



# West Pasadena Residents' Association

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

ESTABLISHED 1962

SUMMER 2008

# Pasadena's Arroyo Parks & Recreation District Approved for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places

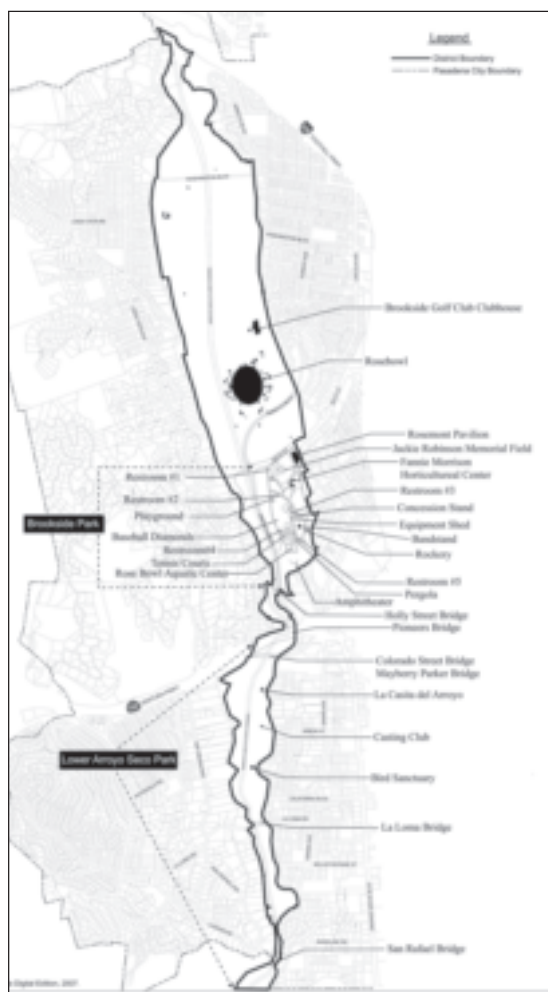
*By Christine Lazzaretto*

Pasadena Heritage's mission is to identify, preserve and protect the historic, architectural, and cultural resources of the City of Pasadena. As part of that mission, we have nominated hundreds of buildings and sites to the National Register of Historic Places. Our latest effort is the nomination of the Pasadena Arroyo Parks and Recreation District (loosely defined as the central and lower Arroyo), which was the culmination of over three years of work and approved by the State Historical

Resources Commission at their April 2008 meeting.

Pasadena's Arroyo was the first nomination completed by Pasadena Heritage in the Cultural Landscapes category. A cultural landscape is a geographic area that includes both cultural and natural resources that are important in history. The nomination documents the man-made recreational facilities and natural resources in the Arroyo that collectively comprise a unique historic place. Although many of the structures and features in the Arroyo have already been identified as historic as part of various reports, studies, and projects, Pasadena Heritage believes that the variety and quality of this collection of resources, in a uniquely beautiful public parkland setting, has added value and should be recognized. In addition, the nomination can serve as one of several key reference documents as changes are proposed in the future.

The district was nominated for its importance to the history of sports and recreation, as the Arroyo has been used for hiking, fishing, and picnicking since the late nineteenth century, and played a crucial role in the development of Pasadena as a recreational mecca. The City first



Central-Lower Arroyo

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message . . . . .	2
Arroyo Stone Projects . . . . .	3
City Council Appoints New City Manager & City Clerk . . . . .	4
City Council Approves Rose Bowl EIR	5
City Puts the Breaks on Speed Limit Increases . . . . .	6
Proposal for Monty's Restaurant . . . .	6
Pasadena General Plan Update Moves Forward . . . . .	7
Metro Gold Line Parking . . . . .	8
Back-to-School at San Rafael . . . . .	8
Open Space and Conservation Plans to be Revised . . . . .	9
Ave 64/La Loma Underground Project Near Completion . . . . .	9
Art Center Update . . . . .	10
Crime Prevention Tips . . . . .	11
Thank You to our Donors . . . . .	12
Arroyo Seco Project Completed . . . .	14
Traffic Advisories at Your Fingertips	14

began acquiring land in the Arroyo to create a public park as early as 1909, and a 1918 plan for the Arroyo recommended that the Lower Arroyo be preserved as a natural park, while the Central Arroyo be developed with recreational uses—a strategy that continues to shape the Arroyo to this day.

*continued on page 3*

# President's Message

By Audrey O'Kelley

*At the West Pasadena Residents' Association Annual meeting, newly elected president, Audrey O'Kelley, addressed those in attendance on the proud legacy of the WPRA in preserving the quality and character of Pasadena. For those unable to attend the meeting, we have reprinted her remarks here.*

I feel honored to be chosen to serve this year as President of the WPRA. By and large, the people in West Pasadena have been prescient—understanding what makes Pasadena “Pasadena”...And working to preserve it.

A primary example of this occurred many years ago when citizens in West Pasadena, and others in the city, defeated a plan to build a 25-story skyscraper at the corner of Orange Grove and Colorado. In fact, I think there were a couple of these proposed for

our neighborhood and it was the impetus for forming the WPRA. Defeating the skyscraper projects was immeasurably important in protecting our neighborhood and its quality of life.

As you all may know, one other LA community, Westwood Village, took no such action. In 1970 a 24-story office building was erected in its midst. That changed the village forever, and to this day, the people there are rueing their failure to act.

A recent *LA Times* article on the Village stated: “once one of the most immaculately planned and beautifully laid out of commercial areas in the nation, it (sic) has become an architectural and mercantile mishmash with (sic) much of the original Mediterranean charm and uniqueness” gone. The article went on to say that this district used to be the “hippest” place to be in LA on

a Saturday night—before places like Old Pasadena came on the scene.

I tell this cautionary tale to remind us all that we have something of value here in our city: its beauty, character and charm. This offers us a wonderful quality of life and it's bankable. That's why we must take care when we set about to “improve” or “change” it. That is why the WPRA (and others in this city) often stop and question various aspects of contemplated development.

This serves to protect you and me—our families. Endeavoring to keep our city and our neighborhoods free from the harmful results of urbanization—noise, traffic, crime, air pollution to name just a few—is of inestimable value to every citizen of Pasadena.

After all, we breathe the same air; we travel the same streets, we shop together in our stores.

Development—how fast, how much, how big (not just tall)—is a contentious issue for all communities. I think we are all aware that “densifying” Pasadena could reach a point of diminishing returns.

