



NEWS

West Pasadena Residents' Association

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

ESTABLISHED 1962

SUMMER 2011

WPRA awards recognize those who serve

Dorothy Lindsey Community Service Award honors Mic Hansen

The West Pasadena Residents' association is founded on a single principle: service to the community. As an expression of this precept, the WPRA, during its annual meeting on May 18, announced the establishment of the Dorothy Lindsey Community Service Award to honor those who most closely emulate the late Dorothy Lindsey.

Before her untimely death in 2010, Dorothy served as a WPRA president and board member and was a passionate supporter of many Pasadena causes, including the Coalition to Protect the Arroyo Seco, San Rafael Library Associates, Pasadena Beautiful, Union Station Homeless Services and Pasadena First.

But a simple list of accomplishments and interests fails to take the full measure of the woman. Dorothy, as Mayor Bill Bogaard astutely observed, "... was a model for all who care about Pasadena and advocate to strengthen its quality of life and preserve its character and heritage."

It seems only fitting, then, that the WPRA present this new to-be-annual award to Mic Hansen.

Mic arrived in Pasadena more than 35 years ago and, shortly after, volunteered as a docent for the then-newly formed Pasadena Heritage. That led her to serve on various Pasadena Heritage committees and, ultimately, its board. During her term on the board, Pasadena Heritage founded Heritage Housing Partners, a nonprofit

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WPRA Community Service Award goes to John Van de Kamp

Also during its annual meeting, the WPRA presented John Van de Kamp with the WPRA Community Service Award.

John has served numerous roles including U.S. Attorney, California Attorney General and candidate for governor, Los Angeles County District Attorney and the first federal public defender in Los Angeles.

He is currently of counsel at Dewey & LeBoeuf, LLP, and engaged in managing his family's business, Lawry Restaurants. More recently, he taught "mediation" to a group of sixth graders at San Rafael School.

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*Left: Mic Hansen receives the Dorothy Lindsey Community Service Award from WPRA director Fred Zepeda.
Above: Fred presents the WPRA Community Service Award to John Van de Kamp.*

WPRA in motion

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.

2011 – 2012 Officers

- 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)

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- Communications co-director: Judy Klump (klump@wpra.net)
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- Membership, Open Space & Conservation: Linda Zinn (zinn@wpra.net)

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James B. Boyle Jr.	Joan Hearst	Catherine Stringer
Joseph V.L. Cook	John Van de Kamp	Priscilla Taylor
	Laura Kaufman	Fred Zepeda

WPRA website: wpra.net

Recent actions

The WPRA recently voted to donate:

- \$3,000 to Americafest 2011, the 85th annual July Fourth celebration
- Complimentary Americafest tickets (for the donation) to Hillsides, a foster care and treatment center in Pasadena
- \$945 for a new brochure, under direction of WPRA board member Catherine Stringer, to extol the virtues of San Rafael Elementary School

Want to do the "write" thing for West Pasadena?

Are you a frustrated writer? If so, The WPRA may have the antidote. We're looking for individuals to serve as volunteer co-editors for *Neighborhood Update*, the WPRA weekly email newsletter. Each co-editor serves for one month at a time, in rotation, and is responsible, during that month, for preparing and releasing the weekly Saturday morning e-Newsletter.

Neighborhood Update is a valued communications and information tool for West Pasadenans. It goes to more than 1,000 subscribers each Saturday morning with vital information and news of important meetings. It's also a resource for arts and entertainment around the city.

Contact Judy Klump at klump@wpra.net.

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Happy *quasquicentennial*, Pasadena!



Saturday, June 11, was a glorious day for Pasadena and the record books! On that day, Pasadena, as a city, turned 125 and was appropriately feted by more than 4,000 area residents, many of whom no doubt came out simply so they could wish neighbors a happy *quasquicentennial* (125 years)!

The big shindig, co-sponsored by the Pasadena Museum of History and the City of Pasadena (and aided by dozens of Pasadena residents and Avery Dennison), spotlighted our richly diverse population, organizations and talents. It included continuous live music, dance, theatre and storytelling, special entertainment activities for children and families. ■



Top left: Maestro Victor Vener, music director of the California Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted the world premier of *Paint The Town Rose*, a fanfare composed especially for Pasadena's birthday by Roger Allen Ward; **Above:** It was a day of this and that and, apparently, fun with a hat; **Left:** Sunny Stevenson, of the 125th anniversary executive committee, sports a hat she purchased in 1941 in Pasadena. She poses along with Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard (holding the official Pasadena Birthday Baby), the Mayfield Senior School mascot and Pasadena High School cheerleader La Keisha Jeanmarie.

And then there was THE cake — a 6-foot tall confectionary delight and representation of Pasadena. Princely trumpets alerted the throng of admirers to this stunning product of more than 30 students from the Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Pasadena. The recipe — 100 pounds of flour, 340 eggs, 80 pounds of sugar, 200 pounds of chocolate and 15 gallons of cream.

(Photos by Chuck and Jody Hudson)



Gone, but not forgotten

Country living in Pasadena in 1886

[Editor's note: The Pasadena Museum of History graciously provides WPRA News readers with historical vignettes that reveal our city's past and, we hope, inform our future.]

