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No. 2, 1979

June 1979

WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, 28 June 1979
7:30 P.M.

La Casita del Arroyo
177 So. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena, California

GUEST SPEAKERS

Rosemary Schroeder, Chairman, Charter Review Committee
Jane Ellison, Chairman, Cultural Heritage Commission

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NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Annette Serrurier

Claire Bogaard

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the residents of the West Pasadena and San Rafael areas about issues of possible concern. It is the hope of W.P.R.A. to publish this newsletter four times a year. The editors wish to keep the newsletter informal and welcome any news articles, suggestions, comments, and help. Do call us.

Annette Serrurier
(799-2556)

Claire Bogaard
(799-9819)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Neighborhood Watch Program—Burglary continues to be of great concern to the residents of Pasadena. Both the Police Department and WPR.A encourage each neighborhood block to contact Agent Curtis, who will help you formalize a program for each specific area. His telephone number is: 577-4550.

Did you know that:

—from January 1, 1979 until April 30, 1979, thieves in Pasadena have carried off property amounting to \$1,398,000?

—there are 278 active Neighborhood Watch Programs now on-going in Pasadena?

—twenty-nine new Neighborhood Watch Programs have been set up in Pasadena since January 1979?

—that members of the Police Department will come to your block to describe the Neighborhood Watch Program?

—that a Police Officer will come to your home upon request to advise you about potential security problems?

Help to reduce residential burglary on our streets. Call Agent Curtis today!

MARENGO AVENUE STREET TREES

Marengo Avenue residents met with city staff to review various alternatives to determine the fate

of the sprawling Ash trees that line South Marengo Avenue. Of the 50 people attending the meeting 46 were in favor of saving the trees. The problem stems from the dislocation of sidewalks, curbs and gutters by the heavy uplifting roots of the trees.

Public works personnel proposed a plan to save 30 percent of the trees through pruning of roots, save another 33 percent through relocation of walks to private property, and remove the remaining 37 percent.

The group of concerned residents has formed the Save the Ashes Committee, headed by Art Holt. The committee proposed to save all the trees by pruning some roots and reconstructing the walks to rise over the roots in a gradual slope.

As a result of the meeting, a coordinating committee will be formed to review with city staff the various alternatives.

Another meeting with public works department personnel will be held on June 15.

MESSAGE FROM WILLIAM J. BOGAARD, MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CITY OF PASADENA

City Director Bill Bogaard has provided the following report on matters of particular interest to the residents of southwest Pasadena.

"The City continues to pursue the completion of the Route 7 Freeway. Several City Directors discussed this matter recently in separate meetings with Caltrans Director Adriana Gianturco, State Senator Newton Russell, and Assemblyman William Ivers. The occasion, when reported in the press, prompted South Pasadena representatives to open discussions with Pasadena officials. The City's position is to seek completion of the full freeway rather than the connection with the Pasadena Freeway.

"The U.S. Court of Appeals' effort to restore and use the Vista Del Arroyo Hotel for its Southern California facility appears to be moving forward. The House of Representatives has passed an appropriations bill which will permit the Court to restore the hotel building and to renovate its interior for use as offices for the judges, library, and courtroom facilities. The Court of Appeals is an appellate court, visited by attorneys but not by

parties to legal proceedings. Judge Chambers, who is coordinating the effort on behalf of the court, has a record of successful restoration of federal buildings in San Francisco and Portland. He is committed to a low density usage of the Vista and to control of traffic and parking requirements.

"High rise building development has been discussed recently in the City as a result of a proposed condominium project of two 19-story towers on North Lake Avenue at the Route 210 Freeway. This project has been withdrawn, at least temporarily. I believe that policy on high rise development is very important to the future character of our City. The Board of Directors has requested the Planning Commission to undertake a planning study to consider questions of density impact, traffic, municipal services, location, number, and "streetscape." The Planning Commission was specifically requested to conduct public hearings and to invite citizen participation.

"Increased usage of the Rose Bowl has been suggested by the City Manager as a means of raising revenues for the City's general fund. The City Board has requested that the proposal be set forth in detail for consideration at a meeting in the near future. Neighborhood associations in areas adjacent to the Rose Bowl are participating in preliminary discussions and WPRA representatives would also be welcome. I am urging that policies be established to assure that the burden imposed on adjoining neighborhoods be subject to reasonable restriction as new activities are introduced."

