join us in our zoom meeting by logging in just short of 6:00 p.m. to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81010423073>

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SBPV MEMBERS DONATE MASKS

JULY, '20
EDITOR:

On behalf of Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City, members Romie Alvarado and Carmen Flores donated 75 homemade masks to City of Santa Barbara Garden Court señor residents. Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City will be recognized in Garden Court's news letter. Romie is modeling the mask in attached photo.

The donation was made in memory Cheryl Keys, she was a past Sister City member and former resident of Garden Court.

Thank you Romie and Carmen for your community good will service.



Report from Malcolm Laird, Puerto Expat living in Vallarta
<mjalaird@hotmail.com> June 5, '20

Hola,

Just a quick update as we head into the summer/rainy season as to our situation as of now.

PV is still essentially shut down. This week hotels are allowed to open to 20% capacity, but without common areas or pools. Beaches, rivers, tour excursions, movie theaters, gyms, any sporting activity, shopping malls, bars, night clubs, and places of entertainment, and golf courses are still closed. Police are still on the highway north (haven't been south). Restaurants to 50% capacity; businesses which have street entrance; beauty salons by appointment only; offices, such as accountants, lawyers, etc. that follow the prescribed protocols; can open. The governor states that tourism will be the last business to return. We have seen long-term rental prices plummet, and have heard that real estate, especially new construction, is looking at severe price reductions. More than 120,000+ people remain unemployed and are dependent on tourism. Schools will open in mid-August with 8 protocols in place, one of which if one staff member or student tests positive, the entire school population goes into 14 day quarantine.

Cheers!

Malcolm J.A. Laird, BA.MA
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AMID CONCERNS OVER MEXICO, IS PUERTO VALLARTA SAFE?

With summer approaching and vacation-goers hurriedly marking their calendars and packing their bags, many travelers are wondering if travel to Mexico is safe — considering all the stories in the press about crime there — and if the beach resort city of [Puerto Vallarta](#) is still a viable vacation destination.

According to numerous professionals in the travel industry, much of what has been publicized about Mexico's safety has been misleading, and they confirm that Puerto Vallarta is one of the safest places in the country for tourists to visit.

Speaking personally as an agency owner, I've been to Puerto Vallarta about 15 times over the years, and it's definitely one of my favorite places," said Tom Brussow, president of Sunsational Beach Vacations, and a board member of the organization Yes to Mexico, a non-profit organization that aims to debunk myths about the country.

He emphasized that, while some places in Mexico are potentially dangerous for travelers, there was little need to be worried. "Our clients are really getting a sense that what they're reading in the headlines doesn't conform with reality very well ... Once they get down there, once they get to the resort, and they get a chance to meet and understand the Mexican people ... they have an amazing time."

SBPV GETS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Your story regarding your relationship with Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, has been posted to our website as well as our social media!

Jina Shim | Communications and Programs Coordinator

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EL TIGRE BACK ON THE JOB

We hear great news from Arturo Davalos, municipal president of Puerto Vallarta in which he welcomes our friend and sister city colleague, Everardo Rubio "El Tigre" who joins the ranks of Municipal Roads again as Deputy Director of this institution, after successfully overcoming Covid 19 virus to recovering his health and vitality.

VIRTUAL SBPV MEETING

Well, we did have a June meeting, but it was held via the internet. It was hard to tell from this end, but it looked like we had about 20 members attending through the computers. Many thanks to Jill Stassinis for acting as the internet host.

The speakers included Art Fumerton, Director of the Volcanes Sewing School, Volcanes school for children, and founder of the Food Bank, Crystal, Administrator of the Volcanes Sewing School AND Victor, in charge of field operations (purchasing, preparation and distribution of packaged and food distribution "dispensas") for the Volcanes Food Bank.

The pandemic has brought to a halt the thriving Puerto Vallarta's tourist economy. Many people relied on tourism jobs for their livelihood. The compromised Volcanes community is in the outskirts of Puerto Vallarta, and once the pandemic hit it became apparent that families in this community needed help to feed their families. Thus, the Food Bank was started. To-date over five-hundred families are being provided with a "dispensa" (care package) every month. The quality of food they receive sustains a family of four for 3-4 weeks. Over 6,789 "dispensas" have been distributed. Students help with packaging and distribution of these food boxes.

Funding has been provided, by Rotary Club North (\$4,000.00), This was matched by Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee (\$4,100.00), and when combined with \$2,640 from the generosity of Sister City and private Rotary members, a total of \$10,740.00 was donated which is now running out. Sister City and Rotary members have continued contributing to the effort with an additional \$2,000.00 raised to date. Other persons wishing to donate, please make a check out to SB/PV SISTER CITY Our 201-c3 makes your donation tax-deductible, and mail to Gil Garcia, 2215 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

Thanks to Marti Correa for providing most of the details.



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Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico - The governments of Jalisco and Nayarit on Friday evening announced that the first step towards the revival of tourism will begin on Monday, June 15th with the gradual reopening of Puerto Vallarta and Bahía de Banderas hotels and beaches.

This measure was announced to the hotel businessmen of both destinations during a Friday afternoon meeting, chaired by the Governors of Jalisco and Nayarit, Enrique Alfaro Ramírez and Antonio Echevarría García respectively, as well as the Mayors of Puerto Vallarta and Bahía de Banderas, Arturo Dávalos Peña and Jaime Cuevas Tello.

During this meeting, Governor Alfaro Ramírez explained that the reactivation of tourism could not wait any longer; however, it is important that all residents continue to practice the preventive measures that have been adopted since the beginning of the health contingency, and that all business establishments comply with the health and safety protocols.

"We are in a moment of acceleration of the rate of infections, we have to go step-by-step, and the first step will be to adjust the level of hotel occupancy to levels of between 25 and 30 percent, and to allow them to start operating their common areas," said Jalisco Governor, Enrique Alfaro.

SEE THE NEW SB/PV SISTER CITY WEB PAGE: ["SBPV sistercity.org"](http://SBPV.sistercity.org)


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Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee

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Newsletter Editor; Blas Maria Garza

A decorative rectangular border made of black floral and vine motifs, featuring stylized flowers and leaves.

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