

THE NEWS

LAND USE / PLANNING

EDUCATION

OPEN SPACE / CONSERVATION

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

GOVERNMENT

PARKS / RECREATION

How should we recognize donors in the Arroyo?

BY BILL URBAN

DIRECTOR AND PAST PRESIDENT, WPRO

The Rose Bowl Operating Company in June approved a proposal to improve the section known as Area H with philanthropic support totaling about \$2 million, including \$1 million from Honda Corporation (the largest donor) and the Ahmanson Foundation.

Area H is a large open area most notable for its soccer fields at Rosemont Avenue and Seco Street. The proposed improvements include a new 3/4-mile walk/jogging path with two all-weather exercise equipment nodes, a separate Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant sidewalk from

Seco Street to the stadium, new drinking fountains and rest areas for the public.

At one point, it was proposed to name this area Honda Park, which drew significant concern and dialogue. Subsequently, Rose Bowl leadership has engaged the West

Pasadena Residents' Association and other neighborhood leaders to develop an approach to acknowledging private financial support for this public facility.

The WPRO supports efforts to make improvements to facilities that are used by

the entire community and recognizes the need to acknowledge those who generously contribute to Arroyo Seco facilities. However, the proposal to name this section for a corporate donor highlights the need for clear guidelines and policies when it comes to naming rights and donor acknowledgement.

There has been much debate about "selling" naming rights for public

Continued on page 10



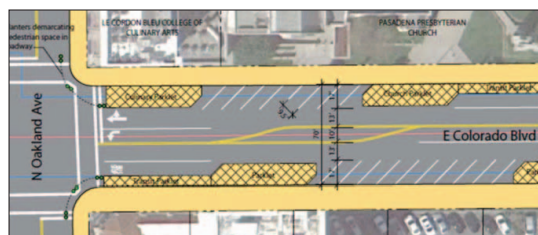
Diets and parklets and bulb-outs, oh my!

BY DAN BEAL

DIRECTOR, WPRO

Urban planners have been pursuing "Complete Streets" for some time. The concept, which introduces a whole new set of terms and concepts and is now enshrined as a goal in State law, envisions safe access and use of streets by all users: pedestrians, cyclists, public-transit riders and, of course, motorists. "Road diets" and "parklets" are common features of Complete Street proposals and are being considered in Pasadena.

- Road diets reduce the vehicle capacity of a street, usually by removing some driving lanes to slow or calm traffic and make more of the street width available



Artist's renderings of parklets



for other uses. Road diets may include fewer traffic lanes; "bulb-outs" at intersections, to reduce pedestrian crossing distances; new or expanded bicycle lanes; and repurposed parking spaces, such as for "parklets." The intended result is a more inviting, mixed-mode, pedestrian-friendly environment. Many of the principles have been in place on downtown Monrovia's Myrtle Avenue for years.

- Parklets are extensions of the sidewalk, usually occupying one or more former parking spaces, which now contain chairs, benches, tables, plants and other street furniture, or bicycle parking. The

Continued on page 14

It's all about coordination and collaboration

BY KENYON HARBISON
PRESIDENT, WPRA

As I was walking my dog through our lovely neighborhoods the other day and talking extensively with multiple other canine lovers, I was reminded of the



Kenyon Harbison

source of our power as a community and as a city: our ability to coordinate and to collaborate.

The West Pasadena Residents' Association (WPRA) coordinates and collaborates every day. For example, the 710 tunnel issue is currently now "flaring up," but the WPRA continues to track it, and discuss it.

We believe that the groups, cities, and individuals supporting its construction are deliberately laying low until after the coming Measure M election. Notably, while Caltrans is planning to sell the homes it owns along

the relevant corridor, it is retaining the subsurface easement rights.

This issue is not dead.

In 2017, we expect to see renewed efforts to forward the tunnel's construction. We will be watching, coordinating, and collaborating with others who recognize not only that this wasteful project would harm our city and our community, but that it is wholly unnecessary for the Los Angeles region, and that it represents the final reverberating echo of a 1950's mentality towards transportation solutions.

Over the summer, the WPRA focused on the Kimpton/YMCA project by City Hall, and we advocated for greater transparency in the process, and more study of the issue. Avram Gold, the WPRA's Land Use and Planning Chair was laser-focused on this issue.

With your support, we will continue to advocate for more transparency and for City Council to prioritize citizen commentary at City Council meetings. We recently wrote a letter to the City Council and to the mayor

emphasizing the need to prioritize and respect the input of citizens in such meetings.

As detailed on one of our cover stories in this issue, the WPRA is also working closely with the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) and with other neighborhood organizations, relating to the RBOC's plans to name a portion of land "Honda Park" or otherwise recognize Honda in return for donations from Honda. The WPRA is working with stakeholders to develop a thoughtful and creative policy on this issue that respects the history of the Arroyo.

Coordination and collaboration. Our most important collaborators, of course, are you. Please attend our Board meetings.

Please send us comments about the issues on which we work. Please volunteer. Please continue to be active in your community, in whatever fashion, whether with the WPRA or not.

Help us as we seek to preserve and also improve our community, our city, our region and our state.

About us

2016 – 2017 officers

- President: Kenyon Harbison (harbison@wpra.net)
- Vice President: Sarah Gavit (gavit@wpra.net)
- Treasurer: Blaine Cavena (cavena@wpra.net)
- Secretary: Justin Chapman (chapman@wpra.net)

Mission: Founded in 1962, the West Pasadena Residents' Association is dedicated to maintaining the character of our community and enhancing the quality of life in west Pasadena.

Area: The WPRA service area is bounded on the north by Colorado Boulevard, on the east by Fair Oaks Avenue and on the south and west by the city limits.

Funding: All WPRA activities are funded through membership dues and contributions. The WPRA receives no public funding and has no paid employees. Since the WPRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation, contributions and donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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The News is mailed each quarter to nearly 8,000 homes and businesses in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes and beyond.

Editor: Chuck Hudson
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The WPRA is grateful to Castle Press for design and printing services.

Visit our website at wpra.net

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Pat Shanks

WPRO mourns passing of Pat Shanks, attorney and environmentalist

The WPRO mourns the passing of attorney and former WPRO Director, Pat Shanks, who passed away on July 26, 2016. Pat was also an enthusiastic environmentalist. In addition to her service on the WPRO board, she was long active in efforts to preserve and protect the Arroyo Seco.

She led the formation of an organization called "People for the Arroyo" to advocate for keeping the lower Arroyo a natural place for passive recreation.

The organization won a 1999 lawsuit against the City that required the City to adhere to the terms of the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance and, as a result, prevented a bicycle path from being developed in the Arroyo.

Pat loved our precious open spaces, and was especially fond of the birdlife that thrives in our area. She spent her recent years traveling the world as an avid bird watcher.

Pat will be sorely missed.



