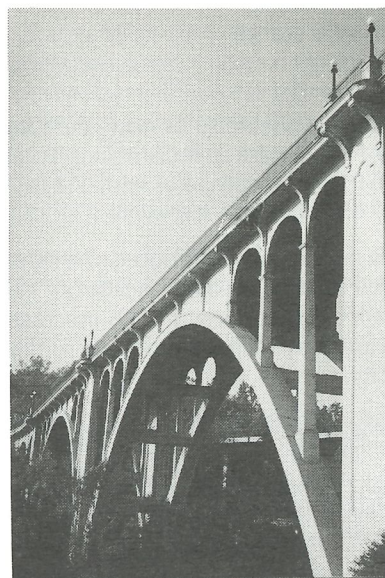


WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOC.

NEWS



Established 1962

No. 29 April 1991

ROUTE 710 FREEWAY FORUM RESCHEDULED TO JUNE

The WPRA-sponsored Freeway Forum, scheduled for April 24, 1991, has been postponed. The panel will now meet on June 5, at 7:30 p.m. at La Casita del Arroyo at 177 South Arroyo Boulevard. Participants requested the later date to allow more time for preparation of materials and presentations.

At News deadline, the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) had not completed review of the Route 710 Freeway Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The findings in this document will be the focus of the forum discussion. Caltrans expects an approval from FHA imminently. Once approved Caltrans will release the FEIS for public review.

The Route 710 Meridian Variation must be adopted by the California Transportation Commission at a public hearing following the FHA approval. A Notice of Determination with the State Clearing House will complete the environmental clearance process at the state level. Concurrently, FHA will file a Record of Decision in conformance with the National Environmental Quality Act.

The 25-year-old freeway plan has been debated among communities from El Sereno to Pasadena throughout its planning history. While elected officials in Pasadena have publicly supported the completion of Route 710, South Pasadena has been a vociferous opponent owing to the significant adverse impacts its construction will generate.

Among specific impacts on west Pasadena resulting from the freeway's completion will be the demolition of residential units to accommodate the construction of an interchange at Orange Grove Boulevard and the Pasadena (Route 110) Freeway. The remaining concentration of single-family residences from Columbia Street to Del Mar Boulevard will ultimately be located within several blocks of this six-lane corridor.

Central Valley suppliers, manufacturers, and commuters throughout the region will be the beneficiaries of a completed Route 710. As a major north/south artery in a regional highway system it will provide a direct route from Interstate Highway 5 (via Interstate Highway 210) to the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. Because it will serve as this connecting funnel, Caltrans projected traffic volumes of 215,000 vehicles per day for the 710 in its Preliminary Draft FEIS dated July, 1988.

How will this freeway impact traffic on city streets, noise levels in nearby neighborhoods, and pollution levels? What alternatives have been analyzed and rejected? What benefits can the City of Pasadena expect from the completion of Interstate 710? The WPRA Freeway Forum on June 5, will feature representatives from Caltrans, the City of Pasadena, and WPRA's traffic consultant discussing these and other probable impacts on the neighborhood.



CITIZEN CENSUS COMMISSION TO BE APPOINTED BY CITY BOARD

With 1990 Census numbers available to us now, the City is preparing to embark on the major task of redistricting. Total population recorded is 131,591 which compares with 118,077 in the 1980 Census, an 11.45% increase city-wide.

That population increase is not evenly distributed over the city, but rather concentrated in large measure north of Colorado Boulevard with District 6 recording a 4.3% increase overall. Major growth is evident by increased density in the north-central part of the city.

Ethnic breakdown city-wide shows 46.7% White, 17.7% African American, 27.2% Hispanic, 7.8% Asian & Pacific Islander and .6% American Indian and other. Within District 6 percentages are 73.8% White, 5.8% African American, 11.8% Hispanic, 8.2% Asian & Pacific Islander, and .4% American Indian and other.

