

WPRA schedules annual meeting and you're invited!

ou are cordially invited to attend the West Pasadena Residents' Association annual meeting on Wednesday, May 18 in the Braun Music Center at Westridge School, 324 Madeline Dr.

A reception, including food, beverages, exhibitors and spirited conversation, begins at 5:30 pm. The program, which starts at 6:30 pm, will include remarks by District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, introduction of the new planning director Vince Bertoni, a presentation by City Manager Michael Beck, and a question-and-answer session. Also, the WPRA will present its annual community service awards and elect 2011-2012 officers and directors.

The theme of this year's meeting is "The city budget: Facing the fiscal music." City leaders will discuss the challenges of handling the city's current fiscal crisis — the worst in Pasadena (and beyond) since the 1930s — and provide insight into how the city is

Reserve the date

WPRA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 18

Westridge School Braun Music Center 324 Madeline Dr.

Reception: 5:30 pm Program: 6:30 pm

planning to address the

recovery that will surely come (right?). You may submit questions in advance of the meeting by sending an e-mail to questions@ wpra.net or visiting wpra.net.

The meeting will be convened in the Braun Music Center at the Westridge

School, which was founded in 1913. The music center was designed in 1909 by noted architect Frederick L. Roehrig as a private gymnasium and theater. Roehrig



is also well known for designing the Green Hotel and the Tournament House,

which serves as the headquarters for the Tournament of Roses.

Exhibitors will include (alphabetically): Art Center College of Design, City Ventures, Pasadena Community Gardens, the Pasadena Police Department, the Rose Bowl Operating Company and the WPRA.

The business program will also include election of the 2011-2012 WPRA officers and directors.

The annual meeting is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, visit wpra.net.

State of the City: Pasadena continues to lead the way



Mayor Bogaard delivers the State-of-the-City address at ArcLight Cinemas, Paseo Colorado.

By Bill Bogaard *Mayor, Pasadena*

was honored by the presence of so many residents and community leaders at the 2011 State-of-the-City event held on Jan. 20 in the ArcLight Cinemas at Paseo Colorado. The event's theme was "Leading the Way," by which I refer to Pasadena's well-deserved reputation for planning, investment in our infrastructure, sustainability, arts and culture, architecture and history. (A recording of the event is playing on KPAS — Channel 3 on Charter; Channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse.)

In this article, I'll continue on this theme and report on topics that I believe are of particular interest to West Pasadena residents.

New Planning director.

Our new planning director, Vince Bertoni, began his duties on Feb. 28. Since then he has met with many residents and organizations, and looks forward to meeting many more. I hope you'll join me in welcoming him and wishing him well as he helps guide Pasadena into the future.

General Plan workshops.

I encourage you to participate in another series of General Plan workshops this spring, at which you can learn more about the four plan alternatives for future land use and mobility patterns. Look for a survey in June asking for feedback on which alternative, or combination of alternatives, you prefer. Your feedback will serve as the basis for a new

About us

Mission: Founded in 1962, the West Pasadena Residents' Association is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the character of our community and the quality of life in West Pasadena. The WPRA fulfills this mission by keeping you informed of current issues, representing your interests and supporting the activities of others with whom we share interests.

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

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, membership contributions and donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law.

2010 - 2011 Officers and Directors

•	President:	Michael Udell (udell@wpra.net)
•	Vice President:	Bill Urban (urban@wpra.net)
•	Treasurer:	Blaine Cavena (cavena@wpra.net)
•	Secretary:	Robert Holmes (holmes@wpra.net)

- Communications co-director: Chuck Hudson (hudson@wpra.net)
- Communications co-director: Judy Klump (klump@wpra.net)
- Land use and planning: Richard McDonald (mcdonald@wpra.net)
- Education:
- Membership, Open Space & Conservation:

WPRA website: wpra.net

Geoffrey Baum James B. Boyle Jr. Vince Farhat Joan Hearst John Van de Kamp Laura Kaufman

Audrey O'Kelley Priscilla Taylor Fred Zepeda

Marilyn Randolph (randolph@wpra.net)

Linda Zinn (zinn@wpra.net)

Recent actions

The WPRA recently voted to:

- Recommend approval of the Valley Hunt Club master plan
- Encourage creation of a separate Parks and Recreation Department
- Recommend extension of the entitlement for the Ambassador West project (South Orange Grove Blvd.)

The WPRA also voted to donate:

- \$210 to San Rafael Elementary (to reupholster a bench)
- \$1,000 to Pasadena's 125th party

In memory: Bill Jernigan

with his community, most notably by serving on the board of the West Pasadena Residents' Association.

Bill was born in Dunn, North Carolina, on April 3, 1947. He attended the University of Oklahoma and completed his bachelors degree in business and transportation at Arizona State University. He was employed with Saia Motor Freight for many years as a Business Development executive.

He is survived by his wife, Eleni Mikami Jernigan, stepson Connor Tapley, and two older children, Shannon Hobson and Evan Jernigan, from a prior marriage. Donations in Bill's memory can be made to the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church.