La Loma Bridge update

With the completion of the east abutment, the La Loma bridge sub-structure – the columns and arches that hold up the bridge superstructure and surface – is finished. Work continues on the box girder superstructure, upon which the roadbed will rest. If you stop by the site you'll see this large rectangular box being formed, extending almost completely across the Arroyo. Several longitudinal "ribs" or girders run the length of the box. These ribs will contain heavy steel tensioning cables that will be used to "pre-stress" the entire box structure, creating an extremely strong bridge superstructure. By the time you read this, the bottom of the box will have been poured, with working continuing on the upper parts of the superstructure. The completion target remains the end of this year. (Caption by Blaine Cavena; Photo by Chuck Hudson)

How does the WPRO spend your generous donations?

By BLAINE CAVENA
TREASURER, WPRO

The WPRO is supported by the donations of its members and supporters. While we receive extremely modest sums from interest on deposit accounts and from the very limited advertising, which occasionally appears in our newsletter, over 99% of our revenue comes directly from you. We receive no grants or other funding from government or institutions, and have no other sources of revenue.

Our current budget anticipates yearly expenses totaling \$72,625, not including \$10,000 allocated to advocacy. (More about that later.) Almost three-quarters of our budget, 73%, is spent producing and delivering this quarterly newsletter and our weekly Neighborhood Update email, with a small portion funding our annual meetings. Grants to worthy organizations and events that directly affect our community, including public education, constitute 12% of our budget.

Expenses associated with our internet/web presence and the processing of on-line donations consume 7% of our budget. Administration and clerical expenses are 8%, with the preparation and mailing of donation acknowledgement letters, insurance, and tax filings representing the bulk of those expenses.

Our current budget has \$10,000 allocated for advocacy. This is supported by your donations and by our advocacy reserve. This reserve is essential when issues require amounts well above what can be supported by our annual budget. For example, our efforts to oppose the proposed SR-710 tunnels have consumed over \$50,000 in the past two years, and would not have been possible without the reserve.

The advocacy reserve exists because of your generosity and our careful expense management. It provides the "deep pockets" sometimes required for legal fees, consulting, education and communication, and enables us to respond quickly when we believe our members don't want us to wait. We depend

Continued on page 5

City Council approves YWCA/Kimpton Hotel project

BY SUE MOSSMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
PASADENA HERITAGE

In August, City Council approved a version of the YWCA/Kimpton Hotel project in the Civic Center. We understand negotiations now continue between the City and Kimpton.

Pasadena Heritage supported a modified alternative 2A, which we believe can meet the goals we set at the beginning of this project more than four years ago.

We believe that a hotel is a good match for the historic YWCA building and provides an opportunity to energize and activate the Civic Center. We concluded that adding a new building of significant stature would contribute to the Civic Center and its prominence as our most important public place, and that a comfortable set-back of green space would be maintained.

The Robinson Memorial has been carefully considered, and the Sister City Garden will be re-envisioned as a more beautiful and fitting tribute than the existing disorganized collection of trees, several of which are unhealthy or inappropriate species for the climate.

We have consistently stated that the design of the new hotel wing is critical to the acceptability of this project. We expect nothing less than a beautifully detailed, high-quality building worthy of the Civic Center. The massing studies shown in the presentations are not the designed project; work remains to be done.

This location demands the best — a new building that respects the former YWCA, but also responds to the civic nature and scale of the larger historic district. Pasadena Heritage was always mindful of both these essential goals throughout years of review and project iteration, and we also considered that City Hall was never intended to permanently face the back of the former YWCA and YMCA buildings across the street.

Though Pasadena Heritage and others (including the WPRA) advocated for a smaller project over several years, we believe that a smaller project would not have been financially feasible and, therefore, would not have been built, leaving the Julia Morgan-

designed YWCA building in continuing decline and the Civic Center at status quo.

There are opportunities to add more green space into the Centennial Plaza area, and City Council embraced and supported the notions that improvements are important and need to be given priority and funding now. We look forward to participating in the planning of those improvements.

For more information about our analysis of the project, please refer to our FAQ page on the Pasadena Heritage website.

Project including Thatcher Medical Building causing concern

The charming medical office complex at 960 East Green St. is composed of two New Orleans-style buildings dating from 1947 and 1968. The unique Thatcher Medical Center has recently become a hot topic. A large new residential project is proposed on its parking lot, to the south of the building, which may also include converting the upper floor and vacant attic space of one of the medical buildings to housing.



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Pasadena Heritage reviewed preliminary plans for the project with the developers and made a number of suggestions regarding the juxtaposition of the new and historic buildings, design concepts and landscape and courtyard recommendations. We have also asked for more information on exactly what changes are proposed for the Thatcher building, which is the primary preservation focus. The complex is a contributor to the Green Street Village Landmark District. Neighbors and doctors have expressed concerns about the project density and that construction noise and disruption would be significant for doctors and their patients. It is our understanding that the project will likely go to the Design Commission for concept review in November.



25th Anniversary Craftsman Weekend scheduled for November 11-13

It's hard to believe that Craftsman Weekend has been a Pasadena Heritage program now for a quarter of a century and is still going strong as one of our most popular and well-attended offerings! This year's 25th annual exploration of the American Arts & Crafts Movement in Pasadena will again include a wide variety of walking, bus and drive-yourself tours; hands-on workshops and interesting lectures; an exhibition and sale of Antique and Contemporary Furnishings; and several special social events that are always highlights of the three-day program. Tickets are on sale now! Visit pasadenaheritage.org/CraftsmanWeekend.

Citizens deserve more transparency when City develops public property

BY AVRAM GOLD
CHAIR, LAND USE & PLANNING, WPRA

After a long City Hall hearing ending past midnight on August 15, City Council unanimously voted to approve the YWCA/Kimpton Hotel project Final Environmental Impact Report and all recommendations and findings submitted by the Planning Department; including a surplus property declaration, conditional use permits, variances and tree removals for Alternative 2A, a six story 185 room hotel with a 30 to 40 feet setback from the west side of Garfield Avenue.

The City received 15 support letters and 107 opposition letters and comment cards for that night's meeting. There were more than 50 speakers. Five people supported the project and eight left before being called to the podium. The remaining group opposed the preferred project. The factors discussed and debated were: scale, height, setback, design features, limited parking, adherence to the Bennett Plan and lack of transparency regarding the deal points and the developer's identity and intentions.

The West Pasadena Residents' Association was most concerned about why hotel developers needed a 180-room hotel to make the development economically feasible. Commissioners, during five different meetings, were unable to respond, however, since they were not privy to the deal points negotiated by the prior City Manager, Michael Beck.

Further investigation by the WPRA revealed that in January of 2015, Kimpton was bought and absorbed into the InterContinental Hotel Group.