That the quality of life people seek in coming here could disappear and we could become just another section of an homogenized exurb, our “character and uniqueness” gone. Along with our quality of life.

I do not think that this is going to happen. I think there are enough people here, people of vision, who love this city and understand what needs to be done to keep it beautiful, healthy and livable while fostering the economic vitality we need to prosper.

So, as I said previously, this organization and the people it represents understand what makes Pasadena “Pasadena”—and they work to preserve it. This is a proud legacy and one I am proud to uphold.

I thank you very much. ■

## WPRA Wants You!



The WPRA is looking for volunteers to serve on committees and to get involved in neighborhood issues. Whatever your interests, we have many opportunities for involvement and are looking for dedicated West Pasadena residents committed to preserving our neighborhood quality of life. Here are some of the areas where we need your help:

- Air Pollution
- Noise

The WPRA wants you and needs your help! For more information, please contact WPRA board member Vince Farhat at [farhat@wpra.net](mailto:farhat@wpra.net). ■

# Arroyo Stone Projects

By Rosa Leveaga

The La Casita del Arroyo Slope and Wall Repair project has been completed by the City Department of Public Works. The existing Arroyo stone retaining wall along the west side of the parking lot, sustained damage during the heavy rain storms which occurred in the Winter of 2005. The City's Public Works Engineering Division secured Emergency Relief funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the project. The repair work included the installation of a 50-foot long pile and lagging retaining wall system. The piles consist

of structural steel beams embedded in concrete along the upper portion of the slope, and the lagging consists of precast concrete members that are placed between the piles. The retaining wall was then faced with Arroyo Stone to ensure that it blends into the La Casita site. Similar work was done at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Arroyo Blvd., where a collapse of a section of wall caused a portion of slope to also fail and create a dangerous situation at this location. Public Works Engineering division completed this repair, which also now incorporates iron railing that

is consistent with the iron work at La Casita del Arroyo.

Over the past three years, sections of the Arroyo stone walls in the Lower Arroyo Seco have been repaired at several locales. These repairs were done with funding from a Los Angeles County Proposition A Park Bond. While these funds have now been used for the work described, the Parks and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Public Works, continues to seek funding sources for this very important work. There is a vast system of walls, built in the early 1900s, that are recognized as a Cultural Landmark by the City of Pasadena and where a large amount of repair and restoration work is still to be accomplished. A new entrance to the Lower Arroyo Seco Natural Park will be completed in the Spring and will utilize native Arroyo Seco stone for the entry monuments and also mimic the iron entry gates of La Casita.

*Editor's Note: For further information, contact Rosa Laveaga, mail to [rlaveaga@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:rlaveaga@cityofpasadena.net), Arroyo Seco Project Supervisor, Department of Public Works, Parks and Natural Resources Division, (626) 744-3883. ■*



## Arroyo Parks & Recreation District Approved for Listing

*Continued from page 1*

Historic structures in the Arroyo include the Brookside Golf Club, comprised of two courses which were part of the 1918 plan. Construction of the first nine holes were begun in 1925 with funding from the Chamber of Commerce and completed with additional funds from the Municipal Light and Power Department; the second course was an employment relief effort and supplemented by the public employees union. The historic Rose Bowl, built in 1922, was desig-

nated a National Historic Landmark as the site of the oldest and most renowned post-season college football game. In 1932, the architect of the Rose Bowl, Myron Hunt, also designed the stadium, dugouts, and adjoining clubhouse at Jackie Robinson Field (which was used for Spring Training by the 1933 Chicago White Sox). The Fannie Morrison Horticultural Center (now Kidspace Museum) was designed in 1938 by noted local architect Fitch Haskell, and was funded by a \$55,000

donation from Fannie Morrison.

Pasadena Heritage is grateful to preservation consultant Teresa Grimes who prepared the nomination, and to everyone who supported this effort by speaking or writing to the City Council and the State Historical Resources Commission.

*Editor's Note: Christine Lazzaretto is preservation director for Pasadena Heritage. She can be reached at [christine@pasadenaheritage.org](mailto:christine@pasadenaheritage.org). ■*



# Michael Beck Accepts City Manager Position

By Vince Farhat

*Pasadena is undergoing many changes. Having the right personnel is vital to running a city effectively. Last January the city lost its longtime city manager when Cynthia Kurtz resigned, and more recently when City Clerk Jane Rodriguez resigned after many years in her position.*

*Vince Farhat fills us in on our new City Manager and City Clerk.*

In August, the Pasadena City Council offered Michael J. Beck the position of City Manager. Beck will begin the transition in September, and will assume his new position on October 1.

Beck currently is assistant city manager in Riverside, and oversees the airport and the departments of community development, development, public works, public utilities, and parks, recreation and community services. Riverside has a population of 300,000 and a nearly \$1 billion operating budget. According to the Pasadena Public Affairs Office, Beck has provided leadership in strengthening Riverside's local economy, developing renewable energy sources, establishing successful community partnerships,



advocating for local government at the state and federal level, and directing the \$1.8 billion Riverside Renaissance Initiative that will complete 30 years of capital projects in five years.

Prior to joining the city of Riverside in 2001, Beck was director of economic development and real estate services for the University of California-Riverside. He earned a bachelor's degree in business economics and a master's degree in business administration from UC Riverside.

Beck and his wife, Brigid, are the parents of five sons, the oldest of whom will start at UCLA in September as a chemical engineering major. Their other children include a 15-year-old high school sophomore, 10-year old twins and a 10-year-old foster child.

Interim City Manager Bernard Melekian will work with Beck during the transition period and will return to the Pasadena Police Department as chief of police and incoming president of California Police Chiefs Association. ■

## Pasadena City Council Appoints New City Clerk

By Vince Farhat

In July, the City Council appointed Mark Jomsky as Pasadena's new City Clerk. Jomsky replaced Jane Rodriguez, who retired after 35 years of public service.

As City Clerk, Jomsky oversees a \$2.1 million budget and 16 employees, serves as clerk to the City Council, prepares and maintains official city documents and legislative records, administers municipal and school district elections and provides policy guidance to City departments.

Prior to his appointment, Jomsky served as senior assistant city clerk for three years. Before coming to Pasadena, Jomsky was deputy and assistant city clerk for the City of Calabasas.



Jomsky holds a bachelor's degree from University of California at Irvine, and a master's degree in public administration from California State University at Long Beach. He is a certified municipal clerk and is a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the City Clerks Association of California. Jomsky and his wife, Tali Menachem, are the parents of 21-month-old daughter Ariela. ■

Photo credits: Pasadena Public Affairs Office.

