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**STATE AND LOCAL EVENTS**

*Don't miss any of these very important events!*

*Subject to Change – Check with Chapter Office First*  
**All events through May 31 are canceled.**

- May 7 The Board is holding a teleconference meeting at 10 a.m. You are invited to attend. Call Jan Veis at (818) 772-7233 or email sfclca@gmail.com for the link.
- Sept. 18 Channel Islands Chapter and friends Annual Fishing Trip, Channel Islands Sportsfishing, Oxnard, details TBA
- Nov. CLCA Convention, Hawaii, details TBA

**LEAF Scholarship Deadline: June 1**

Since 1972, the California Landscape Contractors Association Auxiliary has offered scholarships to college and university students majoring in landscape related programs. In 1988, the Landscape Educational Advancement Foundation (LEAF) was formed to carry on the tradition of awarding financial aid to deserving students.

**LEAF Scholarship Application**

LEAF invites all students attending an accredited California community college or state university majoring in a landscape-related program and taking a minimum of six units to apply for a LEAF scholarship.

**The deadline to apply for 2020 scholarships has been extended. The new deadline is June 1, 2020.**

**Supporting LEAF**

Education is the key to your industry's future! Through LEAF you can help foster this growth. Send your tax-deductible donation to invest in a dream by providing for your future as well as theirs! Contact Sandra Giarde at CLCA, (916) 830-2780.



**LEAF SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Selection Chair Marianne Estournes, left, re-unites with LEAF scholarship recipient Hallie Schmidt during CLCA's 2019 Annual Convention. Hallie is now the owner and chief designer of Tierra Madre.*



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## Chapter Meetings Via Video Communication

### • The future is here and offers several benefits

The San Fernando Valley Chapter holds the health of its members and families as its number one priority. For the next three months all San Fernando Chapter Meetings will be held via Go To Meeting. Video communication for many of us is novel but this will be the new way for us to

communicate. Our first Go To Meeting was our April meeting and it was a success. It was great seeing everyone and moving on as normal as possible given the circumstances.

Video communication is proving to have many benefits. The two main platforms being used are Zoom and Go To Meeting. They are low cost, easy to use and have many additional features. I have implemented two meetings a week with our managers to stay connected. As a Certified Arborist I have also signed up for teaching webinars to further my knowledge, keep up with CEUs and interact with others in my industry. People love to be social and being able to talk to groups. I believe that seeing the other participants in the meeting is very important.

Another benefit of video conferencing is that there is now no need to battle traffic to and from a physical meeting, or to have to choose between family time and work. Please encourage any members and non-members to join us for our May 7 meeting.

Contact SFV Executive Secretary Jan Veis at (818) 772-7233 or [sfvclca@gmail.com](mailto:sfvclca@gmail.com) for details.

### Overcoming Challenges

The Covid-19 pandemic is creating a situation that is putting economic and health pressure on every business. The CLCA as an organization has done a great job of addressing and filtering down the information from local, state, and federal governments. Visit the CLCA website at [CLCA.org](http://CLCA.org) to get up to date information. If you want to speak with someone in CLCA, you can call anyone on the San Fernando Valley Chapter Board, or State CLCA headquarters at (800) 448-2522. If you would like to speak to one of our State officers, HQ can get you that contact information as well.

During these unique times, you may encounter unique challenges that require information from an expert. You can request from State Headquarters the contact information for any of the many professionals (legal, HR, etc.) that are available to our members AT NO COST.

Now's a great time for your non-member landscape contractor contacts to join CLCA. This will not only benefit them financially, but the information they receive...and the contacts they make... may be the difference between the life or death of their business.