The City Board has directed staff to return on April 30th with a redistricting process that will create a 15 member citizen Census Commission, two appointed by each Director and one recognized impartial community member as chairman to work with a consultant in proposing plans for consideration. A Request For Proposal will be issued to select a consulting firm expert in redistricting analysis of census data.

Redistricting the city into the 7 districts called for in the City Charter will change the boundaries of every district in the city. I urge you to keep informed as the work progresses.

On May 23, 1991, we will be holding a District 6 meeting at the American Red Cross Headquarters, 430 Madeline at 7:30 p.m. A panel of city staff will talk about areas of interest to District 6 residents including redistricting.

Kathryn "Katie" Nack
District 6
City Director

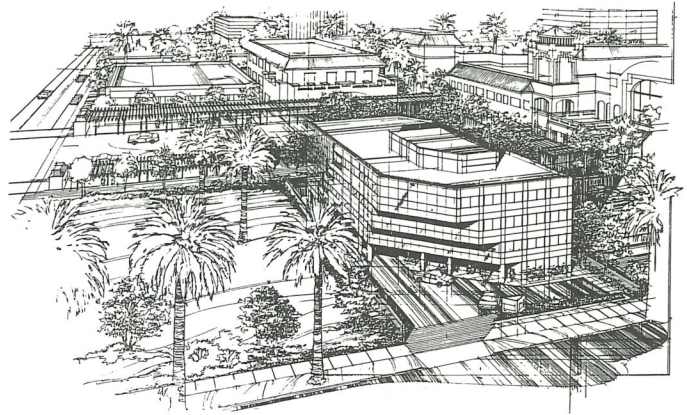
ACCESSIBILITY & DISABILITY COMMISSION SCHEDULES INFORMATION FORUMS

The City's Accessibility and Disability Commission will hold community forums this spring to gather citizen comments on issues that affect disabled persons. The next is scheduled for May 16, 2 p.m., at Huntington Memorial Hospital, 100 West California Boulevard. The forum will convene in the Braun Auditorium in the Lavina Center.

Commission members are particularly interested in hearing citizen views on a plan for construction of curb ramps at street intersections. To aid pedestrians with mobility impairments, the city has constructed curb ramps over the last few years. No long-range plan to guide future efforts, however, has been developed.

Over 350 intersections have been inventoried by the Commission and will be ranked in order of importance. Recommendations on a construction timetable will then be made to the City.

For information on the spring forums, interested persons may call the Accessibility and Disability Issues Coordinator at 405-4216. A sign interpreter for the forum may also be requested through the coordinator. Anyone unable to attend, but wishing to make their views known, should write to the Commission at City Hall, 100 North Garfield Avenue, Room 321, Pasadena 91109.



NEW MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING PROPOSED FOR WEST PASADENA SITE

Just as construction has been completed on the \$75 million Huntington Hospital, neighbors of the California/Pasadena Avenue site can look forward to another major project. Currently making its way through the city review process is a 4-story, 55,800 sf medical office building.

Members of this development team, the Cotton-North Partnership, were responsible for the Cotton Medical Plaza on West Bellefontaine Street, accounting for the similarity in design between the two buildings.

The strip window, glass reinforced concrete building is oriented to the west, with the subterranean parking garage entry and exit accessible off Pasadena Avenue.

The design of the building is in stark contrast to the postmodern style of the Huntington Hospital. The effort to provide visual interest at a crucial buffer area between residential and commercial uses - which is the hallmark of the new hospital - is entirely absent from the new building. Resembling numerous freeway frontage buildings throughout Southern California, it is possible to imagine that the developers are looking ahead to a completed Route 710.

The proposal is currently undergoing growth management review where it received a design rating of 1.5 out of a possible ten. The report of the growth management review panel will be forwarded to the Planning Commission where the project will be heard on May 22, at a public hearing. Once it has received Planning Commission approvals and allocations for square footage, the project will have a separate hearing before the Design Review Commission.

Anyone wishing to attend hearings related to this new building should contact the city's Housing & Development Department at 405-4155.