# City Council Approves Rose Bowl EIR

By Mic Hansen

On June 2, 2008, the Pasadena City Council voted to approve the certification of the Final Supplemental Environmental Report (FSEIR) for the Rose Bowl. Prior to this approval, the project had been heard by the Planning Commission, the Design Commission, and the Historic Preservation Commission, and of course approved by the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC).

As proposed, the project will not change the shape and height of the exterior tunnel openings. The elliptical shape of the stadium would also remain, and up to half of the concession stands and restroom facilities originally proposed for the perimeter would be located on an internal concourse, no longer publicly visible. In fact, this design would enhance the visibility of the stadium's character defining features on the East elevation. Option B also requires the least amount of tree removal.

The approved strategic plan calls for maintaining the historic landmark status of the stadium, structural upgrades, and enhancing measures for fan experience:



- Effective entry and egress of patrons and improvement of emergency exits
- Improvement and modernization of the major stadium structure, including plumbing, electrical, safety, and mechanical systems
- Incorporation of a variety of premium amenities and services such as spectator boxes and suites, indoor and outdoor club seating, game-day activities area, and space for year-round events and display areas
- Enhanced areas for storage, facilities operation, and visitors

This is a first step since as the project progresses, additional approvals for the project will be required, among them a conditional use permit (CUP)

for alteration and enlargement of a Commercial Recreation land use open space (OS) zoning district, as well as design review. At this writing, we do not yet know the hearing schedule for these approvals. Currently, there is consideration being given to working on one or two “test tunnels” to better visualize and understand the potential challenges and construction parameter this would entail.

A sound financial plan is crucial to the long-term operations and health of such an important landmark. At this writing, The RBOC has begun to earnestly work to devise a financial plan that will enable the implementation of the strategic plan, with input and collaboration from the Tournament of Roses, UCLA, City Staff, and the community. Representatives of WPRA are part of a community group that meets with RBOC staff.

A Rose Bowl Master Plan will assure that our iconic stadium will continue to function as a dominant venue for sporting and major public events. Further information is available on the RBOC website, [www.rosebowlstadium.com](http://www.rosebowlstadium.com). ■

## NOTIFY YOUR CITY LEADERS

There is much going on in the city—Open Space and Conservation policies being set, General Plans being updated—these and other ongoing work will affect our quality of life. Our representatives need to hear from you. Take a few minutes to make your voice heard.

### **Mayor Bill Bogaard**

[bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net)

### **Vice Mayor Steve Haderlein, District 4**

[shaderlein@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:shaderlein@cityofpasadena.net)

### **Councilmember Jacque Robinson, District 1**

[jacqueroberinson@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:jacqueroberinson@cityofpasadena.net)

### **Councilmember Margaret McAustin, District 2**

[mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net)

### **Councilmember Chris Holden, District 3**

[cholden@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:cholden@cityofpasadena.net)

### **Councilmember Victor Gordo, District 5**

[vgordo@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:vgordo@cityofpasadena.net)

### **Councilmember Steve Madison, District 6**

[smadison@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:smadison@cityofpasadena.net)

### **Councilmember Sid Tyler, District 7**

[styler@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:styler@cityofpasadena.net)

### **City Clerk Jane Rodriguez**

[jrodriguez@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:jrodriguez@cityofpasadena.net)

### **Interim City Manager Bernard Melekian**

[bmelekian@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:bmelekian@cityofpasadena.net)

# City Puts the Brakes on Speed Limit Increases

By Vince Farhat

A controversial proposal to raise speed limits on certain residential streets is on hold pending further review and possible legislative action.

In West Pasadena, City staff originally wanted to increase speed limits on the following residential streets, among others: La Loma Road from 25 mph to 30 mph; Lida Street in Linda Vista from 30 mph to 35 mph; Pasadena Avenue from 30 mph to 40 mph; and Columbia Street from 30 mph to 35 mph. At the time of the original proposal, staff believed it was required by State law to raise speed limits in order to avoid so-called "speed traps." In particular, staff was concerned that the Police Department would not be permitted to use radar enforcement unless speed limits were re-certified under a State law procedure that required an increase in the limit where a certain percentage of drivers already were exceeding the limit.

Staff's proposal to raise speed limits sparked widespread community opposition. Late last year, the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) rejected the proposal. Instead of raising speed limits, TAC voted to

recommend that the City Council direct staff to investigate and implement traffic calming and safety measures aimed at reducing speeds on neighborhood streets with the goal of keeping speeds at the posted speed limits.

In March, the City Council's Legislative Policy Committee considered staff's proposal to raise speed limits. Mayor Bill Bogaard and Councilmembers Sid Tyler and Margaret McAustin serve on the Committee. The Committee expressed its appreciation for staff's work, but ultimately concurred with TAC's recommendations and rejected the proposal to raise speed limits.

In April, the full City Council deferred consideration of the speed limit proposal. The Council also directed staff to investigate additional legal issues raised by Councilmembers Victor Gordo and Steve Madison. Staff later reported to the City Council and TAC that the City does not have jurisdiction to raise speed limits on Pasadena Avenue. The authority to adjust speed limits on Pasadena Avenue is vested in Caltrans, because sections of Pasadena Avenue and St. John Avenue are considered part of

the 710 Freeway state highway system. In addition, staff concluded that provisions of California Vehicle Code (CVC) section 40802 undermine local control in cities like Pasadena with regard to setting speed limits.

In May, TAC joined the City Council's Legislative Policy Committee in supporting certain technical amendments to CVC 40802 aimed at restoring local control over speed limits on residential streets. If adopted by the State, the proposed amendments would give cities like Pasadena more control over local streets and avoid State mandates to raise speed limits. Staff now is in the process of working with the City's legislative lobbyist to identify sponsors of a bill that would include the CVC language change and to assemble a coalition of affected cities to support the bill.

The WPRA appreciates the efforts of the City Council, TAC, and City staff to work towards a legislative solution that would restore local control over speed limits in Pasadena. For more information, please contact the Pasadena Department of Transportation at (626) 744-TRIP. ■

## Office Building Proposed for Monty's Restaurant Site

By Vince Farhat

A developer wants to build an office project on the site of the former Monty's restaurant located at the southeast corner of Fair Oaks Avenue and California Boulevard. The developer, Council Rock Partners, is proposing a four-story, 113,200 square foot office project with 225 underground parking spaces.

