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NFL at the Rose Bowl?

West Pasadena residents speak out

BY BILL URBAN

The potential for a National Football League (NFL) team using the Rose Bowl stadium as a home field — while its permanent stadium is built — continues to enliven discussions throughout Pasadena, and especially in West Pasadena.



Two groups are attempting to lure an NFL team to the Los Angeles area. Anschutz Entertainment Group has plans to build a stadium near the Los Angeles Convention Center. Majestic Realty has plans for a stadium in the City of Industry.

The pros & cons

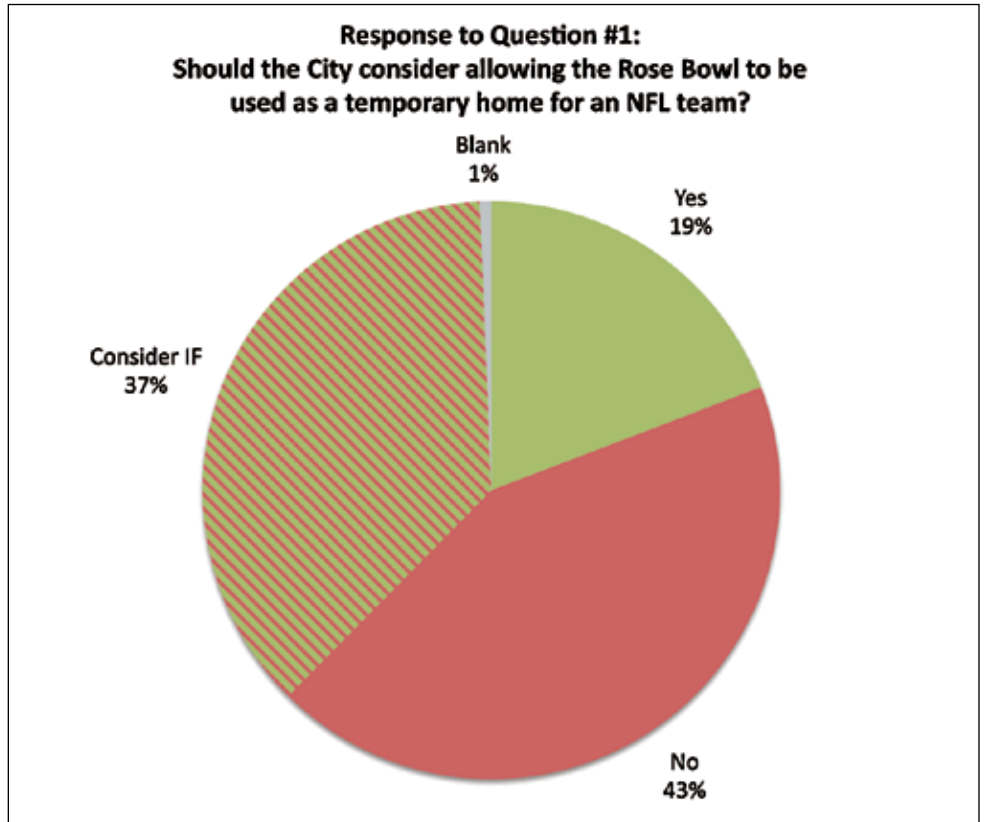
Some have entertained the idea because temporarily hosting an NFL team could inject millions of dollars annually into our local economy, which could potentially close the funding gap on the Rose Bowl renovation project, and benefit city finances and local businesses in this period of economic weakness.



Others have come out against the idea because of the negative impact it could have on recreational use of the Central Arroyo (in the days before, during and after each game) and on the negative impact it would have on the environmentally fragile Central Arroyo. Opponents also cite increased traffic, concern that use might extend beyond two years, and concern that the NFL might make additional demands.

What do West Pasadena residents think?

To find out what West Pasadenans think about a lease with the NFL, the WPRAs mailed a questionnaire to 5,700 households in the WPRAs service area and emailed a link for an online version of the survey to the nearly



1,000 subscribers of *Neighborhood Update*, the WPRAs weekly eNewsletter. We received more than 1,200 responses. The survey revealed that:

- **This is a divisive issue.** As shown in the accompanying chart, 43% of respondents thought the City should not consider temporary use of the Rose Bowl by the NFL, 19% thought the City should consider it, and 37% thought the City should consider it, but only if certain requirements were met.
- **Residents feel strongly about the issue.** On a scale from 0 (“unimportant or don’t care”) to 5 (“extremely important”), those opposed to any consideration expressed the most concern (4.2 out of 5). Those who supported consideration of NFL use expressed a high level of concern (3.6 out of 5). Those who expressed conditional

support were slightly less concerned (3.3 out of 5).

- **Opponents support a vote; supporters don’t.** More than 73% of respondents who opposed NFL use said an election should decide the issue. Only 10% of those who supported such use thought a vote was

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Mark this date

The WPRAs will convene its annual meeting on May 2, at Westridge School, 324 Madeline Dr. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public. Look for more information in the next issue of *The News* or by visiting the WPRAs website at wpra.net.

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)

2011 – 2012 directors

- **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:**
Marilyn Randolph (randolph@wpra.net)
- **Membership, Open Space & Conservation:**
Linda Zinn (zinn@wpra.net)

Geoffrey Baum
James B. Boyle Jr.
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Vince Farhat
Joan Hearst
John Van de Kamp
Laura Kaufman
Audrey O'Kelley
Catherine Stringer
Priscilla Taylor
Fred Zepeda

P. O. Box 50252
Pasadena, CA 91115-0252
Visit our website at wpra.net



The WPRA News is mailed each quarter to nearly 7,000 homes in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes. Our all-volunteer staff includes:

- **Executive editor:** Chuck Hudson (hudson@wpra.net), Communications co-chair
- **City editor:** Vince Farhat (farhat@wpra.net), board member and past president
- **WPRA contributors to this issue:** Blaine Cavena, treasurer; Joseph Cook, board member and Neighborhood Update co-chair; Joan Hearst, board member; Bob Holmes, secretary and Neighborhood Safety chair; Richard McDonald, Land Use chair; Audrey O'Kelley, board member and past president; Bill Urban, vice president; and Linda Zinn, Open Space chair

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

Boost your biz *and* help the WPRA

Each quarter, the *WPRA News* can deliver your business message to more than 7,000 living rooms in ZIP codes 91105 and 91103. And that means you'll also be helping the WPRA defray printing and distribution costs for this publication. To view our advertising rates, visit our website (click on "Update and Newsletter," and then click on "WPRA Newsletter Advertising rates.")

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

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

Celebrate the 'Pasadena Way' and 50 years

With all the media attention recently given the Occupy movement, it's easy to forget that real change can also come without disrupting traffic or disturbing the peace. A subtler and often more effective path to change can come from the kind of grassroots and neighborhood initiatives that are so common in Pasadena. Our city has a well-deserved reputation for empowering engaged residents to stand up for what they believe to positively influence the course of local events — within the system.

The WPRA has proudly served in this tradition since its founding 50 years ago. Although our faces may have changed over the years, our charted course has not. We strive to maintain and, whenever possible, enhance the quality of neighborhood life in West Pasadena.

