



WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

THE NEWS

Pasadena, California

Celebrating 55 years
of community service

Spring 2017

LAND USE / PLANNING

EDUCATION

OPEN SPACE / CONSERVATION

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

GOVERNMENT

PARKS / RECREATION

“The future of our Arroyo Seco”

WPRA sets date for 55th annual meeting: May 3

The West Pasadena Residents' Association cordially invites you to its 55th annual meeting on Wednesday, May 3, at Mayfield Senior School, 500 Bellefontaine St. Parking is free on the Mayfield campus (enter from Bellefontaine).

At 5:30 p.m. the evening starts with a reception, during which attendees will be able to enjoy light refreshments from Los Tacos, while visiting with many community organizations that will be exhibiting their services and programs. During this time, several students will service as guides for tours of the schools receiving hall.

At 6:30 p.m. the main program begins. The theme this year is “The Future of our Arroyo Seco.”

Ever since the completion of the Arroyo Seco Master Plan (ASMP) in 2002, the City has struggled to start projects — many unfunded — outlined within the master plan. In addition, the issue of deferred maintenance has not yet been addressed.



Bill Bogaard, above left, and Doug Kranwinkle, above, are serving as co-chairs of the newly formed Arroyo Advisory Group; Don Hahn, left, is an AAG member

Mayor Terry Tornek last year began speaking to this issue by noting his concern about our “over-loved” Arroyo Seco. During a January City Council meeting, Mayor Tornek asked Rose Bowl Stadium General Manager Darryl Dunn and City Manager Steve Mermell to frame out the many issues pertaining to the Arroyo. They subsequently named former Mayor Bill Bogaard and Rose Bowl Operating company (RBOC) board member Doug Kranwinkle, both long time citizens of Pasadena with extensive public service backgrounds, to serve as co-chairs of the newly formed Arroyo Advisory Group.

Dunn and Mermell also felt it was important to solicit comments from citizens. “We plan to undertake extensive public outreach,” said Bogaard. “It is important to hear from all parties who have a love and an interest in this special place.” “While it is a huge endeavor,” continued co-chair Kranwinkle, “I know that with the help of our fellow citizens we will come up with a way to maintain this beautiful part of Pasadena for posterity.”

Save the date

What:

WPRA 2017 annual meeting

When:

Wednesday, May 3, 2017
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Where:

Mayfield Senior School
500 Bellefontaine Ave.

Cost:

Free

At the WPRA meeting, Bogaard and Kranwinkle will discuss the advisory group's preliminary activity, including its planned community outreach and engagement programs. Setting the stage for their remarks will be a visual presentation covering some of the history of the Arroyo Seco and some blue-sky ideas for unifying and improving the space. The presentation was created and will be delivered by Don Hahn, a world-famous artist, film-maker and storyteller whose studio sits on the eastern rim of the Arroyo Seco. Hahn is also a member of the Arroyo Advisory Group.

Last, but certainly not least, the WPRA will formally recognize individuals and organizations whose activities have materially improved the quality of life in west Pasadena, and our members will elect officers and directors for the 2017-2018 WPRA fiscal year.

West Pasadena Residents' Association



YEARS
1962 – 2017

We exist to extend a helping hand

BY KENYON HARBISON
PRESIDENT, WPRA

On the Monday of my column deadline, I happened to be on Colorado Boulevard in Old Pasadena, facing toward the Arroyo, at about 7:20 a.m. We had a full moon hanging there, low over the boulevard, framed by palm trees. What a city we live in! It is my honor to be the President of the WPRA right now. We are continuing to work hard on your behalf, and on behalf of our city.

In January, the Board voted to support a court challenge to the City of Pasadena's approval of a six-story hotel on city-owned land, across the street from City Hall. Unfortunately, the project seems to have been approved by the City without the necessary transparency. Among other issues, the 185-room hotel will apparently have no parking on site, the City approved the project without having a signed lease with the developer, and no lease details have been revealed publicly. We will continue to let you know as this topic progresses.

Another hot issue in Pasadena right now is the issue of short term rentals (STR) — the Airbnb issue. As I write, the City is composing regulations relating to short-term rentals. In the near future, we will be soliciting your input via a survey. For example, some of the questions we'll be asking include:



Kenyon Harbison

- Should a hosted Airbnb rental have no limits on how many nights per year its hosts can rent a room or guest house?
- How can licenses to operate an STR be managed so that Pasadena does not become a city in which wealthy outsiders buy four and five homes using separate entities, and drive out neighbors.
- Do you think the City is doing not enough? Too much?

The Board discussed the issue at its March meeting, and the discussion was spirited. We

want to hear from you, so feel free to send us an email with your thoughts, even before you receive any survey.

San Rafael Elementary School continues to thrive. On March 11 I attended the Black & White Benefit charity dinner for the school. It was held this year at the Pasadena Masonic Temple on Euclid and was attended by hundreds. Seven years ago this event was a pancake breakfast that raised only \$5,000. Times have changed. We continue to work with neighborhood families who would like to attend the school, and who may be worried about how the process works. If you know one, have the family contact me.

I have received some messages in the past couple of months about an increase in crime in our neighborhood, including one from a neighbor who lives less than a block from me. We have communicated your concerns to the police department, and will stay on top of it. As always, don't forget to turn on those security alarms.

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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.

2016 – 2017 board of directors

- Geoffrey Baum, past president
- Dan Beal
- Bill Christian
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- Chuck Hudson (hudson@wpra.net)
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Membership, Open Space & Conservation



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
(editor@wpra.net)

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Pasadena, CA 91115-0252

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

The WPRA is grateful to Castle Press for design and printing services.

Visit our website at wpra.net

Visit our Facebook page

La Loma Bridge will (finally!) reopen in June (maybe)

By Blaine Cavena
Treasurer, WPRA

The re-opening of the La Loma Bridge, originally planned for last December and then delayed until March, is now expected in June.

Significant delays resulting from complications with utilities running through and under the bridge, along with labor-intensive work required to retain the architectural character of the bridge and the generally complex nature of the project were the primary causes of the first delay. Even then, the planned March re-opening would not have been the end of the project. Much work would still be required below the bridge to remove the temporary framework structures (falsework), deal with decayed concrete and restore the area.