Please adhere to Social Distancing and Stay Safe. – Luis

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**...there is now no need to battle traffic to and from a physical meeting, or to have to choose between family time and work. Please encourage any members and non-members to join us for our May 7 meeting.**

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## City of Los Angeles Issues COVID-19 Construction Industry Safety Announcement

*Submitted by Mickey Strauss, SFV Legislation Chair*

The order issued on March 31 requires construction industry employers to develop a comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control plan, and states that failure to comply with the guidance shall be deemed as creating an unsafe condition and may result in withheld inspections or shutting down the jobsite until conditions are corrected. The announcement states in part:

1. Practice social distancing by maintaining a minimum 6-foot distance from others.
2. Preclude gatherings of any size, and anytime two or more people must meet, ensure minimum 6-foot separation.
3. Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate for the activity being performed.
4. The owner/contractor shall designate a site specific COVID-19 Supervisor to enforce this guidance. A designated COVID-19

Supervisor shall be present on the construction site at all times during construction activities. The COVID19 Supervisor can be an on-site worker who is designated to carry this role.

5. Identify "choke points" and "high-risk areas" where workers are forced to stand together, such as hallways, hoists and elevators, break areas, and buses, and control them so social distancing is maintained.
6. Minimize interaction when picking up or delivering equipment or materials, ensure minimum 6-foot separation.
7. Stagger the trades as necessary to reduce density and maintain minimum 6-foot separation social distancing.
8. Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, work tools and equipment. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.

*Continued on page 10*

## Get Your COVID-19 Compliance Letter from CLCA

A Message from Kern County CLCA President Omar Salazar

The Kern County CLCA Chapter has been at work with other CLCA chapters to help all of our members and their families get through this period of uncertainty. The Coronavirus pandemic has created a health and economic challenge that our industry and our country have never experienced before.

With Governor Newsom's "Stay in Place" executive order, this left many to question what to do with their businesses, jobs and families. The jobs and industries that are **Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers** may work during this statewide order. The CLCA has provided its members with guidelines to determine your eligibility to work and a compliance letter so that members can use it in case they ever get asked to stop by local agencies.

### The CLCA Guidance Packet

Some companies reported crews being stopped by law enforcement. They showed a compliance letter provided by CLCA, and the public agency ordering the work. With social distancing in compliance, they were allowed to continue working. A North Los Angeles crew was cited for working and violating the social distancing standards, the citation was for \$400.00. Some landscape companies in Northern California have been asked to stop all crews from working. Here in Kern County, landscape contractors have been able to continue to provide services.

As contractors, we have to follow CDC health and safety guidelines at our offices and with the crews out in the field. *Local vendors are still open for business* by implementing the same CDC guidelines by applying social distancing at their locations for employees and customers. Thank you to all of our Associate members, shippers, suppliers and manufacturers who are keeping their doors open to support our product needs.

### How Easily It Spreads

A member holding a safety meeting placed gold glitter on a table without telling attendees. The meeting included supervisors, foreman, crew and team members. *(Held before the restrictions.)* At the conclusion of the meeting, the attendees found glitter on themselves – emphasizing the importance of social distancing.

That is a powerful example of how easily the virus could be spread.

Here are some helpful ideas that were reported, please take what you will and apply if it is useful to your situation:

- A member mentioned, talking to the employees asking them to be mindful while out of work. Limit outings and if they need to go to the grocery store or to do errands to do it without their families to try to be safer.
- Are any companies testing body temperatures in the morning? At return in the afternoon? This was posed as an idea to keep us all working.
- Have any companies placed notices to stay home if not feeling 100%? The notices need to be in Spanish and English.
- Several contractors reported no blower or limited blower use at entrances to all types of entryways as the virus is known to have airborne potential. IT COULD BE VERY IMPORTANT TO INSTITUTE THIS POLICY.

### CLCA Headquarters is Working for You!

Our team at CLCA state has been doing a tremendous job lobbying for contractors to able to continue working. They are also hosting free webinars to help us learn more about what is going on and how we can protect ourselves and our employees.

For more information: Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Questions and Answers, contact CLCA at CLCA.org.

You and your families are important to us. We want you to be economically secure, but more importantly, we want you to be Safe and Healthy. Please determine if working in today's environment is safe for you and your employees. Please follow all of the safety protocols as you beautify our world.