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The rules. WPRA editors must approve all ads prior to running, and we reserve the right to refuse any ad for any reason. Also, we must receive all payments in advance and, if for multiple editions, for the entire run. The ads must be provided as a digital file. Although ads can run on any page (except pages 1-3 or 16), placement of ads within each edition is at the sole discretion of the WPRA editors.

Space reservation deadlines The first business day of November (Winter edition), February (Spring edition), May (Summer edition) and August (Fall edition).

For more information or to reserve space, send an e-mail to editor@wpra.net.

Thank you, Steve and Carolyn

Dear Steve Madison and Carolyn Naber:

On behalf of the WPRA, I would like to thank you both for your efforts in the recent District 6 election. We are fortunate to have highly qualified people like you to run for public office and advance the public discourse about

important community topics. You both ran passionate campaigns and clearly have West Pasadena's best interest's at heart.

I can only imagine how many people you shook hands with and called and sent e-mails to over the past several months. Asking friends, foes and complete strangers to support you and your vision — let alone asking them for financial support — takes considerable courage and determination. I thank you for displaying in abundance these admirable characteristics in your pursuit to preserve our quality of life in West Pasadena.

I'm proud and feel very fortunate to live in an area in which neighbors actively participate in local politics, proof of which can be found in the multitude of campaign signs that line our streets during elections. In my first year as WPRA president, I've gained a better appreciation for how much can be accomplished at the local level when citizens actively participate in the

Carolyn, I hope this experience inspires you to continue the meaningful process. work that you already do in Pasadena. And, Steve, best wishes for a successful

term on City Council.

Thanks again for your efforts.

Mich In. Udel Sincerely,

Michael Udell President, WPRA



Save the date: Celebrate our 125th!

n Saturday, June 11, 2011, the Pasadena Museum of History will host Pasadena's "official" birthday party with a free, community-wide festival from Noon to 7 pm. The event, which will spotlight our richly diverse population, organizations and talents, includes:

- Continuous live music, dance, theatre and storytelling
- Special entertainment, activities for children and families
- A spectacular birthday cake from the chefs at Le Cordon Bleu School of Culinary Arts in Pasadena
- A food court representing a wide variety of delicious cuisines prepared by local restaurants
- Signature cocktails created especially for "Happy Birthday, Pasadena"
- A silent auction to bid on unique baskets filled with items to help you celebrate your own special birthdays

For more information or to find out how you can help, visit pasadenahistory.org or call (626) 577-1660. 🔳

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A thank-you to our donors

By Chuck Hudson Co-director of Communications Editor, WPRA News

Conserve water: bathe together (or not at all!)

ere's some good news: We've survived the recent Level 4 Water Emergency! Moreover, the sate-wide drought is officially over. City Council called the emergency because the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) had to perform a seismic retrofit on a water treatment plant in LaVerne. With that plant off line, MWD temporarily shut down the pipeline that delivered about 60% of Pasadena's water supply. As a result, for 10 days in March, Pasadena (and a number of neighboring foothill communities) had to

In my own voice

rely solely on groundwater and reserves.

This event reminded me of the late Carey McWilliams' classic book, "Southern California: An island on the land." Water was, as you might imagine, a major theme in his book.

"In a sense," he wrote, "the history of Southern California is the eternal quest for water, and more water, and still more water." McWilliams quotes an unnamed visitor to SoCal as saying "God never intended Southern California to be anything but desert."

The problem? According to McWilliams (in 1973) Southern California comprised 6% of the state's habitable land and 45% of the state's inhabitants, but only 0.06% of the natural flow of water in the state. "Turn off the flow of water that now reaches the region from such remote sources as Owens Valley and the Colorado River," he continued, "and the whole region would be bankrupt. The absence of local water resources is, indeed, the basic weakness of the region ---its eternal problem."

And that leads us back to our recent water emergency. I found it remarkable that during the 10-day water emergency it rained nearly every day. It reminded me of an old saying: "If you can't be good, be lucky." Do you ever wonder how long our luck will hold?

As always, the WPRA appreciates your interest and welcomes your feedback, comments and ideas. E-mail them all to me: hudson@wpra.net.

Pasadena Cíty Hall dígest & update

By Vince Farhat *Director, WPRA*

City announces IDS Playhouse suit settlement

The Pasadena City Council on March 21 announced that Pasadenans for a Livable City, Pasadena Heritage and Playhouse Office



LLC settled the environmental lawsuit challenging the city's November 2009 approval of a new office building at 680 E. Colorado Bvd., located across El Molino Avenue from the historic Pasadena Playhouse. Last October, a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge ruled that the city had not fully complied with the California Environmental Quality Act in its approval of the project. According to the city's Public Affairs Office, the settlement will result in a redesigned project that will "respect the historic character of the Playhouse District and the Pasadena Playhouse and have fewer impacts on El Molino Avenue." Under the agreement a design architect, with expertise in historic district compatibility, will, in cooperation with all parties, design a smaller project for City Council approval. Other terms of the agreement include: reduction of the building square footage to the maximum codeallowed square footage of approximately 145,428 square feet, and elimination of a density bonus. The revised plans must also consider the scale, massing and articulation of adjacent historic buildings so as not to overwhelm or diminish historic structures. Once the new design has been submitted to the city, it will be the subject of a future public hearing before City Council for revised land-use entitlements. If approved by City Council, the redesigned project will be reviewed by the Design Commission.