SURVEY SHOWS NEIGHBORS CONCERNS

Nancy Esbenshade, Field Representative for City Director Bill Bogaard, has compiled results of a survey conducted in March among the voters of District 6. Government economy and neighborhood crime are the principal concerns of the residents of southwest Pasadena, according to the survey.

The compilation shows that the voters consider the principal issue facing District 6 to be burglary and other crimes. Other issues of critical importance within southwest Pasadena are, in order, completion of the Route 7 Freeway, the future use of the Vista del Arroyo Hotel, and zoning enforcement and land use planning.

City-wide, the survey indicates that voters

consider the principal issue to be City government economy and efficiency. Other issues, in order, are completion of the Route 7 Freeway, rates for electric and water service, and preservation of Pasadena's architectural heritage.

Virtually all of the persons returning the questionnaire confirmed that high priority should be given to a review of procedures for awarding public contracts and for the sale of surplus City land; scrutiny of the projects and administrative expenses of the Pasadena Redevelopment Agency; examination of the City's financial statements and audit procedures; and establishment of new management controls for the expenditure of federal funds.

Mrs. Esbenshade, who was appointed Field Representative by Director Bogaard in September 1978, noted, "It is reassuring that the survey reflects concerns on the part of the voters similar to those which Bill has expressed at meetings of the Board of City Directors. He intends to be guided by the results of this questionnaire in responding to recommendations of the City Manager and in formulating proposals for the future of Pasadena."

Mrs. Esbenshade's telephone numbers are 799-7892 and 799-6237.

NEWS OF THE ARROYO SECO (submitted by Friends of the Arroyo)

Arroyo Walk

In March, about fifty persons gathered to learn about local history, native plants, birds, earthquake faults, and Indian sites while on the Arroyo Walk, which was sponsored by Friends of the Arroyo Seco and WPRA. The event was so well received that a number of requests have been made to the Friends of the Arroyo for additional walks. More will be scheduled. If you are interested in joining the next walk or learning more about Friends of the Arroyo, drop a note to George McQuilkin, 250 S. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena 91105. Phone: 793-7733

Study District

The Interim Study District (I.S.D.) for the Arroyo Seco continues to have an uncertain fate. Approved in principle by the City Board of Directors in December, 1978, the City Attorney's office seems in no hurry to bring it back to the Board for final approval. Meanwhile, new develop-

ment proposals, such as one for 16 condominium units at 50 North Arroyo Blvd., continue to come up. If you feel strongly about the Arroyo Seco protection, you may wish to write a letter to City Manager Donald McIntyre asking that the ISD be put into effect and for a strong protective ordinance which includes land use controls to be developed for the Arroyo Seco.

Burning in the Lower Arroyo

It is hoped that residents of West Pasadena will understand that controlled burning is needed to restore the Arroyo Seco for future generations. In the past years, the fire department has disc-plowed the Lower Arroyo fields to reduce the summer fire hazards. Unfortunately, disc-plowing destroys root structures of native plants and shrubs, buries native seeds too deeply, increases wind and storm water erosion; it actually encourages the invading European grasses which thrive in disturbed soil. An alternative, controlled burning, has been tried this year under the direction of Roland Case Ross and the Arroyo Restoration Project. Fire kills the foreign grasses and mustard seeds, leaves the top soil intact, and actually stimulates many native seeds to germinate.

March 1979 was WPRA Membership Drive month. Both the March newsletter and the June newsletter have been mailed to every household in the West Pasadena Residents Association area. The membership lists are now in the process of being updated. Future newsletter issues will be mailed only to paid members of West Pasadena Residents Association. If you have not already done so, we invite you to please fill out the necessary information on the attached envelope.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 28, 1979 - WPRA Meeting at La Casita - 7:30 P.M.

June 15 - 24, 1979 - Architectural Tours in Pasadena, sponsored by the Pasadena Festival of Arts. For information and reservations contact the Pasadena Arts Council, 780 S. Arroyo Parkway, Pasadena, CA 91105 - 795-0825.

June 15, 1979 - Day-long conference - "Tax Incentives for Renovating Historic Buildings." Sponsored by Pasadena Heritage, at the Neighborhood Church. For information and reservations call Pasadena Heritage at 793-4378.

**West Pasadena
Residents' Association
Est. 1962**

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