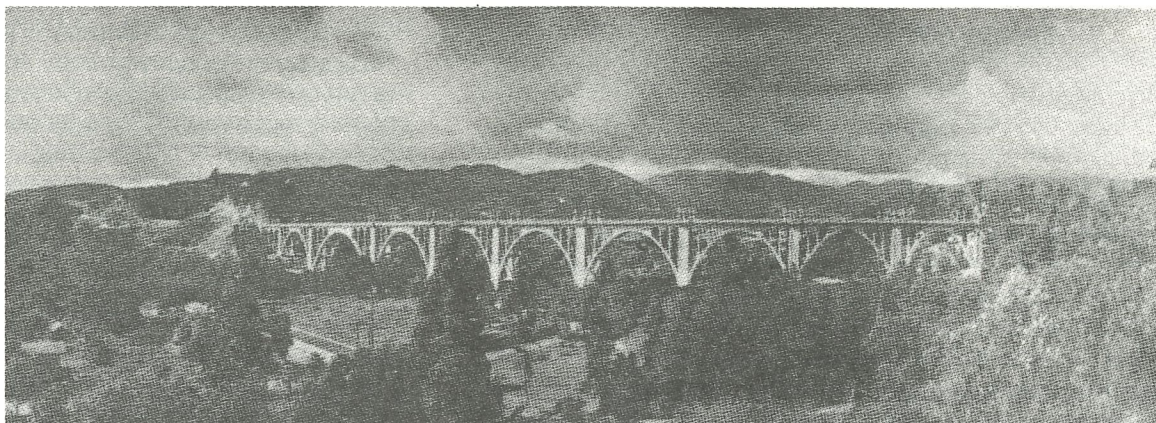


Est. 1962



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No. 25

September 1989

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NEWSLETTER

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the residents of the West Pasadena and San Rafael areas about neighborhood issues of possible interest. It is the goal of the West Pasadena Residents Association to keep the newsletter informal and informative. Articles, comments, suggestions and help are welcomed!

The boundaries of W.P.R.A. are:

on the north — Colorado Boulevard
on the south — City of South Pasadena
on the east — Fair Oaks Boulevard
on the west — City of Los Angeles

Newcomers to West Pasadena are welcome to join the West Pasadena Residents Association (W.P.R.A.). Dues are \$8.00 a year for a family membership. Contributing memberships are \$25.00 a year. Membership donations are used to offset the cost of printing and mailing newsletters and announcements.

W.P.R.A. MEMBERSHIP MEETING

To Be Announced in the Early Fall

Watch for a postcard with information about the date, location and program.

A MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENTS

Wanted New Board Members

Geographic diversification within the West Pasadena Residents Association boundaries remain vital to the successful workings of our board. We are currently in need of some new faces in order to maintain our goals. The upcoming issues include continuing involvement with the excess property on the Vista Del Arroyo site, the traffic test patterns along Orange Grove, the Long Beach freeway dilemma, as well as the development of the Elks property on Orange Grove and Colorado, and the possibility of a parole office on South Fair Oaks. These are just a few of the issues currently at hand. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining the Board of the W.P.R.A., please notify either person below.

Donna B. Secundy
(213) 681-0484

Annette Serrurier
(818) 799-2556

A REPORT FROM CITY DIRECTOR KATIE NACK

Refurbishing and reconstruction of South Orange Grove Boulevard is now scheduled for spring of 1990. Three projects have been combined in order to minimize disruptions to residents. Work includes reinforcing and resurfacing the existing street with 2½ inch asphalt concrete overlay, removal of old curbs and replacement with new concrete curbs and gutters on both sides of the street, and replacement of underground conduit and wiring for street lights. New light pole foundations will be installed along with structural testing of poles followed by either repair, or if necessary, replacement with poles of the same design. Street light pole alignment will remain the same as it is today. This restoration work assures that the beauty of this historic street will be preserved as we have known it.

Interest in progress toward completion of the Long Beach Freeway has intensified again with recent Caltrans action. In order to give a sense of timeline on future actions regarding the freeway, the following sequence of events is offered. Should court action intervene at any point, the schedule will be put on hold awaiting the outcome of that action. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was at last signed by Caltrans on July 15, 1989 and forwarded to the office of the Federal Highway Administration whose approval is expected in early September.