Although the Kimpton Hotel brand still exists, the YWCA renovation project is no longer being developed by the hotel chain. The applicant is now KHP Capital Partners, a private equity firm spun off from the Kimpton Group. The investment firm typically buys undervalued properties for hotel developments with the intention of flipping them later to generate returns for its investors.



Above is an artist's rendering of the front view from Garfield and Holly streets; below, is an artist's rendering of the structure's elevation from Union Street. (Architectural Resources Group)



When pressed to reveal KHP's plans for the future unnamed hotel, Joe Long, one of the three managing directors of KHP Capital Partners, told City Council that his company expects to sell the repurposed YWCA within five to 10 years. Pasadena City Manager Steve Mermell explained that the City will participate in that sale by overseeing the selection of the next hotel owner. The details about who would manage the hotel, once operating, was never fully explained. Mr. Long said that the project would be a Kimpton hotel. However, it may only be carrying the Kimpton brand name.

While we are pleased that the City has been able to save the YWCA, which noted architect Julia Morgan designed, we believe much more transparency is necessary when developing public property. The WPRA also advocated a smaller, lower complex with a footprint allowing for more open space on the west side of Garfield Avenue facing City Hall.

The WPRA will continue to monitor this project, as other city coalitions and associations explore options for the continued opposition the hotel size and building setbacks City Council approved.

How does the WPRA spend your donations?

Continued from page 3

on your donations to continue such advocacy — and to replenish the reserve after the major 710 expenses of the past two years.

The WPRA is an all-volunteer organization with no paid employees. No benefits or “perks” are provided to any director or volunteer, beyond the personal satisfaction of contributing to our community.

We take our financial oversight role seriously, believing that the donations you entrust to us deserve our wise and thoughtful consideration. If you'd like to learn more about our budgeting and finances, or would like to volunteer in a more active role with the WPRA, please attend one of our monthly board meetings — and remember that your generous donations permit us to do what we do.

Opinion

Making the case for a strong mansionization ordinance

BY MIC HANSEN

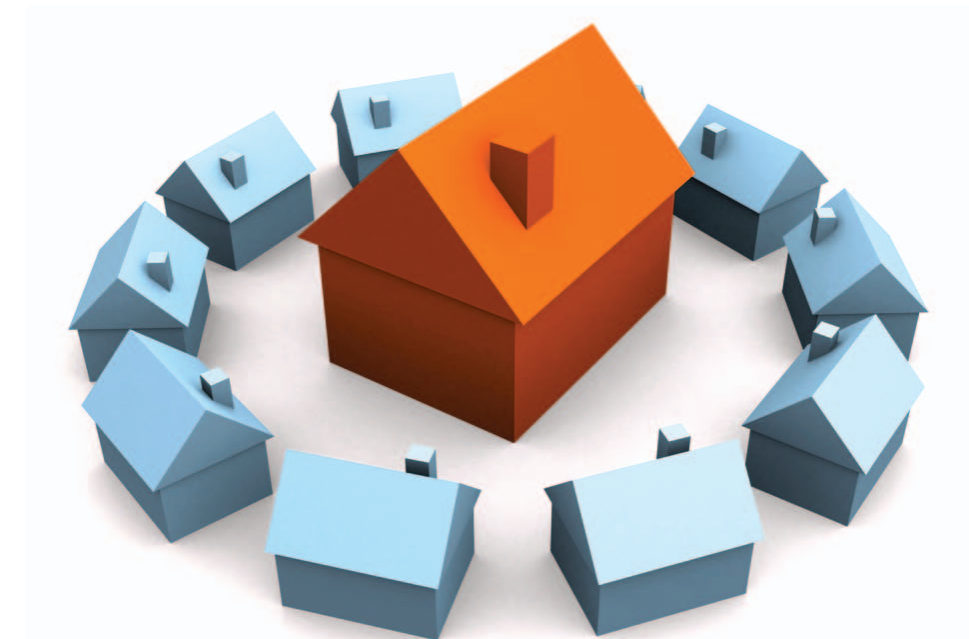
We have spoken about “mansionization” multiple times in past issues of this newsletter. Mansionization is defined as the practice of “demolishing or altering smaller, older homes in an area and replacing them with ones that occupy the maximum amount of lot space possible, dwarfing surrounding dwellings and changing the character and context of the original neighborhood.”

This practice has now become more prevalent in Pasadena, and in the last several years out-of-scale and out-of-context large homes and structures have encroached into many of our treasured residential neighborhoods. Community objections to this trend have encouraged City and Planning Staff to formulate an anti-mansionization ordinance. It is time to enact a robust and comprehensive ordinance that will be firmly enforced.

When Pasadena is ready to put this ordinance into place, it would be wise to remember the experience of the City of Los Angeles. It enacted a mansionization ordinance, only to discover that the ordinance provided multiple loopholes, leaving neighbors vulnerable. A Studio City resident was quoted in the Los Angeles Times as saying, “It gets so you just want to crawl in a hole and die rather than take a walk in your own neighborhood.” We have heard similar laments from Pasadena residents, who assert that they need relief from such encroachment and insults to their neighborhoods.

It’s often thought that an ordinance that limits overall size of the structure by lot coverage is sufficient. However, basing limitations largely on the structure covering a percentage of the lot often leaves multiple unresolved issues.

- How do attached—or even unattached—garages count?
- What about balconies, decks, accessory structures, attics and basements?
- If your new neighbor decides to dig a basement and elevate his home couple of feet, what effect could that have on your views, privacy, or even shade and shadow for your backyard?



- How about a protruding balcony that may not count as square footage, but manages to obstruct views or intrude on the privacy of your back yard?
- What happens if your next door neighbor decides to double the size of their home, and in the process alter what used to be a Craftsman Bungalow into a gleaming giant stucco and glass-brick box?
- Can we legislate style?
- How does the terrain affect how the ordinance is written?

Wisely, our Planning Department has identified three phases to better customize such an ordinance: the initial phase applying to Lower Hastings Ranch area in east Pasadena, the second focusing on hillside areas, and the third focusing on the large portion of Pasadena that encompasses multiple residential neighborhoods throughout the city that are not protected by city Landmark or National Register status.

This third phase is most challenging: to craft an ordinance that equitably considers the rights of long-term residents and newcomers. Some are adamant that neighborhood compatibility ordinances violate private

property rights, but we must consider the quality of life for the entire neighborhood.

The perpetrators of mansionization despoil the beauty, character, and scale of the neighborhood that made it desirable in the first place and attracted them to it. Their contention that no constraints should exist on their ability to build as they choose disregards current reality.

Laws evolve to respond to public need. Just as we now have ordinances that prohibit smoking, drinking and driving, or the use of plastic bags for protection from illness, injury, and environmental damage, respectively. In this same regard, a mansionization ordinance is the means to protect neighborhoods and quality of life. Those who persist in wanting to build structures that deprive their neighbors of the enjoyment of their homes—block their views, encroach on their privacy and light, and degrade the value of their property—need to be made accountable.

