



'Housing and the character of our community'

WPRA sets date for 56th annual meeting

■ "The strength of a city derives from the integrity of its neighborhoods and homes." – Confucius (*paraphrased*)

■ "Don't buy the house, buy the neighborhood." – Russian proverb

The West Pasadena Residents' Association cordially invites you to its 56th annual meeting on Wednesday, May 2, in the Westridge School, 324 Madeline Dr. Parking is free in the south parking lot at the corner of South Orange Grove and State Street; enter from State Street.

5:30 p.m.: Meet and greet

The evening starts with a reception, during which attendees will be able to enjoy light refreshments, while visiting with many community organizations that will be exhibiting their services and programs.

Among the City officials who'll join us will be Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek, District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison and City Manager Steve Mermell. Also, if their schedules permit, we hope to see State Sen. Anthony Portantino, State Assemblymember Chris Holden and U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff.

6:30 p.m.: Business program

The theme of the business program this

year is "Housing and the character of our community."

What gave rise to the idea was the literal tsunami of bills introduced recently by the State legislature to "solve" the State's general housing and affordable housing shortage. [See related articles on page 4 and 5.] These new laws, many of which became effective on January 1, supersede many local residential zoning and housing regulations. Previously, cities, especially Charter cities such as Pasadena, had relative autonomy to control their own planning and growth. To an appreciable extent, that's no longer true.

But this topic covers more ground than accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and forced regulation changes. Our exploration of the housing topic will expand to mansionization, short-term rental ordinances and affordable housing.

Helping us decipher the housing tea leaves, will be panel moderator and WPRA Director Mic Hansen. A seasoned community planning and development specialist, Mic will lead a panel of experts that include:

- David Reyes, Director, City Planning & Community Development
- William Huang, Director, City Housing and Career Services
- Sue Mossman, Executive Director, Pasadena Heritage

Panelists will help us walk through the tangled underbrush of housing issues and offer answers to questions such as:

- What are the City's housing priorities, and why are they priorities?
- How well are we dealing with Pasadena's affordable housing shortage?

Save the date

What:

WPRA 2018 annual meeting

When:

Wednesday, May 2, 2018
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Where:

Westridge School
324 Madeline Dr.

(Free parking in school lot at corner of South Orange Grove and State Street; enter from State Street)

Cost:

Free

- How is Pasadena addressing the homeless challenge?
- Will ADUs materially ease the affordable housing shortage?
- Where's the line between the rights of the individual property owner and the interests of the neighborhood?
- What recourse does Pasadena have to preserve the character of our neighborhoods, given the state mandates?
- How can oversight and enforcement be strengthened to ensure that both the spirit and letter of the law are upheld to preserve the character of our neighborhoods?

Last, but certainly not least, the WPRA will formally recognize those whose activities have materially improved the quality of life in west Pasadena, and our members will elect officers and directors for the 2018-2019 WPRA fiscal year.

West Pasadena Residents' Association



A circular argument supporting transparency, activism

BY KENYON HARBISON
PRESIDENT, WPRA

As I write this column, my last as President of the West Pasadena Residents' Association, it is "Pi Day." I sit wondering whether Stephen Hawking — may he rest in peace — was aware of and amused by the fact that he passed away on

such a high holy day for nerds. I am sufficiently crazy that I favor the number "T" (tau), which is 2π , as a more correct expression of the

circle constant. But Pi Day (3/14) is certainly more appealing as a mathematical teaching device for children because it makes one think of a warm pumpkin ... well, you know.

Anyway, what does an arcane dispute about the circle constant have to do with you, or me, or the price of lavender scones at Little Flower Candy Company? Well, it turns out

"...citizen involvement in their government, as we have in Pasadena, makes government better."

that many of our disputes and pressing issues in Pasadena are equally arcane, or would be, without the efforts of so many people to lift them out of the shadows. That is, in large part, what the all-volunteer WPRA does, whether in our weekly *Neighborhood Update* e-mails, or in this newsletter. We are not the only organization that does this, of course.

Good government thrives on a certain minimal level of transparency, citizen involvement and activism. And, of course, the one leads to the other. You may

recall seven or eight years ago, when the *Los Angeles Times* exposed the scandalous, criminal behavior of officials in the City of Bell. It reminds us that citizen involvement in their government, as we have in Pasadena, makes government better.

However, involvement also makes us better. It's very easy to rail about mismanagement

of the City or our school district when we know no one who runs these entities, and not much more about how they are run, or the challenges they face or the timeframes (often long ago) when the seeds for present challenges were actually planted. If the sum of one's knowledge can fit into a tweetstorm, one doesn't know much.

Being President of this organization has not always been easy. I am an attorney with a sometimes-more-than-full-time job, a father of two young children, and involved in other activities as well. But it has been worthwhile, and I am grateful for the opportunity.

I hope you all will continue to support the WPRA, and the work it does, including by volunteering if you are so moved.



Kenyon Harbison

About us

2017 – 2018 officers

- President: Kenyon Harbison (harbison@wpra.net)
- Vice President: Avram Gold (gold@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
(editor@wpra.net)

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

Visit our website at wpra.net

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BRIEFS

Mayor sounds fiscal alarm

City of Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek delivered the annual State of the City address on January 16 at the Marshall Fundamental School. What follows are excerpts from that address.

- For the past two years I have tried to alert everyone that the day was fast approaching when we could not rely on our current sources of revenue to adequately pay our bills. Unhappily, that day has arrived. Increased development and rising property values will continue to be our primary source of revenue and revenue gains, while sales and utility taxes are largely flat.
- The City's contribution to the employee Retirement system (CalPERS) continues to take a growing bite out of our budget. While budget payments to CalPERS were stable from 2011-2015, City employees increased their contributions to help offset the CalPERS rate increases; so our budget cost during this time held in the lower \$30 million range. Unfortunately, underperformance in CalPERS investments led to a jump to \$39 million in 2016, and last year it climbed to \$41 million. Four years out, the forecast is a \$65 million. This would represent an increase from 7.5% to 13.9% of the General Fund budget.
- If we continue on our current pattern of income and expenses, we will be in a deficit position during Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, which begins this July. Expenses will begin to outstrip income by \$3.5 million in FY19, more than doubling to \$8.3 million by FY 22.
- Since 2009, the City has eliminated 123 positions, including 23 sworn police officer positions; reduced expenditures in the General Fund by \$19.2 million; shifted \$5.3 million in annual pension costs

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Participating in a recent Pasadena Educational Foundation's annual event, Principal For A Day, are (left to right), PEF Executive Director Dr. Patrick Conyers, Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek and PUSD Board of Education President Roy Boulghourjian.

PUSD struggles as revenues decline, expenses rise, unique services expand

Traditional sources of City revenue declining

BY ROY BOULGHOURJIAN
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF EDUCATION
PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) is going through a particularly tough financial patch. As much as \$7 million in spending needs to be cut this year, with as much as another \$15 million next year, if initial cost-cutting measures don't start closing the gap.

With the oversight of the LA County Office of Education, PUSD's financial adjustment plans are already approved and will begin with elimination of school programs and staff positions. The School Board and our District's administration understand how painful this process will be, but continue to search for additional funding that could help reverse or eliminate the need for some of the projected cuts.

How did we get here?

The decline in public school enrollment is a major factor.

PUSD's dwindling student population started in the late '60s, when La Cañada Flintridge opened its own high school, and continued during the federally mandated desegregation of PUSD in the '70s. As a result, the number of private schools surged while the PUSD

student population declined.