At the September 20 and 21, 1989 scheduled meeting of the California Transportation Committee the EIS and Route Adoption Map will be received, a public hearing date will be set, and the Hearing Officer selected. This public hearing to be held in one of the corridor cities may occur in mid-October and represents an important opportunity for local people to talk with the Commission about all issues bearing on freeway construction.

Following the Hearing, the California Transportation Commission will adopt the route and environmental findings, distribute the Final EIS to the public for the required 30 day review period, resolve substantive comments, and forward the document to the Federal Highway Administra-

tion for issuance of a Record of Decision. That could occur in January or February of 1990. The exact dates or changes in this tentative schedule will no doubt be prominently noticed in local newspapers as they become firm.

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Adding to the beauty of this WPRA part of the City are recent projects which can be credited to concern and work by residents. Those around the intersection of Bellefontaine and Pasadena Avenue were able to convince Caltrans that planting on the center triangle of this Wishbone crossing would improve the appearance of the neighborhood. They even persuaded Caltrans to pay for the major part of it.

Robert Hardy and Robert Takata were recognized during the July celebration of the "Pasadena We Are Blooming" Program for spearheading efforts resulting in planting of the western bank of the freeway depression at the east end of Palmetto Drive. California Conservation Corp young people furnished the muscle while the two Bobs furnished the planting and planning expertise.

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I would like to express special thanks to residents throughout the West Pasadena area for continuing to contact me or Field Representative Betty Ho both by telephone and by mail to question, comment, or offer information about issues of concern in District 6.

PASADENA BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Residents of Southwest Pasadena are invited to serve on the many commissions, committees and task forces dealing with community issues. Residents are encouraged to telephone Betty Ho at (818) 799-1925 for current information about vacancies on the various commissions and committees. Mrs. Ho, who serves as the field representative for Director Nack, will assist you in obtaining an application form. Volunteering for the City of Pasadena is a wonderful way to learn about the City and its many challenges and to work with other interested citizens.

Volunteer opportunities arise throughout the year. The following is a partial list of committees and commissions: Arts Commission, Commission on Children and Youth, Commission on the Status of Women, Community Development Committee, Cultural Heritage Commission, Design Commission, Human Relations Commission, Planning Commission and Utility Advisory Commission.

THE COLORADO STREET BRIDGE DUE FOR OVERHAUL

On July 15, Pasadena Heritage hosted its sixth "Celebration" on the old Colorado Street Bridge. The party, billed as the last party on the old Bridge, attracted more than 2600 persons on the warm July evening.

Several days later, the local newspaper reported that the actual costs for the bridge repair have exceeded the federal allocation by more than three million dollars. The City of Pasadena is actively searching for additional federal funds to cover the shortfall. The budget for the repairs must be approved and the project underway this fall or the Bridge runs the risk of losing the federal funds now slated for the needed repairs. W.P.R.A. is monitoring the situation and hopes that the needed extra funds will be found soon.

NEW ORANGE GROVE BOULEVARD ASSOCIATION

The condominium owners in the South Orange Grove area have formed a neighborhood group called the *Orange Grove Council*. Membership is open to the over 50 condominium homeowners associations located between Rosemont and Columbia, and west of Pasadena Avenue. There is a \$10 annual fee to each member association, and meetings are held quarterly.

The Council was formed to create a forum for the unique concerns of these condo owners, primarily in two areas: first, common problems and issues in condominium management, and second, neighborhood issues related especially to the South Orange Grove Boulevard area.

Three meetings have been held in 1989, addressing topics including Neighborhood Watch in condo associations, legal questions, the Elks Club development proposal, and city issues (a Q/A with Katie Nack).

For more information on the Orange Grove Council, call Susan Lee at (818) 577-9321.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE ELKS CLUB SITE

In late June, the Orange Grove Council had a meeting with Luke Lucas of the Ramser Development Corporation. Ramser is in the process of purchasing the Elks Club land for a hotel and retail development. Plans for the site are still in the preliminary stages, and the land purchase is not expected to close escrow until December of 1990. Many public hearings will be held when the development proposal is more final.

Ramser is working with Marriott Hotels to design a luxury "suite hotel" similar to the JW Marriott in Century City. The developers state that they intend to comply with all the existing zoning restrictions on the site, which limit the height of buildings to 62 feet and establish setbacks from Orange Grove, Colorado, and Green. The project would include about 300,000 square feet of space.

