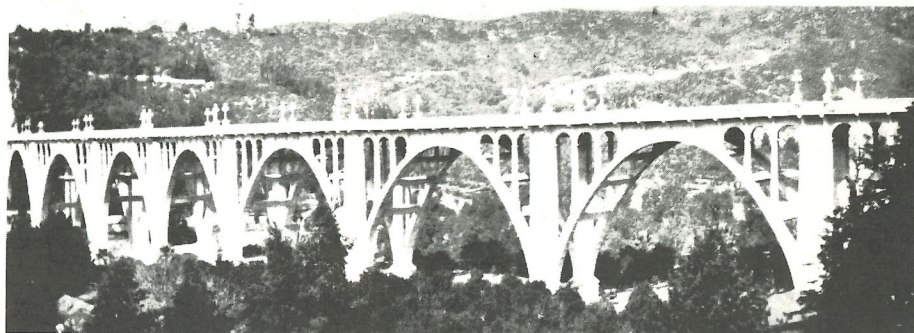


West Pasadena
Residents' Association
Est. 1962



Photograph Courtesy of Pasadena Historical Society

No. 10

WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

November 1982

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WPRA IS GIVING A PARTY YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS

**Thursday, November 11
7:30 p.m.**

**La Casita del Arroyo
177 South Arroyo Boulevard**

**MEET your friends and neighbors!
ENJOY our food and drink!
CELEBRATE the City's free home energy analysis!
LEARN cost effective ways of reducing utility bills!
FREE handouts on tax credits, etc.**

Shivu Desni, City of Pasadena Energy Coordinator, speaker

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mrs. William J. Bogaard (Claire)
John Borovicka
Delphine Breese
Walter Cochran-Bond
Mrs. Henry Fauvre (Marionette)
James Gamb
David Hotchkin
Mrs. John Kimball (Virginia)
Mrs. William McDonald (Nancy)
George McWilliams
Tom Parrington
Mrs. Rodman Paul (Anne)
John L. Poole
Diane Philibosian
Steven Reyes
Mrs. Gerald Secundy (Donna)
Tom Seifert
Mrs. Steven Serrurier (Annette)
Mrs. Bruce Stewart (Peg)
Richard Yadley

OFFICERS OF WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**President..... Jim Gamb
1st Vice President..... Annette Serrurier
2nd Vice President..... Peg Stewart
Secretary..... John Poole
Treasurer..... Richard Yadley**

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
(799-8919)

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

Proposed Landmark District Ordinance

Work is continuing to revise the proposed Landmark District Ordinance. A committee of the City Board, consisting of Directors Heckman and Thomson and myself, find there is strong support for this proposal and, at the same time, a good deal of misunderstanding about it on the part of other persons.

If the ordinance is adopted, it would allow future establishment of a special zone in residential areas of the City which is intended to encourage the maintenance and enhancement of architecturally and historically significant structures located in the area. No such zone would be established until a multi-step procedure has been completed, involving a strong grass roots movement in support of the proposal to get the procedure underway; approval of the proposal by the Cultural Heritage Commission at a public meeting held for that purpose; preliminary approval of the proposal by the Planning Commission at a public meeting; final approval of the proposal by the Planning Commission after public hearing; and final approval by the City Board, as recommended or with appropriate modifications, after a public hearing held for the purpose of receiving public comment.

The procedure contemplates that two notices will be sent to each affected property owners by personal mail. Until the additional procedure is successfully completed by any residential area of the City that might wish to establish a landmark district, the proposed Landmark District Ordinance, which is the subject of current study would not impose any new or different land use authorities or limitations.

As enabling legislation the proposed ordinance would be similar to ordinances adopted by Pasadena in the past which permit or "enable" the establishment of planned unit development districts and business overlay districts. These special zoning procedures accommodate the formulation of custom zoning limitations that facilitate the intended use of the subject on adjacent properties. Although the planned unit development ordinance has been on the books for several years, only two or three PUDs have been established in Pasadena. Several business overlay districts have been established in recent years.

It should be noted that the Landmark District Ordinance, in its present form, establishes a multi-step procedure which is intended both to assure that the proposed area is characterized by structures of historic and architectural significance and to avoid the easy establishment of such districts in the absence of strong property owner support.

Under normal zoning procedures, any property owner can request that a new zone be established. In that case, under the normal procedure, the steps involved are staff study and acceptance of the proposal; consideration and approval by the Planning Commission; and subsequent study and approval by the City Board.