By Kirk Myers

Assistant Archivist
Pasadena Museum of History
Country Living in Pasadena

When Pasadena was incorporated as a city in June 1886 it was experiencing the beginning of a real-estate boom that would transform it from its rustic beginning as an agricultural community in 1874. The business center at the intersection of Colorado and Fair Oaks was expanding, and new homes were being built everywhere. Yet much of Pasadena was still rural in character.

One early resident wrote of his home on South Fair Oaks: "We did not have electric light or gas. Our home was heated by kerosene lamps and the cooking was done on a wood and coal range. In those days there were no paved streets and many of the streets did not have sidewalks, curbs or gutters. There was no sewerage system and the houses had to have cesspools."

Animals were part of daily life, and many people kept cows and chickens, as well as horses. Horse-drawn vehicles and bicycles were a means of transportation, "but walking was a common way of getting places," wrote Ralph Arnold, who lived near Orange Grove Avenue, of his burro, Ginnie:

"Ginnie liked to eat at 5:00 A.M. and if no hay was on hand made her hunger known by a series of raucous brays which woke up the whole neighborhood. I used to try to stop her by rushing out in my nightgown [everybody wore nightgowns in those days] and belaboring the poor beast with a lath. But I never quite cured her of braying. She would not drink water out of a pail so I had to ride her down to the Arroyo to drink from the stream."

A burro might not want to drink water out of a pail, but schoolchildren did. A girl who attended the Grant School at the northwest corner of Allen and Colorado recalled:



On August 25, 1886, a Pasadena newspaper reported that "Pasadena, the new-born Garden of Eden, has been lithographed in fine shape." West Pasadena in 1886 was still surrounded by orchards and vineyards, and a visitor in April wrote that "the air is loaded with fragrance."

"Water was carried in a tin pail from a well pumped by a windmill on a ranch across the street. A tin dipper served as the drinking cup and on warm days the pail was passed around and each pupil drank in turn. I have no memory of this dipper ever being washed, to say nothing of being scalded!"

The above memories are from a special edition of the Pasadena Community Book published in 1955. Comparing the world of 1955 to the 1880s, Alice Marston Hastings wrote:

"The poppyfields are gone and the meadow larks and the orange groves, and with them the friendly country ways of living. Instead

of peacefully driving our horses, we speed in our automobiles, for we seem to be a people of rush and hurry. True, we have many and wonderful modern inventions to give us pleasure and help in our daily living, but in spite of all of them, if I could choose, I would step back into the 1880 years and the simple way of life — that charming period in the early days of Pasadena."

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



Looking west on Colorado Street in 1886. A horse-drawn streetcar is at the lower right of the photo, and orchards can be seen on the Orange Grove Avenue ridge.

Celebrating West Pasadena's centenarians



Raisa Ell



Corrie Harris



Bill Yamamoto

Story by Jeannette Bovard

Outreach chair, Happy Birthday Pasadena

Photos by EyeGotcha Photography

How exciting would it be to ask some of Pasadena's earliest residents to share their memories with us for the City's 125th Birthday celebration? This was the question I proposed to the event planning committee at our first meeting in 2011.

Expecting to find around a dozen "super seniors," (age 100 or over) in the community, we established the Pasadena Centenarians Project. Imagine our surprise when the emails and phone calls kept on coming! In total, we identified 25 local centenarians, 23 of whom agreed to be part of the project.

We hardly knew what to expect – but I can assure you that what we found in these individuals was so much more than we anticipated. By sharing their stories, these men and women have enhanced our knowledge of local – and world – history, bringing

us eyewitness accounts of people, places and events that preceded our times.

In this issue, we're pleased to introduce you to three of the seven who reside in the WPRA service area. *[Editor's note: We'll share the other four in our next issue.]*

Raisa Ell: Born July 25, 1910

Raisa was born in Russia but fled with her family to a Russian enclave across the Chinese border due to conditions in her home country. She became one of the first women to graduate from Dental College in China, where she subsequently established her own practice. After moving to California, she resumed her dental career at the Veteran's Hospital in West Los Angeles. Raisa's son, the late Victor Ell,

was active in many aspects of Pasadena's business and cultural life, including the Tournament of Roses and Pasadena Museum of History. Raisa and her sister Tamara, 91, now live in an elegantly appointed condominium on South Orange Grove surrounded by art and images spotlighting their family and its heritage. Surprisingly, Raisa didn't realize the Rose

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Top left: Abigail Bacon, associate director for the renovation project, displays a 1915 license plate that was unearthed (along with many more treasures) under the Press Box; **Above:** The boys in the bucket brigade work on the skeleton of the north video board. **Left:** Workmen finish off the south end-zone wall area; (Photos by Chuck Hudson)

Inside the Rose Bowl renovation — month 7

The renovation team of Bernards | Barton Malow, architects, contractors and the Rose Bowl staff continue to meet schedule deadlines. In fact, they managed to finish the new scoreboard and video boards in time for the June 25 CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match.

Meeting another objective — hitting local hiring goals for the renovation — has been more challenging. One reason for this is that the majority of workers assigned to

the project are from the contractors' core workforce or are first in line for hiring through the respective union halls.

