



CASA TWO NOV. 2009 UPDATE

CR Tropical Property owner Bob Soplop recently allowed us to shoot some fresh pictures of his new Costa Rican home. As you can see from the photo above, Bob's home is now seeing new kitchen and bathroom fixtures to complement his beautiful Costa Rican views

C.R. Tropical - Winter 2009 Updates

• Construction Updates – November - December 2009

You should visit our web site to see the latest photos of casas 2, 3, and 4. The progress is very exciting to see as the community begins to come alive with new structures.

• Main Property Gate Completed – November 2009

We have finished the new wooden gatehouse leading into the property. Check the latest WEBSITE NEWS UPDATE video online to see the gorgeous finished gate.

• C.R. Tropical Resident Update

Our first full time resident, Vernon Pierce who does not speak a word of Spanish is taking Spanish lessons at a school in local Quepos. Call us for details!

• More Beautiful Wildlife Spotted in Las Palmas

We continue to get reports of Sloths and Monkeys in Las Palmas. Keep your cameras ready to shoot on your next trip. Our new furry friends are harmless and fun neighbors!

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OF CR TROPICAL
COSTA RICAN
DEVELOPMENT
UPDATES

CR Tropical Properties



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LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Christmas lights at the Instituto Nacional de Seguros building lit up the sky on Saturday November 14, 2009. The national insurance company did not display the lights last year, but they soon will be turned on for 2009.

Lights are going up elsewhere in Costa Rica that unapologetically mixes Christianity with daily life. One big event will be the Festival de la Luz parade starting at 6 p.m. Dec. 12.

LATEST WEB VIDEO?

We have been so busy building new homes in Costa Rica that 3 months have flown by without a new web video being added on the web site. The good news is that we have just received some new video from our builders and we expect to have a new video online by December 2009. Please keep an eye in the members area of our web site to see the latest updates from our properties in Costa Rica,

COSTA RICA IS BEST RETIREMENT LOCATION

International Living Magazine has chosen Costa Rica as one of the most attractive places in the world for Americans to retire, calling the country one of the "world's best retirement havens." For those who wish to retire in Costa Rica, make a real estate investment in Costa Rica or simply plan ahead and own property now for retirement later, this is great news! Costa Ricans reported the highest life satisfaction and have an average life expectancy second only to Canada, said a release from the New Economics Foundation, a British think tank that promotes ecology and sustainable economics.

Each year more than a quarter million Americans leave the U.S. for good, according to *Money* Magazine. Millions more are seriously considering it. Why? To be blunt, many people can no longer afford to retire in the U.S. and keep their lifestyle. Real estate prices, insurance and taxes, the cost of living, health care



costs, gas and utility bills are all going through the roof.

Today millions of people are realizing their goals of living in tropical luxury and all at a fraction of the U.S. cost. There are places in the world where you can live a better and more care free life for less and still enjoy appreciation of 10%, 20%, 30% and more per year. Costa Rica ranks at the top of one of those places today according to *International Living* Magazine.

Costa Rica is one of the most attractive overseas retirement locations today, not only because of its quality of life, but also its extremely low property taxes, lower cost of living and very affordable health care.

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Museum Opens Up Homes of Former Army Commanders

The Museo Nacional opened two new exhibition areas with a ceremony Tuesday night. The areas are the former homes of the commander and deputy commander of the Costa Rican army.

The houses never have been open to the public.

The new spaces are being used to hold the temporary exhibit "Puertas Abiertas," a recreation of domestic living at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

The Casas de los Comandantes are within the museum complex between Avenida Central and Avenida 2 but have not been open to the public. The museum is in the midst of a major renovation and expansion. The new exposition areas are in the northeast corner of the museum tract. President Arias inaugurated the new museum and was able to view old photos, antique furniture and other historical objects that recreate the main living space, the studio and the largest bedroom in the newly opened facility.



Future Costa Rican Entrepreneurs

National University's (UNA) a Heredia based public university north of San José, showcased 55 projects developed by UNA student groups. Exhibits included food preparation and a machine to clean cigarette butts in the annual Entrepreneur Fair.