Representatives of Council Rock are scheduled to present the proposal at the WPRA's September board

meeting. According to the developer, the building would integrate "green building" principles, and feature substantial landscaping. The project would incorporate a public plaza at the corner of Fair Oaks and California, including trees and landscaping, a water feature, and seating amenities.

The City of Pasadena will conduct an Environmental Impact Review and Traffic Study for the project. According to Castle Rock, the project

complies with the South Fair Oaks Specific Plan. The developer is seeking two minor Conditional Use Permits (CUPs), including a CUP to allow up to 75% tandem parking.

The WPRA will actively participate in the upcoming public review process for this project. Please send an e-mail to [update@wptra.net](mailto:update@wptra.net) if you want to receive weekly neighborhood updates regarding this and other developments in Pasadena. ■



# Pasadena General Plan Update Moves Forward

By Mic Hansen

What is a General Plan? Does every city have to have a General Plan? How does Pasadena's General Plan affect me? Does the General Plan give an idea about what Pasadena will be like in 10 years?

A General Plan is a framework that defines and codifies a collection of values, policies and strategies to guide the long-term development and progress of a city. This is a dynamic document that is customarily updated every five years to meet ever-changing priorities and plans. Although the State of California requires seven elements—Circulation, Conservation, Housing, Land Use, Noise, Open Space and Conservation, and Safety—many cities, including Pasadena, have added additional elements, as necessary and suitable.

Pasadena's current General Plan was adopted in 1994 with a great deal of community input. The last revision was in 2005, when again, with community participation, the various elements were revised to respond to ever-changing demographic, economic, and environmental conditions. Once again, revisions are in process to update the various elements of our General Plan, and few are complete or near completion.

The **Green Space, Parks, and Recreation Element** was adopted November 2007. This Element will work in concert with the Open Space and Conservation Element as a framework to assure the effective custody and care of the City's green spaces, recreation facilities, and natural resources. The recommendations in the update address quantity, quality, and the appropriate use of green and recreational spaces, as well as the availability of additional parkland through shared use of open space as well as possible acquisition.



The Planning Commission at their meeting of August 13 reviewed the draft **Housing Element**, but action was postponed until September. The Housing Element's broader goals are to 1) Promote and sustain neighborhood quality; 2) Assure availability of a diverse housing supply suited for residents of varying lifestyle needs and income; 3) Provide housing assistance to expand and facilitate housing opportunities; and 4) Provide adequate housing for special needs groups such as seniors, families with children, and the disabled.

The **Land Use and Mobility elements** are scheduled for the review process starting in September. The Land Use Element establishes the primary framework for shaping all phases of development. This element is the long-range planning tool (along with the seven Specific Plans and the Zoning Code) used to balance the interests of preserving and enhancing quality of life, and guiding growth that respects the interests of both property

owners and the community at large. The above two elements must work together to identify strategies where growth should occur and the types of transportation system that will support the proposed growth.

The State of California mandates that the various General Plan elements, whether mandatory or optional, have internal consistency, complement one another, and work collaboratively. WPRA encourages all residents to visit the City website ([www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net)) for updates and notices during this revision process. Citizen participation is a core Pasadena value, expressed clearly as a guiding principle, ***"Community participation will be a permanent part of achieving a greater city."***

The WPRA will continue to update residents as General Plan revisions progress, and notify residents of pending community meetings and hearings. ■

# Metro Gold Line Parking

Gold Line riders have a number of parking options in Pasadena. The cost for parking varies by location as shown in the table below. The City of Pasadena operates only two of the facilities (at Memorial Park and Del Mar Stations).

Approximate Location	Address	Capacity	Parking Fee	Operating Authority	Contact Information
Sierra Madre Villa	149 North Halstead Ave.	950	Free	Metro	1-800-997-0197 213-922-6235
Lake Avenue	393 North Lake Ave.	100	\$28 / month	Metro	1-800-997-0197 213-922-6235
Memorial Park	150 East Holly Street	340 \$70 / month	\$6 / day	City of Pasadena	626-744-7665
Del Mar	198 South Raymond Ave. or 207 South Arroyo Parkway	400	\$2 / day	City of Pasadena	626-744-7665
Fillmore (under construction)	682 South Raymond Ave.	160	Free	Metro	1-800-997-0197 213-922-6235

Park and ride facilities are available at the Sierra Madre Villa and Del Mar stations, and adjacent parking facilities are located near the Memorial Park and Lake Avenue stations. Construction has temporarily removed the park and ride facility at the Fillmore Station. The replacement Fillmore park and ride facility is expected to open in early September and once completed will provide 160 spaces, free of charge to Gold Line riders with proof of ridership. Until that time, Gold Line riders may park at the Del Mar Station parking facility, free of charge, courtesy of Metro (proof of ridership required). In addition, Metro provides 122 free park and ride spaces at the Mission Station in South Pasadena. For more information, please contact Metro Customer Relations at (213) 922-6235 or visit [www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net). ■

## Back-to-School at San Rafael

*By Alyson Beecher*

Yes, it is that time of year! On Thursday, September 4, 2008, San Rafael School once again opens its doors to welcome the new school year. Summer has flown by and its time to transition out of shorts and flip-flops and into new school clothes and real shoes. In the world of academia, September not January is the real start of the new year. Despite having to leave behind my flip-flops, I always enjoy the beginning of the new school year with its chance to start fresh with blank notebooks and a box of crayons that still have all their sharpened points.

This year, school will begin at 7:50 a.m. which is 10 minutes later than last year. Our ending time continues to be the same (early release on Mondays at 12:35 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays). If you would like to hear more about the school's plans for the 2008-09 school year, please



join us for our P.T.A. Meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium.

With the start of the school year, we are again looking for volunteers. If you have an hour of time each week to spend in one of our classrooms helping students with reading, writing, or math we would love to have you.

We are also looking for people who have talents or skills in the areas of art, science, music, or gardening and would like to assist with activities

revolving around these areas. These activities are ideal for people who have a limited amount of time to volunteer but would still like to contribute some of their time. We are also looking for people who would like to come in and be classroom readers particularly in the afternoon.