To celebrate our golden anniversary this year, we've redesigned this publication. We trust it provides a more comprehensive quarterly view of the public issues that matter most to West Pasadenans. And we hope you'll join us

during our annual meeting — scheduled for May 2 at Westridge School — to celebrate the unique activist spirit found in Pasadena. Although we see disappointing lapses now and then, the "Pasadena Way" of civility and respectful engagement continues to be relevant, if not all the more necessary in this day. After all, when the meetings, workshops, conferences, hearings or even court sessions end, we return home as neighbors in search of the American Dream, Pasadena style.

— Chuck Hudson

'Aging in place'

What the 2010 census reveals about Pasadena

BY STEVE MADISON
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 6

Reflecting upon the results of the 2010 U.S. Census reveals a number of surprising facts about the changes that have taken place in Pasadena and in Council District 6 over the past decade. City-wide we've seen a 2.5% increase in population, with a total of 137,122 residents. District 6 experienced the second highest growth rate in the city — up 2,000 people, or 12%, for a total of 21,771 residents; District 3 led, growing 15%.

link between the shrinking availability of affordable housing and declining public-school enrollment.

Demographics prompt review of services

Residents of our city and council district are growing older, prompting a re-visitation of the amenities that help families and children thrive, and that ultimately encourage people to make Pasadena their home (or not). Going forward, these and other questions raised by the census will remain at the forefront of City

Under the Voting Rights Act, the city's council districts must strive for equal representation of all residents, both numerically and in terms of factors such as race and ethnicity.

Related notes

■ PUSD is conducting its own districting process — not redistricting, but rather for the first time proposing that there be geographic districts within the school district, residents of which would elect their own board member, as is the case with City Council. Currently, the PUSD Board

PASADENA POPULATION TIMELINE 1880-2010

Year	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Population	391	4,882	9,117	30,291	45,374	76,086	81,864	106,268	116,268	112,291	118,072	131,591	133,936	137,122

Demographics shift

This growth in population reflects a shift in demographics, as well, one that is mirrored throughout the city. The numbers show a marked increase in Asian-American residents (46% — up 1,400 in District 6, alone) and a sharp decrease of African-American residents (down 24% citywide). The data further reveal that the city and District 6 populations were "aging in place," meaning that the number of people over age 50 continues to increase, while the number of children has dropped significantly.

'Aging in place'

The phenomenon of "aging in place" prompts important questions about the services and public amenities we offer. For example, allocations of resources in health, human services & recreation, public safety and education may be strongly impacted. City Council will soon be considering strengthening its commitment to support Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) and public education, adding an Eighth Guiding Principle to the General Plan, as the populations of both young adults (ages 30-39, down more than 20% in District 6) and children under 10 years old have noticeably decreased across the city, drastically impacting enrollment and funding for PUSD. Meanwhile, housing prices have risen city-wide. In my view, there is a direct

Council decisions and policymaking, as will any and all constituent input.

Demographics prompt redistricting effort

To that end, a nine-member task force consisting of one representative from each council district and two mayoral appointees has held public meetings to discuss voting-district boundaries and the impact of redistricting on each council district. Their findings and ultimate recommendation are expected by March. In December, the Redistricting Task Force met in District 6, and a couple dozen residents heard the Task Force's status report and provided input.

is elected "at large." I strongly support the change to district representation. A Task Force has been formed for this project also.

■ Redistricting has also occurred for our state and federal elected officials. Most of West Pasadena will still be represented by Adam Schiff in the U.S. Congress, but more than 90% of Pasadena's population will now be represented by Congresswoman Judy Chu. I have met with Judy a couple of times to help her understand the unique and important issues facing Pasadena. Although Mayor Bill Bogaard and I lobbied the state redistricting commission to allow Congressman Schiff

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West Pasadena residents speak out

Continued from page 1

necessary. And 37% of those who voiced conditional support favored an election.

Reasons for opinions vary.

- Supporters most often cited the revenue and benefits it could bring to the Rose Bowl and the jobs and positive exposure it could generate for the city.
- Opponents cited traffic and congestion, crowds, public drunkenness, disorderliness, crime, safety, security, reduced access to the Arroyo, pollution, trash, litter and drunk driving as their chief reasons for objecting to the idea.

- Conditional supporters cited as necessary conditions that (1) all revenues be used only for Rose Bowl renovation or to mitigate the effects of NFL use, (2) all negative impacts (increased traffic, reduced access to Arroyo) be mitigated, and (3) the use must be temporary, with 75% of respondents defining "temporary" as two or three years.

The WPRA thanks all West Pasadena residents who participated in the survey. Your responses will help the WPRA board develop its approach to this important issue.

For more details of survey responses, visit the WPRA website wpra.net.

BRIEFS

LPC envisions mixed-use complex on Parsons' property

Lincoln Property Company (LPC) will be developing the 22.5 acre Parsons property at 100 West Walnut St. The firm hopes to create a premier mixed-use complex that will complement the existing Parsons offices by adding a mix of Class "A" commercial office space and housing. The project will contain strategically placed street-level retail outlets in areas with significant pedestrian traffic. The project will be developed over 10 years and will have landscaped gardens, courtyards and sidewalks, as well as underground parking. — *Audrey O'Kelley*

Resolution of antenna appeal delayed

An appeal to City Council of a proposed T-Mobile antenna array installation on an existing wooden utility pole at the northeast corner of Grand Avenue and California Boulevard has been rescheduled, at the request of the applicant (T-Mobile), until early January. The WPRB had previously supported the appeal on the basis of concerns about procedural issues. In November, however, the WPRB expressed its satisfaction in the steps that "... the City and T-Mobile have taken to provide more transparency, involve community members and develop the best solution possible. The issues we raised (previously), which were primarily procedural, have been addressed."

Desiderio Army Reserve Center transfer underway

Transfer of the Desiderio Army Reserve Center, located under the Colorado Bridge on S. Arroyo Boulevard, from the federal government to the City will be complete this year. One-quarter of the land will be transferred to Habit for Humanity to construct nine affordable residences in a bungalow court design. The rest of the land will be reserved for parkland. The City will conduct public meetings to solicit residents' input about how to develop a park that will suit the needs of residents.

— *Joan Hearst and Linda Zinn*



Architect's vision of the revamped IDS Playhouse Plaza project

City Council approves new IDS design

BY VINCE FARHAT AND RICHARD McDONALD

The Pasadena City Council in November 2011 approved a new, scaled-down design for the \$75-million IDS Playhouse Plaza project on the 1.3-acre corner site at 680 East Colorado Blvd. and El Molino Avenue. In sharp contrast to the contentious public hearings in 2009, the November hearing and approval by the City Council was characterized, as one observer put it, as a "love fest." The new plans were submitted in December to the Design Commission.

A look back

IDS bought the site in 2007 and, in 2009, City Council approved a proposal for a five-story, 160,000 square foot project. During the environmental review process, the WPRB Board joined Pasadena Heritage in expressing concern about the scale and size of the project. The Planning Commission voted unanimously against the proposed project, but City Council voted 6-1 to approve it and award a 10% density bonus above what the Playhouse District Specific Plan provided.