Under the proposed Landmark District Ordinance, however, several additional steps are involved. First, the process cannot get underway with the request of just one property owner; instead, the owners of a majority of the properties involved must consent in writing to the preliminary consideration of the proposed landmark district. Thereafter, the Cultural Heritage Commission is required to determine after study that the structures in the area are, in fact, architecturally and historically significant. If that finding is made, the Planning Commission then commences its review and, if appropriate, after discussion and public session, will grant preliminary approval. This is followed by the holding of a public hearing before the Planning Commission, after due public notice, at which time all affected and interested persons are permitted to testify. If the Planning Commission approves the proposal, it is submitted to the City Board.

Thereafter, assuming that the owners of not less than a majority of the properties covered by the proposed new district approve of the proposal, the City Board conducts a public hearing, receiving comment from all interested persons, and determines whether such proposal could be approved as recommended or with any modifications.

When a landmark district is approved, which is expected to be not frequent, the special zoning requirements applicable to the particular district will be set forth in a "conservation plan." The conservation plan, which might be brief or more detailed, will be administered by a landmark district advisory body, which includes a resident of the particular district, a qualified real estate broker, and other qualified persons.

The City Board Committee will be completing its work on this matter during early November and will present its findings to the City Board, for appropriate action.

With respect to persons who have suggested that this ordinance is an improper infringement on property rights, it has been helpful to compare this proposal with the zoning procedure in general, which imposes certain limits on the use of property for the benefit of the area or the entire community, and to the special zoning procedures, such as the planned unit development districts and business overlay districts. If questions exist with respect to this proposal, please contact me or Mrs. Esbenshade at 577-4222 or 799-7892, so that your questions might be discussed and further information provided.

Neighborhood Information Meetings

With the close of summer, I have initiated a practice of meeting each Wednesday evening with the residents of District 6 to discuss City issues and to answer questions concerning activities at City Hall.

The format that we have followed is to hold such meetings in the homes of interested persons who are willing to gather a group of neighbors who are interested in City issues. A group of 5 to 10 persons, or even, more permits a good discussion. The meetings begin at 7:30 and typically are completed at 9:00 p.m., or shortly thereafter.

If any of you would like to either hold or attend such an information meeting as they continue in the future, please call Nancy Esbenshade, my field representative, at 577-4222 or 799-7892. I believe that these meetings are helpful to citizens and know that they are extremely helpful to me.

REPORT FROM JIM GAMB, PRESIDENT OF WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Since the beginning of this year, the WPRA has addressed a number of important issues and concerns which impact both our neighborhood and, of course, the larger city in which we all reside. These matters and the position adopted by your Board of Directors include:

VISTA DEL ARROYO

Met with representatives of the General Ser-

vices Administration to critique their general care and management of the site. Discussed the architect's plans for renovation prior to occupancy by the Court of Appeals.

REDISTRICTING

Presented our views on various proposals to the Redistricting Committee in public hearing—urged rejection of Proposal C which would have transferred an important part of District 6 to District 1.

ARROYO SECO ORDINANCE

Wrote several letters and testified in public hearing—urged passage with recommendations for revision, particularly with respect to parking onurfed areas near the Rose Bowl.

LANDMARK DISTRICT ORDINANCE

Testified in public hearing urging passage with modification of the composition of the Design Review Committee.

ZONING ISSUES

Expressed views on various issues before the Zoning Committee.

CABLE TV

Wrote a letter urging the Pasadena City Board to adopt the Cable TV Committee's recommendation that public access channels be managed by a public coporation.

ROSE BOWL MANAGEMENT

Subsequent to passage of the Arroyo Seco Ordinance a number of concens have arisen with respect to management of the Rose Bowl. These concerns include the nature of proposed events (e.,g. motocross, rock concerts), the number of events, parking considerations, displacement of other recreational uses of the Arroyo lands, proposed capital expenditures and neighborhood impacts including traffic and emergency vehicle access during events.

Letters have been written both to the City Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission about these concerns. In addition several members of the WPRA Board are participating in inter-neighborhood discussions which should result in policy recommendations which can be considered by the City Board.

Developing a position on these issues and communicating in an appropriate way with city government requires dedication of time and a thoughtful, concerned attitude—attributes which the members of your Board possess in abundance. This process is made measurably easier, when members of the Association who take an interest in City issues communicate their feelings to members of the Board. We urge you to do that frequently.