To address the issue, the Rose Bowl Operating Committee (RBOC) in its June meeting:

- Approved a local-hiring goal of 15% of the total on-site-construction craft-certified payroll for the remaining construction contracts to be bid

- Selected Pasadena First: Buy Local to execute the local-hire initiative and then asked Parsons, at no additional cost to the project, to provide guidance and oversight
- Agreed to modify bid specifications and related procedures to maximize local hiring and to encourage contractors through the rest of the project to apply their best efforts to hire locally. ■

Rose Bowl memories

By Michael Cawlina
President, Management Services, Bernards

My fondest Rose Bowl memory is shared with over 400 Bernards employees and their families. This was in 2007, after we completed construction of the Rose Bowl locker and media rooms. We were so proud that we held our annual appreciation dinner that year inside the Rose Bowl. What a dinner it was ... right on the 50-yard line.

Upon arriving, everyone passed through the tunnel. As we stepped onto that famous field,

we walked through an arch of blue and white balloons that symbolized excellence and achievement. Just as others who had achieved excellence of play on that field, we all proudly passed through the arch to spend an evening on that field because I like to think we all had done something of excellence as well, for the Rose Bowl.

We had casino night, and there was a dance floor. Everyone's picture was taken and put up on the video board. At one point in the evening, I walked up the rows and stood underneath the press box and looked down onto that beautiful field. I felt proud of my

city, of the beautiful landmark we share and of the work we'd done there. Wow! I've attended the U2 concert and BCS games, but nothing compares to that evening. My fondest memory is being there on that night with family, friends and associates.

For an update on renovation progress, be sure to check out the construction photo gallery at rosebowl-renovation.com/photo-galleries-2

For more information, visit rosebowl-renovation.com. While there you can view the changes that will result from the renovation, view the three-year construction phases construction photos and more. ■

A school for the community — a community for the school

Editor's note: Several years ago the WPRA "adopted" San Rafael Elementary School (1090 Nithsdale Rd.), the only surviving public elementary school in our service area. Through the Student Enrichment Program, WPRA education chair Marilyn Randolph and board member Catherine Stringer work closely with the school staff on behalf of the students.

As our nation, state and individual communities continue to face the challenges brought by fiscal uncertainty, it seems everyone has a story about the "new normal" — and the need to do more with less. Working with dedicated staff, parents and community volunteers from the WPRA and beyond, I am proud to say that the 2010–2011 school year at San Rafael Elementary saw the development of many new and enhanced programs and events, especially in the areas of literacy and the performing and visual arts, even as we confronted the reality of diminished resources.

- We launched a read-a-thon and, thanks to funding from the Pasadena Educational Foundation, were able to bring back a part-time library coordinator.
- We received a significant donation of new books, in both English and Spanish, from Riley Carney's non-profit Breaking the Chain...Link by Link (linkbylink.org).
- WPRA member John Fauvre volunteered at the library during lunch hours so students could, if they chose, read there.
- Parent and West Pasadena resident Angie Arzili partnered with us to develop



SRE students perform "Seussical The Musical," which exposes the witty, wild and whimsical world of Dr. Seuss

school-wide literacy events, including special literacy cafés, to bring books alive for our students.

- Our art history program for upper elementary gifted-and-talented students, run solely by West Pasadena resident Nino Sutcliffe, entered its third year. The students adore Nino, who recently took her students to the Norton Simon to see first-hand the art they had been studying.
- We had our first official career day, thanks to WPRA board member Marilyn Randolph. Many professional leaders in our community volunteered to share their time and expertise with students.

Also, thanks to Marilyn Randolph, we continue our partnership with Pasadena City College's Teacher Preparation Program. PCC recognized Marilyn in May as an Educational "Unsung Hero" in our community, an honor she well deserves for the unstinting support she has shown by bringing in volunteers and helping us making physical improvements to our campus.

We are doing our best to make San Rafael Elementary a place for the entire community. It appears that our fall

festival and haunted house event is becoming an annual favorite, with high participation this year by families, neighbors and even several 1954 graduates of San Rafael.

Similarly, during our open house 450 guests visited classrooms to view student work, including an exhibit of students' science fair experiments, and mingle with families who have children headed to San Rafael next year or in years to come. I expect an equally wonderful turnout at our annual Pancake Breakfast — just days away as I write this.

Lastly, I must mention with pride and excitement the extraordinary growth of our Dual Language Immersion Program (Spanish/English). This year, we had nearly 100 children in kindergarten through second grade enrolled. Next year, we'll add a third immersion kindergarten and third-grade classroom.

As we manage the expansion of the program and the resulting changes to the school, we are gratified to be part of this vanguard movement in education. You can read more about the benefits of dual language immersion programs on the Center for Applied Linguistics Web site at cal.org.

On behalf of all the staff, parents and students at San Rafael School, I would like to thank the West Pasadena Residents' Association and the San Rafael community for their continued support.

Alyson Beecher

Principal
San Rafael Elementary School ■



Emily Wood Mencken poses with her Math Field Day Team.

2011 WPRA annual meeting: *The reception*

Meetin', greetin' and eatin'



1: As Vince Bertoni, the City's director of Planning Department, left, looks on, WPRA President Michael Udell, right, greets Pasadena Fire Chief Dennis Downs;

2: WPRA board members Priscilla Taylor, seated, and Linda Zinn, right, welcome area residents to the annual meeting;

3: WPRA Secretary Bob Holmes enjoys a light moment with Sally Barngrove and Tom Gertmanian;

4: Marguerite Marsh selects from the fare provided by Burger Continental.