After the Council's approval, Pasadena Heritage and citizen's group Pasadenans for Livable City filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court to overturn the environmental impact report (EIR) and project approvals. In October 2010, the Court ruled in favor of PLC and Pasadena Heritage, finding that there were "glaring omissions" in the project's EIR. Following the ruling, the City appointed a special committee to redesign the project.

All-party working meetings make a difference

In March 2011, a joint statement by PLC, City Council, Pasadena Heritage and the developer reported that they all had agreed to a redesigned, smaller project that would be more respectful of the District's historic character and the Pasadena Playhouse.

The new design splits the project into three separate buildings with "strong references to classical architecture," rather than the original single contemporary-style structure. The buildings also will be concentrated on Colorado Boulevard, with the total area reduced to 145,428 square feet, including more than 137,000 square feet of office space. The building facing El Molino Avenue will go from three stories to one story, and the project will include two public courtyards with "a visual connection" to the historic Pasadena Playhouse and a pedestrian crossing area.

The parties' agreement also required hiring of a design architect with "expertise in historic district compatibility." That expert is Stefanos Polyzoides, of Pasadena-based Moule & Polyzoides. In helping reach an agreement on the new design, Polyzoides credited a series of 12 weekly working meetings between all those involved with easing the process and resolving thorny issues to everyone's satisfaction.

"There's a lesson here," he said to the *Pasadena Star-News*. "When all things come together under one roof in an open process, miracles happen."

A bridge, a building, a birthday

BY SUE MOSSMAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PASADENA HERITAGE

La Loma Bridge update

The La Loma Bridge retrofit project is still in the design phase. The design advisory group previously agreed on a design offered by Chris Peck of CM Peck Architects and Engineers, who volunteered his expertise in search of a better solution. His design more elegantly reinforces the major support columns by adding to the existing structure, rather than creating unattractive new supports. The top deck of the bridge, which will need to be widened by about 2 feet on each side to meet minimum roadbed width requirements, will be removed and reconstructed, as was done for the Colorado Street Bridge. With clear direction from the advisory committee, the bridge's elegant balustrade will be reconstructed, and light standards replicating the originals will be installed.



YMCA building acquisition proceeds

The former YWCA building in the City's Civic Center, which was designed by noted architect Julia Morgan, still sits vacant and shabby, while the final steps in its acquisition by the City unfold. The City took possession of the building a year ago and immediately secured the structure to prevent further damage, especially from the leaking roof. A trial in mid-February will determine the site's value, now that the city's right to use eminent

domain to acquire the building to prevent its "demolition by neglect" was upheld in Appeals court this past fall.

PH celebrates 35 years!

PH will celebrate its 35th anniversary in 2012. To kick off the anniversary year, PH will host a program that reviews the history and considers the future of the former YWCA, a National-Register building. Highlighting the life and work of California's first licensed

woman architect, "A Tribute to Julia Morgan, Architect," will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, 1-4 pm. A panel of speakers will discuss Julia Morgan, the original design of her one Pasadena commission, and the current state of the building. There is a lot of interest and affection for this noteworthy landmark. This is a chance to learn more about it and its famous architect, best known for her design of Hearst Castle at San Simeon. *For more information or tickets, visit pasadenaheritage.org.*

Planning, by design

BY MIC HANSEN
PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER
COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 APPOINTEE

If you have any general questions about land-use and planning issues, please send them to editor@wpra.net, attn: Ask Planning.

Q: "What exactly does a planning commission do? I know it has to do with development and zoning, but what does that mean, and how does that work?" *FH, Orange Grove Blvd.*

A: In very simplistic terms, a planning commission is responsible for the where and how of development in a city. Using the criteria approved by the governing body — in our case, City Council — the Commission reviews plans and projects for consistency with the General Plan, the Specific Plans and zoning of proposed projects or initiatives; as well as recommends plans to the Council for adoption.

Developed nationally in the early 1900s, the concept of planning commissions has endured. In California, the idea took root in the mid-1920s, finally being codified in 1929 by the City and County Planning Act. The concept is based on the sound belief that a group of knowledgeable community members is able to objectively review and recommend sound and efficient planning parameters to the governing body, such as City Council, which makes the final decision.

In our community, the commission comprises nine members. Each city council member appoint one, and the mayor appoints two. The commission is charged with:

- Preparing and revising the General Plan land-use element
- Revising and making changes to the General Plan and the seven Specific Plans
- Adopting or implementing programs under the General Plan, including the creation of districts and zones, modification to and administration of zoning regulations, and review of the capital improvements program
- Reviewing other programs and projects that affect city development, as cited by our municipal code
- Serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals, which reviews requests for modification or clarification of current zoning regulations

Of topical interest

The Planning Commission on:

- Sept. 28 was presented the Draft Economic Development Strategic Plan, which is an assessment of the existing conditions driving our economy to help local stakeholders and decision-makers implement strategies that will contribute to the City's future economic health. *To view this document, visit the City Manager's section of the City website.*
- On Oct. 26 convened a public hearing on the request for adoption of the revised Open Space and Conservation Element of the General Plan. *To view this document, visit the Planning Department's website.*
- On Oct. 29 conducted a General Plan policy discussion about land use, mobility, preservation, economic vitality, open space, public education, sustainability, urban design and arts and culture.

Ambassador West to begin construction

Ambassador West master developer City Ventures recently got permits for the first phase of site work on the lot on W. Del Mar Blvd, just east of S. Orange Grove Boulevard, and has begun making lot improvements, including tree relocations that comply with the project's Urban Forestry Plan. The firm also hired a full-time construction manager, Ron Ewing, for the project.

BRIEFS

Planning Commission considers use of RIF

The residential impact fee (RIF), which is imposed on all new residential development, was created in 1988 to mitigate impact on the park system from new residential development. The fees currently range from \$15,925 for a studio unit to \$19,477 for a five bedroom or larger unit. Between July 2003 and June 2010 (latest available figures), the City collected \$18.7 million in RIFs, of which only \$2 million was spent on acquisition of open space. While a portion of the remainder was spent to “expand” park usage, most of the remainder was spent on park maintenance. That means that nearly \$17 million is no longer available to purchase open space, an increasingly important role considering that more residents are living in multi-story buildings. The WPRA, among others, has suggested that more of these fees should be spent on acquisition and expansion of park land, with the cost of park improvement and maintenance to be paid from the General Fund. The Planning Commission has requested additional information from City staff, prior to finalizing its recommendation to City Council.

— by Joan Hearst and Linda Zinn

It's official: Rubio Canyon saved

The 18-month project to acquire 41 critical acres in Rubio Canyon is officially complete. Arroyo & Foothills Conservancy has closed escrow on the third and final parcel, which means the property will never be developed and will always be open to wildlife and hikers.

What's in a street name?

From History of Pasadena, by Hiram Reid (1895):

BELLEVUE DRIVE

Opened by James Smith in 1885. Bellevue is French for beautiful or lovely view, and is a smooth, easy, pleasant sounding word; and for these reasons it was applied as a name for this street.