Since then, Pasadena has been experiencing a decline in the birthrate. This trend was exacerbated by the shrinking middle class due to the rising cost of housing. Also, young families continue to either move out to buy less expensive homes elsewhere or simply can't afford to move here.

Additionally, families who can afford to live in Pasadena can now also choose from charter schools, which exist on tax dollars that would otherwise have gone to the public schools.

Services offered by non-public schools and agencies are expanding every year. About 45% of Pasadena's families prefer them to public schools.

This is a sad state of affairs, made especially so because Pasadena public schools deliver quality education for all socioeconomic budgets, including advanced placement programs and rigorous courses for high-achieving students.

In spite of PUSD's special academies, career pathways and International Baccalaureate programs, revenues have been consistently declining and now are flat.

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State mandates usurp City's control over development

As the accompanying article on page 5 details, the Governor and State Legislature have been busy lately. A package of more than two dozen bills designed to address what many consider to be California's *affordable* housing crisis became law within the last year.

But what is affordable housing? According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition, housing is affordable if the expense accounts for less than 30% of a household's income.

"With high demand on top of inadequate supply, the meaning of affordable in the most desirable locations can be difficult to gauge," writes the Urban Land Institute (ULI). "Affordability, then, reflects a combination of economic factors that differ across the country. For example, in California, the poorest 25% of the income earners report spending 67% of their income on housing."

Curiously, California has also addressed energy demand and climate change by enacting new zero-net-energy (ZNE) building standards. This, however, complicates the twin tasks of addressing climate change and providing affordable housing.

"The ZNE measures are expected to increase the cost of new buildings — possibly by \$23,000 for a \$300,000 home, for instance," according to the ULI.

Clearly, the view from Sacramento differs greatly from our vantage point. Mayor Terry Tornek put it this way in a letter to the State (published in *Pasadena Now*):

"This year we've had to figure out how to cope with your effectively abandoning the concept of a single family zoning statewide; we've had to realign our traditional election dates, and our municipal utility must continually scramble to alter its energy production and purchase strategies to ever-changing renewable requirements."

To help sort out this complicated, but important topic and to provide an informed local point of view, The News invited WPRA directors Mic Hansen and Vince Farhat to share their thoughts.

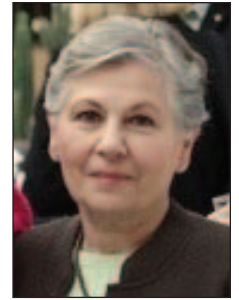
Mic has been involved with community planning and development for years. She's served as both a member and chair of the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and Pasadena Heritage. She has been a member of the Design Commission, a member of the Board of Directors and chair of the Heritage Housing Partners, and is a member of the Arroyo Advisory Group. She's also served on a variety of City study groups and task teams appointed to review land-use and planning issues.

Vince has served as a member of the Planning Commission, Transportation Advisory Commission, Pasadena Center Operating Company and Utility Advisory Commission. Currently he is a member of the Civic Center Task Force and has served as chair of the Pasadena Board of Zoning Appeals. In his capacity as a citizen commissioner, Vince was involved in helping to shape the Housing Element of the City's General Plan.

— Chuck Hudson, editor



Vince Farhat



Mic Hansen

their own determinations. However, recent legislative initiatives [See page 5] do not exempt Charter cities, which tend to be older, and may need to add required housing in areas that are already built-out.

Vince: For example, recent State laws no longer permit municipalities such as Pasadena to consider the impact of traffic when reviewing prospective additional dwelling units (ADUs) or assessing environmental reviews of proposed infill projects. [*"infill" is defined as development of vacant or under-used parcels within existing urban areas that are already largely developed.*] Clearly, policymakers are responding to what we all agree is an important need. Pushing for more affordable housing, however, has come with mandates. As a result, the City's hands have been tied. And that's where the tension exists. On the one hand is well-meaning legislation to increase inventory of affordable housing. On the other hand, is the one-size-fits-all approach takes away the ability of local communities to do their own planning.

Mic: One of the frustrations we have has to do with the one-size-fits all approach Vince just mentioned. Consider municipalities such as Santa Clarita or Laguna Hills. They both have open land at the edges of the community and can expand to satisfy the new laws without damaging their community's original fabric. But what about cities like Long Beach or Pasadena where open land is scarce? In these instances, the requirement is met through infill construction, which ideally ought to conform to a city's urban context. This makes it more difficult to comply with the uniform mandates that the legislature has required, meanwhile trying to preserve the contextual integrity of the particular area.

Vince: Pasadena, like many other communities in LA County and Southern California, has an affordable housing crisis. I'm neither a housing expert nor a policy expert, so, I can't tell you exactly why we have this problem, but Mic and I would certainly agree that we have an affordability gap. We're particularly concerned when we hear that children of long-time residents can't afford to live here and that members of the City's own workforce might not be able to afford a

home in our own community. While I think our City has tried to be proactive, realistically, market forces are in play that go beyond the control of our small jurisdiction.

Mic: In broad stripes, the State of late has been actively pushing legislation on both charter and general law cities. About 20% of California's cities are Charter cities. Historically, Charter cities — such as Pasadena, Los Angeles, and Santa Monica — have been given greater leeway in making

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State launches flights of bills intended to fix housing shortage

The following is a brief description of several dozen bills recently enacted — effective January 1, 2018 — to help address California's affordable housing crisis.

Appropriates more money for new housing, primarily for low-income residents

SB (Senate Bill) 2: Building Homes and Jobs Act: Imposes a \$75 fee on real estate transaction documents, excluding commercial and residential real estate sales, to provide funding for affordable housing. Transactions subject to the fee include refinancing, lien releases, lot line adjustment filings, and death of a spouse recording.

Makes it easier for developers to build

SB 35: Planning and Zoning: Affordable Housing: Streamlined Approval Process: Creates a streamlined approval process for multi-family residential infill developments in localities that have failed to meet their regional housing needs assessment numbers and, in specified circumstances, requires use of a skilled and trained workforce.

AB (Assembly Bill) 73: Planning and Zoning: Housing Sustainability Districts: Allows a city or county to create a housing sustainability district to complete upfront zoning and environmental review to receive incentive payments for development projects that are consistent with the district's ordinance.

AB 352: State Housing Law: Efficiency Units: Prohibits a city or county that adopts an ordinance permitting efficiency units from placing specified limitations on the units within one-half mile of public transit or where there is a car-sharing vehicle within one block of the unit.

SB 540: Workforce Housing Opportunity (WHO) Zone: Gives local governments new tools to plan for housing and create a more streamlined path for approval by eliminating some of the delays and uncertainty that currently impede housing construction.

Encourages developers to build and preserve more low-income housing

SB 827: Planning and zoning: transit-rich housing bonus: Requires a local government to provide a developer with a density bonus and other incentives or concessions for the production of lower income housing units or for the donation of land within the development.

AB 1505: Land Use: Zoning Regulations: Strengthens the authority of the city or county to establish inclusionary housing requirements as a condition of the development of residential rental units.

AB 1521: Land Use: Notice of Proposed Change: Assisted Housing Developments: Strengthens the law regarding the preservation of assisted housing developments by requiring an owner of an assisted housing development to accept a bona fide offer to purchase from a qualified purchaser, if specified requirements are met, and to be more forthcoming about possible rent price protection expirations to new and existing renters.