The PTA is also looking for people to assist with the car-line in the mornings from 7:20 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. and again in the afternoon from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, you may contact Alyson Beecher, Principal at [abeecher@pusd.us](mailto:abeecher@pusd.us) or Jessica Pink, Curriculum Resource Teacher at [jpink10@pusd.us](mailto:jpink10@pusd.us) or by calling the school office at 626.793.4189

*Editor's Note: Alyson Beecher is principal of San Rafael School. She can be reached at [ABeecher@pusd.us](mailto:ABeecher@pusd.us). ■*

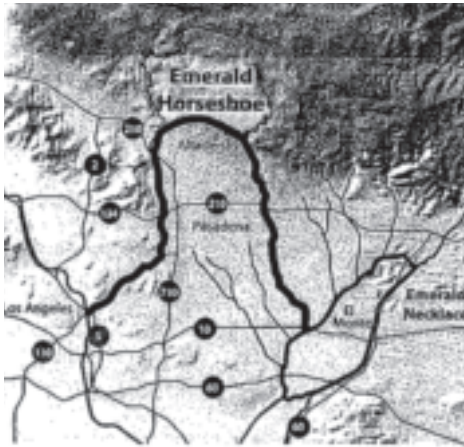


# Open Space and Conservation Plans to be Revised

By Linda Zinn

The City of Pasadena has initiated a process to revise and update the Open Space and Conservation Elements in the General Plan. These two elements were adopted in 1976 and have not been comprehensively revised in response to changing trends, opportunities and constraints. With increasing urbanization and housing density, the concept of Open Space has critical importance in city planning. Parks and open spaces create a sense of community and enhance life for all Pasadena residents. Open spaces have many uses, from active sports areas to quiet natural places. They are all important to the quality of life in Pasadena, and the General Plan will establish how these areas will be prioritized in the future.

There are exciting possibilities of acquiring and protecting natural open space areas in and adjacent to Pasadena while taking a broad perspective: one that links trails and wildlife corridors



throughout the region. The Emerald Horseshoe is a concept that was developed by the Cal Poly Pomona Landscape Master Program with support from the Altadena Foothills Conservancy. It proposes a regional trail and open space system connecting the foothills to the Arroyo Seco on the west and Eaton Wash on the east to an existing park and open space network called the Emerald Necklace. This necklace connects the Santa Fe Dam

Recreational Area down through Rio Hondo and Whittier Narrows to the San Gabriel River. We will cover this project and others in detail in future articles as the element update process progresses throughout the year.

To aid in the update of the Open Space and Conservation Elements, the City Council established an Open Space and Conservation Committee which has met monthly since June 2008. There are nine members: representatives of the Planning Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, Environmental Advisory Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and four citizen representatives.

Laura Dahl, Pasadena Senior Planner, is the lead person to contact for information about the Open Space and Conservation Elements. She can be reached by e-mail: [ldahl@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ldahl@cityofpasadena.net) or by phone: (626) 744-6767. ■

## Ave 64 and La Loma Undergrounding Project Nearing Completion

By Blaine Cavena

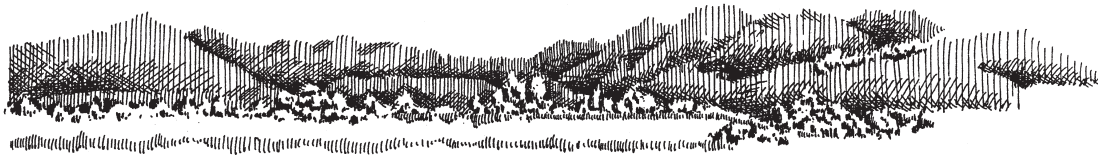
After frustrating delays resulting from a variety of causes, the lengthy effort to move power, cable-TV and telephone service along Avenue 64, and along La Loma Road between Avenue 64 and South San Rafael, from overhead lines to underground is nearly complete! As of this writing, all power and cable-TV lines have been moved, with just a few AT&T telephone lines remaining on La Loma. According to the City, final project completion, including removal of all remaining poles on La Loma, is

anticipated by the end of October.

This project has resulted in a variety of benefits to the neighborhood. Safety has been increased with vastly improved, and more efficient, street lighting on both Avenue 64 and La Loma. Unsightly poles and wires have been removed from Avenue 64, with just a few poles remaining on La Loma. Improved and more reliable distribution infrastructure has been installed underground for electrical power, cable-TV and telephone, and rebuilt curbs and resurfaced streets are

providing a smoother ride for cars and cyclists—and reduced road noise for residents.

Some may wonder about the tall poles on the west side of Avenue 64, south of La Loma. Those poles support power transmission lines for Southern California Edison, over which the City has limited control. They are not part of the undergrounding project and will remain. For more information, please contact Danny Wooten, the City's Program Manager, at (626) 744-7401 or [dwooten@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:dwooten@cityofpasadena.net). ■



## LINDA VISTA-ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION

### Art Center Environmental Impact Report Raises Concerns

By Norm Parker

As we go to press, the Art Center Master Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is under continuing review at the Pasadena Planning Department and awaiting resolution of the major issues raised by the Linda Vista-Annandale Association (LVAA) and four city commissions.

LVAA presented its issues to the Planning Department and at hearings by the Historic Preservation, Design Review, Transportation Advisory and Planning Commissions. Each commission generated stern comments, criticism and requests for additional information. The Planning Commissioners asked that the Final EIR, which might be complete around the end of September, return for their review before going to the City Council for certification. Meanwhile, LVAA is seeking resolution to the several issues presented below through negotiations with the City and Art Center administrators:

#### **Land Use, Planning and Aesthetics:**

The proposed project is inconsistent with General Plan principles concerning Character, Scale, Urban Design Form and Historic Preservation. With a proposed 98 foot height (including a 38 foot illuminated, reflective atrium) for the Design Research Center (DRC), a 52 foot high addition to the Tyler building and a five story parking structure, the proposed project will not be consistent with the horizontal nature of the surrounding campus, adjacent low rise residential neighborhoods and the special character of the

hillsides. The proposed DRC would loom over existing buildings and be visible from the LVAA, central Arroyo and east Arroyo neighborhoods.

#### **Transportation and Traffic:**

The DEIR fails to: 1) adequately characterize the existing traffic condition in the LVAA neighborhood; 2) conduct a thorough construction-related traffic impact analysis; 3) consider the Rose Bowl Stadium Renovation Project, the All Saint's Children's Project and other Arroyo Seco activity in the traffic cumulative impact analysis; and 4) provide mitigation measures that reduce traffic impacts to residents in the surrounding community.