City Council and PUSD election results

W PRA-area voters on March 8 went to the polls to choose a mayor, City Councilmember for District 6, and Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education representatives for seats 2, 4 and 6. Incumbent Mayor Bill Bogaard, unopposed for re-election, received 100% of the vote. In a hard-fought campaign that drew citywide attention, incumbent



Pasadena City Hall, by Joseph Stoddard (used by permission)

Councilmember Steve Madison defeated Planning Commissioner Carolyn Naber to represent West Pasadena neighborhoods on City Council. Madison received 2,440 votes (55.2%) and Naber 1,974 (44.7%). While incumbent PUSD board member Renatta Cooper was re-elected without opposition, incumbent board member Tom Selinske will face challenger Sean Baggett in an April 19 runoff election. Kim Kenne defeated Gene Stevenson in the race for PUSD Seat 4. For more information, please visit the city's website at cityofpasadena.net.

Update: Ambassador West

The Ambassador West development moves forward as City Ventures hopes to extend the project's entitlements and prepare design drawings with the goal of starting construction on Phase 1 later this year. On Feb. 9, the Planning Commission approved a recommendation by Planning Department staff to extend the entitlements in the previously approved Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for one year. The approval also included an option for the city's planning director to extend the entitlements for an additional year, for a total of two years, based on the project's progress. On March 28, City Council voted to extend both

entitlements for a period of only six months. At that time the council will consider the Planning Commission's recommendation of a one-year extension with an optional second year extension, at the Planning Director's discretion. As reported in the last edition, the first phase of the development (10 for-sale homes on Del Mar Boulevard) was approved by the Design Commission. Since then, City Ventures presented the second and third phases of the development to the Design Commission and continues to refine these designs. As with Phase 1, designs for Phase 2 and 3 are consistent with those presented in 2007 when the project was approved. Additional details were added and upgraded through the design review process. City Ventures' next design review hearing is scheduled for April 14. To begin construction, the project's final subdivision map still needs to be recorded. City Ventures continues to lead this process, as the master developer, on behalf of all of the property owners covered under the conditional use permit. Meanwhile, City Ventures continues to process the street, sidewalk and utility improvement plans for the Ambassador West development through the city's Department of Public Works.

Update: City budget

W e reported in the last edition that the city is experiencing a multi-year budget shortfall of approximately \$13.2 million, largely a result of CalPERS revising its municipal pension retirement plan pay-in rates. In recent years, the city also has faced steadily decreasing revenues in sales, utility users and hotel bed taxes. Personnel costs make up over 75% of the city's operating expenditures, excluding debt service and transfers from other departments. City officials have been considering all ways, except for those that would negatively impact police and fire response, to cut budgets. Toward that end, City Council recently considered mid-year budget amendments recommended by the city manager. Specifically, City Council cut 35 vacant positions from the budget to help eliminate the General Fund deficit by fiscal year 2014. The city also is taking steps to address a state budget proposal to eliminate municipal and county redevelopment agencies. Council recently voted to take control of 20 properties previously held by the Pasadena Community Development Corporation, the city's redevelopment agency. The city manager stated (in a Pasadena Star-News article) that the move adds another layer of protection against Gov. Brown's proposed takeover of redevelopment agency assets. The League of California Cities, for which Mayor Bogaard is a vice president, also strongly opposes Brown's plan.

Council fills pension gap

n another budget-related matter, City Council on March 28 approved a \$65 million bond package that is intended to fill a gap in the Pasadena Firefighters and Police Retirement System. The new bonds will shore up a pension system that has an estimated \$74 million shortfall between assets and liabilities.

Successful lease renewal for Linda Vista Park

he Pasadena Unified School District board and Pasadena City Council held a joint meeting on Feb. 15 especially to receive a new lease for Linda Vista Park. Unlike past years, when the lease was one year at time, this time the lease is for 50 years. The longer lease will allow the city to upgrade the park, starting with the addition of a drinking fountain and more playground

equipment. The terms of the new agreement state that PUSD must give the city a nine-month notice to cancel the lease and reimburse the city for all improvements. For more information, contact Friends of Linda Vista Park at ecndesign@earthlink.net.

LA official chosen as Pasadena's new **Planning director**

Dasadena has a new director of the Planning Department. Vince Bertoni, who first reported for duty on February 28, previously managed the planning operations of the Los Angeles Department of City Planning. For more information about Bertoni, see article on page 6 of this edition.

Human Services and **Recreation survey**

• ity Manager Michael Beck has initiated a nationwide search for a director of Human Services and Recreation, a vacancy that was created when Patsy Lane recently retired. Beck is seeking residents' input through an online survey. To complete the survey, visit cityofpasadena.net/CityManager/Human_Services_ Recruitment.