The West Pasadena Residents’ Association encourages all households in its service area to actively participate in the process the City has put into place to craft and implement a neighborhood compatibility ordinance that we all can support.

Our trees are worth the investment to keep them

BY EMINA DARAKJY
CHAIR, PASADENA STREET TREES
PAST PRESIDENT,
PASADENA BEAUTIFUL FOUNDATION

The State of California is in the fifth year of a severe drought, which has prompted Governor Brown to order California residents and municipalities to cut statewide water usage by 25 percent.

California's water reservoirs have steadily dried up in recent years due to the disappearing snow pack, and scarce rainfall. This has had an impact not just on our national forests where an estimated 140 million trees have died in 2014 in Southern California, but also on our urban forests where trees are dying at an alarming rate.

You can help by making sure your trees are watered, but first ensure that your irrigation system is functioning properly to avoid runoff. Runoff means water is being wasted and not absorbed by the soil.

- Irrigate after 6 pm OR in the early morning between 2-9 a.m., when there is no wind, little sun and, as a result, little evaporation. Make sure your water schedule reflects seasonal changes, and be sure to follow the city's mandatory watering schedule.
- Water deeply and slowly. Make the wells around the trees larger and apply water so it moistens the soil in the root zone to a depth of at least 12 inches.
- You can install bubblers, a temporary drip system or a soaker hose on the surface to slowly water to the drip line. Never aim your water at the tree trunk.
- Apply mulch, as an inexpensive way to reduce water consumption.
- A 4-6 inch layer of mulch on the soil surface helps retain moisture. Apply mulch within the dripline, leaving a six-inch space between the mulch and the tree trunk. Good quality mulch is important. To avoid diseases, free mulch is not always the best thing.

Watering newly planted trees

- The roots of younger trees are less established and need easier access to water to establish deep root systems.
- Water young trees twice a week about 5 to 10 gallons each time. Check your soil, sandy soil requires more frequent watering than clay one.



Above is an example of a good use of mulch; note the gap between the mulch and trunk. Below, is another good example of use of mulch. Both photos are from Vina Vieja Park.



An example of a Netafim drip irrigation system in Gwinn Park. Mulch could also be added to reduce evaporation.

Watering mature trees

- Water within the "drip zone," area directly beneath the foliage.
- Apply 10 to 20 gallons of water one to two times a month during the summer and 5 to 10 gallons of water during the winter if there hasn't been measurable rain.

Give trees a higher watering priority than turf areas and flowerbeds. Turf can often be rejuvenated or replaced in a matter of months at relatively little expense. Trees, however, are more difficult to replace. For example, a 40-year-old tree will take 40 years to replace and may entail significant removal and replanting costs. When trees are lost, this increases the surrounding temperature making everything hotter. In addition, they often serve as shelter and/or food to birds and animals thus the need to keep them alive.

Check frequently for drought stress. Symptoms of drought injury to trees may appear suddenly or take up to two years to emerge. Stress symptoms include wilting, yellowing, and browning of the edges, scorching, defoliation and branch-die-back. In a continued drought, leaves may be smaller than normal and drop prematurely. Although stress as a result of the drought may not kill a tree outright, it could set it up for more serious diseases or insect infestations. Please consult a Certified Arborist if your tree all of a sudden starts to look different. Remember your trees are worth the investment.

In conclusion, trees provide us with so many benefits, they shade our homes and help us save on energy bills, they increase property values, they absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen which helps us breath, their roots prevent water runoff, not to mention that studies have shown that people tend to linger longer and shop at stores on tree lined streets spending as much as 11% more.

Your trees are the most valuable assets in your landscape. Please keep them alive by taking care of them. Do not stop watering them and do not stop planting trees just because we are in a drought period. If anything we should be planting more trees for the next generation.

A thank-you to our donor-members!

The WPRA appreciates the financial support of all those who join or contribute to our effort. The membership donations listed below include the names of all those who contributed \$100 or more between August 1, 2015 and August 31, 2016. If your name is not listed or is not listed correctly, please contact me. We thank you for your support

Linda Zinn, Membership chair, zinn@wpra.net

NOTE: To make it easier to help fund the WPRA services and efforts, we have enclosed an envelope within this issue. Just insert (1) the completed form on the envelope flap and (2) a check (made out to WPRA) into the pre-addressed envelope, add a stamp and mail it. You may also donate using your credit card by visiting wpra.net and clicking on EZ Donate in the upper left corner of our home page. West Pasadena Residents' Association is a 501(c) (3) non-profit public benefit corporation. Memberships and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Martin and Heather Holford	John Matthes and Kevin Lucas	John Rouse	Barbara and Frank Way
Laja Holland and Martin Nicholson	Stacie Mayoras	Loring Rutt and Ronna Dishnica	Alex and Katie Wei
Robert C. and Mary Favre Holmes	Ms. Alison McAlpine	Robert Ryan	James and Mary Weidner
James F. Hopkins	David and Carlin McCarthy	Elizabeth Samson	Jeff and Stacy Weiss
Barbara and John House	Susan McCurdy	Bill and Sharon Schlarb	Blair and Kate Westlake
Ann and Philip Howlett	Bill and Nancy McDonald	Richard and Esther Schuster	J. Patrick Whaley and Lynda Jenner
Ralph and Linda Hubbard	Judy and Steve McDruald	KB and Chris Schwarzenbach	Judy and John Whiting
Chuck and Jody Hudson	Joyce McGilvray	Sharon Scull	Edgar and Peggy Whitmore
Mr. and Mrs. M.L. Hutcheson	Judy McLaughlin	Gigi and Joe Scully	Ginger and Chris Wilson
Randolph Huteson	Mr. William Meurer	Carrie H. Sebenius	The Wilson Family
Thomas Huteson	Carolyn L. Miller	Gerald and Donna Secundy	Carl D. Winberg, M.D.
Elizabeth and Frank Huttinger	John and Juli Miller	Dianne Philibosian and Thomas Seifert	Robert W. Winter
Erik and Jessie Ivins	Troy and Terri Miller	Joel Sheldon	Elsbeth Wittler
John and Carol Jacobsen	Laurie Mitchell	Kathleen Shields	John B. Woodard and Bianca Pulitzer
Paul and Missy Jennings	Muriel and Ross Mitchell	Shirley R. Shivers	Barbara Wright
Pete Jensen and MaryAnn McGovern	Heather and Walt Mix	Mike and Jill Sigler	David and Cater Yost
Dr. and Mrs. Jeyaranjan	Norah Morley	Betty and Norri Sirri	Joseph and Alice Yuen
Marilyn and Phil Jordan	Charles G. Morse	David E. Skogstrom	Mr. and Mrs.H. Zaiser
Ms. Mary Lou Judson		Marie-Christine and Richard Slater	Renee Zakoor
Nobu and Jeffrey Junge		William D. Snyder	Stanley Zerne

How do we recognize donors in the Arroyo?