#### **Air Quality:**

Approximately 400 full-time students and ten instructors would be added to the 1,500 students and 350 instructors currently authorized at this site, an increase resulting in population and employment growth inconsistent with their Air Quality Management Plan. Pursuant to California AB 32 and SB 97, CEQA Guidelines, its implementing regulations and the State Attorney General's office advice and rulings, LVAA and its EIR expert consultants assert that the EIR has not addressed the cumulative impacts on the global climate.

Change is apparent at Art Center: The search for a new president, a change of architects, opposition to the project by student government and some staff members, fund raising challenges and, as a result, a willingness to negotiate the issues. LVAA is

hopeful that the efforts of determined residents and concerned commissioners will bring about significant reductions in the impact of the Art Center's Master Plan.

*Editor's Note: Norm Parker is president of the Linda Vista-Annandale Association. He can be reached at NP7956755@aol.com. ■*

### Pasadena ARTS can help you save money!

While gas prices seem to be dropping, overall costs continue to increase and public transportation is one way to cut expenses. Visit the ARTS web page and click on a link that will take you to



the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) travel calculator. This calculator will help you compare the price of using public transportation with the price of paying at the pump and then parking your car in town. This calculator has been set with default values based on national averages for June, 2008; however, you may set variables such as the price of gas and the length of the round trip to match the price of gas in your area and the length of your round trip. You can access route and schedule information for the ARTS system; you can also find links to other transit providers, visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/artsbus](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/artsbus) and see what's new! ■

---

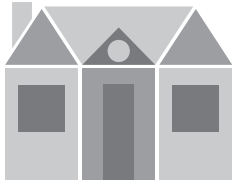
# Crime Prevention Tips

## *From the Pasadena Police Department*

---

### Protect Your Homes

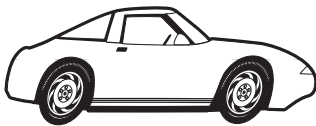
Remember to lock your doors and windows when leaving your homes (even second floor windows), and make sure your homes are secure upon retiring for the night.



Here are two examples where precautions could have prevented burglaries. During August there was a burglary in the 100 Block of South Arroyo Boulevard; men were observed at the guest house by the housekeeper and were frightened away. Also, there was a hot prowler (entering while someone is home) burglary in the 300 block of South San Rafael Avenue. In this case, the burglar removed a screen and got in through the kitchen window while the victim was asleep in the bedroom! Both of these events took place during daylight hours.

### Protect Your Autos

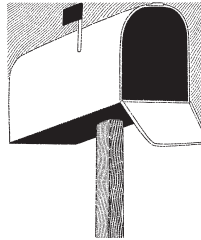
There have also been burglaries of vehicles in the area of the Rose Bowl and the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Often, thieves watch a resident park their car and stow their belongings under the seat, in the trunk, etc. and when the resident leaves the vehicle, the thieves break in and remove what they saw the resident hide. Pasadena's friendly



and helpful Auto Burglary detective wants to remind residents that GPS systems are very popular with thieves; the thieves look for the docking station belonging to the GPS. Also popular are iPods, laptops and anything that a thief can sell, so please remember to place any objects of value out of sight before you get to your destination, preferably prior to leaving your residence.

### Protect Your Mail Box

During the summer there was a spate of mail theft and vandalism to mailboxes, some of which had not been reported to Postal Authorities or the Police Department. Unfortunately, one of the victimized families had unauthorized charges of several hundred dollars on their current credit card statements. These particular incidents had occurred in the somewhat secluded area of Pasadena west of the Rose Bowl, but police have been informed of mail theft on the east side of Pasadena as well. As always, if suspicious persons or activities are observed, please contact the Pasadena Police Department Communications on the non emergency telephone number, (626) 744-4241, and officers will respond to assess the situation and/or individuals concerned.



### Neighborhood Watch



Pasadena residents should be safe and secure in their homes. So, be watchful and take precautions to secure your family's safety.

One of the most successful measures in crime prevention is the Neighborhood Watch Program, in effect for over thirty years in towns, cities and rural areas across the country. Neighborhood Watch Programs help reduce residential crime when the citizens join local police departments and work with them to observe and report crime. By taking an active role in the protection of their families and possessions, residents are better able to discourage criminal activity and keep their neighborhoods safe.

Starting a Neighborhood Watch program is a relatively simple process. Here in Pasadena you can do so by contacting Police Specialist Cynthia Murphy, Neighborhood Services Unit/Neighborhood Watch. She can let you know what is required to form a successful Neighborhood Watch group. You can reach Officer Murphy at (626) 744-7657 or email her [cmurphy@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:cmurphy@cityofpasadena.net) ■





# Thank You to Our Donors

WPRA greatly appreciates the contributions it receives from its donors. Donations listed below included all donations of \$100 and above that have been received through July 31, 2008. If your name is not listed correctly, please contact [membership@wpra.net](mailto:membership@wpra.net). Thanks so much for your support.

**Fred Zepeda, Director of Membership** [membership@wpra.net](mailto:membership@wpra.net)

---

## Platinum Donors

Dr Richard C Gilman  
Heather & Harvey Lenkin  
Dorothy R Lindsey  
John & Carolyn Naber  
Fred G Zepeda

---

## Benefactors

Mark & Pam Algorri  
Bill & Claire Bogaard  
Gus & Judith Christopoulos  
Susan & David Codiga  
Mr & Mrs Leo Dencik  
Steve & Janet Elkins  
Mic Hansen & Len Evans  
John & Ruth Fleck  
Mr & Mrs Richard Frank  
Tom Gertmenian

Arno Grether  
Donald Hall  
William & Maureen Hollingsworth  
Audrey O'Kelley  
George & Valerie Leiva  
Ethan & Joanne Lipsig  
Richard & Rosemary McDonald  
Gordon J Pashgian  
Bob & Janice Raney  
Jim & Anne Rothenberg

Joyce & Jan Sakonju  
Phil Sotel  
George & Ruri Sugimoto  
Paul & Liz Walker  
Susan & Chris Wadden  
Jon Dudley & Colleen Williams  
Carl D Winberg MD  
Lonee & Charles Urtuzuastegui  
Linda Zinn

---

## Patrons

Grace R Anderson  
Anonymous  
Marta Arriandiaga  
The Arvo Family  
Bob & Jan Ashford  
Cheryl Auger  
Bruce & Judy Bailey  
David A Bailey  
Eugene & Liz Baldridge  
Andrea & Habib Balian  
Toni & Habib Balian  
Lourdes Baird  
Michael Barish  
William J Barney  
Earl & Patricia Barondes  
Jim & Judy Baum  
William & Susan Bauman  
Martyn S Belmont