In reviewing plans and schedules for the “under the bridge” work it became clear that the bridge would need to be closed repeatedly to complete that work. At various times cranes would need to be positioned on the bridge to remove supporting falsework, sidewalks closed for utility work, approaches closed for access to utility connections, and more. None of the closed trails would be opened until the project was complete.

As March approached with much work remaining, the idea of having the bridge re-open only to have drivers find it closed on what might appear as an erratic schedule seemed problematic. In addition, it was clear that having to repeatedly close the bridge for work and then re-open it would further delay the project, so the decision was made to keep the bridge closed until the end of the project, now expected in June.

Work continues with the bridge deck finished, sidewalk supports installed, and approaches being built up. Exterior railings and architectural details, along with lighting and barrier rails are next, while underneath work begins on repairing decayed or damaged concrete.

For more information see cityofpasadena.net/PublicWorks/La_Loma_Bridge_Project/



John Van de Kamp

Remembering a neighborhood hero

By GEOFFREY BAUM
DIRECTOR, WPRA

Hundreds gathered at the Pasadena Convention Center on a Monday night in April 2015 for a special meeting of the Pasadena City Council.

On the agenda? How the City should respond to the proposal to build a massive freeway tunnel that threatened to destroy our neighborhoods and harm our city. The atmosphere was tense as city staff presented the proposals under consideration.

When the time came for members of the public to address City Council, the first to step forward was John Van de Kamp. As he approached the microphone, everyone in the massive hall, including City officials, journalists and other audience members stood up straight and listened closely.

With his deep, calm, soothing and powerful voice, this respected attorney and public servant carefully articulated why the Council must take action in the face of this grave threat.

“I say to you tonight: Individually and collectively, say ‘No’ to the tunnel option by supporting the Pasadena Preferred Alternative,” he concluded.

The result? City Council voted unanimously to actively oppose the tunnel and safeguard our neighborhoods.

John cared deeply for west Pasadena and gave generously of his time, wisdom and resources to preserve and strengthen the sense of community and shared responsibility that makes our neighborhoods so special.

After a distinguished career at the highest levels of our state and local government, John had earned the right to take a break from public service. Instead, he volunteered to serve on the board of the West Pasadena Residents’ Association. With his involvement, WPRA became one of the most effective organizations in the region, providing advocacy on a range of issues, including traffic and safety, education, development and preservation.

He was a leader in WPRA efforts to preserve, maintain and improve San Rafael Elementary School and to protect the distinctive architecture, history and character of our city. He was deeply concerned about development plans in Pasadena’s Civic Center that would encroach on the historic statues erected in memory of Jackie and Mack Robinson,

Continued on page 7

City considers ordinances for short-term rentals

BY DAN BEAL
DIRECTOR, WPRA

The City continues to develop proposed ordinances and regulations regarding Short Term Rentals (STRs) in the City. As noted in the prior edition of *The News*, there has been an exponential increase in the number of STRs in Pasadena over the last few years. As directed by the City Council's Economic Development and Technology Committee, the City's Planning and Community Development Department has developed conceptual regulations for STRs and held another public workshop session in mid-February to gather public input.

The City classifies Short Term Rentals into three categories:

- **Hosted Home Sharing:** The homeowner rents part of his/her home and is present during the rental.
 - The City proposes to allow these to operate, subject to acquiring a Home Sharing Permit, for an unlimited amount of rentals per year.
- **Unhosted Home Sharing:** A person rents all or part of his home, is not present during the rental, but lives there when it is not rented.
 - The City proposes to allow these to operate, subject to a Home Sharing Permit, for a maximum of 10 bookings and a total of 60 days per year.
- **Vacation Rentals:** The owner does not live in the house, as a primary residence.
 - These would be prohibited from operating within the City.

For the first two categories, operating under a Home Sharing Permit which would be renewed annually, there would be a limit of two guests per bedroom plus two additional guests, to a total of no more than eight at a time. Rentals for commercial or social events, such as parties or receptions, would not be permitted. Parking would have to be provided on-site.

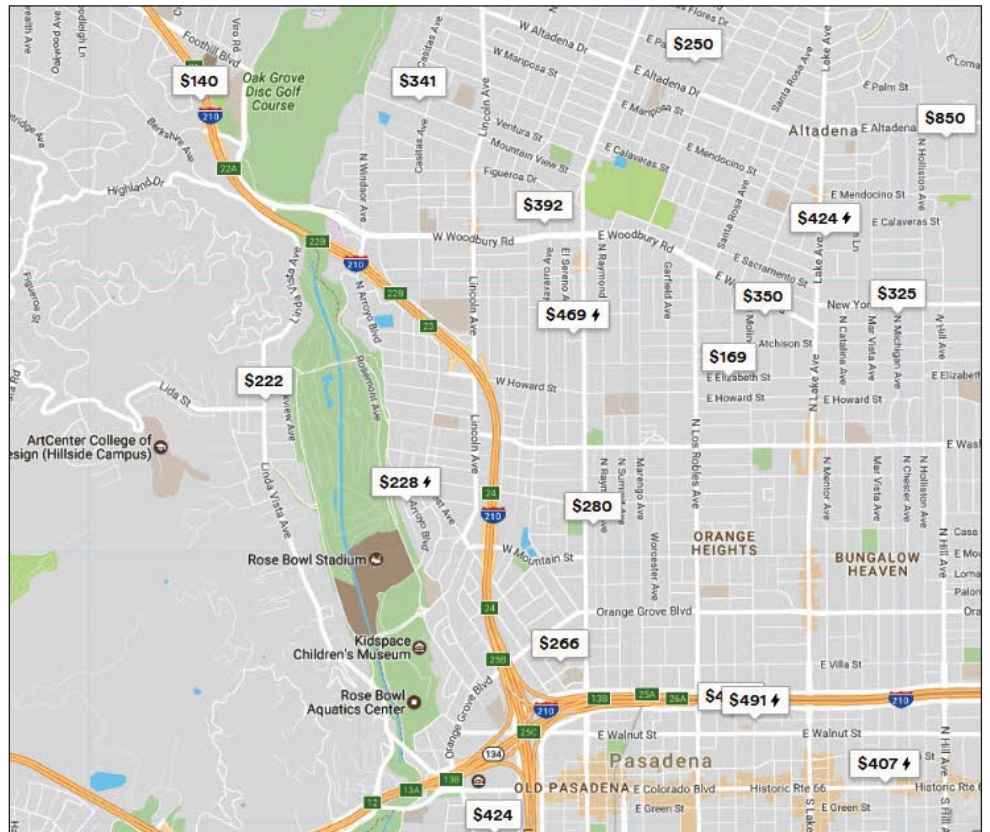
City business licenses would also be required, and the City's Transient Occupancy Tax would be paid at the same rate as hotels and motels. A person could have only one STR in the City and would have to live there nine months of the year. Inspections and liability insurance would also be required. Three infractions

against the same property would result in revocation of the permit.