Forces cities to plan for more housing

SB 166: Residential Density and Affordability: Strengthens the law to mandate that agencies maintain a current supply of sites for residents at all income levels for the entire period. The agency would be prohibited from reducing density on a site used to achieve housing element compliance unless it makes findings that other identified sites are adequate to meet the jurisdiction's Regional Housing Need Allocation and the reduction is consistent with the general plan.

AB 879: Planning and Zoning: Housing Element: Changes housing element law, and directs the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to complete a study evaluating the reasonableness of local fees charged to new developments.

AB 1397: Local Planning: Housing Element: Inventory of Land for Residential Development: Ratchets up the existing housing element law by limiting local governments from relying on housing inventory sites that do not have a realistic capacity for housing development. The new law changes the definition of land suitable for residential development to increase the number of multifamily sites.

Penalizes cities that say "no" to housing

AB 72: Housing: Gives the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) authority to find a city's, county's housing element out of substantial compliance if it determines that the entity acts or fails to act in compliance with its housing element, and allows HCD to refer violations of law to the Attorney General.

SB 167: Housing Accountability Act: Makes it more difficult for cities to deny or lower the density of housing projects that comply with zoning laws and general plan policies, and mandates sizable fines if cities fail to comply.

AB 678: Housing Accountability Act: Strengthens the Act by requiring a local agency to make relevant findings if they deny a housing development and imposes added penalties on agencies that violate the Act by failing to make appropriate findings.

AB 1515: Planning and Zoning: Housing: Prohibits a local agency from disapproving, or conditioning approval in a manner that renders infeasible, a housing development project very low, low-, or moderate-income households or an emergency shelter unless the local agency makes specified findings.

City, school board approve ballot measures for election changes

On February 15, City Council and Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education, encouraged by a State mandate, agreed to place on a June 5 ballot an amendment to the City's Charter that would, if approved by voters, shift the City's election dates, currently held in spring of odd years, to coincide with state and federal elections held in even years.

The City's amendment would maintain the current election format for the Mayor and City Council involving a primary and runoff system, which requires the winning candidate for each race to receive more than 50% of the vote at either the Primary or the Runoff election. For budgetary reasons, however, PUSD's Charter amendment would permit the Board of Education's election format to change to plurality voting, under which winners are elected at a single election, needing only to receive the most votes cast for that race, even if below 50%. The Charter change designates the statewide general election held in November of even years for future PUSD plurality elections.

The decision to place the issue on a ballot comes after the City was informed by the State Attorney General that it must comply with the California Voter Participation Rights Act passed in 2015. The Act's objective is to increase voter participation in municipal elections by barring cities from running their own elections on "off-year election dates" if their turnout is 25% less than the average turnout for the last four statewide November General elections held in even years. Also, if voters approve the measure, Mayor Tornek, current City Councilmembers and Pasadena Unified School Board members would remain in office for an additional, one-time 19-month extended period, until the next municipal election could be held.

[Editor's note: Thanks to City Clerk Mark Jomsky for fact-checking.]

City Council reacts negatively to Green Hotel project ... again

BY SUE MOSSMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PASADENA HERITAGE

A major mixed-use project proposed for the southeast portion of the block that includes the historic Castle Green and Green Hotel Apartments (at Dayton Street and Fair Oaks Avenue) is larger and more dense than previous versions with a completely different design approach.

Presented to City Council as an information item in January, the project received a generally negative reaction. Council members commented about the size, scale, bulk and lack of sensitivity to the adjacent historic buildings and Old Pasadena as a whole. Goldrich Kest, the owners/developers, said they will redesign the project in response to comments they've now received from City Council, Design Commission, Pasadena Heritage, the Castle Green homeowners and the public.

We hope a better design approach and other significant improvements will be forthcoming.

New rules for single-family homes coming soon

As the third part of its planning effort to address mansionization, the City's Planning Department is developing new standards for single-family homes that are not in Landmark Districts or subject to the Hillside Ordinance or special Hastings Ranch guidelines. New construction and major remodels will come under more scrutiny and, hopefully, have to comply with design guidelines that make them more compatible with existing neighborhood character.

Pasadena Heritage often hears concerns about new construction, and it has been alarming to see what can be built under current code. We are eager to see the proposed new rules, a draft of which is scheduled to be ready for review this spring. We note, however, that Landmark District designation remains, and will likely continue to offer, the strongest protections for historic homes and neighborhood integrity.

Bridge Party returns July 14

Please save the date and join Pasadena Heritage for the city's largest "block party" atop one of the world's most beautiful bridges! Get your dancing shoes and fun-food appetites ready for the festivities, which will include old favorites — vintage cars, children's activities, live music and festive refreshments — and some new twists, too. There is still time to join the planning committee or sign up early to volunteer (volunteers attend free), and sponsorship requests will go out in April seeking individual and corporate support. Please plan to come and enjoy this preservation success story and unique historic icon!

North Fair Oaks project respects historic building

A mixed-use building, proposed for the 140-150 N. Fair Oaks Ave., received approval from the Design Commission in February after years in the works. A simple vernacular commercial building at 140 N. Fair Oaks is the last historic structure on the east side of the street that is a contributor to the Old Pasadena Historic District. Pasadena Heritage has repeatedly urged that it be respected as part of the project.

Earlier versions kept only the front façade of the historic building and piled new housing on top of it, decimating any sense of the original structure or its scale and proportion. The newest version of the project was vastly improved, retaining much more of the original structure and pushing the new construction far back on the site.

You're invited to a Habitat dinner

Join Mary Nasser, her friends and family on Saturday, May 19 for an intimate dinner and an opportunity to learn more about San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity's new and on-going work in Pasadena. This is not a fundraising event. No financial solicitations will be made. The evening begins at 6 p.m. RSVP: marynasser1@yahoo.com

City approves new ADU regulations

By MIC HANSEN
DIRECTOR, WPRA

After considerable public comment and subsequent deliberation, City Council approved on March 13 zoning code amendments and inclusionary housing regulations for accessory dwelling units (ADUs or granny flats). The amendments will affect lot size, maximum unit size, impact fees and affordability covenants among other considerations.

Prior to these new regulations, ADUs could not exceed 800 square feet or 50% of the size of the primary dwelling, whichever was less. However, State Law now permits ADUs to be as large as 1,200 square feet. At its December 11, 2017 meeting, City Council expressed concern that a maximum unit size of 800 square feet was too restrictive for larger lots. As a result, Planning Staff recommended maximum square footage of 800 square feet for lots under 10,000 square feet, and up to 1,200 square feet for lots 10,000 square feet or greater.

Again with the provision that the ADU's square footage would be the maximum allowed or 50% of the size of the main dwelling—whichever was less. The new measure does not set a minimum lot size for ADUs for properties zoned RM: residential multi-family. A graduated size recommendation that would mean proportional sizing of the ADU to the lot size failed to pass.

Residential impact fees also generated considerable discussion. Currently, the fee is \$19,494 for a one-bedroom unit, and is applicable to all residential construction. However, if the applicant is willing to place an "affordable" covenant on the ADU, the residential impact fee would be reduced to \$957. Two motions to reduce these fees across the board — so that all ADUs would be subject to the lower fee — did not pass. Going forward, those who choose to place an affordable covenant on their ADU will be assessed the lower fee, and will have a seven-year obligation to rent their unit at the affordable rate to renters, or rent to family members. The Council asked to broaden the definition of who qualifies as a family member.

The new ordinance will return to the City Council for its first reading in April.