Transitions at PUSD

Pasadena Unified School District Superintendent Edwin Diaz on Feb. 24 announced his resignation, effective Aug. 2. Diaz joined PUSD as superintendent in 2007 after leading the Gilroy Unified School District. He and his wife plan to relocate to the Bay Area. Also, chief PUSD academic officer Alice Petrossian announced her resignation, effective July 1. She will become president of the Association of California School Administrators for the 2011-2012 school year. Petrossian started her career in education as a middle-school teacher in Hayward. She served the Glendale Unified School District for 31 years before coming to PUSD in 2008.

Reese's Retreat opens in Brookside Park

n Saturday, April 30, at 9 am, the city will dedicate "Reese's Retreat" during a community grand-opening celebration. Located in the southeast corner of Brookside Park, just east of the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center, Reese's Retreat is Pasadena's first universally accessible playground designed

with special equipment to delight children of all ages and abilities. The playground features a giant pirate ship with ramps, a cannonball climber, an eight-bay swing set and sensory play structures that invite children to play with water and sand. It was designed in partnership with the Pasadena Public Works Department, Shane's Inspiration, Recreation West Outdoor Products, and David Evans and Associates. According to Pasadena In Focus, the \$1.2 million cost was covered by a \$1 million state grant, a \$25,000 award from the National Organization on Disability, Brookside Golf Course greens fees and residential impact fees.

City dedicates Sid Tyler Park

🔿 asadena City Councilmember Terry Tornek on March 15 hosted a dedication celebration at the new Sidney F. Tyler Park, located on the median between South Lake Avenue and Lakewood Place. Tyler Park, Pasadena's only officially designated pocket park, was named for Tyler. The park features several species of trees and two concrete semi-circles, around a large oak, that offer seating. A rose garden is planted along the perimeter of a grassy area. Tyler, who represented residents of City Council District 7 from 1997 to 2009, devoted much of his time and energy to protect trees, open space and parks. Pasadena's first tree protection ordinance was adopted during his tenure. Tyler attended the dedication and helped unveil a boulder bearing a plaque with his name.

Check for Red Flag Days

ity Council in 2009 implemented parking restrictions within the urbanwildland interface on days of extreme fire hazard, also known as Red Flag days. Streets where parking is restricted on Red Flag days are posted with appropriate "No Parking" signs. If signs are not posted, that street is not affected. To receive personalized notifications of Red Flag parking restrictions and other city emergency notifications, send an e-mail to redflagparking@cityofpasadena.net.

Editor's Note: Vince Farhat is a partner in the law firm Holland & Knight and a former federal prosecutor. He is a past president of WPRA and serves on the board of directors of the Pasadena Center Operating Company. Contact him by e-mail at farhat@wpra.net.



Vince Bertoni mingles with well-wishers who turned out for his "meet and greet" event at City Hall.

New director's approach to planning:

'Encourage participation and build community consensus'

ffective Feb. 28, Vince Bertoni assumed the role as the new director of the Pasadena Planning Department. (For his background, see article on page 10.) The department, which was just recently separated from the Planning and Develop Department, has a \$13 million budget and 73 employees. It focuses on community planning services, design and historic preservation, zoning, arts, cultural affairs and "Green City" programs.

To get to know Vince, the WPRA invited him to share his philosophy and approach to urban planning.

Q: Did you have an "aha" moment in your life when you realized you wanted to be an urban planner?

- A: Yes. Although I was born before personal computers and software like Sim City, I was the kid who loved to play with Legos, build cities out of sand and used my crayons to draw elaborate cities where people worked, shopped and played. But I never knew there was a profession called city planning. During my junior year in college, as an economics major taking a course in urban geography, I discovered the profession and learned that it combined my interests in architecture with my curiosity about how people carry out their everyday lives.
- **Q:** Do you have a mentor or hero ... someone who has played a guiding role in your development as a professional planner?

A: Many people have influenced me over the years and acted as mentors. The most recent is Gail Goldberg, former planning director with the City of Los

Angeles. Gail helped me understand the importance of finding consensus when adopting long-term policy plans for a



how they fit within their neighborhoods and the city's overall identity. To achieve this outcome, there must be a good, comprehensive General Plan, as well as area-specific plans and design guidelines to make the city's vision clear for commissioners, staff members, City Council, architects, developers, residents and the business community.

Q: Can you tell us at least one way each stop

"Simply put, urban planning always needs to look at the long term. When development projects come to a city, they shouldn't be evaluated on their immediate economic benefits, but on how they contribute to the vitality of a city over the next century or more."

-Vince Bertoni

city, and that it's crucial to community support for those plans.

- **Q:** How would you define your approach to urban planning?
- A: Simply put, urban planning always needs to look at the long term. When development projects come to a city, they shouldn't be evaluated on their immediate economic benefits, but on how they contribute to the vitality of a city over the next century or more. Also, development projects should not be viewed in isolation, but should be evaluated by

on your career path has influenced your planning philosophy?