City staff continues to develop the specific language of the regulations. The Planning Commission and the Economic Development and Technology Committee will hold

additional hearings before the City Council's consideration later this spring.

For additional information, contact Guille Nuñez of the Planning and Community Development Department at (626) 744-7634 or gnunez@cityofpasadena.net.



Sample listing of Airbnb properties in the Pasadena area

WPRA supports a balanced and nuanced approach to STR regulation

Opinion

The WPRA believes there is a need to regulate short-term rentals (STRs) in Pasadena to, at the least, maintain the character of our residential areas. We also believe that regulating STRs should be done through a balanced and nuanced approach that both facilitates the operation of STRs that conform to regulations and do not negatively impact neighborhoods, and prohibits those that by their nature or

operation are harmful to our residents' peaceful enjoyment of their neighborhoods.

Regulation of STRs is a complex endeavor, and WPRA commends the City staff's efforts to develop the conceptual framework for STR regulations that was presented to the public in February 2017. WPRA looks forward to reviewing the City's more detailed proposals and to providing further analysis of the proposals.

Continued on page 5

South Orange Grove Complete Streets study is underway

BY DAN BEAL
DIRECTOR, WPRA

District Six Council Member Steve Madison and the City's Department of Transportation kicked off the South Orange Grove Boulevard Complete Streets study on March 15, with the first of several working group meetings.

DOT Transportation Planner Rich Dilluvio noted that a Complete Street, as defined by the National Complete Streets Coalition (NCSC), is a street on which the entire right-of-way is planned, designed and operated for all modes of transportation and all users regardless of age or ability. That is, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and motorists must be able to safely move along and across a street.

Each Complete Street may be very different from others depending on the local situation and needs, but usually a Complete Street design will reallocate some of the existing traffic lanes into different configurations. One early concept for South Orange Grove contemplated one through lane in each direction, a center two-way left turn lane, bicycle lanes, enhanced crosswalks and revised signals, but there are a number of tools in the Complete Streets toolbox that may also be useful on the Orange Grove.

South Orange Grove will be a special challenge since it tries to fulfill a number of roles. It connects three freeways within a mile and a half, and residents sometimes think it's a mini-freeway itself. It's also a premier walking and cycling attraction and one of Pasadena's most beautiful and iconic gateway streets, but it also serves a dense and historic residential area. And, of course, it has worldwide visibility each New Year's Day for the Tournament of Roses Parade.

The effort will move forward by identifying problems, collecting data, developing and analyzing options, developing solutions, implementation, monitoring and adjusting, as necessary.

For further information, contact Rich Dilluvio at (626) 744-7254 or rdilluvio@cityofpasadena.net

State mandates limit City's ability to manage development and zoning

Opinion

BY VINCE FARHAT

In recent years, the California legislature has passed a number of laws aimed at pre-empting or overruling local land-use and zoning policies, particularly in the areas of affordable housing and high-density development. The trend toward central control by the State poses a growing challenge to city officials charged with managing local development and neighborhood quality of life.

Recent State legislative mandates often favor high-density development at the expense of local control. For example, the State now forces local governments to accept increased density bonuses for certain housing projects even where the density would flatly conflict with local land use policies.

Similarly, the State recently adopted guidelines that effectively eliminated the ability of local planners to consider increased automobile traffic at local intersections when reviewing urban projects. Last year, the City of Pasadena was forced to amend its second unit ordinance to comply with State legislative

mandates designed to increase second units in residential neighborhoods. Another centralizing proposal would limit the right of local cities to review and oppose high-density projects.

There is no doubt that California faces a severe shortage of affordable housing. But excessive "top down" planning, however well-intentioned, undermines local community control. The recent trend toward central state control contravenes the traditional authority of city halls to manage local development and enact local land use policies.

In the past, land-use planning has been the typical province of local government because it is local officials who presumably are closest to residents and businesses most concerned about community quality of life. But the balance of power has been shifting in recent years as the State has enacted policies intended to favor higher-density residential development.

This "one size fits all" approach does not take into account general plans, local planning documents, and community preferences.

We exist to extend a helping hand

Continued from page 2

Finally, we're reminded daily that the WPRA exists to help, even when it comes to small things. After the Rose Parade, a neighbor was concerned about trash that had been left along the parade route on Orange Grove, even after the City's clean-up crew had done its work. We connected her with the appropriate individual within City Hall to address that issue.

Whatever your concern is, if it relates to our beautiful neighborhoods and our wonderful city, please let us know. We will do our best to help.

WPRA supports a balanced and nuanced approach to STR regulation

Continued from page 4

Also, given the City's current projected budgetary shortfall, the WPRA believes that the City's STR proposals should be supplemented by a staff analysis of the financial benefits and costs of STR regulations, including the City resources needed to successfully implement and enforce the regulatory program, and whether the forecast permit and business license fees and Transient Occupancy Tax revenues will be sufficient to cover those costs and dedicated to administration and enforcement of the STR program, or commingled with other revenue sources to support the City's budget.



The City will soon begin making some repairs, along with a good cleaning and touch-ups, on the south-facing façade of the City's Central Library on 285 E Walnut St.

Central Library's south façade getting a touch-up

BY SUE MOSSMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PASADENA HERITAGE

Pasadena's beautiful Central Library, designed by Myron Hunt and the first of the Civic Center's three civic buildings to be built in 1925, is undergoing some repairs, cleaning and touch-ups to its south-facing façade. You may see what looks like scaffolding going up there soon, now that the City Council has approved the work.