OPERATION RELEAF TO THE RESCUE

You can see them many weekends in the Arroyo Seco - shovels in hand, seedlings at the ready. Like so many Johnny Appleseeds they are reforesting the Arroyo, not with delicious reds but indigenous oaks.

Through a program sponsored by the Arroyo Seco Council and funded by the City of Pasadena and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, volunteers from Operation Releaf are contributing to a better environment.

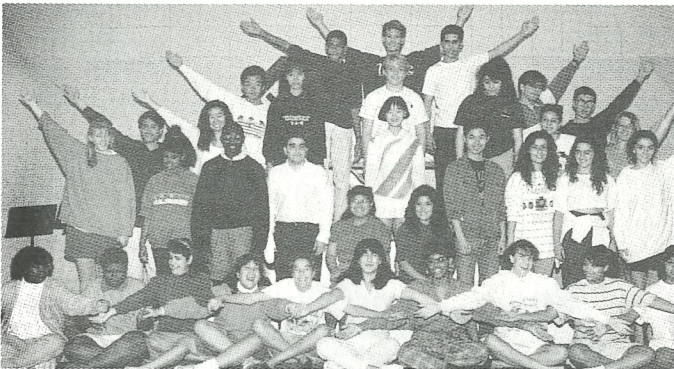
It is an established fact that trees contribute to increased oxygen levels and help us breathe easier. It is also true that oaks are drought-tolerant and provide a canopy of shade bringing relief from scorching summer sun.

Five groves have been planted from Devil's Gate Dam to the Lower Arroyo, each sponsored by a non-profit group supplying volunteers to Operation Releaf.

The Arroyo Seco Council has established a nursery on U.S. Forest Service property at Devil's Gate to support reforestation of the park. Volunteers gathered 6,000 acorns which were subsequently potted and are now seedlings ready for planting. "Hundreds of these seedlings which have outgrown their containers will be lost if we delay planting much longer," says Tim Brick, director of The Arroyo Seco Council. According to Brick, insufficient city manpower is the stumbling block to immediate planting.

Operation Releaf is only one of the programs sponsored and/or assisted, by the Arroyo Seco Council. Others include Earth Day celebrations (this year on April 20), implementation of the Arroyo Seco Master Plan, and on-going efforts to balance the ecosystem through reforestation and restoration of wetlands using Pasadaena as a model program.,

Additional information on the Arroyo Seco Council may be obtained by calling 818/577-9033.



B-L-A-I-R BLAIR!

As state funding for education continues to dwindle, local school districts search for creative ways to garner financial sustenance and rally champions for their campuses.

In many locations nonprofit education foundations are providing a new source of funds - some to individual schools, others to entire districts. With Governor Pete Wilson's 1991-92 budget calling for a \$500 million cut to schools, it is likely education foundations will soon be commonplace.

While monetary support is of paramount concern to school districts throughout the state, so, too, is the poor image which haunts public education.

Enter, the champions.

In west Pasadea they are represented by a group of WPRA members who gave time, talent, and resources to join with Blair High School students and faculty to produce a promotional brochure - "Welcome to Blair."

Quoting alumni, student body members, and parents, the mailer highlights academics, the arts, sports, and student government - creating a mosaic of the well-rounded, educational experience students receive at this public institution.

Charles McKenney, former City Director and long-time WPRA member states, " 'Welcome to Blair' grew out of the parents' desire to introduce the school to others who might then consider it as a legitimate option. The school has been so good to our children that we recognize it as an unappreciated asset which deserves a closer look by those who are making important decisions about their children's education."

Copies of "Welcome to Blair" are available by calling Blair High School, 441-2201, or at the San Rafael Branch Library.

WHAT'S NEW IN OLD PASADENA

After a much publicized delay, the renovated Raymond Theatre has opened to rave reviews. It promises to be a full fledged concert venue rivaling the Wiltern Theatre, Greek Theatre, and the Universal Ampitheatre for customer satisfaction.