(Photos by Chuck Hudson)



2011 WPRA annual meeting: *The program*

The city budget: Facing the fiscal music



WPRA Treasurer Blaine Cavana served as master of ceremonies during the business program.



WPRA President Michael Udell recapped WPRA accomplishments during his first term and called upon the community to join and volunteer their time to help the WPRA further serve residents of the area.



District 6 councilmember Steve Madison urged the audience to make their voices heard now, during the General Plan review period, and beyond. Tell us, he said, "what kind of city you want." He also touched on a number of current issues including residential crime and the Rose Bowl renovation.



Pasadena Fire Chief Dennis Downs addressed the recent closure of Fire Station 39 in the San Rafael area. He explained why the City had to close and rebuild the station and promised that the City would — within 60 days — announce a temporary solution to the problem.



City Manager Michael Beck discussed the City's difficult fiscal position — the worst for the city since The Great Depression. The City's challenge, he explained, was to significantly reduce spending during the downturn, but not at the expense of critical services.

WPRA awards—Mic Hansen

Continued from page 1

group committed to affordable housing, of which she is now president.

Mic also served five years as a member of the WPRA board, leaving only recently to accept an appointment to the Planning Commission. She also founded and helped develop the curriculum for Leadership Pasadena, which provides accomplished and emerging leaders with the tools, inspiration, understanding and relationships they'll need to enhance their future engagement in the Pasadena community.

A woman of substance in all ways, Mic is humble, generous, thoughtful, energetic and always supportive of others. She's a fighter, but with great civility — a rare quality today. ■

WPRA awards—John Van de Kamp

Continued from page 1

John has served for many years on the WPRA Board of Directors, always offering excellent advice and support. As his family, friends and acquaintances know well, John is a gentleman and always brings a healthy dose of erudition, decorum and common sense to any discussion. ■

Celebrating West Pasadena's Centenarians

Continued from page 5

Parade floats would pass by her window — imagine her surprise her first New Year's morning in Pasadena when she opened the curtains to find a giant floral lion looking at her!

Corrie Harris: Born Nov. 18, 1910

Corrie was born in Arkansas, where she met and married her husband, Lon. The couple moved to Pasadena in 1936, buying a lot near the Rose Bowl for \$1,500 and borrowing \$10,000 to build their house. That same year, Corrie joined the Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church, where she is now its oldest member. Corrie earned Practical Nurse and Real Estate Broker Licenses, and enjoyed successful careers in both fields, often overcoming racial restrictions in the job market with a warm and positive outlook combined with top-notch professionalism. At age 100 she's going strong, takes no medicines, reads without glasses, drives, delivers food to the needy every week, serves on her Church's finance committee and board of trustees — and continues to make new friends.

Bill Yamamoto: Born Jan. 1, 1911

Bill has lived in Pasadena over 60 years, and has been a member of the Crown City Optimist Club for nearly 50 years. Originally from the Sacramento area, Bill and his family were interned at Jerome, near Little Rock, Arkansas, during World War II. With the U.S. Government recruiting laborers to work on house trailers for Army and Navy personnel, Bill secured employment at the Pan American Trailer Factory in Chicago for three years before transferring to the Factory's Los Angeles plant. He settled in Pasadena, first in a "fixer-upper" on Washington Blvd., and soon after in the home near Arroyo Blvd., where he and his family still live. After a 30-year career with a Los Angeles building contractor, Bill retired only to find himself in constant demand for home improvement projects well into his 90s. ■



"Create Change" in a "word cloud" charting the qualities necessary to realize the vision of the three strategic pillars



Cover of Art Center's strategic plan for the next five years

Change is on the horizon for Art Center ... by design

Shortly after Dr. Lorne M. Buchman assumed the role as president of Art Center College of Design, just a year ago, he launched a comprehensive planning process. That process engaged members of the entire college community — students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and friends — and challenged them to anticipate the evolution of art and design education and, equally important, envision the future of Art Center.

The result of that year-long process was Art Center's 2011-16 Strategic Plan: "Create Change." The five-year strategic plan is organized into three broad pillars.

The conservatory spirit — a commitment to serve as the foremost college of higher learning for ambitious artists and designers to master their craft and learn from experts in their respective fields

"We embark on this journey from a position of strength," said Buchman, "recognizing that close attention to all aspects of our institution — and our work within it — will be necessary as we move forward."

Convening diverse communities & disciplines — a commitment to nurture a diverse and robust college community of students, faculty and staff, as it relates to culture, identity and socio-economic status

New spaces for learning — a commitment to foster collaboration among various art and design disciplines, a recognition that students must have access to the types of learning environments, both physical and online. This pillar also calls for the improvement and development of Art Center's South Campus (on S. Raymond Avenue) as well as a thorough renovation of the Ellwood building (Lida Street) to replace outmoded and inefficient systems and materials.

The full text of Art Center's 2011-16 strategic plan is available at artcenter.edu/createchange. ■

About Art Center College of Design

Art Center College of Design has been a leader in art and design education for 80 years, providing undergraduate and graduate degrees in a wide variety of creative disciplines. In 1976, Art Center relocated from Los Angeles to its Hillside Campus in Pasadena.