Caltech wants new home for bungalow court

Caltech recently announced that it will construct a new building along the south side of Del Mar Boulevard at Wilson Avenue. On that corner is a charming 11-unit bungalow court, a fine example of this unique housing type that began in Pasadena. Caltech is encouraging its relocation and, in the past, has assisted those adopting historic homes that were moved from its campus to make way for new buildings.

Moving houses is never easy and is a last resort to preserve historic structures. This court will require a larger parcel of land and correct zoning, which makes it even more challenging. Pasadena Heritage is concerned that a solution will be difficult to find. Anyone interested or with good ideas, please call the



office and let us know or call Caltech directly to inquire.

Home Depot purchases Avon site on East Foothill

Home Depot has purchased the 13-plus acre Avon site in east Pasadena and is, we understand, working with other entities to develop plans for a multi-user project there.

Pasadena Heritage believes that the original Avon building facing Foothill, a mid-century industrial design with distinctive fenestration, is eligible for historic designation. Re-use of this building for an appropriate purpose is a priority for us, but a thoughtful plan for this large space will have many ramifications to consider. Neighbors are already concerned about traffic and circulation around a future Home Depot. No specific proposal has come forth, but this is a major development that will deserve careful attention.

Alexandria project returning to Design Commission

Alexandria Real Estate Equities is planning to construct a new headquarters on the site of the once-proposed Montana II at the southeast corner of N. Euclid Avenue at

Union. This sensitive site is a neighbor to the historic Maryland Arms on the north side of Union and is diagonally across from City Hall.

The design presented at the first Design Commission concept review was very contemporary and "glassy," and was directed to a sub-committee for further discussion. The next iteration will return to the commission in late March or early April. The question remains as to how this new neighbor to the Civic Center will make its own statement but also respond to and complement its important setting.

Upcoming events for 40th anniversary program

Pasadena Heritage is celebrating its 40th year with a variety of programs to entertain and educate our members, friends and the general public. Among the events in April will be a walking tour of downtown churches, and in May our Historic Pubs and Trivia tour in Old Pasadena, which is sure to be a sellout. There are special member-only events, too, so please join and then join in! Visit our website at www.pasadenaheritage.org for more information.

WPRA supports SR-710 North study bill with modifications

Due to the enormous cost of the SR-710 tunnel alternative, the inadequacy of both the tunnel proposal and the environmental impact assessment, and the large environmental impact to residents that have suffered from the threat of a freeway destroying their communities for more than a half century, the West Pasadena Residents' Association recommends that LA Metro and the California State Assembly Transportation Subcommittee support AB 287, so that the SR-710 North Study Tunnel Alternative can be permanently removed from consideration.

Instead of a tunnel, the WPRA urges support for a multi-modal solution that will serve all communities, promote economic vitality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions as required by SB743 and the Governor's April 2015 Executive Order. Both the City of Pasadena and the Beyond the 710 project have developed SR-710 multi-modal alternatives that should be considered

in any SR-710 study. These plans have broad general support from local communities including Pasadena, South Pasadena, Glendale, La Canada and Sierra Madre.

While the WPRA supports AB 287, it is concerned with some of the language and request that the wording of the draft bill be changed to address the following concerns:

- **The bill** appears to allow for the re-introduction of a surface freeway route, which is not acceptable.
- **The WPRA** also recommends finding alternate wording for the "I-710 Gap Corridor." This terminology inadvertently legitimizes a 60-year-old plan that does not respond to current transportation conditions. It implies that a gap exists which must be filled, and it further suggests either a freeway or toll way connecting point A to point B. Therefore, the proposed Advisory Committee's focus should be on improving

the efficiency of the regional transportation network in the SR-710 Study Area, not on filling a purported gap.

- It is stated that the proposed Advisory Committee "will make recommendations ... on the most appropriate and feasible alternative ... to improve ... activities related to goods movement." The SR-710 Draft Environmental Impact Report did not include goods movement as a primary project purpose and need.
- The bill states that the tunnel alternative costs are "\$2 billion to \$3 billion." These numbers do not reflect the estimates provided by Metro (~\$3.2B for a single-bore tunnel and ~\$5.6B for a dual-bore tunnel).

The WPRA also believes that the cities of La Cañada Flintridge and Glendale should be represented on the proposed Advisory Committee since they are heavily impacted by the project.

Remembering a neighborhood hero *Continued from page 3*

leading to WPRA's involvement. As recently as the March board meeting, he helped WPRA evaluate issues such as regulation of short term rentals, like Airbnb.

John was always thoughtful and eager to learn more before reaching a conclusion. One fun memory is when WPRA was asked to join conversations about the future of the Rose Bowl and the proposed Arroyo Seco music festival. The organizers also produce the popular Coachella festival in the desert. Just last year, John — not necessarily the target demographic for this gathering — volunteered. He traveled at his own expense to Indio on a scorching April day to observe first-hand the organization, planning and logistics so he could understand and share with the WPRA Board the potential impacts of the festival in Pasadena.

One last personal story. When I was nominated to serve as WPRA board president in 2014, the first call I received was from John Van de Kamp. He wanted to help revitalize the WPRA and rekindle the sense of community in the neighborhood. He offered to open his San Rafael home to the entire association.

I said, "John, you know WPRA has more than 1,000 dues-paying members. Are you sure

you and Andrea are ready for that?" He didn't hesitate and even called his friends at Pie'n Burger to send over its food truck.

On a beautiful summer afternoon, John and Andrea welcomed hundreds of neighbors, friends and guests to their lovely home and garden. In addition to their exquisite art collection and manicured grounds, most memorable was the genuine warmth and good cheer each guest felt as they crossed the threshold into the Van de Kamp home. The party was a huge success and helped

strengthen the bonds of our neighborhood and association.

John set an example for all of us in trying to build authentic connections between neighbors. WPRA is grateful for his extraordinary leadership and will honor his legacy by continuing the tradition of advocacy and service to this neighborhood he loved so dearly.

[Editor's note: John Van de Kamp passed away on March 14, 2017, at the age of 81.]

