

**Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter  
Nov-Dec Issue 2006 (release date Nov 2, 2006)**

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Please note: if you feel you should be on our email list and for some reason are not receiving this newsletter and other GCAA notices, please help us amend our database by sending an email to [elin@ingenious.com](mailto:elin@ingenious.com) with copy to Dr. Kevin Hu at [cunkuohu@yahoo.com](mailto:cunkuohu@yahoo.com) and Helen Pollak at [hwpollak@comcast.net](mailto:hwpollak@comcast.net). Thank you.  
To unsubscribe, see end of newsletter.

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The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by Anthony Olson, PA, 2020 Cattlemen Rd., Suite 100 Sarasota, FL 34232 Phone: (941) 362-7100, and in N. Ft. Myers, FL. (239) 332-4545  
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**1. URGENT NOTICES: =====**

**Please become a volunteer and help make GCAA even better. We have a volunteers meeting this Sunday, Nov 5 at 4:30P at Grand China Buffet (Bee Ridge & Cattlemen in Sarasota) to discuss planning for our biggest annual event: Chinese New Year Celebration. You association needs YOU! Please do your part and come meet other members who believe in making a positive difference for our community. Thank you! Also, take a moment to enjoy the Mid-Autumn Festival slide show before the link (see below) expires!**

## 2. News of the Association =====

### Message from the President

Dear GCAA families and friends,

On behalf of about 260 guests at our MAF celebration on October 8, I would like to express our sincere thanks to all the volunteers, Programs Committee co-chairs, Tracey La and Cheyenne Wu, our sponsors and donors (including, Wal-Mart SuperCenter—Osprey, \$200 from Anonymous, \$100 from Yang Lin, miscellaneous from Albertsons and Staples) and your GCAA officers. Dr. Hammond Chen donated a bicycle that was auctioned for \$170. Marti Rudick did a great job putting together a spectacular photoshow (342 pictures) of our MAF activities which you can view by following this link (be sure to turn on the sound of your PC):



<http://www.photoshow.net/view/utgDSrKbf>

**NOTE; THIS LINK EXPIRES IN 30 DAYS!!!**

As I watch this collage of memories, I felt a wellspring of mixed emotions: happiness, pride, sadness and hope.

Happiness, in seeing so many GCAA families and friends having a genuinely good time, meeting new friends and catching up with each other's news.;

Pride, in the excellent job our Programs Committee, volunteers, and GCAA officers have done in putting this, and previous, event together. Without their dedication and volunteerism, GCAA could not have become what it is today. To each and everyone of you who have answered the call to service, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sadness, in not being able to spend a tiny fraction of the time I'd like, to get to know more of you, and better. Many of you look familiar, unfortunately, I don't know or remember you. Others, I know, yet due to lack of time, have not spoken with for many months or more! I felt so bad about this, it brought tears to my eyes. This is not reflective of how I value my special relationship with each and everyone of you. Between illness in the family and other civic commitments and my own projects, and I regret that I will remain extremely busy for the foreseeable future. Having said that, I hope that you will take the time to introduce (and re-introduce) yourself to me whenever we have occasion to meet. A man's friendships are one of the best measures of his worth.

And lastly, hope. Hope that GCAA will become the great organization that it is capable of being. Hope that is rooted in my faith that this body of good people will see the impact that we can make in our personal and professional lives by empowering ourselves to do our part to make this a better world. Please join me in making a difference by serving as a volunteer in your Association. Thank you for the privilege to serve you and thank you for being my friends.