Colorado Street Bridge at sunrise (Photo by Genji Arakaki)

Task force searches for ways to discourage bridge suicides

In our last newsletter, we announced the formation of the Colorado Street Bridge Task Force, which was convened last year by City Council to seek input from all city stakeholders and suggest solutions to the tragic (and increasing) problem of attempted and successful suicides from the Colorado Street Bridge.

The task force conducted two public meetings, which provided families of suicide victims, community residents, mental health experts, representatives of the Pasadena Police Department and others with an opportunity to express concerns and share ideas.

During the final meeting, the task force announced its intention to recommend to City Council that steps immediately be taken to add deterrents to suicide, beyond those already in place.

As of this writing, the task force anticipates it will deliver a presentation and timeline to the Public Safety Committee on April 18, but that is not confirmed. For updates, including confirmation of that date, visit the Department of Public Works landing page on the City's website.

Even in advance of those dates, new signage may be installed at the bridge to call out

suicide crisis phone and text numbers. Additionally, the task force will recommend 7.5 foot vertical barriers over the entire length of the bridge and implementation of measures to prevent access to the bridge exterior from each end. Historically, no matter what has been done to the bridge itself, determined individuals have found ways to outwit barriers by climbing along the outside of the Bridge from either end.

The task force also will recommend that the City later implement other measures, including establishing volunteer patrols, planting trees beneath the bridge, installing netting below the bridge, modifying bridge ledges, and installing cameras, motion sensors, intercoms and speakers.

If City Council accepts the task force's recommendations, City staff will issue a request for proposals later this year to create a vertical barrier design concept, at which point more public meetings will held.

The WPRA will continue to monitor this important topic. We hope that the City can implement effective solutions without destroying the design integrity of the bridge.

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 January 1, 2017 and March 10, 2018. If your name is not listed or is not listed correctly, please contact me. As always, we thank you for your generous support.

Linda Zinn, Membership chair, zinn@wptra.net

To make it easier to help fund the WPRA services and initiatives, 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 wptra.net and clicking on EZ Donate in the upper left corner of our home page. The 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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Lawanda Allee	Edmund and Aida Bedrosian	Velton and Tina Bunch	Allan and Terri Comstock
W. Reid and Katherine Allen	Bob and Louise Beggs	Rod and Toni Burgoyne	Michael and Susan Connell
John and Barbara Anglin	Martyn Belmont	Frank J. Burkard Jr.	Mary Coquillard
Rose Bowl Aquatics Center	Cynthia Bennett and Ed de Beixedon	Timothy Butler and Robert Morris, MD	George Corey and Eugenie Schlueter
David Arney and Jill Ganon	Chris Benter	Hale Hester Properties	Noel and Emily Corngold
Norman and Anna Arnheim	Cynthia Benton	J.S. Cahill	Michael and Diane Cornwell
John Asher	Joan Bergman	California Hotel Hospitality Services	Bob and Diane Coyer
Bruce and Judy Bailey	Catherine Berman	Dr. and Mrs. Howard D Cantwell	Charlie Craig and Donna Furey
Charles Bakaly	David and Keiki Bianchi	Blaine and Virginia Cavena	Margaret T. Cunningham
John Baldeschwieler and Marlene Konnar	Bailey and Barbara Bishop	Blaine and Ruth Chameides	Wendy Currier
Gene and Liz Baldrige	Robert Bishop	Teresa Cheung	Elliott and Ann Cutting
Rebecca Bales	Jack and Lasley Biven	Chuck and Janet Chillingworth	James and Frances Cutts
Bert and Darrell Banta	Marsha Bohr	Roxanne E. Christ	April Danz and Kelly Johnson
Mark and Cheryl Baratta	Jim and Joan Bolton	Mr. and Mrs. Gus Christopoulos	John and Anne David
Michael Barish	Richard and Myra Booker	Al and Sue Clark	John G Davies
Michael and Janice Barker	John and Mary Anne Borovicka	David and Angelica Clark	David and Holly Davis
	Shirley Botsford	Edward E. Clark	Andre de Salis and Sarah Gavit

Robert and Marlene Decker
 Tim and Gay Degani
 Bill and Martha Denzel
 Deping DeQuattro
 Steve and Christina Doerfler
 Kerry K.G. Donovan
 Richard L. Dougherty
 Josh and Heather Drake
 Patrick and Claire Dunavan
 Thomas R. and Margaret Ann Dunn
 David and Rebecca Ebershoff
 Carol Anne Econn
 Joel S. Edstrom and Margaret Adams
 Steve and Janet Elkins
 Sally English
 Lowry and Randy Ewig
 Douglas and Margaret Ewing
 Chip Fairchild
 George and Jami Falardeau
 Carmen Farmer
 Pat and Kathy Feely
 Ray and Sydney Feeney
 Edward and Molly Fehrenbacher
 Rafael and Racquel Fineza
 Michael and Barbara Finkenbinder
 Robert M. and Janet S. Fitzgerald
 Kathleen Fitzpatrick
 Casey Fleck and Grace Huang
 John and Ruth Fleck
 Mrs. Dawn Suttle Forkner
 Ken Foster and Nayan Shah
 James and Jane Fox
 Tom and Louise Fox
 Susan Frank
 Kittie Frantz
 Howden and Joan Fraser
 Carl and Shirin Friedlander
 Katherine Gabel and Eunice Shatz
 Lynn Caffrey Gabriel, OD
 Judy Gain
 Jim and Priscilla Gamb
 Ryan George and Asma Saraj
 Dennis and Susi Gertmenian
 Tom Gertmenian
 Henry Gibbons and Christine Olsen
 Bob and Esme Gibson
 Jim and Priscilla Gilliam
 Thomas Girardi
 Kenneth and Patricia Glazier
 Fred Glienna
 Barrie and Hannah Godwin
 Paul and Janet Gordon
 Ted and Marcia Grace
 Ricard and Maria Grant
 Carole Greene
 Sandra Greenstein
 Joyce Greif
 James Griesgraber and Patricia Grant
 Marijke Grotz
 Jim Gruettner
 Kathleen Grzegorek
 Heather and Hank Haldeman
 Larry Hall
 Michael and Megan Hamilton
 Sean and Kiley Hanish
 Kenyon Harbison and Caitlin Wheeler
 Mark and Cherie Harris
 Jim and Tina Hart
 Wayne and Joanna Hartigan
 Warren and Kyra Haussler
 Mary Hayden and Carla Tomaso
 Joan Hearst
 Michael and Diana Hecht
 Richard Henderson