WPRA Board remembers John

- "It has been such a pleasure to work with him on the WPRA board these past years. We will miss him so much, and especially his wise counsel. John was a very humble man, who mentored the WPRA board."
- "John was a good man and a gracious gentleman who served our state, our county, and our community with wisdom, dedication, compassion, and good humor. We benefited greatly from his wise counsel, his great perspective and contacts, and the lack of any pretension in his committed participation in the WPRA."
- "I seldom saw anyone set the bar for 'public service' as high as John did, let alone live his professional and personal life accordingly. Scholarly, dignified, thoughtful, always worth listening to and always a gentleman in the valued old-school meaning of the word. There are so few like him, and he will be greatly missed."

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 February 1, 2016 and February 28, 2017. 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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Riparian vegetation and retained rain water in the Hahamongna basin behind Devil's Gate Dam. (Photo by Bill Christian)

Court stays “Big Dig” project, sends EIR back to County for revision

BY BILL CHRISTIAN
DIRECTOR, WPRA

Pasadena Audubon and the Arroyo Seco Foundation won a significant court victory on March 23. LA Superior Court Judge James C. Chalfant stayed the project and ruled that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the LA County Flood Control District (FCD) plan to excavate 2.4 million cubic yards of sediment from behind the Devil's Gate Debris Dam was defective, sending FCD's EIR back to resolve significant air quality, biological mitigation and cumulative effects issues.

The court's ruling will entail potentially major modifications in the project, redrafting sections of the EIR, and a process that will send the EIR back for public hearing and approval before the County Board of Supervisors. The County Flood Control District cannot move forward with any aspects of its plan until the three issues with the EIR are resolved, submitted to the public and the County Board of Supervisors for approval, and approved by the Court.

The court found that the EIR failed to consider the cumulative impacts of the project, including the effects of a proposed pipeline to pump water from the Devil's Gate dam reservoir to Eaton Canyon, failed to

commit to adequately reduce air pollution from the 400+ heavy-duty trucks daily conveying sediment, and failed to specify reasonable mitigation for the project's destruction of 70 acres of rare riparian and endangered species habitat.

Adequate mitigation for the project's proposed removal of riparian habitat will prove particularly difficult — the Arroyo Seco area behind the dam is a uniquely important environmental asset in our region. It both sustains native plants and animals and provides a critical link between the San Gabriel Mountains and the Los Angeles River corridor. Few if any comparable areas exist in the LA basin to replace the loss of this habitat.

Opponents of the project have long argued that the FCD's plans are unnecessarily aggressive, causing significant, unwarranted community and ecological disruption. The City of Pasadena proposed a slower, smaller removal project — twice approved by City Council — that would remove sediment buildup, protect downstream residents, and reduce community disruption and harm to the riparian area. The FCD EIR failed to analyze, and rejected, the City's plan without reasoned consideration. The plaintiffs believe that court's action may again open the opportunity for consideration of the City's

plan with County officials as a more practical, less destructive, and cheaper alternative.

According to the FCD, the project was to have commenced as early as this fall with removal of the riparian vegetation, but the court's decision will likely delay the project until 2018 at the earliest, providing an adequate opportunity to weigh in with alternatives.

At Mayor Terry Tornek's urging, the City is reviewing management and governance of the entire Arroyo Seco, including the Devil's Gate area. A blue-ribbon committee has been set up, and has begun its study of how the various and sometimes conflicting activities and interests in the Arroyo might be better integrated.

As a connected resource serving the community in many ways — including water quality and quantity, recreation, conservation and scenic beauty — it would seem incumbent on the City and concerned citizens to consider carefully whether the sediment removal plans of the FCD are compatible with existing and future plans for and uses of the Arroyo Seco, and to communicate those views now to County supervisors.

Lastly, this case is important far beyond the impacts on the communities immediately

Continued on page 12

AFC mounts a campaign to save mountain lions

By JOHN HOWELL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL COUNSEL
ARROYOS & FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY

I'm sure you've heard about the mountain lion known as "P-22" who somehow crossed the 405 and 101 freeways in 2012 and now lives in isolation in Griffith Park. We have a similar situation in our local mountains. Mountain lion "P-41" found his way into the Verdugo Mountains, but has been stranded there for six years, unable to return to the San Gabriel Mountains.

The National Park Service and wildlife photographers (who volunteer with the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy) have been tracking P-41. He has sired three sets of cubs with a mate who probably also lives in the Verdugos. Four of the six cubs tragically perished on the 210 and 2 freeways. Somehow two made it, but were starving and near death



Leno, one of P-41's cubs

and had to be taken in by a wildlife sanctuary, where they will remain.

The Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy (AFC) hopes to give P-41 and his offspring a fighting chance at survival. We are working to create a wildlife corridor from the Verdugos to the San Rafael Hills. Once there, animals can

move through the Arroyo Seco and Devil's Gate Dam to Hahamongna and the vast expanse of the San Gabriels.

The only wild route into the Arroyo is through Cottonwood Canyon, a small strip of land that narrows at Inverness Drive and crosses Normandy Drive and Linda Vista just south of the 210. Linda Vista resident Rob Floe and his dog had a staring contest

with a mountain lion in his backyard near Cottonwood Canyon.

With the generous support of local residents, including many of you, AFC is close to buying this narrow portion of the canyon, keeping it free from development and safe for wildlife forever. We are also working to connect the Verdugos to Tujunga Wash and the San Gabriels, completing what we call the "Hahamongna to Tujunga Wildlife Corridor." Because of AFC's work, the state has recognized 22,000 acres as critical habitat for this corridor and the survival of these lions and other wildlife.

We're not only worried about P-41 and his brood. We're concerned about the long-term survival of mountain lions in each of our urban habitat islands. Studies have shown that these local lions possess the lowest genetic diversity in the country, outside of the endangered Florida panthers. Their future depends on their ability to move safely between regions to enhance genetic diversity and overall population health.

AFC has also been educating young people about conservation and the plight of our mountain lions. We are fostering the next generation of wildlife stewards at Cottonwood Canyon and on large tracts of natural land that we have also saved in Altadena's Millard and Rubio Canyons and in La Crescenta.

If this interests you, please call or email me at johnhowell@arroyosfoothills.org (626)796-0782. You can also go to our website to see more motion-triggered photos on our properties of these cats, bears, bobcats, foxes and other wildlife at arroyosfoothills.org/photos/, or video of a spotted owl at arroyosfoothills.org/cottonwood/.