Opinion**Devil's Gate project should stress sustainability**

BY TIM BRICK
DIRECTOR, ARROYO SECO FOUNDATION

The environmental impact report scoping period has now closed for LA County's plan to dig out the sediment from behind Devil's Gate Dam. County engineers are now considering what effects and alternatives to evaluate as part of an 18-month environmental review — a vitally important process that will have enormous impact on the habitat and wildlife behind the dam at Hahamongna, as well as the neighborhoods surrounding the Arroyo.

Focus on sustainability

The County's goal of removing 4 million cubic yards translates into 400,000 diesel-truck trips in and out of the basin, or up to 900 trucks a day, at a cost that could go as high as \$200 million. The Arroyo Seco Foundation (ASF) believes the County's proposal ought to prompt a new look at how we manage rainfall and sediment in our region. We believe a sustainable and long-term approach to sediment management is critical to flood protection and the health of the Arroyo Seco watershed. A restored Arroyo Seco stream can move water and sediment, while nourishing habitat and wildlife and enriching our communities.

Devil's Gate Dam and the related 10-mile Arroyo flood channel were built before the era of environmental analysis and without consideration of long-term maintenance and costs. They were engineered to get rid of occasional flood flows, but have also robbed our region of valuable water supplies and fouled the ocean with concentrated pollutants. Although the structures have provided some flood protection, the loss of water and environmental resources has never been fully evaluated.

Guiding principles

The ASF believes the following principles should guide the County's program:

- Sediment is a valuable natural resource, not a waste product. Sediment management should be evaluated in a watershed context considering its water and environmental impact.
- All negative impacts on habitat, wildlife and people from the project and its related flood-control system, including Devil's Gate Dam and the downstream concrete-lined flood channel, should be evaluated and minimized.

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Pasadena Beautiful rallies to replace lost trees

BY JOHN POER
PASADENA BEAUTIFUL FOUNDATION

Donate to the Windstorm Tree Fund

To address last year's devastating windstorm, Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, along with Pasadena Community Foundation, has established the Pasadena Windstorm Tree Fund. Its objective is to purchase and re-plant the estimated 1,500 street trees that were lost or too badly damaged.



Pasadena Community Foundation will match up to \$10,000 in donations to the fund. All donations are tax deductible, and 100% of all donations will be used solely for re-planting trees. Donate online at pasadenabeautiful.org

(click on “Make a Donation”) or mail your donation to: Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, 140 South Lake Avenue, Suite #268, Pasadena, California 91101.

Revitalize Singer Park's roses

On Feb. 25, Pasadena Beautiful Foundation's members and others will converge on Singer Park for Pasadena Beautiful Day to revitalize the Singer Park roses. Pasadena Beautiful, in cooperation with the City, will buy approximately 60 rose bushes, add new irrigation and header boards, rearrange some of the current roses and then plant the new bushes. We invite you to stop by that morning, beginning around 8 am, to watch or to help us plant.

For more information about Pasadena Beautiful, visit PasadenaBeautiful.org.

BRIEFS

San Rafael Park getting new equipment

San Rafael Park, at West Colorado Boulevard, between Annandale and Glen Summer roads, will receive new play equipment designed for children ages 5-7 years. The current equipment is for ages 2-5 years. The \$60,000 project will be funded entirely from residential impact fees (RIFs). (See related item on page 6)

— by Joan Hearst and Linda Zinn

Agreement with Roving Archers nears

For much of the past year, City staff and a subcommittee of the Recreation & Parks Commission have been developing a new agreement with Pasadena Roving Archers (PRA), which has a long history of activity in the Arroyo. In fact, the PRA is recognized by name in the Lower Arroyo Master Plan (LAMP) and shares the Arroyo with a variety of others such as casters, equestrians, hikers, joggers, picnickers and walkers. The object of the new agreement is to ensure the PRA continues to have access to the Arroyo without endangering its other users.

— by Joan Hearst and Linda Zinn

Devil's Gate project

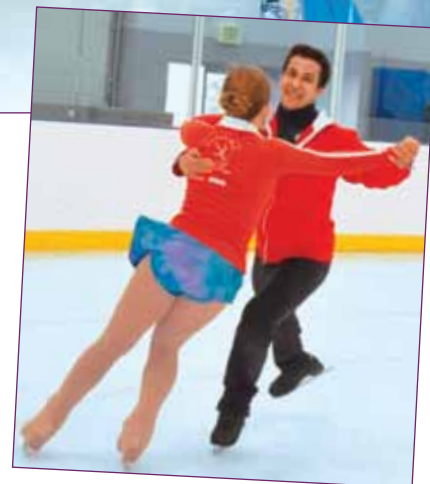
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- The County's final project should move from flood control to flood management, incorporating options that safely mimic natural processes from the top of the watershed to the bottom, such as sluicing and stream and floodplain restoration.

The Arroyo Seco Foundation is working with the County to make the Devil's Gate project the first of a new generation of sustainable flood management for Southern California. *To receive regular updates on the process, visit savehamongna.org.*

GLENARM STREET

Named by Thomas Banbury, from his wife's childhood home place in Ontario, Canada.



Pasadena opens new ice skating center

The new Pasadena Ice Skating Center is now open on Euclid Avenue, behind the Pasadena Convention Center. For the first time ever in Pasadena, ice hockey and figure skaters have a regulation-sized ice sheet for games and practice.

The \$3 million facility, which is being managed by the Pasadena Center Operating Company (PCOC), features new dasher boards, a team bench area, four team locker rooms, a party room and spectator seating for 140. The project was funded by a \$1.5 million low-interest loan from the city and \$1.5 million in capital reserves from the PCOC. Approximately 50 employees from the old skating center are now working at the new one.

“For 35 years, the original Pasadena Ice Skating Center operated out of the historic ballroom located behind the Civic Auditorium,” said PCOC CEO Michael Ross. “The rink’s management did a fabulous job, but City Council realized it was time for a modern, regulation-sized rink. After 10 years of searching for the right location, the PCOC was pleased to be part of the solution.”

The new skating center offers open skating, group and private figure-skating lessons, hockey lessons and in-house hockey leagues for adults and children. The facility is also available for birthdays, fundraisers and private parties.

For more information, visit SkatePasadena.com.

A long tradition of distinguished skaters

Ice skating has a long and illustrious history in Pasadena. Our first rink, Pasadena Winter Garden, was built on Arroyo Parkway in 1940. It closed in 1966. A decade later, the Pasadena Ice Skating Center opened in the historic ballroom behind the Civic Auditorium and served 4.5 million skaters before closing in mid-September.

Champions who have called former Pasadena ice rinks home include Olympic gold medalist Peggy Fleming, Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen, NHL player Brett Sterling, and Olympian and U.S. champion Mirai Nagasu.

BRIEFS

City names interim fire chief

Pasadena Deputy Fire Chief Calvin E. Wells was named interim Fire Chief, when Fire Chief Dennis J. Downs retired last fall. Chief Wells began his fire-service career with the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1978. In 1979, he joined the Pasadena Fire Department, which he served in a variety of positions from firefighter to deputy fire chief over 32 years. — *Vince Farhat*

Gold Line reports crimes

The LA County Metro reported that from January through August 2011, 4.4 part-one crimes (murders, rapes, assaults, robberies) per 1 million riders were reported on the Gold Line. That's significantly lower than the 21.1 and 11.0 per million reported on Green and Blue lines, respectively, and slightly higher than the Red and Orange lines, which reported 3.7 and 4.4 part-one crimes per million riders, respectively.