Phyllis and Michael Hennigan
 Jim and Ginny Heringer
 Curt and Christine Hessler
 Sue Holliday
 Robert C. and Mary Fauvre Holmes
 James F. Hopkins
 Donald and Lisa Horning
 Philip and Ann Howlett
 Andrew and Mariko Hsu
 Ralph and Linda Hubbard
 Max and Ann Huntsman
 Kevin and Sara Hurley
 Mike and Penny Hutcheson
 Thomas Huteson
 Frank and Elizabeth Hutteringer
 Josey Iannotti and Reno Yu
 Barbara Ito
 Bryan and Debi Jacobs
 John and Carol Jacobsen
 Carlos and Joan Javelera
 Paul and Missy Jennings
 Dr. and Mrs. Jeyaranjan
 Ron and Jerri Johnson
 Phil and Marilyn Jordan
 Mary Lou Judson
 Patricia Loonam Kaminski
 Peter and Joan Kaplanis
 Marker and Marvelle Karahadian
 Laila Karme, MD
 Michael and Debra Kassarian
 James and Ilona Kendall
 Bill and Priscilla Kennedy
 Nathaniel and Deborah Kirtman
 Bob and Judy Kloner
 Ryan and Alison Knoll
 Patricia Korb
 Henry Krajewski
 Bob and Liz Krug
 Terry and Teresa Krupczak
 Hiroko and Sidney Kunitake
 Coralie Kupfer
 James and Laura LaBarge
 David Farah and Stuart Landau
 Don and Deven Le Tendre
 Josh and Nancy Leichter
 John and Sue Leisner
 Celia Lemon
 Ethan and Joanne Lipsig
 Herb and Vicki Liske
 Yvonne Llewellyn
 Frank and Claude Logan
 Donald F. Lomas
 Sam Losh
 Gail Lovejoy
 Fang Ken Lu
 Robert and Susan Lyddon
 Robert Mackin
 Rick and Jennifer Madden
 Douglas and Christine Madsen
 Jane Mallary
 Charles and Margot Malouf
 Bob and Marvine Malouf
 Richard T. Mandeville
 Tom Marble and Pae White
 Marguerite Marsh
 Howard and Ilene Marshall
 John and Trisha Martin
 Dorothy and John Matthiessen
 Paul and Linda Maurin
 Bill and Pat May
 David and Carlin McCarthy
 Don and Suzanne McConnell
 Bill and Nancy McDonald
 Stephen and Judith McDonald

Delford McGee
 Joyce McGilvray
 Judy McLaughlin
 Mel and Marcia Means
 Kay Meihaus
 William Meurer
 Lary and Mary Anne Mielke
 Carolyn L. Miller
 John and Juli Miller
 Walter Mix
 Family of George E. Moore
 Robert and Lindsay Morales
 Norah Morley and Anthony Koerner
 Charles G. Morse
 Phyllis Mueller
 John and Gail Nackel
 Teresa B. Nally
 Donald Neal
 David Nelson and Michele Montllor
 Steve and Robin Newquist
 Mei-Lee Ney
 Robert and Gail Nishinaka
 Don and Judy Nollar
 Marcia and Ed Nunnery
 Ali Miguel O'Brein
 Kathleen O'Kane and Cheryl Groves
 Dennis and Linda O'Leary
 Dallas and Linda Oakley
 Jacquie Ochoa-Rosellini
 Kristin Ockershauser
 Curtine Olsen
 Omega Management Services
 Anne Otter
 Tom and Cheryl Palfrey
 Linda Eliana Paquette
 Francis and Jeanette Park
 Randy and Lee Parks
 Pasadena Heritage
 Pasadena Museum of History
 Marion L. Payse
 Ken and Sharon Pelton
 Chris and Jean Pisano
 John and Barbara Poer
 Dr. Vance and Maureen Polich
 Chris and Salpy Pontrelli
 Stuart and Kimberly Posin
 Mary Prickett
 Barry and Melina Pyle
 David and Laura Quigg
 Jane Quinn
 Bill and Christy Rakow
 Janice and Robert Raney
 Diana Raney
 Jack and Susan Reynolds
 Robert J. Riewerts and Susan J. Regas
 Brent and Carla Riggs
 Bob Ritter
 Marsha V. Rood
 Janet Rose
 Rose Bowl Operating Company
 Virginia Rose
 George R. Rossman
 Daniel Rothenberg
 John and Thelma Rotonde
 Jerry Ruiz
 Loring Rutt and Ronna Dishnica
 Tony and Kim Ruys de Perez
 John and Olga Salsbury
 Hector and Ingrid Sanchez
 Michael and Cynthia Scannell
 John and Ann Scheid
 Bill and Sharon Schlarb
 Joshua and Juli Schneiderman
 John Schulian

Jason and Colleen Schwab
 Norman Schwartz
 Fred Schwarzenbach and Leslie Prussia
 Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius C. Scott
 Sharon Scull
 Dorothy M. Scully
 Joe and Gigi Scully
 Thomas Seifert and Dianne Philibosian
 Sequoyah School
 Dr. Anthony and Iris Shaw
 Joel and Jill Sheldon
 Kathleen Shields
 Mike and Jill Sigler
 Norri and Betty Sirri
 Richard and Marie-Christine Slater
 William D. Snyder
 Jim and Judy Spencer
 Christine M Splichal
 Jim and Sandy Stadler
 The Steiman Family
 Michael Stevens and Melina Root
 John Stipanov and Cynthia Sherman
 The Storrier-Stearns Japanese Garden
 Walter Summer
 Edmund Sutro
 Kaoruhiko and Stephanie Suzuki
 John and Beverly Tarr
 John and Lee Taylor
 Cynthia Thatcher
 Martha Thompson
 Rupert and Laura Thompson
 Robert Thorell
 Frank Uchalik
 Michael and Melissa Udell
 Jim Ukropina
 Pete and Joan Ulyatt
 Bill and Jaine Urban
 Virginia Uribe and Gail Rolf
 Nancy Van den Hout
 Jim and Gail Vernon
 Paul and Charlene Vert
 Carole Walker
 Nancy T. Walker
 Paul and Elizabeth Walker
 Thomas and Maritia Walper
 Jim and Robin Walther
 Lily L. Wang
 Paul Watson
 Barbara Way
 Maria Low Way
 Alex and Katie Wei
 Jeff and Stacy Weiss
 Lawrence S. Westfall
 J. Patrick Whaley and Lynda Jenner
 Polly Wheaton
 Cyndia Wheeler
 Russ and Sally White
 John and Judy Whiting
 Edgar and Peggy Whitmore
 Gazelle Raye Wichner
 Warren and Kathy Wimmer
 Robert W. Winter
 Elsbeth Wittler
 Robert Wolf
 Phelps and Athena Wood
 William and Rebecca Woods
 Barbara Wright
 Gabriela Yariv
 Beckie Yon
 Joseph and Alice Yuen
 Mr. and Mrs. Heinz Zaiser
 Dale and Laurie Zeh

City OKs ballot measure for new sales tax

Pasadena City Council in March voted 7-1 to instruct the City Attorney to prepare a ballot measure for the November 2018 General Election. That measure would ask voters to approve a new 3/4 cent municipal sales tax for local purchases. Councilmember Steve Madison cast the only vote against the proposed measure, saying, "Maybe we've been too good at budgeting, I don't see a sense of urgency from the community over this."

The City estimates the new tax could generate \$21 million per year, but the cost to the individual consumer would add less than one cent for every \$1 of taxable transaction, or, for example, \$1 for every purchase of \$100.

Over the past several years, according to a Finance department staff report, the City has implemented significant cost reductions including the elimination of 123 staff positions (of which 23 were sworn police officer positions); significant budget cuts exceeding \$19 million annually, and pension reform which shifted more than \$5 million in annual pension costs to employees.

Based on current projections, staff estimates that the City will have to reduce expenditures and associated service levels in the General Fund by \$3.5 million in fiscal year 2019. Furthermore, additional reductions will be necessary in future years to maintain a balanced budget and avoid the need to draw down the City's emergency contingency reserves.