Continued from page 1

parks and facilities. The U.S. National Parks Service developed a recognition policy that “affords equal recognition for donors and avoids corporate branding or the perception of commercialization. This is the direction that the NPS has chosen based on concerns that parks remain a refuge from corporate branding which is otherwise so pervasive in our society. This still leaves many opportunities for vital corporate partnerships in support of parks.”

The City of Pasadena has developed some naming guidelines (although not for signage) in its Pasadena Public Park and Recreation Naming Policy. The policy has a list of things that parks or facilities can be named after. Businesses and corporations are currently not included in the list.

The WPRB Board fully supports recognizing those who help fund Arroyo improvements and recommends the City take the following steps:

- Perform a careful review of the Arroyo Seco Master Plan (especially the Design Guidelines) to ensure that any naming and/or signage is aligned with the design guidelines already established.
- Obtain the list of priorities for funding in the Arroyo Seco and ensure it meets the priorities already developed and complies with the Central Arroyo Seco Master Plan.
- Adopt consistent guidelines regarding all park services.
- Update, develop and approve a process for naming public spaces, and describe what signage needs to look like and how long the donor identification should continue.

While we appreciate the philanthropic offers to support Arroyo Seco facilities, all of us, including City staff, must carefully follow our own guidelines and procedures to meet our vital role as custodian of the great natural treasure that is the Arroyo Seco.

The dangers of rat poison use for animals and birds

BY LAURA GARRETT
CONSERVATION CHAIR,
PASADENA AUDUBON SOCIETY

We’ve all heard it — the little scratching, scuffling sounds of rats as they scuttle along inside or outside our homes. And we don’t like them.

We know rats are vermin, vectors that can transmit disease and damage our property. So we spend millions of dollars every year on trying to eradicate rats, hoping to stem the tide. One popular method is rat poison like D-Con. There are three major problems with this approach:



1. Poisoning rats is that it is a cruel way for the rat to die. The poison contains an anticoagulant which causes the rat to bleed to death from the inside. Having once watched a rat die this slow, horrifying death, I can attest that it is particularly ruthless.
2. Children eat the poison to the tune of over 10,000 calls to poison control centers each year. ‘Nuff said.
3. Rat poison almost always poisons creatures other than rats, and usually

the very animals that help keep the rat population down: owls, hawks, snakes, coyotes, bobcats, and even mountain lions. Once a poisoned rat has begun to die, it becomes an easy mark for its predators, who not only eat the poisoned rat themselves, thus ingesting a dose of poison, but also they can feed it to their young. Imagine a whole nest of owlets dying from one poisoned rat. And the irony is that one family of Barn Owls can eat 3,000 rats a year.

So what are the solutions?

Seal all entry holes to prevent rats and mice from entering your home and garage, make sure all food is stored in tightly sealed containers, and use snap traps or electronic traps. Avoid glue traps because they trap many critters besides rats, including reptiles and birds.

My favorite solution is to install owl boxes to encourage owls to nest and roost in your neighborhood. Pasadena has a healthy population of barn owls, great horned owls, and western screech-owls, so let’s work with them to keep the rat population down and keep our neighborhoods safe.

For more information, please visit saferodentcontrol.org.

San Rafael Elementary issues and outlook

Continued from page 12

Elementary at the site of what used to be Linda Vista Elementary School, before that school was closed.

One plan that PUSD is considering is to re-open Linda Vista, and to split the grades between Linda Vista and San Rafael Elementary, with one or the other school taking the early grades (pre-K through 3rd) and the other taking the later grades (potentially 4th through 6th).

Based on my understanding, the school community and others are divided on such plans, so please make your input known to the West Pasadena Residents’ Association and to PUSD.

Various and sundry

- San Rafael Elementary has a new music teacher and a new physical education

instructor this year. WPRB donations have allowed more students than ever to take music lessons.

- PUSD has done away with the policy of allowing pre-Kindergarten students (including out-of-District students) to obtain enrollment priority over neighborhood children for Kindergarten, which policy change will take effect following the 2017-2018 enrollment year, in order not to prejudice parents/students who enrolled in pre-Kindergarten for this year with the expectation of obtaining priority enrollment for that year.

Please never hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns about enrollment at SRES, or about programs, or about traffic, or about anything else.

We can bring back native fish to the Arroyo Seco

BY TIM BRICK
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
ARROYO SECO FOUNDATION.

Sadly for most people in Southern California fish are a long-forgotten memory. Developers have pushed into potential flood zones, and the flood control engineers have concretized all of our streams and rivers. Locally that's true of the Arroyo Seco. It was once the water, fish and wildlife that drew the early pioneers to our area. Most of that attraction is gone now, but can we restore it for future generations? That's our challenge.

In the 1890s, Charles Holder, the renowned sportsman and a founder of the Tournament of Roses, wrote of horse rides up the Arroyo during which trout would dart from the horse's feet. Lloyd B. Austin, the proprietor of Switzer's resort in the mountains near the top of the Arroyo, in 1936 said, "At a distance 'Arroyo Seco' may be only soft Spanish for 'Dry gulch,' but from the first day of the Pasadena colony, every hunter or fisherman who ventured beyond the granite gateway a mile above Devil's Gate brought back tantalizing stories of trout pools, foaming cascades and groves of live oaks, sycamore and spruce hemmed in by imposing cliff walls. One morning three anglers reported a catch of 240 trout below the site of the ranger station." As late as 1920, the chef at Annandale Country Club used to catch trout near the Colorado Street Bridge to serve for breakfast.

The Arroyo Seco stream, a major tributary of the Los Angeles River, nurtured a thriving run of steelhead, those remarkable anadromous fish that begin their lives as trout in coastal watersheds and then proceed to the ocean where they spend most of their lives as steelhead. They then fight their way back upstream to return to their stream of origin to spawn a new generation and die. Those were the trout darting at Holder's horse's hooves.

Some of the other freshwater species that once populated the Arroyo Seco include the Arroyo chub, the Santa Ana sucker, the Pacific lamprey and the Brook lamprey, the unarmoured threespine stickleback and rainbow trout. Today, despite recent dry years, native trout still reside in the upper



Southern California steelhead

reaches of the Arroyo along with the remnants of fish that were stocked there for many years by the California Department of Fish and Game. And in 2008 the Arroyo Seco Foundation brought back native Arroyo chub to the Arroyo by the Central Arroyo Stream Restoration program.

The southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) is now a federally listed endangered species, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has adopted a steelhead recovery program that lists the Arroyo Seco as a key site.

The fish that once swam the Arroyo were destroyed by careless disregard by previous generations. In the rush to respond to floods in 1914 and 1938 and to build the Arroyo Seco Parkway, engineers ignored the impacts their structures would have on water and wildlife. The destruction in the name of progress mostly occurred in the era before environmental impact reports and concerns about sustainability, but even since then these devastating impacts have never been fully considered or assessed.