A: In Malibu, I learned the importance of working with neighborhood groups, especially in a highly active community. While in Santa Clarita, I gained a good understanding of how the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) shapes development. Beverly Hills gave me an appreciation of the balancing act between economic vitality and neighborhood preservation, as well as the importance of urban design. In Los Angeles I



On Jan. 25, more than 150 people from Pasadena and beyond gathered on the Rose Bowl stadium field for the ground-breaking ceremonies of the Rose Bowl renovation project. In the photo are (from the left): Victor Gordo, Rose Bowl Operating Company representative and Pasadena City Councilmember; Rick Jackson, 2012 President of the Tournament of Roses; Bill Bogaard, Pasadena mayor; Dan Guerrero, UCLA athletic director; and Andrea Van de Kamp, Rose Bowl Legacy Campaign director.

Progress report: March 2011

- General construction work is proceeding in the South end-zone area with selective demolition of the lower tiers of seating; and removal of benches, wooden bridges and walkways under the South bowl seating, and concrete topping. The row tiles are being salvaged, and the surface is being prepared for a new topping.
- The asphalt pavement around the stadium has been cut to permit installation of underground plumbing utilities.
- Concrete foundations, retaining walls and other cast-in-place elements on the concourse are being completed.
- Additional concrete work includes the foundation pilings for the new, elevated bridges at the South tunnel expansion.
- A new electric utility loop is being installed around the stadium.
- The north video matrix display board, south scoreboard and ad panel structures are being demolished.

For more detailed information, visit rosebowl-renovation.com.

MOU strives to reduce renovation impact

project of this magnitude will occasionally disrupt ordinary life for those who live, work and play in and around the Rose Bowl stadium. To mitigate the impact of construction activities as much as possible, neighborhood leaders, the Rose Bowl staff and construction project manager have developed a unprecedented Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to detail a construction-staging plan. To read the MOU, visit rosebowlstadium. com/RoseBowl_residents.php.



Rose Bowl memories

Bob Hemmings: "I grew up in Pasadena with the Rose Bowl. And in my 93 years I've enjoyed many Rose Bowl games. But the 1939 Rose Bowl Game has to be one of the most exciting. USC was playing the Duke Blue Devils, whose defense had not been scored on all season. USC was down 3-0, and there were only 2 minutes left to play when Coach Howard Jones put in third-string quarter back Doyle Nave. Believe it or not, he threw four passes to Antelope Al Krueger who scored on the final one, winning the game for USC 7-3. As a USC grad, I couldn't have been happier."

SRLA honors Dorothy Lindsey

By Joan Hearst WPRA, director

n Jan. 8, the San Rafael Library Associates (SLRA) dedicated an original water color painting by Joseph Stoddard in honor of Dorothy Lindsey, a San Rafael Library Associates board member and long-time resident of West Pasadena, who passed away in July, 2010. The painting has been placed on the north wall of the newly renovated Community Room at the San Rafael Branch Library.

The dedication occurred during the celebration of the newly renovated community room, which had been accomplished by the SRLA, a volunteer group that provided funds for replacing chairs, installing new carpeting and providing a fresh coat of paint. This second phase of improvements to the library followed the installation of new landscaping last year.

Dorothy established her role in the community as a passionate supporter of many causes. This dedication celebrated her contributions to the SRLA as a generous sponsor and advocate for lovers of the library system. Dorothy is remembered by SRLA as a dedicated leader, bringing out the best in all of those who worked with her and serving as a model for caring individuals who want to make a difference in a positive way.

Always willing to roll up her sleeves and go to work on a project, Dorothy was passionate about Pasadena and especially the Arroyo Seco. She

worked hard to preserve the wonderful open spaces, habitat and heritage of this special place during the development of the Arroyo Seco Master Plans.

The beautiful picture that the SLRA had commissioned from Joseph Stoddard, of the Colorado Bridge rising over the Arroyo, was



Joseph Stoddard's watercolor, commissioned by the SLRA and given in honor of Dorothy Lindsey, now hangs in the San Rafael Library

given in Dorothy's honor to celebrate her contributions to the Library as a generous sponsor and advocate for lovers of books and for the library system. It especially celebrates Dorothy's enduring generosity to those she loved.



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A second annual fifth anniversary?

rlington Garden will hold the second annual celebration of its fifth anniversary on Saturday, April 30 from 9:30 am to 2 pm.

Yes, you read that right: Last year's fifth anniversary party was so popular, many area residents suggested it be held again - hence, the "second anniversary of the fifth anniversary."

This year's re-celebration will again feature sales of art and jewelry, as well as Arlington Garden's sweet marmalade. All proceeds go to support the garden's development and care.

In addition, noted native and urban gardeners will share tips and party attendees can try out the garden's groundbreaking "visit" to the garden using smartphone technology.

For more information, call Betty and Kicker McKenney, the Constant Gardeners, at (626) 441-4478, or send an e-mail to arlingtongarden@mac.com.

By Laura Dahl

Senior Planner, City of Pasadena

"Pasadena treasures, protects, restores and expands its natural open space and exemplifies innovative and effective natural resource stewardship and conservation."

his vision statement is guiding the update of Pasadena's Open Space and Conservation Element — state-mandated elements (or chapters) of the General Plan. They are combined into one element because they tend to overlap.

The combined element, which has not been updated since 1976, includes goals, policies and measures to achieve this vision. It also complements the Green Space, Parks & Recreation Element and Master Plan, which focuses on developed open space, such as parks and sports fields, and on recreational programs and facilities.