*Ed*

Dr. Edward Lin  
President, GCAA  
Encourage Inspire Empower

*"You must be the change you wish to see in the world" Mahatma Gandhi*

### **3. Who to contact about what within GCAA =====**

#### **Matters relating to GCAA Programs:**

Dr. Xueji Zhang [zxi001us@yahoo.com](mailto:zxi001us@yahoo.com) 941- 926-3273  
Cheyenne Wu [cheyenne@theblueexchange.com](mailto:cheyenne@theblueexchange.com) (941) 921-4205

#### **Matters relating to membership and how to join**

Dr. Kevin Hu [cunkuohu@yahoo.com](mailto:cunkuohu@yahoo.com) (941) 923-3712  
Dr. Henry Zhu [hexiangzhu@hotmail.com](mailto:hexiangzhu@hotmail.com) (941) 758-2051

#### **Matters relating to monthly socials**

Helen Pollak [hwpollak@comcast.net](mailto:hwpollak@comcast.net) (941) 929-9266

#### **GCAA website**

WebMaster: Barry Zhang [bzhang@comcast.net](mailto:bzhang@comcast.net)  
Asst WebMaster: Troy Lim [troyhlim@gmail.com](mailto:troyhlim@gmail.com)  
Asst. WebMaster Becky Culp [becky@pelicani.com](mailto:becky@pelicani.com)  
Asst. WebMaster John Zhu [juntaozhu15@yahoo.com](mailto:juntaozhu15@yahoo.com)

#### **Sarasota Chinese Academy [Chinese Language School]**

Principal: Jinbo Ying ([best\\_ck9103@yahoo.com](mailto:best_ck9103@yahoo.com)) (941) 966-4355.

#### **Other issues:**

Dr. Edward Lin [elin@ingenious.com](mailto:elin@ingenious.com) (941) 966-0890

### **4. Programs Committee Report =====**

We regret to inform you that Tracey La has resigned from her position as Programs Co-Chair and interim Board member. Tracey has been an invaluable and hard working volunteer of GCAA with a long record of service to the Association. We thank Tracey for her exemplary dedication and wish her well in her new endeavors. Our Programs Committee is seeking volunteers and a new Co-chairperson as it plans our Chinese New Year Celebration to be held between the hours of 12:30P and 5PM on Saturday February 17 at Faith Church, 1201 N. Beneva Rd., Sarasota, FL 34232. Please mark your calendar and be sure to join us.

**We have a volunteers meeting this Sunday, Nov 5 at 4:30P at Grand China Buffet (Bee Ridge & Cattlemen in Sarasota) to discuss planning for our biggest annual event: Chinese New Year Celebration. Please come and help with your suggestions and team spirit. Thank you.**

Message from Marti Rudick about the MAF photoshow:

<http://www.photoshow.net/view/utgDSrKbf>

Hi everyone.....these are the pics I took at the GCAA MAF, Sunday, October 8th, 2006....some good, some really good, some not so good, but I left all of them in the photoshow. I tried to put it in a couple photoshows, as there are a lot of pics, but the program was not cooperating, but it did if I put it all in one photoshow...go figure. Because of that, the photoshow is pretty long. The photoshow is all the pics I took, unedited, minus 3 pics I took out that were a total blur. When I create a link to share the photoshow, it shrinks the pics to about 4 x 6...it is definitely much more impressive to view it in full screen size, as I do with the program. When it reduces the size of the pic, the quality, lighting, etc, are not as good as when you see it full-size, & for whatever reason it makes pics on the darker side to begin with, even darker, but doesn't mess with the other ones.....the ones that look pretty dark are not actually that dark in full screen size. My humble apologies if I missed getting pics of anyone....I tried to get around everywhere, but everyone was moving all over to

the different activities, visiting, etc. I can create a stand alone executable of the photoshow, & burn it to CD, that plays the photoshow full screen size, & you do not even need the photoshow program...I would like to eventually do that with many of our past events, & put them all on one CD, when I get time....someday!! BTW, when you go to the link, especially if you have slow dialup like me (Ack!!), it takes a while to download, the first time....you have plenty of time to get a snack, eat dinner, fold some laundry, whatever, while you are waiting. The show itself takes about 20 minutes to watch (sorry), but there are some nice pics, & memories to see, & is worth the wait, & watch. If you go to the site again, it only takes a couple minutes to download, as long as you haven't cleared your browsing history. Hope everyone enjoys this. Oh yeah, turn on your sound, to hear music with the photoshow. Hope ya'll enjoy!!!