Still, through all this, the Arroyo has retained a great deal of its grandeur and attractiveness. Today the Arroyo is "the most celebrated canyon in Southern California." It is our link with the nature of Southern California. Because of the historic efforts to protect its character and buy up parkland and open space along its banks, it is also the best stream

in the Los Angeles region for the restoration of native fish species. The recovery of the Southern California steelhead is the long-term measure of success, but there are several important steps that can be taken now to improve the conditions for fish and wildlife. Water quality can be improved, fish barriers can be removed, and concrete in many areas can be removed to restore native habitat along the banks of the Arroyo.

We are pleased to announce that the Arroyo Seco Foundation has recently received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to assess fish conditions and to take some initial restoration steps in the Arroyo Seco.

President John F. Kennedy once said "It is our task in our time and in our generation, to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours."

Tragically the natural wealth and beauty of the Arroyo has been degraded by previous generations. Hopefully, in our era, we can repair a great deal of the damage that has been done so our children and grandchildren can once again experience the thrill of Pasadena pioneers by witnessing native fish swimming in a natural stream.

San Rafael Elementary issues and outlook

BY KENYON HARBISON
PRESIDENT, WPRA

San Rafael Elementary School has started a new school year, and relatedly my daughter has started fourth grade. A number of issues face San Rafael Elementary in the coming year (and years) but first, some news.

Testing results are encouraging

Testing is not the be-all and end-all determinant of a school's quality, but the results of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress tests for last year have been released. Despite the fact that instruction at SRES largely takes place in Spanish for the first three years (due to the dual immersion program), San Rafael Elementary students had the second-lowest percentage, within Pasadena Unified School District, of children who scored a "Not Met" in English Language skills portion of the test, out of 18 elementary schools. Additionally, San Rafael Elementary students tied with Field Elementary School for the second-lowest percentage of students who scored a "Not Met" in the Math results portion of the test. As always, there were significant socio-economic disparities in results, which Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) continues to attempt to address.

Traffic control

The new year also brings some changes with regard to traffic regulation around San Rafael Elementary. Parking has been significantly restricted on San Miguel Road south of Nithsdale Road, and on Hermosa Road. This should help alleviate some of the traffic bottleneck that occurs in those spots, particularly on San Miguel. Teachers and volunteers continue to assist with drop-off and pick-up, and there has been an increase in police presence to deter traffic violations. To the extent you are a San Rafael Elementary parent who lives within the range of this newsletter (or you know one), I strongly urge you to use the drop-off option, rather than parking, and to drop off your child before 7:35 a.m., in order to avoid the 7:40 to 7:55 a.m. rush to avoid tardy slips.

Interesting ideas?

PUSD has potentially interesting plans to attempt to replicate the success of San Rafael



SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A letter from San Rafael Elementary

Editor's note: The WPRA has "adopted" San Rafael Elementary School, 1090 Nithsdale Rd., which is the last public elementary school in west Pasadena, through the WPRA-sponsored Student Enrichment Program.

BY RUDY RAMIREZ
PRINCIPAL,
SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The 2016-2017 school year is off to an amazing start at San Rafael!

Just recently, our school received yet another award from the California Department of Education: San Rafael Elementary was named a 2016 Title I Academic Achievement School. This award celebrates schools that are demonstrating academic growth for all students with specific attention paid to groups who have historically not done as well. It is a testament to the hard work and attention to detail that is constantly being displayed by our amazing staff, our always-supportive parent community, and of course, our talented students.

Another accomplishment that San Rafael is celebrating is our re-vamped "carpool" lanes in the mornings and in the afternoons. With support from the Pasadena Police Department and the City of Pasadena, we have been able to work closely with our neighbors to institute new parking restrictions that free up much-needed space for safer drop-off and pick-up procedures. Although there is still some work to be done, our school community is making this one of our top priorities as we work to be the best neighbor possible.

Speaking of being good neighbors, San Rafael recently celebrated its Fall Festival. Our event featured great food, good music and tons of fun games. To the delight of the students, many attendees came in Halloween costumes. Our Fall Festival was a perfect opportunity for the community to visit our campus and see for themselves why San Rafael is such a special school.

As I've said often, "The Best Is Yet to Come" for San Rafael. For the 2016-2017 school year, we are implementing a few curricular upgrades that I am confident will make a tremendous difference. Our staff is working diligently to deliver balanced literacy instruction in language arts in both English and Spanish. In math, we have adopted a new program that will provide our staff, students, and families with real-time updates on progress made and identify areas where more support is needed. And not to be left behind, we are implementing a new standards-based curriculum in science that will simply put us over the top.



Rudy Ramirez

And let's not forget, we are moving forward in these areas and still finding the time and resources to focus on physical education and the arts. Here is where the West Pasadena Residents' Association has been critical to our success. Over the past few years, the WPRA has helped us secure much-needed equipment for our school with your generous donations. We have purchased items such a speaker system, lighting for our spring musical, physical education equipment, and most recently, you have helped us put instruments into the hands of students that otherwise may have not been able to participate in our music program.

For this and for many other things, our community says, "Thank you!"

As we say at San Rafael, "Pandas Rock"! But let me be the first to say that without the generous support of the WPRA, we would not be as successful as we are.

Continued on page 10

Crime rates down, but theft and burglary rising

BY NANCY WALKER
DIRECTOR, WPRA
CHAIR, NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

The Pasadena Police Department reports a 13% overall reduction in crime in Pasadena since this time last year.

Also, the statistics show that crime rates in west Pasadena, according to Pasadena Police Department Chief Phillip Sanchez, continue to be low, as compared to recent years. However, theft and burglary is on the rise.

As it relates to theft and burglary, west Pasadena residents can help PPD by following a few safety tips:

- Lock doors and windows.
- Report suspicious activity to police.
- Leave night lights on inside and outside.
- If you have a home security system, remember to activate it when you are away from home.

- If you don't have a home security system, consider installing one.
- Consider adding motion detectors to your home security system
- Cut back overgrown trees, bushes, plants that may be blocking entry ways or windows to the home.
- Let Neighborhood Watch members know when you are away for extended periods of time
- Do not store valuables in your vehicle.

- Be aware of your surroundings and call (626) 744-4241 for suspicious activity (PPD Non-Emergency Phone number).

The West Pasadena Residents' Associations publishes crime statistics on its website page. You will be able to see the number of crimes reported for 2016 year-to-date. In addition, more detailed numbers are shown for each City Council District for the past several years.