HOW TO BEAT THE C.R. LUXURY HOME TAX

The specter of the luxury housing tax is haunting expat and snowbird property owners, but like everything else in Costa Rica, there are some quick, easy solutions.

Sure, the law says that the value of land must be included in calculations to determine the value of a dwelling. And many homeowners have sprawling lawns and swimming pools. Since agricultural land is exempt from this law, a bunch of chickens walking in

your backyard immediately takes your structure off the luxury tax roles!

It is also important to note that the luxury tax applies to properties that are used as dwellings Jan. 1 of any given year. This simply means that a prolonged New Year's party will exempt you from the luxury tax! This year New Year's Eve is on a Thursday which means that a long weekend News Years party makes your home exempt. Hence, no tax!

But then there is the problem of the house itself. Assuming that the required calculations value the home over the \$172,000 threshold, there are steps a property owner can take to drive down the assessed value.

One of the easiest is to transfer the ownership to a church or non-profit group. When the inspectors see the sign "First Church of the Illuminati" stuck to the fencepost they will just drive right by.

Costa Rica Minimum Wage Goes Up on January 1st

Costa Ricans who work at the minimum wage will get a 5 percent increase starting Jan. 1

That was the decision of the Consejo Nacional de Salarios that fixes the individual pay in a number of job categories every six months.

The 5 percent figure came from negotiators for the private sector who presented a proposal slightly higher than that presented by the Ministerio de Trabajo. The ministry said 4.7 percent.

The salary increases are supposed to reflect the rise in the cost of living

and the depreciation of the colon currency. Many of the 1.5 million employees in the private sector work at the minimum wage. Union and worker representatives had asked for a 7.74 percent increase.

The chamber also asked legislators to increase their efforts to protect the Costa Rican worker. There are several proposed laws in the legislative hopper that would make the work week and working hours more flexible.

U.S. Paper Company Joins Friends of Osa for Reforestation

Neenah Paper said Tuesday that it will help Friends of the Osa and the Natural Resources

Foundation of Wisconsin to reforest a conservation property in Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world. With Neenah's support and contributions, the reforestation project will remove carbon from the atmosphere, protect and restore viable plant and animal habitats, create a new habitat for students and endangered wildlife and restore land degraded by deforestation, the paper company said. Friends of the Osa is a nonprofit organization protecting the Osa Peninsula's rich biodiversity through land stewardship, capacity building, education and outreach and applied science.

"Costa Rican Workers will soon have a more flexible work week."

New Committee Explores DTV in Costa Rica

Costa Rica will explore its options as it considers switching to a digital television system.

The government is setting up a committee to report next March on the best types of digital television for Costa Rica.

The announcement came from Rodrigo Arias Sánchez, the minister of the Presidencia, when he spoke to an international digital television forum Thursday night.

Arias and Jorge Rodríguez, the minister of Ambiente, Energía y Telecomunicaciones, signed a decree setting up the panel. Arias said the government did not have a preference in the type of system that the country ultimately would adopt. Digital television requires less bandwidth, so there will be more channels. Arias suggested that DTV will mean more education via television and telemedicine.

WEBSITE UPDATES at www.crtropical.tv

Testimonial Videos and Other Streaming Video Updates

We take great pride in keeping all of our Clients up to date on current news Affecting them in Costa Rica. The best way to accomplish this goal is to make constant updates to our website. We urge everyone to make a point of stopping by the website at least twice a month to see the latest and read the latest news about the property.

You will also notice a lot of streaming FLASH videos in our password protected members area. These include photo montages of the property and actual testimonials from CR Tropical clients. In fact, we would love to include YOUR testimonial on the web Site in the near future. If you have a personal video camera, please feel free to shoot your own testimonials and send them to us on DV Tape or DVD for inclusion on our web site. We would be happy to send you a FREE T-Shirt and Visor with our logo for your trouble. Please send to address on this newsletter.

