

Que Pasa Grecia
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¿Qué Pasa?



Que Pasa Grecia 2022 Update #5

Is Que Pasa Grecia Still Relevant for You?

I've been at this 'editor thing' for eight years and Diane Cooner has been the webmaster even longer. So, today we have to ask our subscribers, "Is Que Pasa Grecia still relevant for you?"

Coming out of two-plus years of a COVID pandemic and a website redesign/reorganization, we have to ask this question, because our website is largely no longer being used by our subscribers to: make business, services and restaurant recommendations; to post listings for items and property 'for sale,' 'for rent' and 'wanted'; or for posting announcements of upcoming activities and events. In addition, our subscriber base is not growing and I am receiving



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!

very little feedback from readers.

We have always been a volunteer operation and have depended on you, our subscribers, for your input and your interest. There are other worthy, free, web-based services that provide daily/weekly topical news. That has never been our mission and we do not try to be everything to everyone. Our niche has always been to communicate items and issues that, we think, our English-speaking community in the cantons of Grecia, Sarchi and Naranjo either need to know or will find of value.

It is hard to know what our subscribers think and want, when we don't receive input and we can also see that our subscribers are not actively participating.

However as a newsletter and website, we can do better. When there are website changes or there is news that can have a long-term impact, we can, and will, publish our updates more frequently. So, we are going ask you for feedback. Please tell us: What can we improve? What do you find of value? What is a waste of your time? In general, are there any other changes or inputs you feel would be beneficial? Let us know: editorqpq@gmail.com.

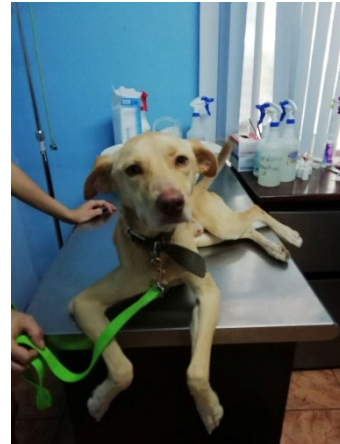
We already know what we will do first in order to help keep the site fresh and current; we'll remove any item or property listing over 60 days old. Subscribers can chose to repost their listings by a simple request after their listings have been removed.

If you decide that Que Pasa should keep publishing, we'll be more responsive to your needs and we'll also be depending on you for your participation.

RITEVE Is Gone Without a Replacement

After 20 years, RITEVE, the Spanish contractor for the annual inspection of all vehicles in Costa Rica is gone without a replacement being named. The short-term impact for anyone owning a motor vehicle, including motorcycles, is that if your vehicle has a RITEVE inspection due in July, August, September, or October, you won't be stopped by Policia de Transito for an expired inspection sticker until after the end of the year. The government expects to name a new contractor soon and those with expired stickers will have this grace period within which to get their inspection with a 2023 expiration.

As part of the expired RITEVE contract, Costa Rica now owns the old inspection facilities and equipment (the software database is



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still in contention between parties). There are several companies (all from outside the country) that are vying for the new vehicle inspection contract.

In the meantime, RITEVE of Spain has sued Costa Rica for \$30 million for back fees not increased by the C.R. regulator, ARESEP. For leverage, RITEVE is holding the inspection database hostage. Film at 11.

COVID: Forgotten, but Not Gone

As we all try to finally put COVID in the rearview mirror, here come the COVID Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5 that have been causing havoc in North America. While not as lethal to most of the population, these variants are now in Costa Rica and can be quite threatening to those who are immuno-compromised. They are the most-highly contagious variants to date and seemingly very resistant to current COVID vaccines.

However, being totally vaccinated helps minimize the effects of the variant COVIDs and keeps folks out of the hospital. Boosters are still available at CAJA. So, get boosted and wear your mask in public. When combined, they are your best protection until COVID variant booster vaccines become available in Costa Rica.

Addendum to My Personal Observations on President Chaves

At this moment, Costa Rica is in love with its new president, Rodrigo Chaves. He's currently got a 70% approval rating, because he is actually getting things done and has promised a number of popular actions; for instance, a promise to make prescription drugs purchased outside of CAJA more affordable and a determination to rid the government coffers of the so-called luxury pensions, which date back to 1992. To which I say, "Keep it up."

However, while some of Chaves' ministers are in front of the media, just this week (in keeping with his earlier edict), the Minister of Health issued a directive to all of his department, "Do not talk to the press." I continue to find this very disturbing and not at all within the framework, I perceive, of a free press in a functioning democracy.

From another perspective, Ticos we've talked to say it may actually be a cultural difference in how Costa Ricans view democracy. They say Ticos are looking for a democracy of unity. Once the message from any quarter is unified internally, that ministry will be turned



There are new restaurants to visit including Coco's, at the 5 way intersection, Barrio Latino



Coming Soon! On September 15 Costa Rica celebrates their Independence Day! More reasons to party!



'Nuf said!

lose to "Tell it, tell it, tell it" publicly, such as the Ministry of Transportation is doing now. Once again, I will give this government the benefit of the doubt.

"Ponerse como un tomate"

Literal translation: to turn into a tomato

Meaning: to blush

Thank you Isabel Arguello for your continuing contributions.

Isabel teaches Spanish and does translations.

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



**Getting the benefit of the
doubt ... for now**

Please continue to be careful while COVID again raises its ugly head,

D. Davis, editor

Diane Cooner, webmaster

Contact us at: editorqpg@gmail.com

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