- Go to wpra.net
- Scroll to the bottom of the page
- Click on Local Area Crime Statistics

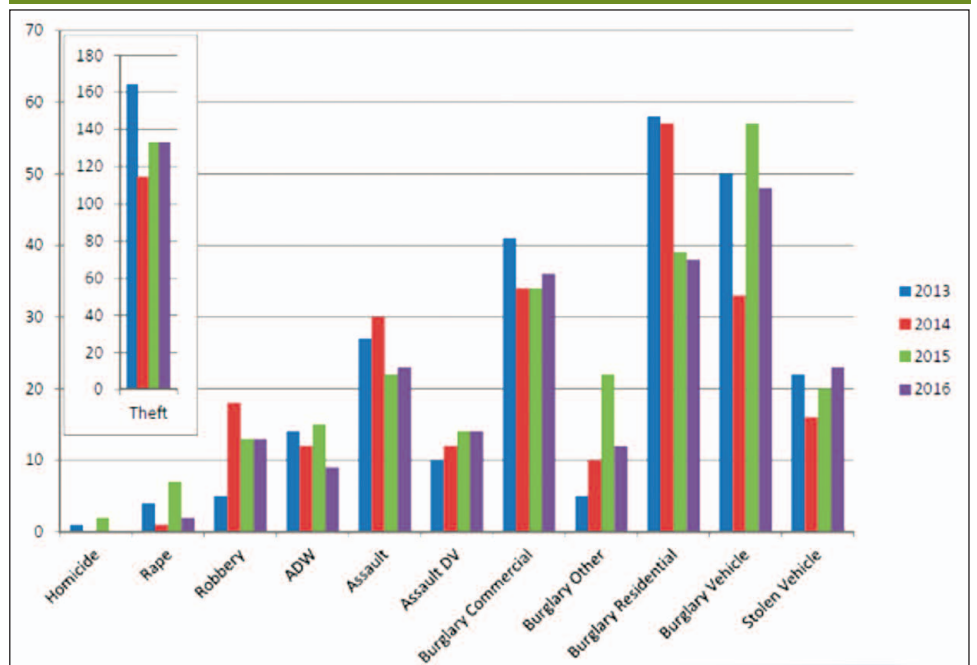
Category definitions

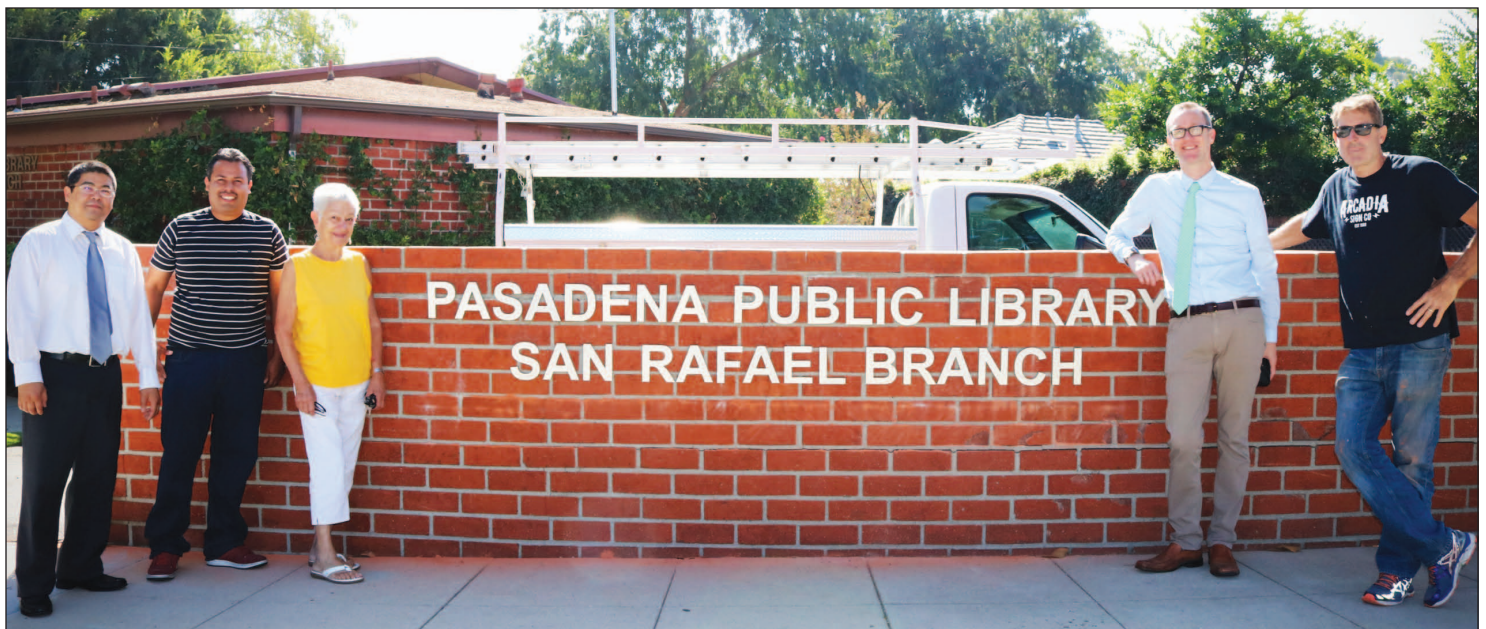
- **Homicide:** Murder and non-negligent manslaughter
- **Rape:** Rape including attempts (not including statutory offenses)
- **Robbery:** Theft or attempted theft by force or fear
- **ADW:** Assault by a deadly weapon
- **Assault:** Aggravated and simple assaults including attempt homicide (excluding domestic violence)
- **Assault DV:** Any assault or attempt homicide where domestic violence is involved (spouse, live-in domestic partner, co-parent of child)
- **Burglary commercial/other/residential:** Unlawful entry and attempted unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft including locked vehicles
- **Theft:** Theft or attempted theft of property that does not fall into the burglary category including unlocked vehicles; identity theft, embezzlement, forgery and fraud are not included
- **Stolen vehicle:** Grand theft auto; vehicles stolen from Pasadena

Council District 6 crime statistics

	August 2016		Year to date 2016	
	Council District 6	City	Council District 6	City
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	1	2	5	5
Robbery	2	13	16	102
Assault by deadly weapon	3	9	21	115
Assault	6	23	48	192
Assault domestic violence	1	14	11	110
Burglary commercial	4	36	41	263
Burglary other	0	12	24	109
Burglary residential	11	38	62	288
Burglary vehicle	11	48	69	341
Theft	31	133	203	1018
Stolen vehicle	7	23	27	186
TOTAL	77	351	527	2743

Citywide crime trends: through August 2016





On Sept. 1, a new sign, funded by San Rafael Library Associates, was installed on the exterior brick wall of the library parking lot facing Avenue 64. The sign now clearly identifies the branch library to those walking, biking and driving on Avenue 64. Angie O'Brien of the San Rafael Library Associates was on hand for the installation, along with Janice Segall, San Rafael Associates President. The sign was installed by Grant Niederlander of Arcadia Sign Company, which also designed and created the sign. In the photo, left to right, are: Zyrel Rojo, Librarian; Jonathan Estrada, Library Technician; Angie O'Brien; Mike Shea, Senior Librarian; and Grant Niederlander from the Arcadia Sign Company. (Photo by Erik Hernandez, Public Information Specialist for the Library)

Diets and Parklets Diets and bulb-outs, oh my!