Will Pasadena end red-light camera program?

The City's police and transportation departments are calling for Pasadena to end its red-light camera program, reports the *Pasadena Star-News*. The program, which was launched in 2003, lost \$300,000 during the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Earthquake data hits home

Ever wonder how much your home or office might be rocking and rolling during an earthquake? If you're in Pasadena, you may have an opportunity to find out. A new project from the Caltech Seismo Lab is collecting data by attaching small seismometers (about the size of a computer mouse) to home or office PCs to create block-by-block "shake maps." The project, which is expected to last several years, will generate consolidated data to guide first-responders to the hardest-hit areas shortly after an earthquake and to better understand how earthquakes affect our area. *To participate or learn more, visit CSN at communityseismicnetwork.org.* — *Blaine Cavena*



One of many mighty trees felled by wind storm, this one near City Hall. (Photo by Joan Hearst)

'Hurricane Rose': A mighty Pasadena wind

By CHUCK HUDSON

Call it a rare occurrence (thankfully)! On the evening of Nov. 30 and well into the morning of Dec. 1, a high-pressure system over northern California and low-pressure system in Arizona conspired to create a Santa Ana windstorm that blew cold and mightily through the San Gabriel Valley. The result was a path of destruction. Wind gusts as high as 90 MPH blew from La Canada to Sierra Madre and from Temple City to Pasadena.

The cost to Pasadena is estimated at \$20 million. Here are the stats, updated through Dec. 13:

- 6,300 residences were initially without power
- 325 miles of streets had storm debris (18,000+ tons of debris)
- 34 traffic signals and 25 street lights were damaged
- 1,100 street and park trees lost
- 46 housing units were red-tagged (uninhabitable) and 13 yellow-tagged (limited use)
- The Fire Department answered 386 calls — approximately eight times normal call volume
- The Police Department's Communication Center processed 4,650 calls for service.

"The windstorm took a structural, monetary and emotional toll on Pasadena from which it will take time to recover," said Mayor Bill Bogaard. City Council declared a local state of emergency, which paves the way for the City to apply for reimbursement from the state, Federal Emergency Management Agency and other sources.

The WPRA enthusiastically joins Mayor Bogaard in his expression of gratitude for every City employee, resident, volunteer, community-based organization and business owner who assisted in the response to what some have dubbed "Hurricane Rose," for what it did to the "city of roses."

For more information, visit cityofpasadena.net/windstorm_2011.

What the 2010 census reveals about Pasadena

Continued from page 3

to continue to represent all of Pasadena, the commission thought differently.

Call or email me if you'd like to share a view or ask a question. Call me (626)744-3749 or email me at smadison@cityofpasadena.net. You may also call my Field Representative, Takako Suzuki, at the same telephone number or email her at tsuzuki@cityofpasadena.net.

City decides to retrofit Fire Station 39

BY VINCE FARHAT

Due to seismic safety concerns, the City of Pasadena earlier this year closed Fire Station 39, at 50 Avenue 64. Following a nearly year-long series of what proved to be unacceptable proposals to solve the short- and long-term issues raised by the station shuttering, City Council finally arrived at an acceptable long-term solution: retrofitting and rehabilitation of the existing station. Finding the short-term solution, as of this writing, continues to elude the Council.

The long-term solution

As part of the initial station design process, City Planning staff discovered that the existing fire station — an example of Mid-Century Modern architecture — was eligible for designation as a landmark building and considered an important work of architect Frederick Kennedy Jr.

Given this, Council on Dec. 12 approved the seismic retrofitting and rehabilitation of the existing facility. The groundbreaking on the retrofit, however, remains nearly a year away.



The cost of retrofitting the station is estimated at \$2.4 million. \$500,000 will come from the City's General Fund and \$1.9 million will come from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) fund, a re-appropriation of money originally earmarked for other capital projects.

The City is said to be considering a public-safety-facility bond, but may wait until after the November elections to put the idea to a

vote. Such a bond could reimburse the CIP fund, which would preclude the City from having to defer other priority projects.

DELACY STREET

First opened by Alex F. Mills, in 1884, and named after his father-in-law, R. W. Lacy. Mr. Lacy's original family name had the French form, DeLacy, but his father had dropped the De, and in naming his street, Mr. Mills used the old original family name.

Fire season means Red Flag Days

BY BOB HOLMES

The Santa Anas continue to blow and, as a result, Red Flags will fly. These alerts trigger restrictions on activities likely to cause fires and on-street parking when it could impede firefighters' ability to get to the fires.

While we may love the narrow, winding streets in the hillside areas, parked cars can make those quaint streets impassable to fire-fighting equipment. Exceptions exist for trades-people, who may park for up to 60 minutes if they remain in close proximity to their vehicles, but cars with permits to park overnight on the street are not exempted.

There are four ways to be notified of a Red Flag Alert: local media, Red Flag Day signs, personal notification by email or telephone (PLEAS) and the Pasadena Fire Department website.

Auto theft down; home burglaries even

BY BOB HOLMES

Burglaries from vehicles

The Pasadena Police Department reports that West Pasadena burglaries from vehicles have decreased significantly to 24 through November of 2011 from 54 in the same period in 2010. Police attribute the decline to increased police oversight in vulnerable areas, such as around the Rose Bowl, and that residents are remembering to remove anything of value from sight when they park.

Home burglaries & more

Home burglaries showed a drop in September, but increased in October and November. Overall, however, the three-month and year-to-date totals are essentially unchanged from 2010. The other two crimes that WPRA tracks, commercial burglaries and auto thefts, are also at the same level as last year.

Be vigilant

Be sure to call the police if you see vehicles in your neighborhood that seem to be suspicious. Several burglars have been apprehended while posing as solicitors for what seemed to be a worthy cause. It turns out they were actually scouting for homes to burglarize. Remember, all solicitors must have a City permit. If you doubt a solicitor's credentials, call police at (626)744-4241.

Get the word

Sign up with Nixle to have public-safety notifications delivered to your cell phone and/or computer as they're available. Go to nixle.com.

To view all the latest statistics, visit the WPRA web site (wpra.net). Click on "Issues" at the top of the home page, and then click on "Local Area Crime Statistics" on the left.