More specifically, the Open Space & Conservation Element seeks to protect and: Acquire natural open space

- Enhance our urban forest
- Expand wildlife corridors and habitats
- Conserve natural resources such as water and energy

The element also includes:

- Establishing policies on air quality, solid waste reduction, and environmental education
- Conducting an inventory of publicly and privately owned, protected and unprotected land with open-space potential

at work for more than three years, gathering information and guidance from open-space and conservation experts, as well as members of the Pasadena community.

As for the next steps, city residents will first see a draft of the revised element at a community meeting in late spring. It will also be available on the city's website. City

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."

-Native American saying

- Prioritizing open space for protection and acquisition
- Recommending changes to the zoning code to help distinguish among a variety of types of open space ranging from parks and playgrounds to wild areas

The committee that City Council appointed to update the element includes representatives of the Planning, Environmental Advisory and Recreation & Parks commissions; the Santa Monica Mountains and San Gabriel Rivers & Mountains State conservancies; as well as at-large members from the community. This committee has been hard commissions will conduct public hearings in early summer, and then, in September, City Council will review it and consider adoption.

For more information or to receive e-mail notification of future meetingsof the Open Space & Conservation Commission, contact Laura Dahl, Senior Planner, at (626) 744-6767 or send an e-mail to Ldahl@ cityofpasadena.net.

For more information about the element revision process and for links to open space and conservation community groups and documents, visit cityofpasadena.net/openspace.

About Vínce Bertoní

v e r t h e past two years Bertoni has overseen and managed various planning operations of the Los Angeles



Department of City Planning, including community planning, historic resources, urban design, environmental review, zoning, code studies, expedited processing and public counters.

City Manager Michael Beck noted that "Vince has a strong background in development and a reputation as an excellent manager who is sensitive to community issues."

During his tenure with the City of Los Angeles, 16 historic preservation overlay zones were adopted, new guidelines for the Broadway Historic District were instituted, innovative downtown street standards were enacted, a bicycle master plan was drafted and a new community plan for Hollywood was created. He streamlined operations in the department due to budgetary cutbacks and re-engineered the internal culture.

Previously, Bertoni served as director of community development in Beverly Hills from 2007 to 2008, interim director of planning and building services in Santa Clarita from 2003 to 2004 and interim planning director in Malibu from 1996 to 1997. His career has also included work as a city planner and principal of a planning consulting firm.

He is co-chair of the 2012 American Planning Association national conference and a member of the California Planning Roundtable. In 1988 Bertoni earned a bachelor of arts degree in transportation and urban geography from San Diego State University.

He and his partner, architect and landscape architect Damon Hein, are long-time residents of the historic Windsor Square District of Los Angeles, which Bertoni helped establish. ■

Directions to WPRA annual meeting



You're invited to the West Pasadena Residents' Association 2011 annual meeting on Wednesday, May 18 in the Braun Music Center at Westridge School, 324 Madeline Dr. A reception, including food, beverages, exhibitors and spirited conversation, begins at 5:30 pm. The program, which starts at 6:30 pm, will include remarks by District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, introduction of the new planning director Vince Bertoni, a presentation by City Manager Michael Beck, and a question-and-answer session. Also, the WPRA will present its annual community service awards and elect 2011-2012 officers and directors.

Vince Bertoni, Continued from page 6

learned the value of historic preservation and working with diverse communities.

- **Q:** How important (to you) is public participation in city planning?
- A: Building consensus is vital when it comes to preparing good plans. The only way to get there is through strong public participation.
- **Q:** How would you encourage citizen involvement in city planning and ensure their ideas are heard and seriously considered?
- A: I think a city needs to be creative and forward-looking and use traditional and non-traditional methods in getting citizen input. In addition to holding public workshops and open houses, a city should reach out to neighborhood groups, social clubs, school organizations and religious institutions to get their feedback. We should also make use of social media, like Facebook and Twitter, to reach out to those who may not be involved with traditional organizations.
- **Q:** Do you think a planning director should be an advocate for Planning Commission decisions before City Council?
- A: I believe that councils and commissions make decisions best when they are fully informed. This means City

Council should be presented with the full background of both staff's initial recommendation and the Planning Commission's recommendation.

- **Q:** What motivated you to work to have the historic LA district in which you live registered?
- A: When we (Vince and his partner, Damon Hein) bought our house, we were not only attracted to the fact that it was a beautiful, 1920's Spanish Colonial Revival, but we also fell in love with this wonderful neighborhood (Windsor Square) of mostly period revival homes. About 10 years ago, a few homes were demolished and replaced with modern homes that were out of character with our neighborhood. We knew if we didn't do something quickly, this beautiful neighborhood would lose its identity. At the time, I was on my neighborhood association's board of directors, so I went to work with another neighbor who was an architect and specialized in historic homes. After two years of writing preservation principles, lobbying the council office, getting neighbors' signatures and putting up lawn signs, our historic district was adopted.