For the last 35 years nearly all of the college's programs have been housed in an iconic building (on Lida Street in the Linda Vista area) designed by Craig Ellwood Associates, which is now a city historic landmark. In 2004, Art Center opened the South

Campus, site of a former supersonic wind tunnel, in downtown Pasadena. Renovations of South Campus earned Art Center one of the first LEED ratings in Pasadena. ■

You asked for it!

Preserving our stately oaks

Editor's note: A long-time resident of West Pasadena has asked how best to preserve our area's magnificent oaks — not from the overreaching developer, but from the ill-advised and often inadvertent actions of the trees' current stewards — area residents. To address this issue the WPRA has asked Finch Tree Surgery to provide us with insight and guidance. If you have any questions about local issues, send them to editor@wptra.net.

To water or not to water: That is the question

By Randy Finch
President and CEO
Finch Tree Surgery

Often, as we travel around the area, we see arroyo stones placed around the base of oak trees, usually in a single layer carefully arranged or, sometimes, looking like they just fell from the wheelbarrow.

Why are they there? Is this an ancient therapy for ailing trees learned from the native Indians who once occupied our oak woodlands? Not likely, because oaks survived better in the natural dry summer environment that existed before we planted our lush water-hungry gardens (see photo #1).



Water-hungry planting

In fact, whether native or transplanted, oaks are equally susceptible to tree-killing and root-rotting fungi. In fact, the recipe for oak death or collapse, assuming one might chart this course, could be as simple as: add water to warm soil, keep wet and wait patiently.

While experienced southern California gardeners know it is not good to plant flowers or water a lawn under oaks, most gardeners eschew bare dirt, finding it unattractive in a garden or, put another way, a waste of good planting opportunities. So how can we make the most of the garden under an oak canopy?

Rocks are decorative and fit the arroyo look, particularly if your architecture or landscape incorporates similar stones (see photo #2). Rocks give texture, provide a hard surface that can be blown leaf-free by the fastidious gardener, and they certainly don't need water, which is good for gardens in a naturally arid environment like ours.



Decorative rocks

Rocks, however, have been misunderstood by many. Surprisingly, they can function much as would mulch. The moisture that accumulates under them encourages root fungus to spread quickly. If you keep the area dry after we get our winter rains, rocks cause no harm.

As I've suggested, oaks do best in a dry, uncultivated space with a light natural accumulation of oak leaf mulch from the trunk, as far as you can aesthetically tolerate. If you must plant, use only drought- and shade-tolerant plants to jazz it up (see photo #3). Spot water sparingly to establish them in the soil or, even better, in pots above grade. Imagine the riot of permanent color and texture you can achieve with pots.



Dirt rings

Finally, notice I'm not saying you shouldn't water oaks. The key is to keep oaks dry in the summer, particularly near the trunk. During years with winter drought, the oaks will be less stressed if the root zone receives a deep slow soaking in spring and fall. Keep the soaker at least two trunk diameters away from the trunk, allow penetration up to 3 feet in drained soil and repeat in 4-6 weeks, depending on the degree of drought.

Thomas Jefferson once said "Too old to plant trees for my own gratification, I shall do it for posterity." As custodians of the forest whose trees can live many generations beyond our stay, it is only right that we meet that responsibility with the best care possible to make sure they thrive for our grandchildren.

Randy Finch is an ISA-certified arborist and an ASCA-registered consulting arborist. With experience dating from 1946, Finch Tree was the first Tree Care Industry Association-accredited company in California. For more information browse the resources and blog at FinchTree.com/resources.aspx. ■

Pasadena City Hall digest & update

By Vince Farhat
Director, WPRA

Vince Farhat is a partner in the law firm Holland & Knight and is a former federal prosecutor. He is a past president of WPRA and serves on the board of directors of the Pasadena Center Operating Company. Vince can be reached at farhat@wpra.net.



PUBLIC SAFETY

City closes West Pasadena fire station

Although several recent seismic stability reports concluded that seven Pasadena fire stations must be retrofitted to withstand an earthquake at a total repair or replacement cost of \$59 million, the City on May 26 closed Fire Station 39 (in the San Rafael area) due to immediate and major safety concerns. The 62-year-old station on Avenue 64, which protects the southwestern portion of Pasadena, was closed due to over-stressed support beams that could fail in the event of a major earthquake and could remain closed for 24 to 30 months.

The City currently operates eight fire stations, three of which (stations 31, 38 and 39) are in West Pasadena's Council District 6. During Station 39's closure, residents in that area will be collectively served by stations 31 (South Fair Oaks) and 38 (Linda Vista), as well as City of Los Angeles and South Pasadena stations with whom Pasadena has a "mutual aid" compact. To expediently pursue renovation or relocation of stations 39 and 32, which has also been declared unsafe, City Council has included in the capital budget an initial allocation of almost \$1 million.

On May 18 during the WPRA annual meeting, Pasadena fire chief Dennis Downs assured residents that response times will continue to be well within national and regional standards. The City is also looking at two different properties in the San Rafael area that could be used as a temporary facility, while Station 39 is rebuilt. The department hopes to announce the temporary facility by late July. City Council is now considering proposing a public safety facilities bond to



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

pay for the fire station upgrades. *The WPRA is closely monitoring developments concerning Fire Station 39.* ■

Police Department considers impact of Supreme Court decision

When Pasadena Police Chief Phillip Sanchez presented his department's budget recommendations to the City Council's Finance Committee, Council members were particularly interested in the potential impact a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision directing the State of California to release approximately 44,000 prisoners might have on Pasadena. That's also something on Chief Sanchez's mind, since state and local law enforcement officials are still assessing the potential impact.