Revenue from the proposed sales tax could also be shared with the cash-strapped Pasadena Unified School District. As the report noted, "The situation with the PUSD creates uncertainty for several programs operated by the City at PUSD facilities, such as the aquatics program. The City and PUSD have been partners for after-school and summer recreation programs and jointly manage certain facilities. The elimination of current PUSD programs or the closure of PUSD facilities may put pressure on the City to provide additional programming." - Source: *Pasadena Now*

Marijuana regulation measure to be on June 5 municipal ballot

By MIC HANSEN
DIRECTOR, WPRA

On November 8, 2016 California voters approved proposition 64, the "Control, Regulate, and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act," pursuant to Senate Bill 94. Pasadena has had to tackle the challenge of how to manage this legalization process. Until now, Pasadena has been able to block and regulate marijuana distribution with the judicious application of its zoning code. With the exception of importation from outside the city for medical use, all cultivation, production, distribution and sales of marijuana has been prohibited in our city.

Following a series of community meetings, a study session with the Planning Commission, and input from the Economic Development and Technology (EDTech) Committee, City Planning Department has recommended to City Council an approach for Pasadena that prohibits citywide personal outdoor cultivation of marijuana for commercial and retail purposes, and permits the delivery of marijuana and related products from dispensaries outside of Pasadena.

Proponents of commercial distribution and use circulated a petition to force a referendum on the City's prohibition, which, if passed would have negated most of the City's prohibitions. When that petition failed to get enough signatures a second petition effort

was begun to place an initiative on the ballot to specifically permit commercial cannabis operation and taxation in Pasadena.

To avert this action by marijuana cultivation and dispensing proponents that could have the potential to impose different standards, City Council last month decided to be proactive and approve the placement of a ballot measure for the upcoming June 5 municipal election about the regulation and taxation of cannabis in Pasadena. According to the *Pasadena Star-News*, "\$4 of every \$100 in gross receipts would be distributed to local schools, and \$6 of every \$100 would go to Pasadena budget's general fund."

This proposed amendment to the Pasadena Municipal Code limits the total number of retailers in our city to six, with only one dispensary allowed per Council district. There would be a size limit of 15,000 square feet for each dispensary. No two retailers may be closer than 1,000 feet from each other. There is also a distance limitation of a minimum of 600 feet from residentially zoned areas, schools, churches, libraries, substance abuse facilities, and parks. Retailers would be required to verify age and documentation, and have security personnel on site to oversee safety, and control unlawful activity and loitering.

Mayor sounds fiscal alarm

Continued from page 3

to employees; held salary increases to less than 2% per year over the past 10 years; reduced local transit service by eliminating Sunday service and cutting Route 70 (west Pasadena).

- Pasadena's infrastructure is aging and needs significant re-investment. The City currently spends \$32 million on non-utility capital improvements, but that's not enough. The City also spends more than \$1 million each year to fix damaged sidewalks, but there is \$20 million worth of work to do. While we have managed to rebuild one fire station and seismically retrofit another, we don't have the money to make necessary upgrades to the remaining six.

- During the FY 2018, the City saw the completion of 460 new housing units, the initiation of construction of a new Hyatt hotel, a new HMRI research building, the new Kaiser Permanente Medical School, and the Chen Neuroscience Center at Caltech. Also, Doheny Eye Institute purchased the former Avery headquarters. And perhaps the most important construction project of the past year is the one that will not get started: the 710 freeway extension. We can now begin to plan on the reintegration of the stubs and work with our neighbors, including Alhambra, to craft 21st century solutions to our transportation needs.

AAG presents Arroyo recommendations

BY BILL CHRISTIAN
DIRECTOR, WPRA

The Arroyo Advisory Group (AAG), a group of Pasadena leaders selected by the City Manager and the General Manager of the Rose Bowl, was chartered to advance a coherent vision and plan to “preserve, enhance, and improve” Pasadena’s reach of the Arroyo Seco.

The AAG presented its recommendations and findings on the future of the Arroyo to City Council in February. The principal AAG recommendation was to establish an improved trail system that would link all three Pasadena segments of the Arroyo — from Hahamongna Park to the South Pasadena border.

At its February meeting, City Council endorsed the trail concept and authorized additional AAG funding of \$125,000. The AAG has hired two consultants, Rick Gould and Dr. James Erickson, to probe funding options for two initial pilot segments of the trail system. The estimated cost of the entire improved trail, including amenities such as bathrooms, benches and new parking areas, would be \$37 million. The cost of both pilot trail sections would be about \$5 million — one extending south of the Colorado Street bridge, and one just below the Devil’s Gate Dam outlet.

The funding report is due in mid- to late-2018, along with a final report by the AAG on other aspects of the group’s work.

The West Pasadena Residents’ Association provided written comments to the AAG, stressing that the wildlife habitat and natural conditions of the Arroyo Seco stream be highlighted, the deferred maintenance of existing areas be given priority, and that no further commercialization of the Arroyo be considered.

As a point of fact, the AAG’s chief challenge is to surpass previous similar efforts. To date, City entities have put in place some improvements and new commercial events in the Rose Bowl area. However, neither the City nor the AAG has yet addressed sources for the staggering project funding shortfalls or found a path toward simplification of the highly fractured Arroyo governance.

Civic Center Task Force moving toward recommendations

BY VINCE FARHAT
DIRECTOR, WPRA

After rejecting a plan to redevelop the historic YWCA building with a Kimpton hotel, City Council formed a community task force to focus on the future development of the City’s Civic Center, including rehabilitation and development of the YWCA site. The 15-member Civic Center Task Force met twice last year, three times this year, and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, April 19 at 6 p.m. (location TBD).

At its February meeting, task force members agreed on some guiding principles to assist in preparing recommendations to City Council. These principles include preserving, restoring or rehabilitating the YWCA building; preserving public open space as a high priority; ensuring the planning is symmetrical across the YWCA and YMCA sites; bringing life to the Civic Center; preserving and enhancing the pedestrian experience; and inspiring a sense of civic pride.

During its March meeting, task force members contributed examples of how each of the guiding principles can be achieved, such as potential uses of the YWCA, including ideas such as City offices, or hotel and residential uses. The members also agreed that the City should commission independent economic

studies to examine the cost to restore the YWCA building and an independent analysis of any proposed private development. If the City Council decides to go with public-sector or non-profit uses of the building (as opposed to private development), task force members discussed recommending that Council put a ballot measure before the voters to seek guidance on how to fund the public use.

At the upcoming April 19 meeting, the task force will discuss whether to recommend maintaining the existing setbacks on Garfield to accommodate parkland and open space, appropriate building heights, and whether to make a recommendation regarding use of the YWCA building (private or public). If consensus cannot be reached, task force members may consider memorializing different viewpoints in separate reports.

The Civic Center has been the focus of community planning efforts dating back to the adoption of the Bennett Plan in 1925. All task force meetings are open to the public and community participation is crucial to the success of this endeavor.

For more information (including meeting information), please visit the task force website: <https://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/planning/civic-center-task-force/>.

Flood Control still on path to execute destructive sediment removal project

BY BILL CHRISTIAN
DIRECTOR, WPRA

The size of the Devil’s Gate Dam sediment removal program proposed by the LA County Flood Control District (FCD) was significantly reduced last November by a vote of the LA County Supervisors. The 30% cutback in sediment extraction came after litigation filed by the Arroyo Seco Foundation and Pasadena Audubon, and the efforts of Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

Unfortunately, the FCD has not been willing to translate the required reduction in the gross amounts of sediment removal to correspondingly lessen other aspects of the program such as the number of heavy-duty tandem diesel truck trips per day (400) and the acreage of habitat that will be permanently destroyed.