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## 5. Upcoming events and attractions =====

Dr. Carolyn Bloomer, one of our Board members, the City Director of the Sarasota-Siming Sisters City Association, and Professor and Coordinator of the Cultural Beliefs Curriculum at the Ringling School of Art & Design, has once again provided us with a monthly series of the selected Chinese movies which will be shown FREE the second Saturday of each month. The first movie starts at 1:30 pm and will be shown in Room CJ-9 in the Christ-Janer Center (large building), which is located on the south side of Martin Luther King Boulevard and south of the Selby Gallery. It is building #24 on the campus map available on line at <http://www.rsad.edu/fileadmin/pdf/CampusMap.pdf>. Parking will be available in the two lots on the south side of Martin Luther King... This is a NEW location from Last year's movies series which was in Goldstein 1. If not familiar with campus, please allow time to find this place. Admission is FREE. Donations benefit the Gulfcoast Chinese American Association.

### **SECOND SATURDAY DOUBLE FEATURE CHINESE FILM SERIES**

#### **November 11**

1:30: *Beijing Bicycle* 十七岁的单车 Wang Xiaoshuai, 2001, 108 min.

Contemporary urban issues and values are acted out in this escalating and sometimes violent struggle between a young bicycle courier in Beijing whose bike is stolen and the vocational student who claims to own it.

3:30: *Big Shot's Funeral* 大腕 Feng Xiaogong, 2001, 100 min.

An aging American movie director working in Beijing expresses a last wish for a "comedy funeral", which attracts a shark pool of commercial opportunists. This comedy by China's most popular director stars Donald Sutherland and superstar Ge You.

#### **December 9**

1:30: *Shower* 洗澡 Zhang Yang, 1999, 92 min.

Successful Shenzhen businessman must re-examine his family responsibilities when he returns to Beijing to visit his aging father and mentally-retarded brother who run a men's bath-house in an old Beijing neighborhood which is soon to be razed and its residents relocated as part of urban renewal.

3:30: *Once Upon a Time in China and America* 黄飞鸿之西域雄师

Sammo Hung, Hong Kong, 1992, 102 min.

In this entertaining parody of American western films, Chinese *kungfu* skill is pitted against American gun slingers, and 19<sup>th</sup> century anti-Chinese feelings are mercilessly portrayed. Stars Jet Li and Rosamund Kwan.

All films will be screened on the campus of Ringling School of Art and Design in Room CJ-9 in the Christ-Janer Center, which is located on the south side of Martin Luther King Boulevard and south of the Selby

Gallery. It is building #24 on the campus map available on line at <http://www.rsad.edu/fileadmin/pdf/CampusMap.pdf>. Parking will be available in the two lots on the south side of Martin Luther King.

Admission is FREE.

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## 6. Volunteers needed=====

to help with various programs of GCAA, and to take over the Editorship of the GCAA newsletter. This is your chance to develop personal growth and derive satisfaction at the same time by serving your community. Please contact Dr. Xueji Zhang, or Cheyenne Wu if you are willing to do your part. "We all can make a difference, and we must!"

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TRANSLATORS sought to translate our GCAA newsletter into Chinese so we can reach out to the Chinese in our area who have limited proficiency in English. We are not seeking to translate the entire newsletter; we can start with minimal sections (such as GCAA Good Sundays) that are important for helping maintain channels of contact and social activity. In the future when our website is up, we also will need help with translations there. Please volunteer to help. Thanks!

## 7. Notice of GCAA Good Sundays=====

Our monthly social is held at 5:30P on the first Sunday of each month. These are not official meetings, just an opportunity to meet other families who share or are interested in Chinese friendship, culture and heritage. If you plan to attend, please RSVP the number in your party to Helen Pollak at [hwpollak@comcast.net](mailto:hwpollak@comcast.net) by Friday so the restaurant can plan space and waiters accordingly. A discount is extended to all attendees. When a major program is approaching (such as Chinese New Year), the Programs Committee and other volunteers often meet earlier, at 4:30PM, to discuss planning matters. Please join them and lend a hand. **This is YOUR association and it can become better with you being an active part of it. Thank you.**

For even numbered months, Feb/Apr/June/Aug/Oct/Dec 2006, it will be at:  
Oriental Buffet (Tel: 377-6699)  
4458 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota (Take Exit 207 and head west for 2 mi;  
turn left before MacIntosh into the plaza at the southeast intersection with McIntosh).