Map of San Rafael Hills and San Gabriel Foothills hubs and corridors, including a callout to indicate the Cottonwood Canyon, which the AFC hopes to purchase

Clarification

Pasadena Beautiful Foundation notes that a statement made in recent article ("Cultivating our neighborhood arboreal canopies," Winter 2017 issue) needs clarification. As a matter of discretion, Pasadena Beautiful will, in some circumstances, arrange for the planting of a new tree even when the requestor has not contributed to the foundation.

BRIEFS

PCC regains full accreditation status

Pasadena City College has been restored to full accredited status after a thorough evaluation process by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), one of three accrediting groups belonging to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

"The Commission's action is an endorsement of our strategy and performance, of which we all should be proud," Rajen Vurdien, PCC Superintendent-President, wrote in a campus-wide email. "This work would not have been possible without the sustained effort of everyone on this campus." Ross Selvidge, President of the Board of Trustees of the Pasadena Area Community College District, noted that the quality of instruction at PCC has never been in question during the whole process leading to the restoration. Source: *Pasadena Now*

Board president details two new PCC programs

Pasadena City College is ramping up two significant inter-related programs for its students as well as for students in Pasadena Unified School District high schools who are interested in taking advanced community college courses, reports Pasadena Area Community College District Board of Trustees President Ross Selvidge said Tuesday. Selvidge said PCC plans to take full advantage of a recently passed California law that makes it easier to accommodate high school students who want to take community college courses at their high school.

"We've entered into an agreement with a couple of high schools in the [Pasadena Unified School] District and we're going to capitalize on that," Selvidge said. "This is a program by which high school students can take community college courses at their high school during a regular school day, and the course would only have high school students in it. When the students graduate from high school, they'll get their high school diploma, they'll also have a community college transcript," Selvidge said. Source: *Pasadena Now*



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

Dear Friends of the West Pasadena Residents' Association,

At San Rafael Elementary School, our Annual Fund works with the Pasadena Educational Foundation to raise critical monies that help us support our "Room #13" Art Studio, full-time Physical Education teacher, field trips, classroom supplies, and much, much more.

This past Saturday evening, San Rafael hosted our Annual Fund's "Black and White" Benefit at the Pasadena Masonic Temple where we had over 240 guests. Being that our school mascot is a Panda, our benefit is called the "Black and White" as a play on words and to set the tone for a very formal event where our community gets really dressed up. The evening was full of excitement, community building, and of course, some very important fundraising with a silent auction as well as a live auction.

In the weeks to come, our students in 3rd through 5th grade will start to take the varied sections of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) as well as the ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages better known as the AAPPL assessment. The CAASPP aligns with our new State common core standards and the AAPPL is used to assess student proficiency in Spanish.

San Rafael has always performed exceptionally well on both of these assessment tools and this year will be no different. Our students, parents, and staff have been working really hard this year to ensure that our students are reaching their fullest potential. If you recall, San Rafael was recently honored with a 2016 California Gold Ribbon School Award and a

2016 Title I Academic Achievement Award. Our goal is to continue to build upon this successful tradition at San Rafael Elementary School.

On Thursday, May 4th, San Rafael will host our Open House. This is the time of the year where our students and staff show off all of the amazing work that they have been engaged in all school year. In particular, our Open House is viewed as an "International Day" where each classroom selects a different country from the Spanish-speaking world and they create varied presentations focusing on the language, culture, religion, economy, and history of that country. You can think of Open House as a trip around the Spanish-speaking world. We invite members of the WPRA to come and join us so that you can see first-hand, the magic that makes San Rafael such an amazing school.

Lastly, from the bottom of all of our hearts at San Rafael Elementary School, we would like to offer our most sincere and humble condolences to the Van de Kamp family and all of their loved ones. John Van de Kamp, who recently passed away, was a friend and an advocate of San Rafael Elementary School. We will sorely miss him. Rest in Peace Mr. John Van de Kamp!

"Big Dig" project

Continued from page 10

surrounding the Arroyo Seco. FCD's "Big Dig" will undoubtedly set precedent for removing sediment from the dozens of debris basins in the County. FCD's focus — digging up and transporting sediment to regional gravel mines — ignores cheaper and better management alternatives, some proposed by federal and state agencies that, for example, would establish more natural river channel and flood plain areas and release more sediment downstream to potentially restore our beaches.



Rudy Ramirez

PPD dispatch supervisor offers guidance to those calling about crimes, suspicious activity

BY ALIX REEVES

Pasadena Police Department Dispatch Supervisor Karen Peterson is a 30-year dispatch veteran. She graciously agreed to be interviewed so that we could discuss dispatch issues. During our interview, she stressed the importance of ongoing training for dispatchers, and why we should always ask to speak to a supervisor if we believe our calls are not being handled well. She also noted that all complaints are taken very seriously. This is one reason all calls are recorded.



Karen Peterson

Additional guidance from the PPD dispatchers

- Call **911** for emergencies.
- Call **(626) 744-4241** for non-emergencies.
- The dispatchers work in 12-hour shifts, but change tasks every four hours to reduce fatigue.
- All calls are recorded.
- 911 emergency calls automatically reveal the caller's ID, address, phone number and approximate cell tower location.
- Non-emergency call do NOT automatically reveal caller ID.
- The Dispatch Unit receives about 200 non-emergency calls [(626) 744-4241] every day, and about 580 emergency calls (911) every day. They may also need to interrupt the caller to get key details.

Q: How can we best help you do your job, which is to help keep us safe?

- A: When calling, keep it short and informational. Try to provide information in the following order, which synchs with the on-screen boxes the dispatcher must complete during the call:
- Where is activity occurring?
 - What is happening?
 - What is your name (optional)?
 - What is your address (optional)?
 - How would you describe the individuals who are engaging in the activity you're calling about?

Q: What type of information should you provide when describing individuals?

- A: Follow the top-to-bottom rule for each suspect:
- Male or female?
 - Age?
 - Hair color? Style?
 - Eye color?
 - Glasses?
 - Shirt style, pattern or color?
 - Long pants? Shorts? A dress?
 - Type or color of shoes?
 - In a car, on foot, or on a bicycle or motorcycle?

Q: Can you offer some guidance for callers who aren't sure whether to call the non-emergency number or 911?