BRIEFS

**City hires new
Public Works director**

Siobhan Foster is the new director of the City's Department of Public Works, effective October 26, 2011. She replaces Martin Pastuscha, who accepted a similar position in Santa Monica. For the past six years, Siobhan has overseen and managed Public Works for the City of Riverside. — *Vince Farhat*

**Longtime "voice of
City Hall" to retire**

Ann Erdman, who has served as the voice of City Hall since January 1991, will retire in March. She was the City's first Public Information Officer (PIO). Ann hopes to spend more time with her family, including two daughters and four grandchildren, travel and do pro bono work for worthy causes. Before becoming Pasadena's spokeswoman, she spent more than five years in a similar position for Palm Springs and 12 years in advertising and public relations. — *Vince Farhat*

**City uses power fund
to close budget gap**

City Council in November 2011 deferred consideration of additional City Hall layoffs, voting instead to transfer \$3.2 million from the Pasadena Water & Power (PWP) light and power fund to close part of an \$8.2 million shortfall in next year's General Fund budget. City Manager Michael Beck had recommended cutting eight jobs and 11 unfilled positions, in addition to other deficit reduction measures. However, Council voted 5-1 to defer the layoff decision until the next budget cycle in March. — *Vince Farhat*

**Third bailout for
City pension plan**

City Council in October 2011 unanimously approved a \$50 million bailout of its troubled Firefighters Police Retirement System (FPRS). The City, which is issuing bonds to help fill a \$74 million funding gap, is responsible for the bond payments for 30 years. In effect, City Hall is issuing news bonds

Continues on page 11

General Plan update

West Pasadena considers future growth in Central District

Pasadena is updating its General Plan and will conduct a series of public hearings later this year to seek your input on the scope and content the upcoming environmental impact report (EIR). The WPRA board recently adopted some general principles (see accompanying article) that will guide WPRA's advocacy during the EIR process, with particular emphasis on traffic and the Specific Plan areas adjacent to our service area (Central District and South Fair Oaks).

Pasadena's General Plan

Every city in California has a General Plan, a blueprint to guide the future. Pasadena's General Plan is made up of more than a dozen chapters; the Land Use and Mobility chapters are currently being updated. The Land Use chapter specifies how much and where various types of development will be allowed. The Mobility chapter contains strategies to achieve a safe, efficient and balanced approach for moving people and goods within Pasadena. These chapters were last updated in 1994 and 2004. The current update was launched in spring 2009. More than 100 meetings and events were held to identify community concerns and issues. Then, in fall of 2010, a series of workshops was held to take those ideas and translate them into four land use alternatives.

Citywide general land-use alternatives

In the summer of 2011, the City distributed a General Plan community survey to solicit feedback on the four alternatives and the existing General Plan's guiding principles. More than 70,000 surveys were mailed to Pasadena households and businesses in a special newsletter with detailed information on the land-use alternatives. The survey also was available for completion online on the City of Pasadena website. Response to the survey was strong with almost 3,000 returns from throughout Pasadena. The survey results provide a framework to draft a concept land use map.

The newsletter described the land-use alternatives and asked residents to rank them for various planning areas in Pasadena, including the Central District and South Fair Oaks.

■ **Alternative A** focused on reducing future growth in the Central District and

increasing capacity in East Pasadena and along major streets.

- **Alternative B** permitted much greater growth and would create significant new traffic impacts
- **Alternative C** focused future growth around Gold Line stations and along major streets where services, shopping, jobs and bus lines exist.
- **Alternative D** focused on reducing future growth citywide and was included among the land use alternatives in response to "community concerns that growth has increased traffic, affected Pasadena's character and impacted mountain views."

Staff and city commissioners are currently reviewing the survey results and the objectives and policies that support the General Plan chapters. In the spring of 2012, the concept land-use map and policies will then be presented for review by the public, advisory commissions and City Council.

General Plan survey results

City planning staff released the results of the General Plan survey in September 2011. Notably, no single land-use alternative received more than one-third of the response for any of the planning areas. Preferences for the Central District were particularly varied; three of the four land-use alternatives received between 30% and 20% support.

Of particular importance to the WPRA are the survey responses from West Pasadena residents living in our service area. City staff received 434 surveys from residents of the 91105 ZIP code, for a total response rate of 8.9%. This was the highest response rate of any resident ZIP code in the city, and this despite 91105 having the lowest number of housing units — 4,867 — compared with 8,359 housing units in the second lowest area, 91103. The 91105 response was double the second-highest response rates of 4.5%. The following are some highlights of responses *only from 91105 survey respondents*:

- **Alternative B vs. Alternative D:**
 - Central District
 - 33.4% favored Alternative D
 - 24.4% favored Alternative B

South Fair Oaks

- 29.9% favored Alternative D
- 22.0% favored Alternative B

■ Shift future growth east:

- 25.6% favored high-density Alternative B for East Pasadena. This “move growth east” sentiment also was expressed in relatively high levels of support for Alternative A, which would reduce future growth in the Central District and increase capacity in east Pasadena and along major streets.
- 20.4% favored Alternative A for the Central District
- 14% favored Alternative A for South Fair Oaks.

■ Reduce future growth in the Central District:

- 53.8% favored Alternative A or Alternative D, both of which call for reducing future growth
- 43.9% favored Alternative A or Alternative D for South Fair Oaks.

Get involved, and keep in touch

The new General Plan will shape future development, land use and transportation policies for the next decade. A carefully written and very specific EIR will give residents and City Council the necessary tools to decide what kind of community we want Pasadena to be. A sloppy and/or highly generalized EIR will frustrate stakeholders and lead to counterproductive debates about process. Accordingly, the WPRA urges you, as a West Pasadena resident, to get involved personally.

Please tell us what you think about General Plan issues; send an email to editor@wpra.net.

WPRA recommends three principles for General Plan EIR scoping

During its October 2011 meeting, the WPRA board expressed belief that the City should set as a “high priority” support of the principle that “growth will be targeted to serve community needs ... and will be redirected away from neighborhoods and into our downtown.” Board members were unanimous in supporting as a “high priority” the General Plan principle that “change will be harmonized to preserve Pasadena’s historic character and environment.”

Over the years, when commenting on individual project EIRs, the WPRA board has always supported balanced and thoughtful development. The board has also consistently cited the General Plan guiding principles that growth “will be redirected away from neighborhoods.”

Consistent with these long-held views, the WPRA board during its October meeting approved the following general principles that will help guide the WPRA’s advocacy in the EIR process, with particular emphasis on traffic and the Specific Plan areas adjacent to our service area:

1. “One size does not fit all”

Some parts of Pasadena have experienced tremendous growth over the past 10 to 15 years; other areas have not. Therefore, land-use alternatives may appropriately vary by city section. The draft EIR should study a number of land-use alternatives in the draft EIR, including possible “hybrids” of the alternatives.

2. Central District alternatives

The WPRA service area is adjacent to the Central District planning area, which has

been greatly built-up in recent years. At the same time, however, other areas of Pasadena have been somewhat under-served. The draft EIR should study land-use alternatives that would target growth in commercial and multi-family areas outside the Central District that have not benefited from economic development. This recommendation aligns with the majority of 91105 General Plan survey respondents who supported land-use policies that would reduce future growth in the Central District and shift future growth east away from the Central District.

3. Draft EIR must be specific and accurate

The WPRA hopes the EIR scoping sessions will ensure the WPRA’s views and recommendations are addressed in a meaningful way in the draft EIR, including any preferences for land-use alternatives and existing General Plan principles. The draft EIR should be very specific in its analysis of potential environmental impacts. The WPRA has consistently objected to EIRs that fail to accurately measure projected environmental impacts, particularly traffic. The General Plan EIR should accurately measure the traffic impacts of the different land-use alternatives so the community and City Council can make an honest assessment of the “pros and cons” of the alternatives. Therefore, the WPRA will submit scoping comments outlining the kind of detailed, accurate, and specific traffic study that will accurately measure traffic impacts of the alternatives.