Gone, but not forgotten

The home with gold doorknobs

By Kirk Myers

Assistant Archivist Pasadena Museum of History

[Editor's note: The Pasadena Museum of History has graciously agreed to provide WPRA News readers with a series of historical vignettes that reveal Pasadena's past and, we hope, inform the future. Although we've already lost much, we haven't forgotten.]

rlington Garden continues to attract attention for its beautiful landscaping and variety of Mediterranean plants, however, more than a century ago it served as home for a widely renowned garden and mansion.

"...landscape gardeners ... are rapidly transforming the place into a tropical paradise. In front, stretching to Orange Grove avenue, the land has been planted to many kinds of palms, cacti and century plants, besides hundreds of varieties of flowering bushes, including roses and chrysanthemums. In the rear, fronting on Pasadena avenue the ground has been devoted to a miniature orange grove, with lemon, walnut and olive trees interspersed." (Pasadena Evening Star, December 15, 1904)

Spread out over 10 acres, from South Orange Grove Boulevard to Pasadena Avenue along Arlington Drive, the grounds of the Durand mansion were an item of interest to people in Pasadena. But it was the cost of the mansion that had Pasadena "alive with rumor."

"The latest thing of unique proportions is a baronial castle, with its "hardware" (locks, hinges, doorknobs, drawer handles, etc.) of solid gold! So far as is known it is the only private residence in the world so fitted. Pasadena, the city chosen by hordes of wealthy Easterners for their winter homes, is soon to have its name heralded all over the land as a result of the completion of what is in many respects the most peculiar and at the same time the most lavishly finished residence – not only in Southern California, but in the whole country." (Los Angeles Times, January 1, 1905)

Actually, the gold was combined with an alloy for strength. Hardware on the outside was all in brass, with solid copper for the troughs, rain pipes and ornamental work. The 17,000 feet of floor space made the



Then: The Durand home from Arlington Drive



Now: The western part of Arlington Garden

home the largest in Southern California at the time. Construction took more than three years, because almost every piece of wood used in the interior was hand carved.

After making a fortune in the wholesale grocery business in Chicago, John M. Durand built his dream house at 275 Arlington Drive.

"Of perhaps the greatest interest is the fact that this great mansion is to become the abiding place of an old man who will never see its beauties. He is blind." (Los Angeles Times, January 1, 1905)

In 1907 Mr. Durand died at the age of

84. The home continued to be occupied by the Durand family until the death of John M. Durand III in 1960. In 1961 the art treasures were auctioned, and the home was later razed. All that is left is a portion of the sidewalk in front of the home, now visible in the western portion of Arlington Garden today.

The Pasadena Museum of History is located at 470 W. Walnut Avenue. The research library and archives are open to the public free of charge Thursday-Sunday from 1-4 pm. For additional information, visit pasadenahistory.org or call 626-577-1660, ext. 10.

Pasadena leads the way, Continued from page 1

General Plan that will guide our city's growth over the next 10 years and beyond.

City fiscal issues.

When City Council considers City Manager Michael Beck's recommended budget for fiscal year 2012, it will be the third successive year in which

successive year in which significant reductions have been necessary. This time around, however, it may be more difficult. The current General Fund budget has already been reduced by \$100 million. It now stands at \$217 million, which puts it at the 2007 fiscal year level. I believe City Council must explore ways to reduce expenses

even further — for the coming fiscal year and beyond. Areas in which this exploration is already underway include:

- Employee compensation, benefits and pensions
- New technology to deliver higher levels of service at a lower cost
- Our revered commissions and other advisory bodies



A community is much more than a listing of financial figures and achievements of service. To find out how much more, visit cityofpasadena. net to view Pasadena's 2010 annual report. The report encapsulates many of the city's accomplishments over the past year and is accompanied by financial data.

State fiscal issues.

Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal has been called by many a good starting point for fixing the state's fiscal problems, which of course impacts municipalities throughout the state. Local governments want to be part of the solution, and Pasadena will work

Gold Line extension.

Construction of Phase 2A of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension project comes at a good time. This project proposes to add 11.5 miles of track and six new stations from East Pasadena to Azuza. It will likely generate \$1 billion in economic output and may

"To ensure that our Rose Bowl stadium will continue to be a world-class venue, we've begun on its renovation and expansion, which is scheduled for completion in time for the 100th Rose Bowl game in 2014." —Bill Bogaard

> in that spirit in the months ahead. The process of resolving the state budget crisis, however, will certainly be controversial and complicated. I have the privilege, as vice president of the League of California Cities, to be involved in the negotiations at the state level. During the months ahead, I hope to add some value to these discussions and keep you informed of our progress.

City center improvement.

The Civic Center-Midtown Improvement Plan, which recently began, will implement pedestrian and transportation enhancements within an eight-block area bounded by Corson Street to the north, Colorado Boulevard to the south, Euclid Avenue to the east and Raymond Avenue to the west. The project, which will continue through July, addresses street and walkway improvements, which include new landscaping, street trees, lighting, signage and decorative elements.

Rose Bowl project.