- A: Call 911 for life or death issues or if you believe a crime is in progress. For example, call 911 if you know burglars are inside a yard, a home or someone else's vehicle. Call the non-emergency number if what you see just seems wrong or out of place, or see individuals who don't appear to be from the neighborhood and are trespassing.

Q: Some callers report they don't always get warm and friendly dispatchers. Thoughts?

- A: The Department is aware of this issue and is conducting new training to encourage dispatchers to be more personable. However, given the nature of their work, burn out can be an issue. Also, keep in mind that dispatchers sometimes interrupt callers. Sometimes they're goal is to get the information as quickly as possible, especially if the call load at that time is high. Again, if you feel your call is not being handled well, ask for a supervisor immediately.

Q: What should we do about pan handlers?

- A: Call the non-emergency number in these cases. Call 911, however, if there appears to be a threat to someone's safety.

Q: If we call in an observation about people who look suspicious and seem like they do not belong in the neighborhood, how can we get a quicker response?

- A: Patrol response to calls depends on how busy the police are at that moment. Unfortunately if officers are busy when you call, they may not, depending on the seriousness of the complaint, be able to come out right away.

Q: Can we ask if others have called about a specific situation?

- A: Yes. You are welcome to ask questions about whether the dispatchers have received other calls about the same issue.

Q: After reporting a noise complaint during a late night party, why didn't the police issue a ticket to the individuals?

- A: The police cannot issue a ticket unless complaints are received from at least two callers who identify themselves. However, callers who want to avoid the possibility of retribution for calling the police, they can request that police to contact them, if necessary, by phone.

Continued on page 14

Rose Bowl announces lineup for first Arroyo Seco Weekend

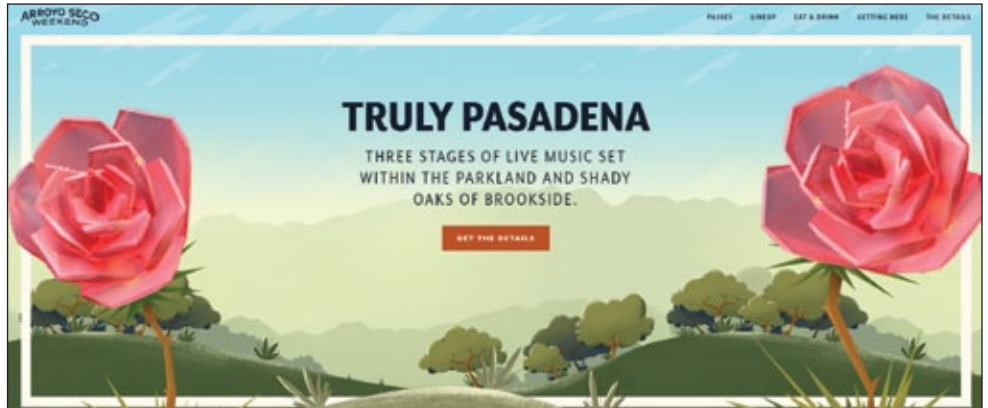
BY BILL URBAN
DIRECTOR, WPRA

Tom Petty, Mumford & Sons, Weezer and The Shins have been announced as headliners for the inaugural Arroyo Seco Weekend (formerly Music and Arts Festival). The two-day festival will be held June 24 and 25 at the Rose Bowl Stadium. Ticket prices range from \$125 for a single-day general admission pass to \$399 for an all-weekend VIP pass.

Southern California promoter GoldenVoice promises a family friendly, world-class culture event featuring three stages of live music, curated menus from Los Angeles County's celebrated restaurants and chefs, plus craft beer and wine.

Festival organizers are taking steps to manage impacts on our neighborhoods. For example:

- Festival participants will be given a choice of parking and transportation options when they buy their tickets.
- Only those with pre-reserved parking passes will be allowed to park in the Arroyo, and the number of parking passes will be strictly limited to about 20% less than normally allowed for a major event.
- Neighborhood streets will be blocked off and controlled as for other major events.



- There will be continuous sound monitoring at the Rose Bowl boundaries and select locations in the neighborhoods to measure impact in the neighborhoods and to ensure compliance with City noise ordinances.

WPRA, and the Rose Bowl, encourage you to call the resident hotline, **626-397-4141**, and report any event-related issues. The hotline is dedicated to resident issues including event management, non-emergency police and non-emergency fire (as usual, call 911 for emergencies).

In addition to allowing organizers to respond immediately to problems, calls are recorded and analyzed after the event to make improvements for future events.

Major 2017 events at the Rose Bowl Stadium

- Saturday, **May 20**:
U2, *Joshua Tree tour* (concert)
- Sunday, **May 21**:
U2, *Joshua Tree tour* (concert)
- Sunday, **July 23**:
CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal match (soccer)
- Saturday, **July 29**:
Metallica, *WorldWired tour* (concert)
- Saturday, **August 5**:
Justin Bieber, *Purpose World tour* (concert)
- Saturday, **September 2**:
UCLA vs Texas A&M (football)
- Saturday, **September 9**:
UCLA vs Hawaii (football)
- Saturday, **September 16**:
Green Day, *Revolution Radio tour* (concert)
- Saturday, **September 30**:
UCLA vs Colorado (football)
- Friday, **October 6**:
Coldplay, *A Head Full of Dreams tour* (concert)
- Saturday, **October 21**:
UCLA vs Oregon (football)
- Saturday, **November 11**:
UCLA vs Arizona State University (football)
- Friday, **November 24**:
UCLA vs CAL (football)

PPD Dispatch Q&As *Continued from page 13*

Q: If I see something or someone suspicious, but I'm in a hurry and can't stick around, can I still call?

A: Yes. You don't need to wait at home to speak to a patrol officer if you call in a report of a suspicious activity. Also, you don't need not leave your name, address or any identifying information.

Q: How can we get dispatchers to take our calls more seriously?

A: It helps to let dispatchers know of a particular trend in the neighborhood. For example, if you are calling about a potential burglary, you could inform the dispatcher that burglaries have been recent problem in your neighborhood.