For odd numbered months, Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov 2006, it will be at:  
Grand China Buffet (Tel: 341-9868)  
3969 Cattlemen Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233  
At the southwest corner of I-75 (Exit 207) and Bee Ridge, between Burlington Coat Factory and Home Depot.

## 8. Kudos to our members and families =====

Don't be shy. Please let us know what's happening in your family that our community should know about. We'll all crow along.

## 9. Feature Article/Letter to the Editor by Dr. Meg Lowman 9/25/06

### China's 1.3 billion residents leave smaller ecological footprint

At seventy? Still planting trees?

Don't laugh;

We all die, sooner or later.

But who knows when?

-- Yuan Mei, Chinese (1716-1798)

China has 1.3 billion people. This number seems enormous, compared with America's population of 300 million. China's population is expected to peak at 1.6 billion in 2025, with no further increases due to its carefully regimented population regulation. Despite the apparent discrepancy between Chinese and American populations, it is ecologically more important to compare resource utilization per person than total head count. How do biologists, economists and policymakers compare resource utilization? And how do they make predictions about the future, given the finite supply of natural resources on Earth?

An ecological footprint provides an estimate of our global impact. This calculated number enables ecologists and economists to quantify the biologically productive area (termed global acres) required in resources (food, fuel, materials and services) to sustain an individual with a given lifestyle. It also includes the area to dispose of waste materials, which is often a "hidden cost" in developed countries. An average ecological footprint can then be multiplied by a country's total population to determine the total global acreage required to support its standard of living. If humans take more than nature can sustain, it is called "overshoot."

The average ecological footprint for one Chinese citizen calculated in 2006 is 2.0 (meaning that it takes two global acres of resources to sustain each individual). The average footprint in Beijing is 6.2, indicating that urban residents consume more energy than rural dwellers. In contrast, the average ecological footprint of an American is 24, although slightly less in Sarasota, at 22.2. (Reported on July 20, 2004, by Redefining Progress of Oakland, Calif.). The average American currently uses more than 10 times more resources than the average Chinese person.

It is not rocket science to calculate that 1.3 billion Chinese (with an estimated average footprint of 2.0) require 2.6 billion global acres, while 300 million Americans (with a footprint averaging 24) require 7.2 billion global acres to sustain our current lifestyle. Obviously, if 1.3 billion Chinese live like Americans (and many American companies are aggressively selling our lifestyle to China), then they will require 31.2 billion global acres, far more than planet Earth can provide. The worldwide biocapacity is approximately 4 to 5 global acres per person, so the American lifestyle represents a serious "overshoot."

As a recent visitor to China, I was overwhelmed that our American lifestyle was for sale on billboards and television -- cars, big homes, name-brand clothing, imported foods and exotic travel. With their rapidly growing economy, many Beijing residents can now afford such goods and services, thereby increasing their ecological footprint. But the law of supply and demand is quite simple -- planet Earth does not contain enough global acreage to support America's current ecological footprint for the world's population unless we develop new green technologies.

In many ways, China is at a crossroads, implementing some sustainability efforts while overlooking others. Renewable energy was more visible in rural China than in Florida. Almost every roof in rural Dai minority villages boasted a solar heater.

China is a world leader in organic food production, with a labeling scheme representing three tiers of standards. Appliances had labels with energy ranking, although air pollution from coal poses a serious issue. Many city streets were lined with magnificent palms and colorful landscaping that not only provided shade, but also free ecosystem services of oxygen production and air pollution reduction. At the same time, we read that China has depleted its timber supplies and is buying Indonesian timber to build halls for the Olympics.