Government / Briefs

Continued from page 10

today to pay for services the City received more than a decade ago. These new bonds mark the third bailout of the FRPS system. FRPS was launched in the 1930s and closed to new members in 1977, as police and firefighters in Pasadena began to use the California Public Employee Retirement System. The 275 employees that remain in the closed pension system collect on average \$4,400 per month. — *Vince Farhat*

Plastic bag ban begins July 1

On Nov. 7, 2011, City Council adopted an ordinance banning the use of single-use plastic carryout bags for consumer use. The ban will apply to drugstores, pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience food stores, foodmarts, liquor stores, farmer’s markets, City-sponsored events, and events at City facilities and on City property. Restaurants and fast food establishments do

not fall within the scope of this ordinance. To allow sufficient time to adjust to the requirements of the ordinance, it will be implemented in two phases. Starting on July 1, the ban will apply only to stores with gross annual sales of \$2 million or more, and stores of at least 10,000 square feet that have a licensed pharmacy. On Dec. 31, the ban will become effective for all other outlets.

— *Vince Farhat*

BRIEFS

Lifelong advocate of equality dies at age 90

Patricia "Pat" Murphey Rostker, remembered as a passionate advocate for equality and a plaintiff in the 1967 lawsuit that forced the integration of Pasadena public schools, died at her home in Monrovia. She was 90. Pat, her husband Skipper and daughter Vivion joined two other families in suing Pasadena Unified School District in a case that reached the U.S. Supreme Court and made Pasadena the first school district outside the South subject to court-ordered desegregation.

A 'cloud' on the horizon

The Pasadena Central library was chosen as a beta-tester of the 3M Cloud Library project, which enables library patrons to browse and borrow digital books through their iPads, Nooks and Android-based tablets. Pasadena and Glendale received a grant for \$20,000 for first-year purchases. 3M has outfitted the libraries with software and hardware. 3M is also planning to install Discovery Terminal download stations in the main hall, allowing visitors to leaf through the collection from a touch-based interface.

Caltech ranks as world's top university

A British survey of 200 universities worldwide has ranked the California Institute of Technology as the world's top university, knocking Harvard University out of the number one spot for the first time in eight years.

Art Center ranked among the best

Cited as a "heavyweight player," Art Center College of Design was once again ranked first for its undergraduate industrial design programs by the Design Futures Council in its annual Design Intelligence survey of America's Best Architecture and Design Schools. The college's Graduate Industrial Design program ranked second, one spot away from first where it has placed five times out of the last seven years.

A letter from San Rafael Elementary

Editor's note: The WPRC has "adopted" San Rafael Elementary School, 1090 Nithsdale Rd., the last public elementary school in our service area. Through the Student Enrichment Program, WPRC education co-chairs Marilyn Randolph and Catherine Stringer work closely with school principal, Alyson Beecher, and her staff on behalf of the students.

**Dear WPRC friends:**

What an extraordinarily busy autumn we had at San Rafael Elementary. Our PTA's Fall Festival was a great success and raised critical funds for school projects and improvements. We followed that with a new student talent show, auditions for our Spring Musical, *Annie Jr.*, and a school-wide book fair. Additional highlights and updates from the past few months include:

Bill Thomson visits — Last March, we sponsored a literacy event around the book "Chalk," by illustrator Bill Thomson. Although Bill was unable to attend the event, he was so impressed with our tribute to his book that during a recent trip to Pasadena he made it a point to visit us. He spent nearly the whole day at the school doing school-wide assemblies, teaching an art class for a group of students and interacting with staff.

Dual Language Immersion Program, school tours — The arrival (in 2009) of the Spanish/English Dual Language Immersion Program (DLIP) at San Rafael sparked a significant increase in visits to the school to learn about the program. In fact, since this past October, more than 175 people with a particular interest in the DLIP have toured the school. Note these related dates:

- **October to March:** Weekly scheduled tours for those who would like to know more about the school. For more, visit sanrafael.pasadenausd.org.
- **Jan. 11:** Open enrollment begins for the DLIP
- **Jan. 24:** Screening of a documentary about DLIP at the City's Central Library, 285 East Walnut St.

Windstorms — During the windstorms that swept through the San Gabriel Valley, including Pasadena, in December, the school did not incur any structural damage. However, we did lose four street trees in front of the school, and, sadly, the huge shade tree on the upper play yard. Our students' parents are working with the City to replace the shade tree and recycle its trunk into children's stools for a reading area by our Literacy Café.

A parking update — We continue to strategize with families and the City to improve parking and traffic flow around the school. Morning drop-off creates the most congestion, albeit for a brief time. To ease traffic flow, we encourage area residents to seek an alternate route out of the area that does not take you past the school between 7:30 and 8 am. Additionally, we'll be launching a school-wide safety program to encourage students to cross streets properly and use sidewalks.

Of course, we always need volunteers! If you are interested, please call us at (626)396-5790. Also, please check out our school website at sanrafael.pasadenausd.org for the latest information. And if you are a Facebook user, please "like" us at [facebook.com/#!/sanrafaelem](https://www.facebook.com/sanrafaelem)

Sincerely,

Alyson Beecher
Principal

Catherine Stringer
WPRC board member & San Rafael parent

100 candles / Part 2

Celebrating West Pasadena's centenarians

BY JEANNETTE BOVARD

OUTREACH CHAIR, HAPPY BIRTHDAY PASADENA

PHOTOS BY EYEGOTCHA PHOTOGRAPHY

Editor's note: In a prior issue we featured three of our West Pasadena centenarians as part of Pasadena's 125th birthday celebration. In this issue we present the final four.



Heidi Linderman

Heidi Linderman: Born June 30, 1911

Heidi (nee Haidee Augusta Wood) was born in Pasadena and has lived here her entire life, growing up by the Arroyo near the Rose Bowl. During World War II, she went to work for the military in Long Beach. Heidi's father, Walton J. Wood, was the first public defender in the United States (1914-1921) and, importantly, conceived of the idea to have a public defender for those who are unable to defend themselves.

Madeleine Munro: Born June 2, 1911

When Madeleine Munro was a little girl of 6 or so, during World War I, she and her 12-year-old sister would ride on a flatbed truck, singing and playing piano to entertain the troops leaving Pittsburgh to train for the army. Although she did not move to Pasadena until the early 1990s, she is enthusiastic about the city. Her daughter and son-in-law bought a house with a "fairytale cottage" in the back just for her. Once here, she has never wanted to leave. She especially loves our trees and architecture.

Margaret Vicari: Born December 3, 1911

Margaret was born in Kansas City, Missouri. Although she celebrated her 100th birthday in December, she nearly died as a child. She still remembers everyone gathered around her bed crying, waiting to see if she would make it through the crisis. Margaret and her husband moved to Pasadena in 1946 – and three years later were surprised by the "great snowfall of 1949!" She says that the sunny weather, Rose parade, and great shopping in this beautiful city — along with her wonderful family — have made her life richer.