Please be safe out there. – Omar Salazar, Kern County CLCA President



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## Changing the Game *By Francisco Salazar, Groundcare Landscape Co.*

It's true that for some time some California cities have already banned or restricted gas-powered leaf blowers within 500 feet of residential areas. Some cities have banned them entirely. It is expected that by 2022 California legislators will attempt to completely ban or restrict gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers. The city of LA has already banned the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, but it is not really enforced unless there is a complaint.

As a landscape company we rely a lot on leaf blowers to clean parking lots and garden areas in buildings and public city areas; they help us save time and labor. For some time now, we have begun changing our tools to meet the changing guidelines. Because we have been stopped by inspectors in the past, we have completely stopped using gas-powered leaf blowers and switched to battery power. Since we are a company that does care about our environment, we have also begun to phase out gas-powered hedge trimmers and weed eaters as well. Currently,



we are also working on acquiring battery-powered mowers.

It's true that battery power is not the most powerful, or the most inexpensive, or convenient for that matter. Depending on your operation, you have to take into consideration how much run time you need it for daily use and how powerful it is. On the plus side we can immediately stop running the tool if a person is passing by, the fact that the noise level is much lower compared to gas powered models, and it can be turned on by just pulling the trigger.

As a family-owned company, we have always looked for ways to better serve our clients and help our environment as well. So, we keep adapting and changing for the better.



**FRANCISCO SALAZAR**  
SFV VP Programs  
Groundcare Landscape Co.

## Using Technology to Manage the Future of Tree Care *By Carly Gottlieb, Legacy Tree Care*

Landscape in the greater Los Angeles area is highly competitive with both quality and pricing being at the forefront of our clients' concerns. As landscape contractors, we must continually predict how better to interact with our clients and make our communications as meaningful as possible. The use of technology on the side of tree care can elevate your business interactions, digitize past and future work, and optimize the time spent in the field.

Increasingly, customer relationship managers (CRMs) have been integrated to ease the vendor/client interaction and help streamline many aspects of the business. The next step in vendor/client relations for tree care is to create a digital map of each property using GIS software to establish a live inventory of trees for a given site.

Though initially this software could be viewed suspiciously i.e., another subscription fee with promises of saving everyone time and money while increasing sales, GIS mapping software has become the standard for many of the best tree care management companies. This software does not only set a company apart from others in the industry, it is a digital resource for the company.

GIS software can centralize information into one program thus minimizing the use of redundant software systems and minimizing errors in the field. This live inventory can aid with the management of plant health care programs, create a systematic approach for maintenance pruning across time, and log work completed year after year. Most software systems today have a mobile tie in making working between the office and the field seamless and efficient.

Investing in a digital inventory does include an upfront cost and investment in time for proper team training. Many of these

programs being released now are intuitive for use across the business, and only require a small amount of training to maximize potential use in the field.



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## Scary and Uncertain Times! *By Rene Emeterio*

**D**aily we hear more news about the COVID-19 pandemic. This leads to more uncertainty because we still have no concrete answers as to when this pandemic will end, and when people (such as our present and potential clients) can get back to work. This causes more worry

**RENE EMETERIO**  
*Specialized Landscape Management  
SFV Chapter Past President*

for the medical and financial health of both our business and our families. We wonder... **WHAT'S NEXT?**

### How SLM is Handling the Current Climate

The landscape industry here in Southern California is considered an essential service, which we are taking very seriously! We have an important job and continue to closely monitor the CDC as well as the state and local health departments. Our company has implemented all directives plus health and safety measures



and standards dictated by our governing agencies. We have armed our team members with additional tools to fight the virus, such as personal hand sanitizers, face masks, equipment sanitizer as well as sanitizers to wipe vehicles. They know not to gather in crowds and to maintain six feet of social distancing within the organization and out in the field.