Lucas stated that Ramser may propose a citywide referendum asking for an exemption to the limitations of Proposition 2 (PRIDE). If Ramser doesn't get the approvals necessary to start this project by the end of 1990, the sale would not go through and the Elks could consider other options.

The primary neighborhood concern about this project is the traffic that would be generated around the already busy Orange Grove/Colorado/Green corners. Other concerns include potential view obstruction, and a concern about the architectural impact of a project that will be located at one of the major entrances to Pasadena.

LONG BEACH FREEWAY

The final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the long-awaited Long Beach Freeway will soon be available for public review sometime in the fall. Residents of Southwest Pasadena are urged to become involved in this latest process and to study the many

impacts of the proposed freeway.

Some thirty years ago, transportation planners believed that an additional freeway was needed to assist the trucking industry to transport goods from the Long Beach Harbor to the central valley region of California. Transportation needs and priorities have changed dramatically since that time and frustration with current transportation systems are at a high level in Southern California.

A recent draft publication from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the EIS (published by the California Department of Transportation) soon to be released, indicate that the completed freeway will cause traffic on some neighboring streets to increase—some as much as 20%. Some of the adjacent streets will see a great influx of traffic and will become "freeway feeder" roadways. According to the recent studies, South Orange Grove Boulevard will see a significant increase of traffic. A major interchange is to be constructed at the current crossing of Orange Grove and the Pasadena Freeway. An on/off ramp to be located near California Boulevard will direct additional traffic onto that already over-burdened east-west street. Should the Long Beach Freeway be constructed, it will be filled to capacity almost immediately during rush hour.

The impact of the Long Beach Freeway will need a close study on the part of the Board of WPRA and all the residents of the affected areas. Be sure to check the local newspapers for information about the release of the EIS and related public hearings. Earlier environmental impact statements relating to the freeway and traffic impacts are available at the Pasadena Library.

WE RE-CYCLE

Are you part of the blue box crowd? They're the "good guys" who are recycling to save natural resources, protect the environment, conserve energy, reduce pollution and litter as well as extend the life of Scholl Canyon landfill.

As most of you know, Pasadena has begun a pilot curbside recycling program in several different parts of the city, including the area between Arroyo Boulevard and Fair Oaks Avenue, south from Green Street to the city border. The first reports from our area show a 29.9% weekly participation rate and a 9.3% diversion rate, which is the percentage of the waste stream that has been recycled and diverted from the landfill. Our diversion rate is the best in the city.

Surveys of the participants are currently being tabulated and appear to show a very positive response. Information provided by the survey results and from program operations will be used to design a citywide curbside recycling plan to be implemented in January of 1990 in accordance with the requirement of Glendale, owner of Scholl Canyon landfill.

So, keep up the good work and remember—*every Sunday*, more than 500,000 trees are used to produce the 88% of newspapers that are *not* recycled! For more information, call Nancy Esbenshade at the Recycling Office (405-4449).

PASADENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Residents' Association
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INFORMATION PLUS

New to Pasadena? You may wish to drop by Pasadena City Hall at 100 North Garfield, Room 111, to review publications at the office of Urban Conservation.

“Ten Tours of Pasadena” provides a brief introduction to the city’s historic neighborhoods and architecture (free of charge).

“Greetings from Pasadena” is a handsome tourist-oriented publication highlighting the City’s cultural resources. The perfect gift for your out-of-town houseguests (small charge)!

About to rehabilitate your house or add a room? The Board of Realtors offers a new publication entitled: “Preservation Pays, Do It Right!” The booklet provides practical tips about rehab and is entertaining, sensible, and cleverly written!

City Hall now maintains a “hotline” for night or weekend messages. If your street light no longer works, or if your garbage pickup is a problem, or if you are having other problems on your street, call (818) 405-4025 to record your message.

The City of Pasadena encourages neighborhood “block parties.” Residents can pick up a permit for a street closure (for the neighborhood party) and arrange for “barricades” from the Department of Public Works on the second floor of City Hall.

Neighborhood Connection — a City agency for improved communication with the neighborhoods throughout the City of Pasadena — is located in an office in the Hen’s Teeth Shopping Center at the corner of Woodbury Road and North Los Robles. Each Friday, an updated message for all residents of the 91105 zip code area is recorded. Call (818) 398-0195 for pertinent information for West Pasadena residents. And — when you have a question about the City or its many services, call or stop by Neighborhood Connection.