

All Residents of West Pasadena
Are Cordially Invited to Attend
The W.P.R.A. Annual Meeting
Tuesday Evening, 23 October 1990
at the San Rafael School Auditorium
1090 Nithsdale Road, Pasadena
Guest Speaker: City Director Kathryn Nack

7:30 p.m.

light refreshments

A MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENTS

San Rafael School has graciously offered the use of its School Auditorium for the W.P.R.A. Annual Meeting on Tuesday evening, 23 October 1990. The Board of West Pasadena Residents' Association is very pleased to welcome City Director Kathryn Nack as the featured speaker. W.P.R.A. Board members have submitted a list of questions for Director Nack to address the night of the meeting.

Those questions include the following:

- Is there adequate funding for the Colorado Street Bridge?
- How successful has curbside recycling been in our neighborhood?
- Will District 6 residents lose the privilege of "backyard pick-up"?
- Are too many movies and commercials being filmed in the neighborhood? Are City regulations being followed?
- What is the status of Ambassador College?
- How can residents find out if their streetlights are to be changed?
- How can residents protect their street trees from being pruned to excess (butchered)?

Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting and to bring their own questions for Mrs. Nack.

There will also be a brief business meeting which will include the election of the new board members to the Neighborhood Association. We hope to see you on the twenty-third of October!

Annette Serrurier
(818) 799-2556

Donna Secundy
(213) 681-0484

BRIDGE UPDATE

REPAIR OF THE SAN RAFAEL BRIDGE

Southwest Pasadena residents received a flyer recently from the City's Department of Public Works and Transportation regarding the repair of the San Rafael Bridge. The Bridge, a reinforced single span concrete arch bridge, built in 1922, was closed to traffic in September of this year. The repair work is estimated to take approximately six months.

The historic design of the Bridge will be maintained. The bridge's top rail and balustrade will be replaced; a mortar coating will be added to the girders, railing base, and

posts; sidewalks and curbs will be improved; and the road surface will be repaired. Landscaping work will enhance the bridge, because overgrown shrubs will be trimmed to expose, once again, the balustrade at the northwest approach.

Neighbors are encouraged to use the La Loma Bridge as a detour over the Arroyo Seco during the construction period.

If anyone has questions about the temporary closure or the work now in progress, please call the City of Pasadena's Department of Public Works at (818) 564-0700.

OLD COLORADO STREET BRIDGE

As this newsletter goes to press, City staff—with the full support of the Board of Directors—is searching for ways to make up the shortfall for the repair and rehabilitation of the landmark Colorado Bridge.

The City may contribute an additional amount, the contractor and engineers are working to identify some cost savings, and the County and/or the State may be approached for additional support.

Construction was to have begun earlier this year. The entire deck will need to be removed in order to seismically reinforce the main arches which rise from the Arroyo Seco. The deck will be rebuilt in the same design and the historic light fixtures will be restored to their earlier former glory. A less intrusive "barrier" will replace the present curved spiked fencing.

WRPA will keep residents informed about the status of the old bridge and its funding needs.

WAR MEMORIAL FLAGSTAFF

On 28 August 1990, a brief ceremony was held to rededicate the War Memorial Flagstaff at the corner of Orange Grove Boulevard and Colorado Boulevard near the Norton Simon Museum. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the War Memorial Flagstaff was erected in 1926 in memory of World War I fallen soldiers. City Directors Kathryn Nack, John Crowley, and Rick Cole attended the ceremony. The craftsmen who so carefully restored the flagstaff were also present to be honored.

While you are out jogging or walking or waiting for a green light at the intersection, take note of the flagpole with the beautifully designed base originally created by Architect Bertram Goodhue, and view, once again - a Pasadena work of art.

SEISMIC SAFETY

The City of Pasadena has been gradually undertaking seismic reinforcement on a number of their own structures while working closely with owners of buildings, particularly at risk, during a seismic disturbance.

The City's twenty-four year old parking structure at Ramona St. and Marengo Ave. has undergone extensive repairs recently. This public structure has a high priority because it shelters Police Department vehicles.

Owners of masonry buildings have all been notified by

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the City and urged to begin seismic reinforcement, if strengthening has not already occurred. Masonry walls, which do not have the same flexibility as wood frame structures during an earthquake, are more likely to become a liability during and after the ground motion. Most brick buildings in Old Pasadena have already been reinforced and others are undergoing needed upgrading.

TREE PLANTING

Soon after taking office, President Bush spoke of the need to plant trees in our communities across the nation. Pasadena has a long tradition of planting trees, and, in recent years, neighborhood interest in adding and replacing trees has increased.

Approximately 5,000 trees will be planted in Pasadena during the next five years at a cost of one million dollars. Each street in Pasadena has a designated street tree. This and other information is available to the public in the *Street Tree Book* found in the City's Public Works and Transportation Department.

Homeowners in tree planting areas will be notified by letter and will have an opportunity of purchasing and planting a larger tree, if they wish. For more information about trees, call the Street Tree Office at (818) 405-4322 and ask for Ron Morrow.

