

**Subject:** Que Pasa Grecia 2022 - Update #3  
**From:** Que Pasa Grecia <editorqpg@gmail.com>  
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**To:** cr.amani.amor@gmail.com

# ¿Qué Pasa?



## What's New in Que Pasa Grecia?

We have a new listing for a brand-new, used- [router](#) once WiFi router. There are numerous cars still available for sale. Also, **RhinoUnlimited**, formerly of Santa Gertrudis Sur, now has a Facebook presence. Steve from Rhino does remote computer software repair via the internet. So if you need to have anything addressed that involves your computer, Steve comes recommended. [Upcoming Events –](#) Easter Sunday service in Grecia, a 'Vote From Abroad' event, and hopefully, something exciting soon from Hacienda Vivace in San Ramon.

We want to remind everyone that we have a [GREAT 'Links' section](#), with all manner of connections to other useful sites and information about living in Costa Rica. A link with timely content and worthy of your attention



is **Grecia Expats FB** page (you need to register). We also have a

number of great causes that continue to need assistance – thinking of [Zaguates Rosario](#), run by Judith Bliss, who works to help mostly dogs in her part of Naranjo. Judith can't say no to helping any dog in need, and there are plenty of those to spare...

## Editor's Notes on the Change of Seasons and COVID



As we move into the rainy season, it's a good time to be thinking about checking your home “bajo el techo” (everything under the roof). Time to clean the gutters and catch the roof leaks early before you find yourself flooding from the heavy rainy season that Costa Rica's weather authorities are predicting.

COVID Omicron sub-variant Ba2 is the new COVID variant, which is more communicable than Omicron, but appears to be no more serious a health risk as its brother Omicron to those vaccinated and boosted. COVID restrictions in Costa Rica have been reduced or set aside entirely. Occupancy in stores is at 100%, as are restaurants, bars, and events. Most indoor locations still require wearing masks, most still have alcohol disinfectant available at the door, and some are still taking temperatures of patrons. How well Costa Rica holds up remains to be seen **after this week**, Semana Santa (April 10-16), when half the population takes off for the beach.

With COVID reducing from a pandemic to an epidemic, we have renamed our COVID page to '**Beyond COVID**' in the hopes that we really can leave more and more of the COVID culture behind us. Besides COVID info, this page is now the home of the new monthly U.S. Embassy newsletter. If you are registered in the Embassy's STEP program, you will receive this automatically from the Embassy via email.

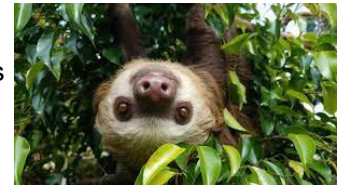
## Sarchi School Uniforms Distributed to the Needy

The uniform volunteers, who include your editor and his wife, Karen, were able to purchase school uniforms for the neediest students of Sarchi from the generous contributions of local Ticos and gringos. Thanks to the magical negotiating skills of **Roy Alfaro Alfaro**, a retired teacher from Sarchi, we were able to stretch our resources to purchase **75 elementary school uniforms** with enough money left over to purchase some much-needed school supplies. **Thanks again to all who donated to this worthy annual effort.**



## Costa Rica Has a President-Elect

The presidential runoff election held Sunday, 3 April produced a president-elect, Rodrigo Chaves, who defeated former president, Jose Maria Figueres. We wish President Chaves a great deal of luck as he will be dealing with: very-high unemployment; inflation; an unbalanced budget (which, in turn, produces borrowing pressures from the IMF and the World Bank); a CAJA health system in dire straits; and a transportation infrastructure begging for major repairs—to name but a few of the issues he will face. Sr. Chaves and the new house deputies will be sworn in on Tuesday, 10 May for a four-year term.



## **CAJA: Understaffed, Overstressed, Underfunded and Overwhelmed**

Some recent C.R. residency applicants have been made aware of large hikes in the monthly CAJA contributions they will be required to make. CAJA, the national healthcare system, has some major issues facing it. We have heard that many doctors and health professionals are leaving the system due to not being paid in a timely manner. Some research that came out last month, showed the average waiting time for non-life-threatening surgery at 544 days. Waiting that long for many surgeries turns these postponed surgeries into life-threatening health issues.



## **Entry to Nicaragua by Land Is More Complicated**

Entry to Nicaragua by land has now added a few new requirements including an “orderly and secure entry application” (in Spanish only), which must be completed and approved before being permitted entry (the necessary Government approval reply takes three to seven days); a negative COVID test administered within the last 72 hours; and a few other requirements. Go to: <https://qcostarica.com/visiting-nicaragua-by-land-as-a-foreigner/> for a complete list of entry details.

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*“A Dios rogando y con el mazo dando.”*



It literally says: “Pray to God, but continue to row to shore.”

It translates to: “God helps those who help themselves.”

Thank you Isabel Arguello for your continuing contributions.

Isabel teaches Spanish and does translations.

Find out more about Isabel on the [QuePasaGrecia website](#).

When you go out, use a little caution,

D. Davis, editor

Diane Cooner, webmaster

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Que Pasa Grecia

Calle Parrita,  
20301, Bolivar, El Cajon de Grecia,  
Alajuela, Costa Rica

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