Over the past several years, one of the most popular aspects of the Association has been this newsletter—which owes its life to the combined efforts of Claire Bogaard and Annette Serrurier. Both Claire and Annette are being pressed by other involvements and, therefore, have indicated a desire to be relieved of their responsibility for this voluntary effort. I know you all join me in thanking them for the major contribution this newsletter has made to our neighborhood association. Please contact any member of the board if you would like to assist with future publications.

During the year, we have scheduled three general meetings of the WPRA. In March, in conjunction with the annual election of directors, we arranged a presentation on the Urban Design Plan. In July, a forum on the Cable TV issue, moderated by Bill Bogaard, was held at La Casita. The third meeting is announced on the first page of this newsletter.

Energy Conservation, the topic of our November 11 general meeting is off the front pages, but it remains a critical issue. For example, legislation now in place which deregulates natural gas ensures large annual increases in natural gas prices for the next several years. Energy conservation, therefore, will continue to be important. The City has established the position of Energy Coordinator in part, to assist homeowners in their conservation efforts. We hope you will attend the meeting at La Casita to listen to and ask questions of Mr. Shivu Desai, the city's Energy Coordinator.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL NEIGHBORS OF WEST PASADENA

This issue of the newsletter is, once again, being mailed to "current resident" and is intended to arrive at every residence within the boundaries of the West Pasadena Resident's Association. We encourage anyone who is new to the neighborhood or anyone who is not yet a member of WPRA to please complete the information on the attached envelope and to return it.

This is not a renewal request for regular members of WPRA. Should you have a question regarding your membership, just drop us a note or call Claire Bogaard, 799-9819, in the late afternoon.

A regular membership includes the quarterly (hopefully) newsletter and announcements

of meetings important to the residents of West Pasadena.

There are currently over one thousand members of WPRA. Should anyone be receiving more than one newsletter to his residence, please notify us so we can correct our files.

WHAT ARE THE BOUNDARIES OF W.P.R.A.?

The boundaries of the neighborhood association are:

on the north Colorado Blvd.

on the south the boundary of South Pasadena

on the east Fair Oaks Blvd.

on the west the City of Los Angeles

AREA CODE 213 OR 818?

1984 will bring a change to Pasadena: a new area code. It seems that Pacific Telephone is running out of numbers in the 213 area, so they've decided to create another area code (818) in the eastern part of the Los Angeles area. Pasadena's new area code will be 818, but there's a hitch.

Pacific Telephone has always gone by the old 1923 city boundaries. That leaves a little area generally west of Ave. 64 which is in the present city of Pasadena, but has always been considered Los Angeles by the phone company. There are over six hundred of us on the western edge of Pasadena who have LA phone numbers and are listed in the LA phone book. Pacific Telephone makes up for that inconvenience by giving us a wide dialing range.

Now we're faced with a problem. Under the first plan, when the rest of Pasadena changes to area code 818 in January, 1984, we'll still be 213. Pacific Telephone has offered a few compensations to make up for being in a different area code from the rest of our city:

- We will be listed in both the Los Angeles and Pasadena phone books.
- When the new emergency number is implemented, our emergency calls (for fire, police or paramedics) will be automatically switched to Pasadena.

Because of protests from people who wanted only one area code for the city, Pacific Telephone has offered another plan. We can choose to be in the same 818 area code as the rest of Pasadena, but we would all get new phone numbers (at no charge). Pacific

Telephone assures us that our dialing area would be the same, but there would be extra digits to dial (1-213).

In November or December, the city will send out a questionnaire to those involved. Pasadena has to let Pacific Telephone know which option they choose: two area codes in the city or new numbers for those on the western fringe.

EXPANSION OF CITY POLICY FOR UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES

For the past two decades the City of Pasadena has been trying to underground its existing utility lines. This is a slow process and the City has been concentrating its efforts on the major thoroughfares where the improvement in safety and beauty will effect the most people.

Generally the City has absorbed the cost of laying the lines through the public right-of-way and the individual property owner has paid for his individual connection to the lines.

The Pasadena board of Directors has now approved a policy which may allow homeowners on residential streets not included in the City's major program to rid themselves of above ground utility lines.