Joan & Gerry Bergman  
David & Cherry Bianchi  
Diane & Fred Blum  
James B Boyle, Jr  
Ms Brandt  
Claire & Brad Brian  
John & Louise Brinsley  
Ernest A Bryant  
Debra & James Cahill  
Dr & Mrs Howard D Cantwell  
John & Lynn Casani  
Virginia & Blaine Cavena  
Chuck & Janet Chillingworth  
Doug & Linda Clarke  
Dawn Herbeuex Cobb  
Ralph & Shirley Contreras  
Bob & Julie Cooke  
Mary P Coquillard

M A Cunningham  
Dorothy A Currier  
George & Kathryn Dawley  
John & Elena DeMarco  
Fred Lowe & Karen Demott  
Bill & Margi Denton  
Burnell & Bonnie DeVos  
D G W Dimit  
Drew & Angie Diamond  
A S Dmohowski  
Anne M Dougherty & David Dobrikin  
Mike & Kathryn Donscheski  
Norman & Cindy Dupon  
Joanne & Hayden C Eaves III  
Alfred & Virginia Escamilla  
David & Christine Farguson  
Vince & Betsy Farhat  
Mary Fauvre & Robert C Holmes

## Patrons

Bob Mackin & Merrilee Fellows	Robert B Krug	Virginia Rowen
Ty H Fernandez	Dora & Robert Kuhn	Marsel & Michael Saeedi
Beverly Fitzgerald	Coralie Kupfer	Elizabeth Loucks Samson
Janet & Robert M Fitzgerald	Eleen & Edward Kutch	Terry & Marley Sanderson
Clarence & Anne Fleming	Arthur & Susan Lacerte	Dave Schaar
Francine & Ralph Flewelling	Chris & Kristen Linx	Bill & Sharon Schlarb
Larry Frampton	Yvonne Llewellyn	Eileen & Fred Schoellkobf
Lauren Frankel	Claude & Frank Logan	Mr & Mrs Secundy
Ed & Karol Franks	Don & Elaine Lomas	Patricia Shanks
Kittie Frantz	Sam & Gail Losh	Dru Sherrod
Terrie & Mike Farrand	Gail Lovejoy	Mr & Mrs James R Shoch III
Thomas & Louise Fox	C J & Thelma MacGregor	Mike Sigler
Geoffrey Baum & Lisa Gallaway	Lori MacPherson & Keith Rawlinson	Betty & Norri Sirri
James & Priscilla Gamb	Jane Mallary	Garth Gilpin & Elizabeth Smalley
Alex J Garcia	Bob & Marvine Malouf	Don Cunningham Smith
Don & Meg Gertmenian	Phillip & Lois Matthews	Robert & Judith Spare
Bob & Esme Gibson	Laura Matz	Jim & Judy Spencer
Merton Goddard	Maranatha High School	Sarah & Chuck Steidel
Marijke Grotz	William Cary & Sharon Mayo	Mr & Mrs William Streiber
Vincent F Guinan	Frank & Julia McCarthy	Raymond & Gregoria Suchy
Larry & Paulette Hall	Delford B McGee	Walt & Dottie Sumner
Rob & Beth Hansen	Judy McLaughlin	Lorraine E Supple
Tina & Jim Hart	Mel & Marcia Means	Dawn Suttle-Forkner
Drs Mark & Elizabeth Hassan	Daniel Prince & Lisa Morley	Alice C Taylor
John & Betty Henno	Dale & Yan Morrison	Joan Terry
Lois Hill	Charles Morse	Rob & Charisse Tolleson
Doris K Hilton	Steve English & Molly Munger	William & Susan B Tully
Thomas & Marian Hirsch	Don & Joyce Nores	JoAnn Turovsky
HOA 707 Orange Grove Blvd	Dennis & Linda O'Leary	John & Andrea Van de Kamp
Gary & Priscilla Hoecker	Kay & Steve Onderdonk	Timothy & Janet Walker
Dr James Hopkins	Alfred & Jeanne Paiz	Robert Walp
Barbara & John House	Gary & Julie Pantiskas	Jim & Robin Walther
The Howards	Randy & Lee Parks	Francis & Lily Wang
Linda & Ralph Hubbard	Peggy Phelps	N E Warner MD
Mr & Mrs M L Hutcheson	Mrs Cornelius Pings	George Way & Maria Low Way
Paul & Missy Jennings	Brandon J De Porto	Normarie Waybourn
Bill & Eleni Jernigan	Ms Helen Posthuma	Lawrence Westfall
Dr T Jeyaranjan	Mary Prickett	Robert Winter
Brian Kabateck & Roxanne Hampten	Mark & Pam Ragus	Cathy Woolway
Dr & Mrs Michael Kadin	Delfino A Ramirez	Heinz & Rosemarie Zaiser
Laila Karme	Diana Raney	Robert & Leslie Zasa
Lisa Kenyon	Brent & Carla Riggs	Dale & Laurie Zeh
Mr & Mrs Khalaf	James & Erika Robinson	Enrique Romero & Minerva Zermeno
Janet A Kobrin	Rose Bowl Operating Co	Stanley Zerne, MD
Bob & Barbara Koch	George R Rossman	
Marlene Konnar & John Baldeschwieler	John & Kelly Rouse	

# Arroyo Seco Foundation \$2.5 Million Project Completed Ambitious Goals

By Vince Farhat

**O**n August 27th the City of Pasadena celebrated the completion of the Central Arroyo Stream Restoration Program (CASRP). This ambitious program included significant stream restoration, water quality improvements, removal of invasive species, and trash reduction in the Arroyo Seco stream. In addition to cleaning up the stream, the project will upgrade the habitat for the Arroyo Chub fish that once thrived in the Arroyo Seco stream.

## **The Importance of the Arroyo Chub Fish**

The chub is a small four-inch fish that is unique to streams of the San Gabriel Mountain watershed. In the 1930s the Arroyo Seco and other areas within the LA river system were turned into concrete channels because of flooding concerns. Over the years, the shallow channels became unable to sustain the native fish. In fact, the areas of the stream in Pasadena lost all

of the native fish long ago. By restoring this channel, scientists will be able to tell if the stream is healthy or not. The fish are a major indicator of the health of the stream.