Fortunately, our police department has a great deal of experience working with parolees. For some time now the department has collaborated with the California State Parole Office, the Flintridge Center and other community stakeholders to prepare newly released parolees for reintegration into their communities. According to Chief Sanchez, this program is well tested and may serve as the framework for dealing with results of the Supreme's decision. ■

West Service Area community meeting set for July 13

West Pasadena residents interested in learning more about the Pasadena Police Department are invited to attend the West Service Area Community Meeting on Wednesday, July 13, at 6:30 pm at Crawford Family Forum at Southern California Public Radio, 474 S. Raymond Ave. Those who attend will meet service area officers, forensic technicians, emergency services operators and members of the police command staff. Tentative topics include crime trends, crime prevention, e-policing, crime mapping and Nixle. *For further information, contact Police Specialist Laura Morris at (626) 744-7657 or lmorris@cityofpasadena.net.* ■

Police Department launches Pasadena Crime Stoppers

The Pasadena Public Affairs Office recently announced the launch of "Pasadena Crime Stoppers," an anonymous tip line that offers cash rewards for information that helps solve serious crimes in the Pasadena area. The program makes it easy for Pasadena residents to provide valuable and timely crime information by phone, text and the Internet. Call **800/222-8477** or visit lacrimestoppers.org.

Note: It's important to include the word "Pasadena" in the tip so Crime Stoppers can immediately relay the information to the proper law enforcement agency. ■

FISCAL ISSUES

City budget update

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2009, the City of Pasadena embarked on a five-year plan to eliminate the structural deficit — the gap between revenues and expenditures — in the General Fund. If left unchecked, this gap would have resulted in a deficit of \$28.5 million by the end of Fiscal Year 2014, as City Manager Michael Beck explained during the May 18 West Pasadena Residents' Association annual meeting.

On June 27, City Council approved the budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. The Council cut more than \$7 million from the general fund, eliminated 150 city jobs and made \$2 million in cuts to the Pasadena Fire Department. The Council, however, backed away from an earlier proposal calling for Pasadena fire stations to staff each truck with three firefighters instead of four. Instead, the Council adopted a plan by which paramedic units in Pasadena will not be staffed by firefighters on basic aid calls; those firefighters will move to trucks. In addition, the closure of Fire Station 39 in West Pasadena will save City Hall more than \$800,000. As in past years, the City used Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) to balance the budget by approving a \$15.4 million transfer from the PWP fund to the City's general fund.

The City's total budget includes the general fund, PWP, a capital improvement fund and the budgets of the Rose Bowl and the Pasadena Civic Auditorium and Convention Center. The total budget grew in 2011-12 from \$725 million to \$776 million. City officials have acknowledged that without major changes the City's public safety retirement system could be insolvent by 2014. ■

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Pasadena replaces dying palm trees



Over the past few years, the century-old fan palms on South Orange Grove Boulevard have

been slowly dying, leaving gaps in the historic planting design for Pasadena's famed "Millionaire's Row." As reported in the *Pasadena Star-News*, more than 75 palm trees have fallen victim to pink rot, diamond scale and old age. Until recently, the City did not have the funding to replace the palm trees. One reason is that grant money typically can be used only to plant or replace "shade canopy" street trees — palms are not considered shade trees. However, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) recently awarded Pasadena a \$15,000 grant to replace the aging palms because palms contribute less pollen to the air than other species, which improves air quality.

According to City staff, there are 827 trees along the roughly one-mile stretch of South Orange Grove between Colorado Boulevard and the City's southern border. The 212 palms are interspersed with 615 magnolia grandifloras lining the first stage of the Rose Parade route. Pasadena also has been awarded more conventional tree-planting funds: a two-year \$135,000 "Green Trees for the Golden State" grant to plant 1,000 broad-leaf trees, a \$100,000 grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and a Department of Transportation grant to plant 2,000 trees and shrubs in parkways and restore native habitats in the Arroyo Seco. ■

Pasadena is "Tree City USA"

In April, the National Arbor Day Foundation named Pasadena a "Tree City USA" community for its 21-year commitment to urban forestry. Pasadena also received the prestigious Growth Award, which honors environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities. Pasadena has been a Sterling City since 2009, an honor bestowed on cities that have received the Growth Award for 10 years or longer. Pasadena now has 62,000 street trees and 85% of the city is covered by trees. The Tree City USA program is in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. ■

City Council approves apartment smoking ban

The City Council in April directed the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that would by January 1, 2014 ban smoking in all common areas and all new units of multi-unit

housing apartment. The ordinance would also require rental, lease and purchase agreements involving multi-unit housing units entered into after January 1, 2012 to incorporate ordinance disclosure provisions. The City Attorney will return to City Council this summer with a draft of the ordinance. Violations of the ordinance could result in fines ranging from \$100 to \$500. The ordinance would make Pasadena the fourth city in Los Angeles County to impose such a ban, which is aimed at mitigating the effects of second-hand smoke. The first reading of the ordinance was conducted on June 20. ■