If a request is made by a number of homeowners on such a street, the Department of Public Works and Water and Power will determine if the undergrounding is feasible. If so, a special underground Utility District would be formed and the underground lines installed. The petitioning homeowners would be charged for 50% of the costs for the public right-of-way portion of the undergrounding. The City could lend the individual owners up to one-half of these costs at a variable interest rate to be repaid over fifteen years. The Utility Undergrounding Fund and the Light & Power Fund would divide the other 50% of the total cost.

Only the petitioning owners would be charged for the public portion of the lines, but *all owners benefitting from the undergrounding would be required to bury their own service connections from the edge of their property*

PASADENA HERITAGE CHAIRMAN BILL CATHEY ANNOUNCES A CHANGE IN VICTORIAN TOUR IN PASADENA

The tour was scheduled many months ago prior to the arrival of the UCLA football team

to the Rose Bowl. In order to avoid football traffic, the "drive yourself" tour of Victorian homes has been rescheduled for Sunday, November 21, 1982.

Docents will be present to give brief histories about the residences and early owners as well as to guide visitors through the historic structures, all built before the turn-of-the-century.

VISTA DEL ARROYO

Work has begun on the historic Vista del Arroyo hotel. The demolition work to the lower structure is almost complete. The rehabilitation work to convert the three lower floors of the old hotel into court facilities for the United States Court of Appeals is now underway. Neighbors in the South Grand Ave. area were pleased to see the removal of the loading docks on the front of the tower and to once again view the historic entrance to the Vista del Arroyo. Work will continue for many months to complete the conversion to the court facility.

CABLE TV IN OUR FUTURE

In October, Pasadena city directors took the first step toward granting a 15 year franchise for cable TV. By approving the request for proposals, the city directors established guidelines for a citywide cable TV franchise to provide at least 52 channels. The cables will be strung on existing power poles or will be underground in areas where the utility lines are already underground.

Bids will be opened January 7, 1983, with up to three months scheduled to review them. It will probably be 1984 or 1985 before we have the opportunity to decide whether we want cable TV in our homes and if so, which level of service we prefer. Different services will be available at different monthly rates, offering children's or cultural programming, sports, movies, etc.

All levels of service will include the sixteen channels reserved for community access and managed by a not-for-profit corporation. This corporation will set up a TV studio at the Pasadena Unified School District Education Center (using existing facilities) and a remote TV unit based at Pasadena City College. Not only will the schools be able to use the community access channels, but other organizations, institutions and individuals can produce or broadcast their own shows. Libraries, hospitals and health services, community

Robert & Elizabeth Hardle
288 Palmetto Dr.
Pasadena, CA 91105

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Pasadena, California 91105

West Pasadena
Residents' Association
Est. 1962

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The West Pasadena Residents' Association meets monthly, on the second Thursday of the month. The Board meetings are open to all area residents. The monthly meetings are held in various Board members homes. Please feel free to call any of the following Board members to express concerns, suggestions or to find the location of the monthly Board meetings—The WPRA Board looks forward to hearing from area residents, your input is important!

At the Annual Meeting of the West Pasadena Residents' Association, the following Slate of Officers and Board of Directors were elected for the 1982-83 term:

President - Jim Gamb	799-3556
1st Vice President - Annette Serrurier	799-2556
2nd Vice President - Peg Stewart	449-6148
Secretary - John Poole	796-7181
Treasurer - Richard Yadley	449-3366
Claire Bogaard	799-9819
John Borovicka	441-3169
Delphine Breese	799-7778
Walter Cochran-Bond	681-9034
Marionette Fauve	799-7299
David Hotchkin	795-2104
Virginia Kimball	258-3524
Nancy McDonald	799-9090

George McWilliams	799-7008
Tom Parrington	799-0042
Anne Paul	792-0517
Diane Philibosian	441-3589
Steven Reyes	799-3741
Donna Secundy	681-0484

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Our new 16mm film cooperative with the Pasadena Unified School District is now in effect. By merging our film services with those of the School District we are now able to offer to our patrons 4,000 films in many categories. These films are available for both home and organizational programs.

We hope that you are now using our services, or that you contemplate using them in the near future.

Enclosed is a copy of our 16mm film regulations. Please call me at 577-4080 if you have any questions or are interested in learning more about the program. I would be happy to arrange a meeting with you to discuss your particular needs.

Marion E. Hardy, Librarian
Fine Arts Section