Other aspects of the proposed FCD program also remain unacceptable, posing risks to our

community’s health and welfare. These include air emissions from trucks and heavy equipment that do not meet the latest standards, mitigation for habitat destruction that will not adequately compensate for the loss of the valuable riparian acres in the Arroyo Seco, and the absence of local participation in the program as it is rolled out.

Despite reasonable attempts to settle the two lawsuits filed by the two plaintiffs, the FCD has been resistant to considering any further discretionary changes in the program beyond those ordered by vote of the County Supervisors.

The FCD hopes to begin sediment removal work this year as early as late spring. Community impacts, especially to residential areas near the dam, and to traffic entering and exiting the 210 freeway, are likely to be significant.

WPRA supports all but one proposed mobility improvement

BY DAN BEAL
DIRECTOR, WPRA

On February 9, the City submitted to the LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) a list of conceptual “Early Action” mobility improvement projects to be funded by the Measure R transportation sales tax. Metro’s 2017 rejection of the 710 Freeway tunnel in favor of a broad-ranging transportation system and demand management approach would free up \$600 million previously allocated to the tunnel — assuming that Caltrans also abandons the tunnel proposal, which is not certain.

The WPRA applauds the City’s commitment to use this funding for a variety of mobility improvements, and we’re particularly excited about ending the chronic gridlock at the California Gold Line crossing by separating the street and the tracks. We support the proposed

improvements and urge Metro’s approval of them — with the single exception of the proposed closure of freeway on- and off-ramps.

We have serious concerns with the proposed closure of the 134 and 210 on- and off-ramps at California Boulevard. The City intends to route more north-south traffic onto Fair Oaks, Arroyo Parkway, and Raymond Avenue instead of the Pasadena /St. Johns couplet, and allow the latter to return to their previous two-way operation, more compatible with residential neighborhoods.

Most of the 210 stub southbound traffic will turn east onto Del Mar Boulevard. We are concerned that this will cause backups from the Del Mar Gold Line crossing, which will not be grade separated. Emergency access to Huntington Hospital is also a concern. The rest of the 210 southbound traffic will turn onto Del Mar’s single westbound lane and use South Orange Grove to access the 110. Northbound

Pasadena Avenue traffic would back up into one on-ramp instead of the current two.

While this proposal has come up in the past, it hasn’t been discussed with the public for a more than a decade, and was not part of the Pasadena Preferred Alternative to the 710 tunnel. Much of the public concern expressed at the City Council hearing was focused on the ramp closures.

City staff did outline another approach which would keep the ramps open, and WPRA strongly urges staff to keep that option on the table and conduct extensive public outreach before finalizing this project.

In addition to the California grade separation and ramp closures, projects included “Complete Street” programs in four corridors; improved traffic signals, coordination, and other technology; bus service and maintenance improvements; and completion of the Bicycle Master Plan and other cycle projects.

PUSD struggles as revenues decline... *Continued from page 3*

Decreased enrollment, of course, is a major factor because state educational funding is based on the average daily attendance. Accordingly, as public school enrollment decreases, so too does its state revenue.

Furthermore, PUSD supports an extensive special education program. Despite the fact that costs of special education services are constantly rising, PUSD is underfunded at the Federal level. This has become particularly challenging for PUSD, since Pasadena has a higher percentage of Special Education students — about 14% — than most other districts.

There are multiple reasons why this is the case. To begin with, PUSD has a high number of foster youth, many of whom have special needs. And although PUSD gets targeted funds through the Local Control Funding Formula, which gives school districts the autonomy to direct programs and services to foster youth, English learners and the socioeconomically disadvantaged, many of these children are also Special Education students. And it costs twice as much to educate these students as it does to educate mainstream students.

The Federal contribution for Special Education is only about 15% of the cost. That means that for PUSD to fully fund these programs, it takes a big chunk from our general funds — about \$27 million just last year.

To add to the problem, some Pasadena parents are enrolling their non-disabled kids in private schools, while sending their special-needs children to PUSD, in many cases because

private schools may not cater to special education students. So although PUSD’s general student enrollment continues to shrink, the special education population is increasing.

As revenue decreases, unfunded costs rise

The demand and need for salary increases, as well as contracted adjusted increases for healthcare and pensions, is a common challenge everywhere. PUSD’s pension obligations and contributions mostly go to CALSTRS (California State Teachers Retirement System) and CALPERS (California Public Employee Retirement System). Since 2013, pension costs have increased by \$42 million. Also in 2013, a new law was enacted to incrementally increase the employers’ contribution for CALPERS and CALSTRS from 8% to more than 19% by 2020.

When wages, healthcare, pensions and facility costs increase faster than funding, it’s no surprise that the net result will be negative. Consequently, on February 8 the School Board voted to eliminate 103 full-time employees, 85 of those positions held by teachers. Fifty teachers will take voluntary retirement this year, but only if early retirement negotiations with United Teachers of Pasadena are successful. So far, no agreement has been reached with the union. Assuming PUSD gains its negotiation objectives, half of the retired teachers are scheduled to be replaced, producing \$8.5 million in savings over the next five years. Athletic, health, after-school, arts

and music programs will also be cut, creating another \$9 million in savings.

What our elected officials can do

Immediately, they can:

- Create a special allocation or disbursement of funds for PUSD to help us with our current high numbers of special education and foster youth students.
- Advocate increasing Title I and Title III funding for our district that allocates financial assistance to low-income students and English learners.
- Provide additional funding for preschool students with disabilities. Preschool students are not included in the Average Daily Attendance, while the number of preschoolers with special needs has increased in the last several years.

For the long term our elected federal, state and City representatives and PUSD board members can be advocates for increasing Special Education Federal funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to cover a higher percentage of the cost.

What you can do

Celebrate our successes. Pasadena’s public schools continue to offer quality education by quality teachers who care deeply. I encourage all to explore PUSD’s opportunities hidden under the current budget headlines. We’re not going away, and we will never stop being dedicated to preparing your children for the challenging future.



The San Rafael Elementary kindergarten class of 1948 (Photo courtesy of Pasadena Museum of History (PHS-25))

San Rafael Elementary celebrates 100 years

Our city's very first schoolhouse was established in west Pasadena in 1877. Located at S. Orange Grove Boulevard and California Street, the school consisted of one building that opened with two students and grew to 14 by the end of the first month. The school's only teacher earned a monthly salary of \$41.60.

By the turn of the century, Pasadena Unified School District experienced tremendous growth and began to build various schools throughout the city. San Rafael's turn came in 1918, and by 1925 a Parent-Teacher Association was formed. The PTA's first major mission was to lobby for a new building and more rooms. As a result, the new 10-room building was erected in 1929 and still stands today, although the building was rehabilitated in 1935, following the 1933 Long Beach earthquake. The school expanded in 1951 to include a cafeteria, an auditorium and five new classrooms. Later, in 1956, three additional classrooms were added. Today the school is thriving with 480 students, many of whom live in the San Rafael area.

As the school celebrates its centennial birthday, the school's Annual Fund invites families and others in the community to partner with us to keep programs alive and to provide our students with the best possible educational experience.

A California Gold Ribbon School (2016) and a California Distinguished School (2014),

San Rafael Elementary is bringing back neighborhood families and re-creating that intimate neighborhood feeling.

Donations of \$100 and more will provide the donor with the opportunity to be a "Club 100" donor. Their names will be commemorated in a permanent hall display in the original school building.