La Loma Bridge update

The City's plans to retrofit the historic La Loma Bridge (the "little sister" of the Colorado Street Bridge) had to be revised last year after the discovery of a fault running beneath the bridge. A Design Advisory Group was appointed to provide input to City staff and consultants during the design process. In early March, Pasadena Heritage, represented on the design group, asked the City to allow the group to consider an alternative design, contributed by local engineers (both Pasadena Heritage board members) before proceeding with the proposed redesign. Once City consultants concluded that the alternative design would be just as safe and no more costly than the original proposal, the Advisory Group chose the alternative design, which reduces visual impacts to the bridge's historic character. ■

RECREATION ISSUES

City reviews archers' agreement

The City is negotiating a new agreement with the Pasadena Roving Archers (PRA) concerning PRA's use of the archery range located in the lower Arroyo Seco. In response to community concerns, the Pasadena Recreation and Parks Commission formed a special stakeholders committee to discuss how to promote shared use of the lower Arroyo among walkers, birders, archers and other recreational users. Two members of the West Pasadena Residents' Association are serving on this committee.

The WPRA board in April sent a letter to the Commission asking the City to consider a number of issues in developing the new agreement. These issues include: boundaries of the Lower Arroyo (both private and

public) and of the PRA range; hours of operation; revenue for the City; mitigation of possible conflicts between archers and all other users; maintenance and hillside erosion; and compliance with the Lower Arroyo Master Plan (LAMP). On July 12, the Commission will hold a stakeholder committee meeting to discuss the new PRA agreement. The meeting will be held at 6 pm in Room 220 at the City Yards, located at 233 West Mountain, Pasadena. *For more information, visit the City's website at cityof-pasadena.net.* The topic will also be discussed at the Commission's regular meeting on July 19. ■

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Update: General Plan decision-time is here

As you may know, the city is updating Pasadena's General Plan. Hundreds of workshop participants last fall created the following four alternatives for city land use and mobility plans:

- **Alternative A** for growth to be diverted from the Central District to East Pasadena and other major corridors;
- **Alternative B** for maximizing economic vitality and jobs;
- **Alternative C** for smart growth along transportation lines and major intersections; and
- **Alternative D** for slowing growth city-wide.

City officials in June hosted four community workshops to provide residents with yet one more opportunity to learn about the four alternatives. And now, through July, residents and business owners will be asked to complete a survey (online or by mail) about which alternative(s) they prefer. *To complete the General Plan survey, please visit cityofpasadena.net/generalplan or call (626) 744-6807.* ■

Ambassador West update

The Ambassador West development continues to move forward as site master developer City Ventures prepares design drawings with the goal of starting Phase 1 construction early next year.

Since our last update on the project, City Ventures received Final Design Review

approval for the second phase of the development, which includes construction of 21 attached homes in the center of the campus, on the current site around the long-abandoned library building.

City Ventures on July 11 will bring Phase 3 to the Design Commission for Conceptual Design Review on July 11. This phase includes 39 attached homes to be constructed at the northwest corner of the property, at the intersection of South Orange Grove Boulevard and Green Street. As with the first and second phases, the design of this final phase is consistent with the designs that were presented when the project was approved in 2007, with additional details added and upgraded through the Design Review process.

To begin any construction, however, the project's final subdivision map still must be recorded. City Ventures continues to lead this process on behalf of all of the property owners covered under the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). 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. On March 28 City Council extended the entitlements in the previously approved CUP for six more months. ■

New review process for large projects

City Council in May approved a zoning code amendment to require that Conditional Use Permits for projects exceeding 75,000 square feet and Adjustment Permits be heard and decided by the Planning Commission with City Council serving as the appeals body. This code amendment changed the hearing body from the Hearing Officer, which is one person, to the Planning Commission, a nine-person commission. This provides the Planning Commission the opportunity to review major projects within a larger public forum.

According to staff reports, the impetus for this change was a City Council discussion regarding the Council Rock Partners Project located at the southeast corner of Fair Oaks Avenue and California Boulevard. The issue was whether large projects of citywide significance should be reviewed by the Planning Commission, instead of the Hearing Officer, to provide a broader and more comprehensive review. ■

GOVERNANCE AND POLITICS

New PUSD leaders

In May, Renatta Cooper was unanimously elected president of the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) board. She will serve a one-year term as head of the board, during which she will play a significant role in setting the school-board agenda. Cooper, who recently won her second term on the PUSD board, had served as vice president since May 2010. Ed Honowitz was elected to serve as vice president. ■

New Pasadena vice mayor

Pasadena City Council in May elected District 2 Council member Margaret McAustin to serve as vice mayor. McAustin, who won re-election to City Council in March, will serve as vice mayor for one year, replacing District 5 Council member Victor Gordo, whose term expired. McAustin will chair City Council meetings when Mayor Bill Bogaard cannot attend and represent the mayor in the community when necessary. ■

City Council appoints redistricting task force

The boundaries of the seven voting district that define the geographic representation of the Pasadena City Council are required by California State law to be reviewed every 10 years and based on then-new U.S. Census data. California further provides that at that time and based on the census, City Council must determine whether adjustments to the boundaries of any or all districts are necessary. The City Council on June 22 appointed the following nine Pasadena residents to serve on the citizens Redistricting Task Force:

- Wendelin Donahue, nominated by District 1 councilmember Jacque Robinson
- Alex Guerrero, nominated by District 2 council member and vice mayor Margaret McAustin
- Alan Caldwell nominated by District 3 councilmember Chris Holden
- James Marlatt, nominated by District 4 councilmember Gene Masuda

Continued on page 15

Local Heroes divide \$687,000 in grants

By Christle Balvin

There were smiles all around as more than 200 civic and community leaders gathered for the *Local Heroes* celebration on June 7, during which the Pasadena Community Foundation (PCF) awarded \$687,000 to 43 non-profit community-based organizations. Grants ranged from \$50,000 for major grants to as little as a few thousand for regular grants.