This time of year is crucial for our industry with Spring growth, color changes, trimmings, tree injections, and most importantly, fire deterrent practices and brush clearance. Please note the time for fire prevention and brush clearance has been extended to June 1st, however, fires don't choose the times. Therefore, we need to be proactive and take care of our properties to help prevent further devastation from future fires. We all need to do our part in helping to maintain the safety of our families, customers and communities.

### Giving Thanks

We are eternally grateful for our God, family, team members, customers, community, health-care workers, service people, grocery store workers, delivery people, essential retail workers...and every one of you for doing your/their part in combating the spread of this virus. Gratitude helps remind us to smile and keep going. Together we can overcome this and will come out the other side bigger, better and stronger than ever before.

Check in on a regular basis with your people (staff, family, clients, neighbors...), stay positive, stay informed, follow the CDC rules, wash your hands often, wear your protective masks and continue to do your part. Communication is key and with today's technology we are able not only to stay in contact but receive vital information and training via telephone and computer meetings, social media, emails, and more.

Remember, this is the time we lean on our family, appreciate one another more, and take time to nurture and grow our relationships.

Stay safe and be well. – *Rene Emeterio and the SLM family*

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## The Creator Already Has this Virus in His Sight

I have taken a different track at this time in our nation. In troubling, difficult times we reach for our bootstraps to bolster our physical as well as mental posture. I believe infinite creative intelligence continually works with perfect love, to manifest the Divine activity everywhere...at all times...by means of us...and within everyone.

There is a continual successful action of life that brings about the talents necessary in the endeavor to succeed in stopping this virus. Working with a clear intention and understanding, we all will excel personally and professionally. Life, in and of itself uses innate talents to succeed in all that we do.

Universal Life – which I call our Creator – God – endowed every one of us with the understanding as to what is needed to do at this time. Opportunities abound for human successes. The accomplishment will be monumental in discovering how to correct this

virus. So many brilliant minds, so many prayers, so much need. The answer will come from the genius of God's heart...

**There is a continual successful action of life that brings about the talents necessary in the endeavor to succeed in stopping this virus. Working with a clear intention and understanding, we all will excel personally and professionally.**



**DAVID JUNOD**  
*Sheridan Landscaping, Inc.*

The necessary creative activity moves lovingly and powerfully, and with Divine Passion by means of all of us individually and makes a difference in our world. Love does as I embrace this prayer:

*To my landscape contractor friends and families*

*In grateful appreciation for the gift and privilege*

*Of being one of you...*

– Dave

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### COVID-19 Construction Industry Safety Announcement, continued from Page 4

9. Post, in areas visible to all worker, required hygienic practices including not touching face with unwashed hands or with gloves; washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, cleaning AND disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, machines, shared tools, elevator control buttons, and doorknobs; covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing as well as other hygienic recommendations by the CDC.

10. Place wash stations or hand sanitizers in multiple locations to encourage hand hygiene.

11. Require anyone on the project to stay home if they are sick, except to get medical care.

12. Have employees inform their supervisor if they have a sick family member at home with COVID-19.

13. Maintain a daily attendance log of all workers and visitors.

For more information about LA Department of Building & Safety's order visit <https://ladbs.org/docs/default-source/publications/misc-publications/construction-site-guidance.pdf>

*Editor's note: Masks are now required for all people when in public spaces and for workers in "essential businesses."*

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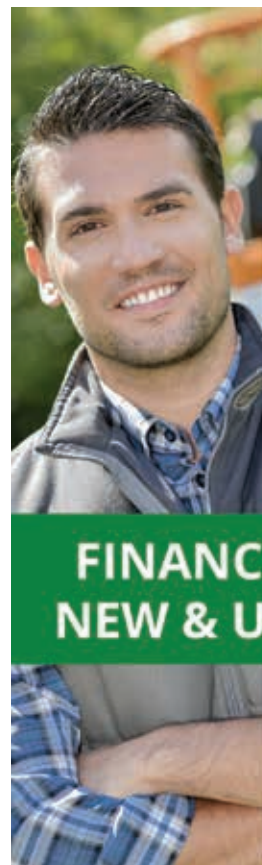
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