The first few concerts featuring the likes of Jackson Browne and Crosby & Nash, were sold out and have left east side groupies begging for more.,

But, lest we think this concert theatre is only for the young, listen to development manager, Ed Razor, "We will run the acts that the Pasadena audience wants. This is a city of mixed demographics. Reflecting that diversity, this concert hall will feature country, jazz, rock, and musical comedy." As if to reinforce the point, Razor lists the following artists: Miss Peggy Lee, appearing May 22; Hiroshima, booked for June 29; and on August 17 and 18, Emmy Lou Harris.

The Raymond Theatre may have come full circle from the days in 1921, when it opened as a vaudeville house.

Although boycotted by certain city officials insulted by the WPA-style mural which adorns the wall, (and insinuates the city is on the take), the Rite Spot restaurant appears to be doing a lively business. Food is definitely of the coffeeshop variety, although the menu aspires to a Musso & Frank's Grill. For those of us who grew up on the west side (of Pasadena that is), the nostalgic name is enough to get us in the door. Once in, you won't be too disappointed by the passable hamburger and more than passable chopped salad. The Rite Spot is also open for breakfast when you might find a seat in less than 45 minutes. By the way, this is a first rate renovation of one of Old Pasadena's most significant buildings.

New trees for west Colorado Boulevard were recently approved in a compromise among city aboriculturists, the Design Review Commission, and Old Pasadena property owners. Carrotwood trees, originally selected as the street tree because they are an evergreen which provides a high spreading canopy, have been cut down to make way for Gingko trees.

Why would the city allow the removal of shade-producing trees in favor of a sculptural, narrow growing desiduous species? Because property owners wanted their signs visible. With the shortsightedness that generally accompanies such decisions, property owners now have signs visible in an environment that, for most of the year, is unbearable for the pedestrian. Have you ever enjoyed a leisurely walk on the north side of Colorado Boulevard in the bright summer sun? One owner is about to submit plans for a 50' black awning. Sounds inviting.

ISSUES OF INTEREST

As seems to happen the year is passing by at an ever more rapid pace. Although the days continue to speed by, there are numerous projects within our area which appear to be moving to a different drum beat. We have received many calls concerning the progress on such things as the completion of South Orange Grove Street improvements, the rehabilitation of the Colorado Street Bridge, the beginning of the Western Regional Justice Center, and, as always, any news regarding the freeway extension or its "impending" E.I.R. This board continues to monitor and keep apprised of any developments concerning these and other projects.,

Obviously, the topic of most recent interest is that of the new direction being taken by the City Board regarding the previously voter-approved P.R.I.D.E. initiative. We, as a board, are meeting with District 6, City Director Nack in hopes of clarifying and better understanding her position as well as the positions of the other directors. If any of you have questions, concerns, or comments on the subject please feel free to call either Annette Serrurier or myself. Our hope is to be able to keep our membership as informed as possible.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the June 5, Freeway Forum, at La Casita del Arroyo, 7 :30 p.m.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Donna B. Secundy
(213) 681-0483

Annette Serrurier
(818) 799-2556

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Toby Harder - Toby, who is a native Pasadenan, spent many years following his graduation from the University of Virginia, in Washington, D.C. as legislative counsel, legislative assistant,

and as a lobbyist for broadcast and publishing interests. Later, as a part of the Chronical Publishing Company in San Francisco, his work focused on broadcast media. Today he is executive vice-president for a satellite venture company. Toby is a 20 year veteran and a Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves.

Mary Leader - A fourth generation Californian, Mary and her family moved to Pasadena five years ago. The sense of community and the strength of neighborhoods were the reasons she and her husband chose Pasadena as their home. She is a board member for HMCA, a Huntington Hospital Guild. Mary, who holds a degree in Fine Arts and a M.A. in Telecommunications, works with her husband, Lyndon, in their graphic design firm which is located in Old Pasadena.

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