Continued from page 1

objective is to create an inviting place for people to congregate and spend time.

They can be part of a road diet or can be part of a street that has been completely closed to vehicles. Local parklets have been implemented on York Boulevard in Highland Park and West LA's Motor Avenue, and extensively in San Francisco.

The West Pasadena Residents' Association is currently participating in planning and discussion of the following three major Complete Street projects in Pasadena, both for their individual impacts and for their implications for other parts of the city.

- The Playhouse District Road Diet and Parklets proposal, which includes six blocks of Colorado Boulevard centered in the Playhouse District. The proposed two-year pilot project would reduce two lanes of traffic each way to one, with a center turn lane; install painted curb extensions at intersections; introduce back-in angled parking; and use several parking spaces for two parklets, which would be portable, so they could be removed each year to accommodate the Tournament of Roses parade. The intention is to create a distinctive sense of place and identity for

the Playhouse District and its surrounding businesses and residences.

Status: Despite some local concerns and opposition, the Playhouse District Association Board has approved the proposal and sent it on to the City for consideration.

- The Union Street Cycle Track, which would implement an element of the City's adopted Bicycle Plan. A "cycle track" consists of a two-way bicycle lane mostly separated from vehicle traffic, except at driveways and intersections. Spanning from Lake Avenue to Marengo Street, the cycle track would occupy the southernmost lane of Union Street. It would be separated from vehicle traffic by a raised concrete median and a parking lane. Vehicle traffic would occupy the remaining two lanes.

Status: The \$6 million proposal is largely unfunded and implementation would be several years off.

- The South Orange Grove Boulevard Road Diet would convert South Orange Grove Boulevard from two vehicle lanes in each direction to one, with a two-way left-turn lane in the center. Bicycle lanes would

occupy the outer lanes. Among other objectives, this proposal is intended to reduce the speeding and safety issues on the boulevard, which directly connects three freeways. A similar example is Cordova Street between Hill and Lake (to be extended to Marengo) and South Marengo, which has been in place for many years.

Status: This project is also unfunded and, if approved, likely to be completed several years in the future.

All such proposals are highly context specific, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. These measures may have adverse and controversial consequences (such as traffic congestion or diversion to other streets, notably on Rowena Street in Silverlake and near Burroughs High School in Burbank) and must be carefully analyzed and address all local interests. They also have precedent value for other similar projects. The WPRA is closely monitoring them and working with interested groups in part because of the possibility of more such proposals in west Pasadena.

For more information, visit the Transportation Department's page on the City's website.

The G.T. Marsh Tea Garden: A Glimpse of Flowery Japan

BY KIRK MYERS
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST
PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

In the summer of 1903, workmen were busily engaged in transforming what had been “only a barren stubble field fronting two hundred fifty feet on Fair Oaks and three hundred upon California” into a Japanese tea garden, and the *Pasadena Daily News* reported that “Pasadena will have transplanted into her very center a tiny sprig of Japan.”

G.T. Marsh, whose San Francisco based company was said to be “the largest importer of foreign art goods in the world,” had long contemplated a branch in Pasadena to sell Japanese art, and he created a tea garden described as a “miniature fairyland” as a vehicle for that enterprise.

The garden featured a tea house originally built in Japan, a pond, cherry trees and lotus flowers, and hedges of chrysanthemums – “and all those attractions which fascinate travelers in Japan.”

When the garden was formally opened on February 1, 1904, the *Daily News* was enthusiastic: “Entering the gate of the garden one is bewildered to find himself transported to a garden in the far Eastern realm of the Mikado. There is not a suggestion remaining anywhere of an American idea. Everything from the ground treatment to the picturesque thatched roofs of the buildings is in Japanese



A postcard view of a wisteria arbor at the Japanese tea garden.

style, and as such is assuredly the most unique affair in Pasadena today.”

Also excited about the future of the garden, G.T. Marsh expressed his hopes on opening day: “We intend to make this place one that will be an attraction to tourists from everywhere to come to Pasadena, and to make it one of the chief entertaining features of the city.”

By 1911 the business had faltered, and Henry Huntington acquired the tea house and the trees and shrubs of the garden, moving them to San Marino. Today the house is in the

Japanese Garden in the Huntington Library, still attracting tourists from everywhere.

The Pasadena Museum of History is located at the corner of Orange Grove Boulevard and Walnut Street (470 W. Walnut); free parking in the museum lot. The Research Library & Archives are open to the public free of charge Thursdays-Sundays from 1-4 p.m. For additional information, please visit the Museum’s website, pasadenahistory.org or call (626) 577-1660, ext. 10.



Views of the pond, bridge and tea house created for the Marsh Japanese Tea Garden on the northwest corner of Fair Oaks and California, which the *Pasadena Daily News* called “A Glimpse of Flowery Japan.”



**WEST PASADENA
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**
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Visit our website @ wpra.net

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Pasadena: city on call

Police Department

Emergency 9-1-1
Pasadena Crime Stoppers (800) 222-8477
Non-Emergency (626) 744-4241

Services

Bulky trash items (626) 744-4158
Missed trash pickup (626) 744-4087
Missed residential recycling pickup (626) 744-4087
New trash container (626) 744-4087
New street light (626) 744-4191
Pothole (626) 744-4158
Recycling (626) 744-4087
Sewer problem (626) 744-4158
Shopping cart pickup (626) 744-8227
Street light not working (626) 744-4158
Storm drain blockage (626) 744-4158
Traffic signal malfunction (626) 744-4158
Traffic signal timing problems (626) 744-4191

Frequently called numbers

City information operator (626) 744-4000
Abandoned vehicles (626) 744-7627
Alarm permits (626) 744-4166
Animal control (626) 792-7151
Code enforcement (626) 744-4633
Dog licenses (626) 792-7151
Graffiti (626) 744-7622
Historic preservation (626) 744-4009
Neighborhood Watch (626) 744-4550
Park/picnic reservations (626) 744-7275
Parking permits/exemptions (626) 744-6440
Parking tickets (626) 744-4360
Pasadena Transit (626) 744-4055
Street tree maintenance (626) 744-4321
Trash pick-up (626) 744-4087
Water/power billing inquiries (626) 744-4005
Yard sale permits (626) 744-4200

The West Pasadena Residents' Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation.

Make your own motion!

Our representatives need to hear from you. Take a few minutes to make your voice heard, and make your own motion.

Pasadena

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Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-41), (626) 351-1917

United States

Representative Judy Chu (D-27), (626) 304-0110

Representative Adam Schiff (D-28), (818) 450-2900

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), (202) 224-3841