Dorothy Mae Vaughn: Born February 15, 1911

Dorothy's elegant and spacious condominium on South Orange Grove Boulevard reflects the refined tastes of a young woman who spent part of her youth living in a top-floor suite with her widowed mother in the gracious confines of the Pasadena Hotel, one of the City's grand resorts, which her uncle owned. After attending PCC in the 1920s, she worked at Pasadena City Hall for the road department and then for the Crook Company. She was married for 67 years to the love of her life, prominent businessman John Vaughn, a founder of Pepperdine University.



Margaret Vicari



Madeleine Munro



Dorothy Mae Vaughn

Local nonprofit seeks to improve ‘teen futures’

West Pasadena is rich with nonprofit organizations, each a testimonial to the imagination, initiative and commitment of our residents. Not the least among them is Teen Futures. This organization is based on South Grand and is dedicated to reducing the incidence of teen pregnancy through programs stressing sexual responsibility, education, career planning and emotional well-being.

“Teenage pregnancy is a social, economic, physical and emotionally complex issue in our community and California,” says the organization’s executive director and Pasadena resident, Trina Smith.

“Studies show,” says San Rafael-area resident, clinical psychologist and board secretary Melissa Udell, PhD, “that teen pregnancy prevention is one of the most significant

antecedents to poverty and crime in our communities.”

Five ways you can help

If you’d like to help the Teen Futures cause, you can:

1. Guide the young adults in your life by maintaining an open dialogue and sharing your expectations.
2. Be an involved parent by:
 - Knowing where your teenage child is and what he or she is doing
 - Getting to know his or her friends and families
 - Talking to your child often about sex
3. Educate your child about the realities of life as a teen parent and the unintended negative consequences that can accompany it.



4. Sponsor a Teen Futures’ team in the 2012 Pasadena Marathon.

5. Donate to Teen Futures

To learn more about Teen Futures, visit: teenfutures.org.

Inside the Rose Bowl renovation

BY AUDREY O’KELLEY

Design Commission gives green light to renovation

The Rose Bowl’s Architecture and Engineering team in November returned to the Design Commission for final review of the overall project/program. Other than a Design Commission subcommittee final review of concourse lighting (fixtures and light temperature) and signage mountings, the final plans, including those for the press box, got the green light.

The renovation and the gap

Although the Rose Bowl stadium renovation continues to be on schedule, budgetary issues require close monitoring. This includes the possibility of delaying some renovation elements if renovation fund raising is unable to close the gap. One very positive note is that the Rose Bowl Operating Committee hopes to save as much as \$3.5 million by bidding out the final press box construction to one general contractor, rather than multiple prime contractors, and building the press box in one phase. To see the work that has been completed and work that’s yet to be done, go to pages 2 and 3 of the Rose Bowl



Roundup newsletter at rosebowlstadium.com/RoseBowl_newsletter.php

Rose Bowl memories: Todd Elstrom

“That was something else. That day, that game. You know, playing in the regular season against UCLA in the Rose Bowl is completely different than playing in the Rose Bowl in the Rose Bowl Game. The stadium is a packed stadium on that day, and the emotions are high; it is extra special. When you play there, in that game, you become a part of history.

“I’d been injured in practice the week before and it had been an emotional roller coaster that week. I was a bit numbed up, but I knew I had to play; my injury was manageable and I was determined. How could I not take advantage of such a great opportunity? For me, as a senior, it was a one-shot deal. That was my role on the team then, to play through my injury, and play to win. You know, at the end of season, your fans and family and your underclassmates, goin’ out on a high note like that, so much emotion. There’s nothing like it.

It is great to know that the Rose Bowl is being renovated; stadiums these days, there’s lots of money spent to build new ones and renovate old ones. But for the Rose Bowl you gotta’ be careful, you don’t want to lose the character of the place. It has a certain luster to it.”

— Todd Elstrom, Washington Huskies, 2001 Rose Bowl Game

GRAND AVENUE

One day some time in 1885, Thomas Nelmes and Mrs. R.E. Burnham chanced to make a social call at I.M. Hill’s residence on the same evening. The great real estate boom was then rising to its flush-tide, and, of course, became the topic of conversation. They all owned land reaching from Orange Grove Avenue to the bluff declivity. The idea was broached that a wide street with trees on both sides and in the middle might be opened, following the meander line of the bluff, with one tier of lots having the Arroyo view. Mrs. Hill exclaimed, “O, wouldn’t that be grand!” Mr. Nelmes responded, “And that shall be its name – Grand Avenue.” Thus the project was started; however, some owners would not give land enough for the wideness desired; and so the grandness was somewhat deplumed; but the name stuck.



B.F. Ball's home at 59 Terrace Drive, now the middle of Green Street. He was enthusiastic about living in Pasadena, and once said "I would not go back East to live for all the wealth east of the Rocky Mountains."

Gone, but not forgotten

B.F. Ball's brick home

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

BY KIRK MYERS
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST
PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Benjamin Franklin Ball, a farmer from West Liberty, Iowa, came to Pasadena in 1878. He soon built the first brick house in Pasadena on N. Fair Oaks Avenue, which was said at the time to be the best house in the city.

In 1887 he began construction of another brick home on the hill above Terrace Drive that the newspaper predicted would be "one of the handsomest houses in Pasadena."

An Illustrated History of Los Angeles County, published in 1889, was more lavish in its praise:

"It is one of the finest residences in Los Angeles County, and nothing that taste and refinement would suggest or that money could purchase has been omitted to make it complete in all its appointments, it having cost Mr. Ball no less than \$55,000. Colonel Stanford, and others who have traveled extensively over the world, state that the view from Mr. Ball's home is the most magnificent they ever witnessed. The grounds surrounding the residence comprise two acres, and for beauty of design and variety of plants and flowers, are unsurpassed."

Madelein Harris Loring, granddaughter of Mr. Ball, later wrote that the home had "... driveways entering from both Terrace Drive and Orange Grove Avenue. He lived there the rest of his life and entertained his friends and relatives from Iowa. He particularly enjoyed the view of the beautiful Sierra Madre Mountains, which were covered with snow in

the winter and carpeted with poppies at their base in the spring of the year."

When he died in 1910, B.F. Ball was remembered as one of the pioneers of Pasadena, one who had done much to build the city he loved. The home remained with the family until it was demolished in 1924 to make way for the extension of Green Street from Terrace Drive to South Orange Grove Avenue.

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.

WAVERLY DRIVE

Opened by James Smith, in 1885, and named from Sir Walter Scott's "Waverly" novels.



**WEST PASADENA
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Post Office Box 50252
Pasadena, CA 91115-0252

Visit our website @ wpra.net

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Pasadena: city on call

Police Department

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

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

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

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

City Manager Michael J. Beck
mbeck@cityofpasadena.net

COUNCILMEMBERS

Jacque Robinson, District 1
jacquerobinson@cityofpasadena.net

**Margaret McAustin, District 2
(vice mayor)**
mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net

Chris Holden, District 3
cholden@cityofpasadena.net

Gene Masuda, District 4
gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net

Victor Gordo, District 5
vgordo@cityofpasadena.net

Steve Madison, District 6
smadison@cityofpasadena.net

Terry Tornek, District 7
ttornek@cityofpasadena.net