To ensure that our Rose Bowl stadium will continue to be a world-class venue, we've begun on its renovation and expansion, which is scheduled for completion in time for the 100th Rose Bowl game in 2014. Plans for the project and financing were completed last year. As it turned out, the timing was perfect: construction costs were down, interest rates were low and federal funding was available. Additionally, the Tournament of Roses and UCLA, our major tenants, have signed 30-year leases. This ensures a continuing revenue stream during the renovation financing period. create nearly 7,000 jobs. Last year, average weekday usage set a new record – 33,000. When the line is extended to Azusa, ridership will expand, as will economic activity in Pasadena and other cities along the foothill corridor.

Census results.

The results of the 2010 Census are in. And since Federal law requires municipalities to review and, if warranted, adjust voting districts every 10 years to conform to the census data, Pasadena must consider redrawing City Council district lines this spring. This will be a community-based effort to which everyone will be invited to participate. A council workshop will be scheduled this spring, followed in the summer by the appointment of a task force.

Our birthday.

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Pasadena's incorporation as a city. A committee that includes the city, the Pasadena Museum of History and other organizations, including the WPRA, has been working on a number of special projects and events. The official birthday party will be in June, so stay tuned for more information as well as volunteer opportunities.

Although this may be a challenging fiscal time for Pasadena, I am greatly encouraged by the willingness of all Pasadenans to participate in and contribute to the public discourse. Together, we will find and implement solutions to these problems and set the course for a bright future.



Now: Emily, Katie and Scott Mencken on Katie's first day of kindergarten

Then: The author, left, with a friend in Room 12 at San Rafael Elementary

Back to the future ... at San Rafael Elementary

By Emily Wood Mencken

hirty-three years ago, I put on a brand-new red plaid dress and walked into Room 12 at San Rafael Elementary for my first day of kindergarten. Back then, of course, I couldn't have imagined that my own daughter, Katie, would one day do the very same thing.

My family has lived in Pasadena for a long time. I grew up in the San Rafael hills, and my grandfather, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sister and I are all proud alumni of Pasadena Unified School District schools. So when my husband, Scott, and I moved back to this community from Silicon Valley and faced the "Kindergarten Decision," I figured I knew first-hand what Pasadena public schools could offer Katie (and, eventually, her younger twin brothers). Or did I?

I realized that I didn't really know much about San Rafael or PUSD today beyond my own outdated experiences and what I read in the paper. Luckily, I stumbled across a nonprofit organization called Pasadena Education Network (www.penfamilies.org), whose mission is to support parent engagement in Pasadena public schools.

Through PEN, I learned about the realities of public education in Pasadena, and the news was much better than I expected. We were looking into schools across the district when I heard that a Spanish/English dual language immersion program was in the works — and even better, that it would be established at our neighborhood school and my alma mater, San Rafael.

Scott and I believe strongly that our children should speak more than one language. And since neither of us is fluent in anything other than English, we knew we'd have to seek out multi-language exposure for our kids. The more we learned about the specifics of the program being offered at San Rafael, the more excited we got. Here was a program, we concluded, that could transform our child into a bilingual, biliterate scholar!

It would require a leap of faith – several actually – on our part. Were PUSD schools really offering competitive educations? Is San Rafael, with a committed principal in Alyson Beecher and new programs, bouncing back from years of languishing at the bottom of the ratings? Would Katie master reading, math, and science, particularly when taught primarily in a foreign language?

To say that Katie is blossoming is an understatement. She knew about five words of Spanish and wasn't reading when she entered Kindergarten last fall; she now can speak in complete sentences in Spanish, her receptive language skills are outstanding, and she is reading in both English and Spanish. She loves school and has made many new friends.

Besides our joy at our daughter's progress, our experiences as parents have far exceeded my expectations. The level of parent involvement at San Rafael is exceptional: The PTA is active and strong, and parents and community volunteers are in the classrooms every day.

I enjoyed my time at San Rafael as a student, and am thrilled to see Katie making her own wonderful memories there. I'm gratified to see where San Rafael is today, with an increasing number of neighborhood children attending even as the language program attracts families from across the district, and I'm even more excited about the school's future. With the level of enthusiasm of our principal and her team, the quality of education offered by our teachers, the engagement of our parents and the broader community, I'm confident that San Rafael Elementary is once again an outstanding place for any child to learn and grow.

To learn more about San Rafael Elementary or to volunteer at the school, please call 626-396-5790 or visit sanrafael.pasadenausd.org.

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Make your own motion!

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

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Pasadena: cíty on call

Police Department

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Emergency	9-1-1		
Non-Emergency(626) 74	i4-4501		
Services			
Bulky items	í 4-4158		
Missed trash pickup	í4-408 7		
Missed residential recycling pickup(626) 74	í4-408 7		
New trash container(626) 74	í4-408 7		
New street light	í4-4191		
Pothole	í4-4158		
Recycling(626) 74	í4-408 7		
Sewer problem	<u> 44-4158</u>		

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Abandoned vehicles
Alarm permits
Animal control
ARTS bus
Code enforcement
Dog licenses
Graffiti
Historic preservation
Neighborhood Watch
Park/picnic reservations
Parking permits/exemptions(626) 744-6440
Parking tickets
Street tree maintenance
Trash pick-up(626) 744-4087
Water/power billing inquiries(626) 744-4005
Yard sale permits
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