MANSIONIZATION

Mansionization is a new work in our vocabulary and refers to a phenomenon that has been sweeping the San Gabriel Valley. Mansionization generally refers to extensive additions made to existing homes. In some extreme cases, an older home has been demolished for a much larger replacement structure. Neighbors are often frustrated to see their neighborhood negatively impacted by new "mansions" that are overscaled, towering above and dwarfing neighboring homes. Sometimes, the new houses are not compatible in style and are built to the property line, thus interrupting the rhythm of the streetscape.

Many nearby communities have imposed more restrictive zoning measures to protect the integrity of their neighborhoods. The City of Pasadena adopted an Emergency Ordinance in April to temporarily restrict the size of new single family homes and additions. Restrictions will remain in place until November 1990 while a formal study is completed by the Planning Department. If you have any suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to call or to write your City Director or the Mayor. Or, if you prefer, you can call City Planner Laura Dahl at (818) 405-4206.

THE AQUATICS CENTER

Following five years of planning, fundraising, and construction, the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center opened in June amid great fanfare and excitement.

The new complex offers two side-by-side Olympic sized pools, a wading pool, clubhouse with locker rooms,

weight rooms, meeting rooms, and a pro shop. The Center offers swimming activities for local residents, with an emphasis on programs for minority and disadvantaged youths.

The complex is situated on the former site of the Brookside Plunge which was originally constructed in 1914-15. Several years earlier, the City of Pasadena acquired 30 acres of land in the Arroyo for open space and sports facilities. After Mrs. E.W. Brooks donated funds for the plunge, the City renamed the park "Brookside" in her honor.

In 1932, Brookside Plunge was the site of water polo eliminations for the 1932 Olympics. The new Aquatics Center is now eligible to host major swimming events, including the Olympic Games and other world competitions.

WITHIN THE VALE OF ANNANDALE

"By digging deeply in the files and memories of local families and institutions, the author has assembled an excellent presentation of facts and photographs, adding to those already familiar much material hitherto unpublished. . . All who are interested in Southern California history. . . will delight in this book and be grateful to those who have put so much effort into producing it." Dr. Edwin H. Carpenter, Western Americana Bibliographer of the Huntington Library (Preface 1968 Edition)

Out of print for more than a decade, the popular history of the early years of southwest Pasadena, *In the Vale of Annandale*, has been reprinted and is available to the public. The book, compiled and written in 1963 by Donald W. Crocker, contains 72 pages and more than 80 historical photographs, rarely seen by the public.

Later this fall, noted historian Dr. Robert Winter (and WPRA member) will lead a tour of some of the famous sites in southwest Pasadena featured in the publication. *In the Vale of Annandale*. Reservations are necessary and those wishing to reserve a tour space, please call Augusta Parrington at 799-0042.

The proceeds of the limited fourth edition will go to benefit Hestia house, the Pasadena-Foothill Valley YWCA's shelter program for women. Orders may be placed through the Pasadena Valley YWCA, 242 South Marengo Avenue, Pasadena 91101. The cost is \$12.50 including sales tax. Please include an additional \$1.00 per copy for all mail orders. Checks should be made payable to the Pasadena Foothill YWCA.

NEWS FROM OLD PASADENA

And you thought that you had visited all the restaurants in Old Pasadena!

Several new dining spots will be opening soon and competing for your patronage.

— McCarthy's Bar and Grill at 61 North Raymond will have a San Francisco ambience and is scheduled to open within the month.

— Yujean's at 67 North Raymond (one door to the north

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of McCarthy's) will feature Chinese American cuisine.
— Brick Oven Beanery, to be located at 69 North Raymond, will also open its doors soon and offer a fancy cafeteria menu.
— Tra Fiori completes the block and is now open for business. Formerly Cafe Jacoulet, the space has been enlarged and a new menu will feature Northern Italian fare.

CALENDAR

Sunday, October 21 at 2:00 and 3:30 p.m., the De Camera Society will present a concert in its "Chamber Music in Historic Sites Series" with violin and guitar music at the Millikan House in Pasadena, designed by Wallace Neff in 1931. For tickets and information, contact the De Camera Society at Mount St. Mary's College, 10 Chester Place, Los Angeles 90007.

Saturday, November 3 from 8:00 until midnight, Pasadena Heritage and the Pasadena/Foothill Chapter of the American Institute of Architects will host a Celebration at the historic Glenarm Steam Plant. For information, call Pasadena Heritage at (818) 793-0617.

From 23 September through 6 January 1991, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art is presenting an exhibit titled: "American Arts and Crafts: Virtue in Design". Included in the display of decorative arts and ceramics, furniture, glass and metal work of Charles and Henry Greene, Gustav Stickley, Frank Lloyd Wright and Tiffany. For more information, call (213) 857-6111.

Available to the public for the first time is a permanent exhibition, "Greene and Greene and the American Arts and Crafts Movement", at the Huntington's Virginia Steele Scott Gallery in the Dorothy Collins Brown Wing. A must see for all Pasadena residents!