Public transport was cheap and accessible in large cities, and bicycle paths were prevalent; but

construction cranes dominated the landscape, creating chaos for walkers. City centers bustled with a sense of new urbanism: alive during day and night with musicians, tai chi classes, family outings, walkers and tourists.

But the newspapers also mentioned serious problems underground with an estimated 40 percent fresh-water leakage in Beijing's vast, antiquated water pipes. The government recently announced an environmental initiative to plant millions of trees to create a green "great wall" north of Beijing to capture wind-borne dust from the northern deserts, yet the city grapples with critical levels of air pollution. Like a juggler with too many balls in the air, China struggles to keep pace with its enormous growth, which strains the environment.

What is the ethical solution to a growing disparity of ecological footprints among countries? The world does not contain enough resources for all 6.5 billion people on Earth to live with America's lifestyle. Yet America is still considered the global leader in research, science and creating innovative solutions to environmental challenges. We must take the lead in developing green technologies that will lower our ecological footprint. As their economy booms, the Chinese will hopefully show exemplary stewardship in retaining the modest size of their ecological footprint and concurrent development of renewable energy.

Can America renew its global leadership by developing exemplary sustainable practices? Do we have a choice?

If 1.6 billion Chinese try to live according to America's current ecological footprint, our proverbial Peking duck (not goose) is cooked!

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Dr. Margaret Lowman (aka Canopymeg) is a science writer and director of Environmental Initiatives at New College of Florida. Her column appears semimonthly. On the Web: [www.canopymeg.com](http://www.canopymeg.com)

### **9b. Solicitation for Articles and Reports =====**

If you have any news or announcements of interest or pride and relevance to the GCAA, FCC and USCPFA, please send it to [elin@ingenious.com](mailto:elin@ingenious.com). Letters to the Editor are also welcome. Thank you.

### **10. Helpful Info and articles of Interest =====**

(Thanks to GCAA member, Jasper Law, for providing this helpful info:) When you or your loved ones are involve in a serious accident, can the police or state trooper reach you quickly without undue delay? Now Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles can enable everyone with a Florida Driver License or Florida Identification Card to enter up to TWO emergency contacts. The service will only allow law enforcement officers to retrieve emergency contact information. This will save Florida residents crucial time in case of emergency. Register emergency contact info via the following link:

<https://www6.hsmv.state.fl.us/dlcheck/findcustomer>

## **Wal-Mart's Rx for health worry: \$4 generic drugs**

Wal-Mart will start selling some generic medicines at \$4 for a month's supply -- a move that could revolutionize the retail drug business.

BY JOHN DORSCHNER  
[dorschner@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:dorschner@MiamiHerald.com)

Wal-Mart announced a dramatic step in October to slash drug costs by offering almost 300 generic medicines for \$4 a month, starting in Tampa and spreading throughout Florida on Jan. 1.

"Holy moley," exclaimed Barbara Waks, an Aventura resident. "That is phenomenal." For her drugs, she has been insisting on brand names, either begging doctors for samples or purchasing them from Canada. "But now that I hear this I'm going to see if I can substitute generics."

The drugs will be \$4 with or without health insurance. That news should be particularly welcome in South Florida, where 26.8 percent of Miami-Dade residents and 16.6 of Broward lack insurance, according to a recent FIU study.

One example of the new savings: Enalapril, a frequently used blood-pressure medication, costs \$18.09 at most CVS pharmacies, \$19.49 at Target, \$21.95 at Publix, \$25.99 at many Walgreens and \$45.29 at Friendly Drugs of West Hollywood, according to MyFloridaRX.com, a state-operated website.

Wal-Mart's price at a Pompano Beach store is currently listed as \$18.54. It will be less than a fourth of that in January. The new \$4 enalapril will even be cheaper than the price at CanadianDrug store.com, which charges \$9.36.

"We are helping to ensure that our customers and associates get the medicines they need at a price they can afford," Wal-Mart Stores Chief Executive H. Lee Scott Jr. said in a prepared statement. "That's a real solution for our nation's working families."