## **The Arroyo Seco Foundation and City Partnership**

CASRP is a partnership of the Arroyo Seco Foundation and the City of Pasadena. The Design and Construction is provided by CDM and funding provided by the California Water Resources Control Board and the City of Pasadena.

The Arroyo Seco Foundation introduced 300 native arroyo chub fish, and planted 240 native trees, including sycamores and oaks. They also removed 60 non-native trees. Also, there are newly-stabilized trails for walkers and horseback riders.

An important component of this project has been the City of Pasadena's installation of garbage catchers in storm drains all over the

city. This will greatly to reduce the amount of debris flowing into the Arroyo streams. In addition, the city installed a system in the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center parking lot to catch and filter oil run-off so that does not end up in the Arroyo stream. This parking lot, immediately adjacent to the Arroyo, has been a major source of contamination.

## **Visit the Revitalized Area**

CASRP transformed a muddy, overgrown, garbage-strewn stretch of the arroyo into a clear-watered fish habitat with natural vegetation. You can visit the short stretch of stream between the Rose Bowl and Brookside Park. The trail can be reached from the parking lot by the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center or from Brookside Park.

If you would like more information on this project, call 626-304-3417. ■

## Traffic Advisories at Your Fingertips

**B**efore you get in your vehicle, you can learn about the scope of a particular construction project, its geographical limits and its probable impact on traffic – all with a simple click on an internet map.

The City of Pasadena's online traffic advisory page features an easy-to-use, colorful map for major construction projects. Major construction activities may require lane closures and in some cases full roadway closures in urban areas.

Improving traffic safely and efficiently around major construction zones is a high priority for the city's Transportation Department, which provides a coordinated strategy of

temporary traffic control, advisories and operations components.

In addition, on-street signage informs motorists when to expect delays and to consider alternate posted routes.

Motorists are encouraged to visit the web page often during times of construction activity that may affect their commutes. To access the traffic advisory map go to [www.cityofpasadena.net/trafficadvisory](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/trafficadvisory). Click on any highlighted area for details about construction and traffic impacts.

For more information, please call the Pasadena Public Affairs Office at (626) 744-7439. ■

## What's going on in Pasadena?

### **Stay informed, read local publications...**

Do you sometimes feel as if you don't know what is going on in Pasadena?

There are many sources of information, and the timeliest are still the local publications – either on the web or in print. These include the Pasadena Star-News ([www.pasadenastarnews.com](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com)); the Pasadena Weekly ([www.pasadenaweekly.com](http://www.pasadenaweekly.com)); PasadenaNow.com; ([www.pasadenalivingmagazine.com/FrontCover.html](http://www.pasadenalivingmagazine.com/FrontCover.html)) and, of course, the WPRA publications – our own weekly email Neighborhood Update and our quarterly newsletter News. ■



## WPRA Goes Green

The Castle Press has been doing a great job printing and mailing the WPRA newsletter for the past several years. Recently, the firm announced that they have become certified as an FSC-Certified printer, using FSC-certified paper originating from well-managed forests. Castle Press recommended that WPRA join their efforts to provide stewardship of our forest environment by asking the Castle Press to use FSC-certified paper for all of its printing.

For more information about the FSC, you can visit the Castle Press Website at <http://www.castlepress.com/environmental.html> From there you can visit the FSC website to learn how responsible printing companies are providing stewardship of our forest environment.

WPRA proudly voted at its last Board meeting to promote responsible and ethical forest management by using only FSC-certified paper. Look for the FSC logo on future newsletters, and other printed materials supplied by the Castle Press. ■



The Mark of  
Responsible Forestry

## PASADENA HERITAGE'S SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CRAFTSMAN WEEKEND

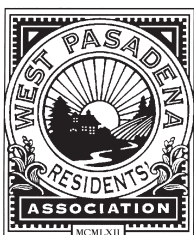


*Immerse yourself in the  
American Arts & Crafts Movement*

OCTOBER 17-19 2008

For tickets and info call 626 441 6333  
or visit [pasadenaheritage.org](http://pasadenaheritage.org)

sponsored by  
THE CAPITAL GROUP COMPANIES CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



## Join the WPRA Today

All membership dues are tax-deductible, and donations of \$100 or more are acknowledged in this newsletter. Please take a moment to complete this form and mail it with your check today!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

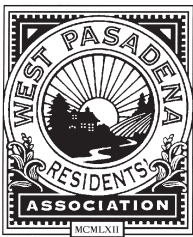
Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership:** ◇ \$25-\$49 Associate ◇ \$50-\$99 Friend ◇ \$100-\$249 Patron

◇ \$250-\$499 Benefactor ◇ \$500 or more Platinum

*Please mail to: West Pasadena Residents' Association, Post Office Box 50252 • Pasadena, California 91115*

The West Pasadena Residents' Association is a 501c3 non-profit public benefit corporation. Memberships and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.



**WEST PASADENA  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
Post Office Box 50252  
Pasadena, CA 91115-0252

Visit our website @ [www.wpra.net](http://www.wpra.net)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Pasadena, CA  
Permit #1105



## Join the WPRA Today

Your generous support will help the WPRA publish its newsletter and keep you informed of issues affecting our neighborhood. So, please take a moment to join us and stand with the WPRA. Please contact Vince Farhat at [farhat@wpra.net](mailto:farhat@wpra.net).

### Board of Directors 2008 - 2009

#### Officers:

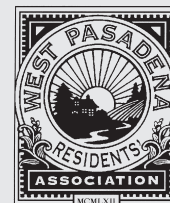
President	Audrey O'Kelley	323-229-0541
Vice-President	Mic Hansen	626-799-2992
Director of Communications	Vince Farhat	626-375-6619
Director of Membership	Fred Zepeda	626-578-7505
Treasurer	Blaine Cavena	626-799-3358
Secretary	Dorothy Lindsey	323-256-4972

#### Board Members:

Cheryl Auger	Judith Klump	Michael Udell
Geoffrey Baum	Bill Jernigan	John Van de Kamp
James Hawkes	John Martin	Linda Zinn
Joan Hearst	Marilyn Randolph	
Robert C. Holmes	Priscilla Taylor	

#### *For more information about our committees, please contact:*

Newsletter & Advertising	Vince Farhat	626-375-6619
Membership	Fred Zepeda	626-578-7505
Land Use & Planning	Mic Hansen	626-799-2992
Open Space	Linda Zinn	626-396-3980



#### **WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Post Office Box 50252  
Pasadena, CA 91115-0252  
Website: [www.wpra.net](http://www.wpra.net)