If you have any additional questions feel free to call the information line at the PPD (626) 744-7311. To sign up for reverse 911 alerts, where the PPD or Fire Department place an automated call to you, (PLEAS Alert) please go to: <http://cityofpasadena.net/Fire/PLEAS/>

Camp Idle a While: an Arroyo Vacation in 1899

BY KIRK MYERS
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST
PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

On August 9, 1899 the “Society Gossip” section of the Pasadena Daily Evening Star contained a brief note that “There is a merry party of campers down in the Arroyo...”

The Star followed up with a more detailed report on August 26, as “Camp Idle a While” was on its third and final week.

“The scheme of establishing a camp so close to town grew out of the fact that the ‘men folks’ found it impossible to separate themselves from business at the present time, so they organized the party, chose a romantic, well-watered and well-shaded spot and put up their tents.”

There were five families involved, and each had “a comfortable tent, well fitted with comforts and conveniences.” The spot they chose was near the Campbell-Johnson toll bridge, close to the present site of the La Loma Bridge.

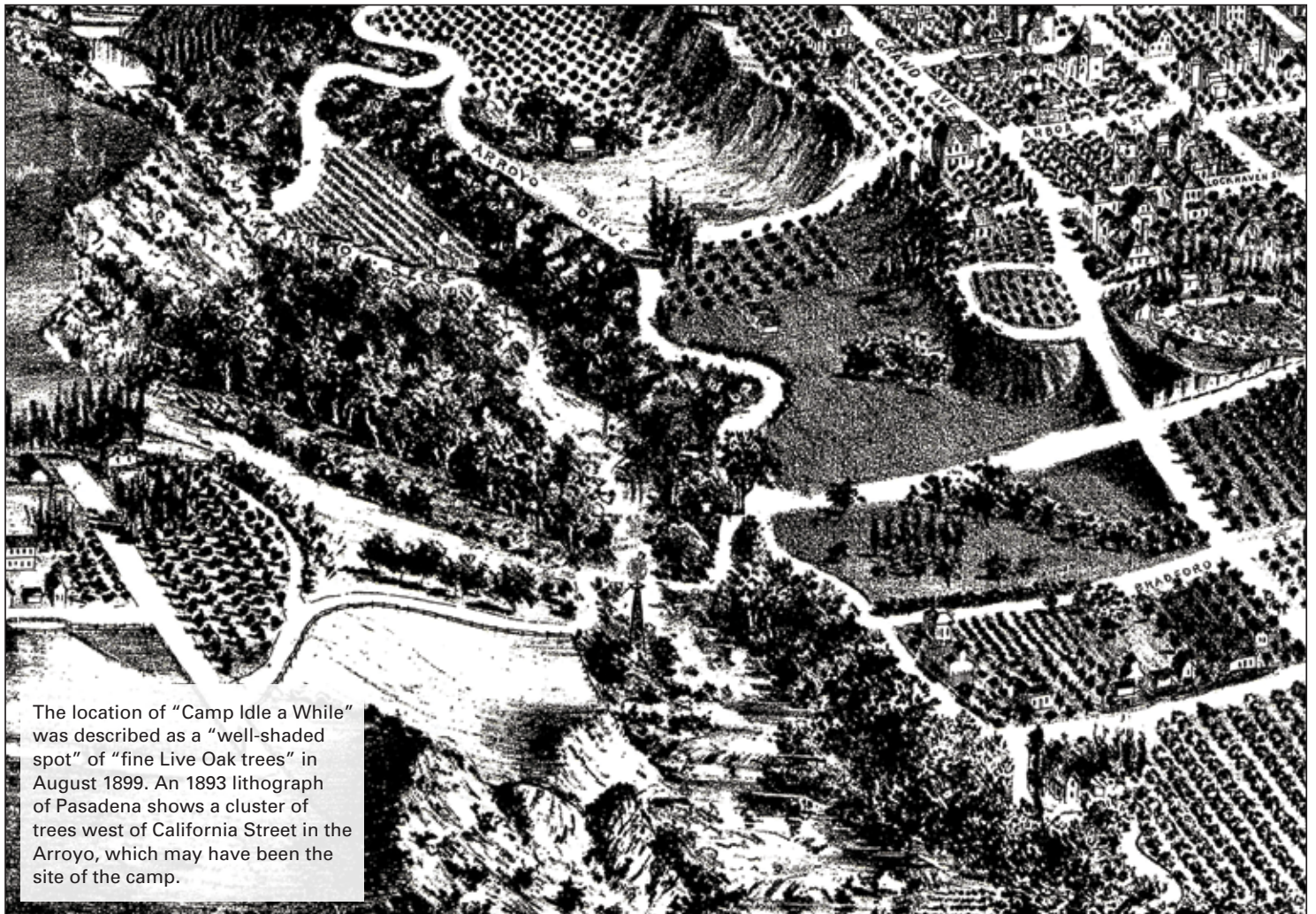
“The camp is laid out in the shape of a semi-circle and has a large dining tent and kitchen.” “It is camping with all the comforts of home ...” Live Oak trees provided shade, there were “luxurious hammocks” and “even a big mirror hanging on a convenient tree, though no lady of the party is supposed to curl her hair ...

“The campers are enjoying life thoroughly ... They have a fine spring of water close at hand, keep a cow and are so close to civilization as to enjoy the privileges of visits from the grocer and fishman, yet are in all ways desirable completely shut out from the world.

“At night the camp looks like a section of fairyland. Torches and Japanese lanterns afford a subdued light while a big bonfire crackles cheerily. Songs are sung, stories are told and a dreamless sleep ends all too soon by the Early Risers routing out the Sleepy Heads for breakfast.”

The experience was so enjoyable that “each and every member of the jolly company has said that his or her future vacations shall be spent in the same manner.”

The Pasadena Museum of History is located at the corner of Orange Grove Boulevard and Walnut Street (470 W. Walnut, Pasadena 91103); free parking in the Museum lot. The Research Library & Archives are open to the public free of charge Thursdays-Sundays from 1-4 pm. For additional information, please visit the Museum’s website, pasadenahistory.org, or call (626) 577-1660, ext. 10.



The location of “Camp Idle a While” was described as a “well-shaded spot” of “fine Live Oak trees” in August 1899. An 1893 lithograph of Pasadena shows a cluster of trees west of California Street in the Arroyo, which may have been the site of the camp.



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