### **MAY BURNISH IMAGE**

Analysts said the move could improve the image of the company, which has been under heavy criticism for not providing enough health coverage for employees. It will also help drive customers to Wal-Marts, where they can purchase many other items.

"This is a big thing," said Alan Sager, a specialist in drug pricing at Boston University. "Until now, generics haven't been the financial salvation that many people thought they would be."

Experts have long known that while prices of branded drugs are carefully watched and tend not to vary much, the prices of generics vary widely. "This is a very imperfect market," Sager said. "People tend to like to buy at the same place," not realizing they could pay less at a different store.

"The price differences in generics can be huge," said Daniella Levine of the Human Services Coalition of Dade. "People know a generic is cheaper than the brand, but they don't ask how much cheaper. [Generics were] supposed to be a way for the public to save money, but pharmacies found it as a way to make money."

Richard D. Hastings, an advisor with the Federation of Credit and Financial Professionals, said, "Wal-Mart's bold leap into generics . . . could improve customer loyalty and foot-traffic trends over the long term. By reducing annual prescription spending on this scale, within their customer base, they could be freeing up some bucks to spend on other general merchandise."

An anti-company action group, WakeUpWalMart.com, was far less enthusiastic. "While lowering prescription drug costs is a good thing, Wal-Mart cruelly ignores the fact that it fails to provide company health care to over half (775,000) of its employees which leaves 46 percent of its workers' children uninsured or on public health care," the group said in an e-mail.

Frank Sloan, a health economist at Duke University, said \$4 is so low that in many cases it will be lower than the co-payment of those who have insurance.

One example: Medco Health, a pharmacy benefits manager for many larger insurers, frequently demands a \$20 co-pay for a three-month supply of enalapril. That prescription will now cost \$12 at Wal-Mart.

The 291 generic medications covered by Wal-Mart's move include the broad spectrum of prescriptions.

Metformin, a common drug for diabetics, now costs \$33.99 at Drugstore.com. In South Florida, it costs \$24.89 at CVS stores for 60 tablets, \$25.39 at Walgreens and \$68.99 at CC City Pharmacy in Fort Lauderdale, according to MyFloridaRX.com.

Those 60 tablets will cost \$8 at Wal-Mart.

Another example: Fluoxetine 20MG capsules, the anti-depressant generic of Prozac, costs \$13.95 at most Winn-Dixies, \$14.99 at Sedano's, \$20.29 at most CVS pharmacies, \$26.99 to \$33.99 at Walgreens and \$137.87 at Stat script Pharmacy in Miami Beach, according to MyFloridaRx.com.

### **STATE NEXT, THEN U.S.**

Wal-Mart said that after rolling out the program in Florida in January, it would gradually expand it to stores nationwide. [update: this program is now in at least 27 states]

While Wal-Mart's stock slipped 1 percent Tuesday, to close at \$48.46, competitors were hammered by the news. Walgreens stock fell \$3.67, or 7 percent, to close at \$46.28. CVS was off \$2.96, or 8.3 percent, to close at \$32.47.

Walgreens spokeswoman Tiffani Bruce said the chain didn't think its business would be affected. ``Many people choose us because of the convenience of location, and 95 percent of our patients have insurance with co-pays averaging \$8, so they would only be paying \$4 more than Wal-Mart. And we sell more than 1,800 generics. Wal-Mart's only offering the \$4 price on 291."''

### **\*WARNING... New Credit Card Scam\***

Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; THEY already have it. This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & MasterCard Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself.

What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master card directly for verification of their conversation.

My husband was called on Wednesday from "VISA", and I was called on Thursday from "MasterCard".

The scam works like this: Person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge Number is 12460 your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a Marketing company based in Arizona?"

When you say "No", the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?"

You say "yes". The caller continues - "I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1- 800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of your card ". He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers". There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him.

After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other

questions?" After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card. Long story made short – we made a real fraud report and closed the VISA account. VISA is reissuing us a new number. What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master card directly for verification of their conversation.