To donate, please be on the lookout for your mail invitation coming soon or go to: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/SRAFCentennial>

If you are an alumni or have historical pictures, items, or articles of the school that you would like to share please contact Ingrid Sanchez at sanrafaela@gmail.com or (323) 333-4259.



A photograph of the original building taken in 1935. (Photo courtesy of Pasadena Museum of History)

State mandates usurp City's control over development

Continued from page 4

Vince: Consider the nearby city of Fontana, which was originally a steel town. When the steel industry declined, its city council had to think of different ways to encourage businesses to invest, which meant development of large housing tracts, much of which was, at least by current standards, considered relatively affordable. But if you look at a city like San Marino, which is fully built out with no tracts of open land and has never been a major hub for commerce, its land-use patterns are different and, therefore, its planning is necessarily different.

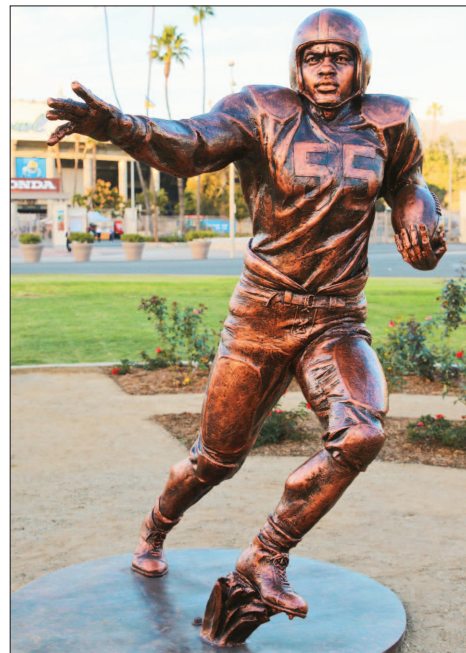
This is somewhat true for Pasadena, too. Ours is an established community that has long-established neighborhoods of single-family homes such as Garfield Heights and Bungalow Heaven. When the State says Pasadena must have a specific number of ADUs and can no longer study the traffic impact of new development, it takes away our ability to customize land use. Fortunately, the General Plan is still one way we can preserve established neighborhoods, although it has not been proven in the courts as a legitimate way to challenge the new State laws.

Mic: But even that is eroding. Take the State's blanket ADU mandate. Even in the backyards of historic neighborhoods, ADUs can be built. This then has the potential to impair and compromise the historic nature of those protected neighborhoods. And let's not forget that the historic integrity of any property is not only the dwelling's architectural design and the materials used, but also how it's situated on the land, its landscaping and mature growth trees, and its juxtaposition to other historic structures. Consider the homeowner in a historic neighborhood who decides to build a 15' x 30' rectangular box in his/her backyard, and rent it. This homeowner would have subtly changed the nature of a historic neighborhood with the addition of an incompatible structure into the mix. Pasadena, being the older city it is, suddenly is faced with the challenge of not being able to fully regulate its own historic neighborhoods.

Vince: However, we shouldn't overstate it. As we sit here today, charter cities still have significant autonomy, but the trend in recent years has been for greater centralization. We've also seen that trend in other areas such as how municipalities run their own elections. Do we want to become a centralized state where most of decisions are made in Sacramento, or do we want to continue to allow local governments and communities to have more say in the issues that affect their quality of life issues?

Mic: And let's not forget redevelopment, which the State discontinued several years ago. When that money went away, responsible and accountable cities such as Pasadena were hurt. Commitments had been made and plans were in motion, but funds were suddenly unavailable.

Vince: We are both encouraged, however, by the thought that both State Sen. Anthony Portantino and Assemblymember Chris Holden have served local governments. We would expect them to be sensitive to the needs of local communities, like Pasadena, and hope they would be open to writing legislation to preserve and protect the ability of local jurisdictions to do its own planning.



Have you seen the new statue of Jackie Robinson in a football uniform just outside of the Rose Bowl? Best known for breaking baseball's color barrier, Robinson was a graduate of John Muir High School in Pasadena and lettered in four sports — including football — at both Pasadena City College and UCLA. The statue was donated by the family of Thomas Tull, who produced the 2013 biopic of Robinson "42." Retired Dodgers announcer Vin Scully hosted the unveiling ceremony on November 17 of last year. Robinson's widow Rachel and his daughter Sharon attended the ceremony, as did students representing the local schools that Robinson attended.

Art on Palm sets exhibit, sale at Arlington Garden

Art on Palm will host a one-day art exhibit and sale of the works of local ceramists, collage, fiber and glass artists, jewelers, painters, photographers and woodworkers set in the alfresco rooms of Arlington Garden, at the corner of Arlington Street and S. Pasadena Avenue.

Begun in 2004 in a garden in Altadena, Art on Palm presented just seven artists. Eventually, the Art on Palm outgrew its original home and moved to Arlington Garden, where, on April 21, 45 artists will

exhibit their work, light snacks will be sold and acoustic music will be enjoyed.

The organization's mission is to connect artists and makers doing exceptional work with appreciative clients within a beautiful setting. Underpinned by a multi-pronged advertising and marketing platform, Art on Palm enables local and regional artisans to engage clientele, earn income, contribute to the local economy and to raise funds for non-profits. To date, contributions exceed \$37,000.

West Pasadena in 1893: healthful prosperity

By KIRK MYERS

ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST

PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

West Pasadena in 1893; 125 years ago:

- The fourth annual Tournament of Roses that year was on a day that “was all that could have been desired – as warm and balmy as a day in June” and was hailed by the *Pasadena Star* as “far and away the most brilliant, the most enjoyable and the most successful” yet.
- All the streets in Pasadena were still unpaved at the beginning of the year, but the business section of Colorado would be covered with asphalt by year’s end. Most of the street names in west Pasadena are familiar, except that Green Street was then known as Kansas Street, and Hurlbut Street was known as Terrace Avenue.
- A sewer system had been completed in 1892, and the *Star* noted in early January that “it is now in operation, with very satisfactory results.” Home interiors were lighted by both gas and electricity, but city streets by electricity alone.

- In 1893 the *Star* would also publish an article on the eventual “Doom of the Horse,” but horses, cows and chickens were still very much a part of everyday life. Stories of runaway horses were a common occurrence in the newspapers.
- Mail was delivered twice daily, and so was milk from the Pasadena Dairy on Ellis Avenue “to all parts of the City.” Orchards were still evident throughout much of west Pasadena, and a large fruit and vegetable drying business on Bradford Street would soon gain malodorous notoriety as the “onion factory.”

Although the Panic of 1893 would devastate financial markets on the east coast, Pasadena fared better. Summing up the year, the *Star* observed:

Pasadena Dairy,

FRANK T. BRALEY, Prop.

Ellis Avenue,

Pasadena.



Pure Milk Furnished Twice Daily

To all parts of the City.

P. O. Box 529.

An advertisement for the Pasadena Dairy in the Pasadena City Directory of 1893-94.

“We have, to be sure, felt the pinch of the distress caused by the financial panic and the general disturbance of business, but everything considered, the city has enjoyed a remarkable degree of healthful prosperity, and her people may be regarded as peculiarly fortunate.”

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 p.m. For additional information, please visit the Museum’s website, pasadenahistory.org, or call (626) 577-1660, ext. 10.



A portion of a lithograph published in 1893, shows the orchards in west Pasadena. According to the Pasadena City Directory of 1893-34, the city had an area of six square miles, 150,000 orange trees from 3 to 15 years old, and 2,500 acres planted to deciduous fruits, walnuts and olives.



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