This annual invitational breakfast event was held this year at the University Club of Pasadena and featured presentations by Pasadena City Manager Michael Beck and Police Chief Philip Sanchez.

Through its dedicated support of the work of local non-profit agencies and institutions, the 58-year-old foundation has, as of this year, invested a total of \$21 million in our local community. This makes the Pasadena Community Foundation one of the largest single donors to local nonprofits in the Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre area.

Among this year's winners are the following West Pasadena-based organizations:



Jennifer DeVoll, executive director of the Pasadena Community Foundation, congratulates Lance Davis of Parson's Nose Productions for receiving a \$4,906 Local Heroes grant.

- AAF Rose Bowl Aquatics Center (\$50,000)
- Huntington Medical Research Institute (\$2,400)
- Pacific Clinics (\$10,000)
- Pasadena Heritage (\$9,600)
- Hillside Education Center (\$10,000)
- Hathaway-Sycamores (\$9,708)
- El Centro de Accion Social (\$10,000)
- Pasadena Beautiful (\$10,000) ■

Pasadena City Hall digest & update

Continued from page 14

- West Pasadena resident and former councilmember Bill Crowfoot, nominated by District 5 councilmember Victor Gordo
- West Pasadena resident and WPRB board member Richard McDonald, nominated by District 6 councilmember Steve Madison
- Mary Machado Schammel, nominated by District 7 councilmember Terry Tornek
- Liz Trussell and Michael Alvarez, nominated by Mayor Bill Bogaard

The Task Force will review the Census 2010 data for Pasadena, consider the characteristics of each district, including demographics, and make a recommendation to Council for the potential of adjusting any of the current district boundaries. ■

PERSONNEL ISSUES

New director of Pasadena HS&R Department

Mercy Santoro has been appointed as the new director of the Pasadena Human Services and Recreation Department, effective June 1. The department delivers social services, recreation and education activities at several community centers and parks in Pasadena as well as at 14 Pasadena Unified School District sites.

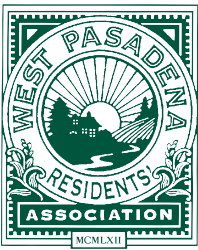
Over the past two years Santoro has directed the Claremont Human Services Department, including social services, human relations, recreation classes, adult and youth sports programs, and parks and facilities management. She also served as deputy director of the Claremont Human Services Department from 2006 to 2009, was a superintendent and supervisor in the department from 2000 to 2006 and was recreation supervisor and coordinator for the

Rialto Recreation and Community Services Department from 1995 to 2000. She taught developmental psychology at the University of La Verne as adjunct faculty from 2005 to 2007. She holds a master's degree in child development from the University of La Verne and a bachelor's degree in English literature from California State University-San Bernardino. ■

GoPasadena smartphone app

The Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau, in partnership with the City of Pasadena, has unveiled a free GoPasadena smartphone application for visitors. Visitors can download the free app through the iTunes App Store or Android Marketplace; search for "GoPasadena."

GoPasadena is a passport to all the fun, culture and urban allure that is Pasadena. Like an electronic visitors' guide, GoPasadena enables visitors to plan their visit to Pasadena with the greatest of ease and explore the city at their own pace. ■



**WEST PASADENA
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

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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.

Mayor Bill Bogaard

bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net

Chris Holden, District 3

cholden@cityofpasadena.net

City Manager Michael J. Beck

mbeck@cityofpasadena.net

Gene Masuda, District 4

gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net

COUNCILMEMBERS

Jacque Robinson, District 1

jacqueroberinson@cityofpasadena.net

Victor Gordo, District 5

vgordo@cityofpasadena.net

**Margaret McAustin, District 2
(vice mayor)**

mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net

Steve Madison, District 6

smadison@cityofpasadena.net

Terry Tornek, District 7

ttornek@cityofpasadena.net

Pasadena: city on call

Police Department

Emergency	9-1-1
Pasadena Crime Stoppers	(800) 222-8477
Non-Emergency	(626) 744-4501

Services

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

Frequently called numbers

City information operator	(626) 744-4000
Abandoned vehicles	(626) 744-7627
Alarm permits	(626) 744-4166
Animal control	(626) 792-7151
ARTS bus	(626) 744-4055
Code enforcement	(626) 744-4633
Dog licenses	(626) 744-4501
Graffiti	(626) 744-7622
Historic preservation	(626) 744-4009
Neighborhood Watch	(626) 744-4550
Park/picnic reservations	(626) 744-7275
Parking permits/exemptions	(626) 744-6440
Parking tickets	(626) 744-4360
Street tree maintenance	(626) 744-4321
Trash pick-up	(626) 744-4087
Water/power billing inquiries	(626) 744-4005
Yard sale permits	(626) 744-4200