The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

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Tired of getting solicitations on your home or cell phone. Put an end to it for a 5-year period by registering at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) and you can enter up to 3 numbers all at once to the do not call list. However, you must provide an email address and respond back to an email (for EACH number you enter) from FCC in order for the block to take effect in 30 days

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**REMINDER. PLEASE KEEP YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES CURRENT WITH US** SO WE CAN keep current in our channels of communications. Outdated email addresses create returned mail and hinder my efficiency. Please also provide us the email addresses of your teenagers so they can stay informed of the GCAA activities as well. If you have or anticipate a change in your email address, please notify me (Ed Lin; [elin@ingenious.com](mailto:elin@ingenious.com)), Dr. Kevin Hu ([cunkuohu@yahoo.com](mailto:cunkuohu@yahoo.com)) and Ms. Helen Pollak ([hwpollak@comcast.net](mailto:hwpollak@comcast.net)) promptly via email.

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**Support Pine View's Class of 2007 with a \$25 donation and receive a professional Family Beach Portrait (a \$100 value!) FREE!!** Includes sitting fee and 1-8x10 photo from Moments In Time Photography. Satisfaction is guaranteed. Your friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, etc. are also welcome to participate **or receive this offer as a gift from you.** To take advantage of this offer, you must send a \$25 check payable to "Pine View School Class of 2007" and mail it to: Beach Portrait, 1109 Millpond Court, Osprey, FL 34229 (Tel: 966-0890) Please include on your check, your name, address, and phone number. Please contact Fred Mailloux or Rick Geiger for appointment and location (941) 362-4567. Moments In Time Photography, 6616 Gateway Ave., Sarasota, FL 34231

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**Mandarin Chinese speaker for FUN playtime/childcare**

Seeking native Mandarin speaker to be with our kids for about 10 hours a week. Simply play, sing and read to them in Chinese. Have 18 month boy and 3 year old girl.

Would love to meet someone who would like to be a Mother's Helper to play with kids while we are home (\$4.00 to \$5.00/hour) **AS WELL AS** someone capable of watching them on their own. (\$8.00- \$9.50 /hour) Please contact Lisa at 330-0740 or [lisa@mirmania.com](mailto:lisa@mirmania.com)

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**11. For Sale/Wanted =====**

WANT TO BUY: Wood chipper; prefer 10 HP minimum. Call Ed 966-0690

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For rent or sale:

Brand new cul de sac home in beautifully landscaped and gated Venetian Golf and River Club off Laurel and near I-75. 3-BR 2-bath w/2-car garage. 1,508 SF under air with screened-in lanai. Water and golf course view from master bedroom, living room and lanai. Fabulous amenities include club house restaurant, community swimming pool, tennis court, fitness center and walking trail through nature preserve. Non smoking. \$1,450/per month with annual lease. Shorter terms available. \$2,900 security deposit. References.  
e-mail: [best\\_ck9103@yahoo.com](mailto:best_ck9103@yahoo.com) or call 941-966-4355

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**House for Sale by owner:** On Country Place Lane (off Beneva between Proctor & Clark); 2633 SF under central air; 3800 SF under roof which includes 3-car garage; 3/3; Very large MBR & bath suite 15x44 w/ 4 closets; newly remodeled kitchen 10x21 w/16 pr + triple pantry cabinets; LR 18x19; DR 11x15; Skylighted atrium: FR 15x20; wet-bar; fireplace; Dual-zone A/C; security system, 6 yr old roof; water filter; solar heated pool; screened front porch; 9 fruit trees; Asking 495K; Pat Amsel 941-924-4344.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SAVE MONEY** and help reduce global warming and dependency on fossil fuel. Did you know that the amount of fuel used per year to generate the electricity for your water heater (equal to about 30% of your annual bill) could drive a car 12,000 miles and puts 5,000 pounds of CO2 into the air?

Take advantage of almost \$2500 in federal and state government tax credits and rebates (while still available) and install a new solar water heater for your home. Call Terry or Lynda Leopold (941) 918-2718

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