



WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

THE NEWS

Pasadena, California

Celebrating 50 years
of community service

Spring, 2012

LAND USE / PLANNING

EDUCATION

OPEN SPACE / CONSERVATION

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

GOVERNMENT

PARKS / RECREATION

WPRA celebrates 50 years of service, hosts annual meeting

The West Pasadena Residents' Association cordially invites West Pasadena residents to attend its annual meeting on Wednesday, May 2 at the Westridge School, 324 Madeline Dr. This is a special year for the WPRA — it's our 50th anniversary. And in honor of the event, the theme of this year's annual meeting is "50 years: An effective voice for the West Pasadena neighborhoods."

The evening will start with a reception at 5:30 pm. As we meet, greet and visit with each other and the exhibitors, we'll also enjoy snacks, beverages and anniversary cake.

The main program, in the school auditorium, starts at 6:30 pm. It leads off with **Mayor** (and

former WPRA president) **Bill Bogaard** and **District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison**. These two city luminaries will be followed by a panel discussion featuring a trio of Pasadena icons:

- **Claire Bogaard**, former WPRA board member and founder of Pasadena Heritage, will discuss historic preservation and the 710 Freeway
- **Darryl Dunn**, general manager of the Rose Bowl Operating Committee, will bring us up to date on the stadium's renovation and other related topics
- **Mic Hansen**, former WPRA board member and current Planning Commission member, will share her well-considered views on

Save the date

What:

WPRA annual meeting

When:

Wednesday, May 2
5:30-8:30 pm

Where:

Westridge School
324 Madeline Dr.

Cost:

Free

West Pasadena Residents' Association



1962 – 2012

Dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the character of our community
and the quality of life in West Pasadena.

planning, development and land-use
patterns in Pasadena

Following the panel discussion, WPRA board member **Vince Farhat**, a former WPRA president and current Pasadena Center Operating Committee member, will lead a discussion about the WPRA and the city's history over the past half-century.

Also, we'll present our annual community service awards, and members will elect our 2012-2013 officers and directors.

Among the exhibitors (at press time) are (alphabetically): City Ventures, Energy Upgrade California, Lincoln Property Company, Noise Within, Pasadena Community Gardens, Pasadena Museum of History, Pasadena Water and Power, the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center and the Rose Bowl Operating Company.

The annual meeting is free of charge and open to the public. Parking is available in the school parking lot at the southwest corner of the campus. Enter the lot from West State Street.

For more information, visit wpra.net.

About us

Mission: Founded in 1962, the West Pasadena Residents' Association is dedicated to maintaining the character of our community and enhancing the quality of life in West Pasadena. 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, 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:**
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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

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

- **Editor:** Chuck Hudson (hudson@wpra.net), Communications co-chair
- **City Hall editor:** Vince Farhat (farhat@wpra.net), board member and past president
- **WPRA board contributors to this issue:** Joan Hearst, board member; Bob Holmes, secretary and Neighborhood Safety chair; Laura Kaufman, board member; Richard McDonald, Land Use chair; Audrey O'Kelley, board member and past president; Catherine Stringer, board member and Education co-chair; and Bill Urban, vice president

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

WPRA seeks co-editors

Are you interested in Pasadena news and events? Do you enjoy writing and editing? If so, the WPRA may have what you need. We're looking for co-editors for our weekly email, *Neighborhood Update*. This publication reaches nearly 1,000 households each Saturday morning to inform residents of important city meetings, relevant news articles and leisure and arts events around the city. Contact Joseph V. Cook at cook@wpra.net.

'We are the government. To arms!'

As you may have noticed, the WPRA is celebrating its 50th anniversary. It bears noting, however, that the record is not entirely clear as to our "official" founding date, which has been variously reported as 1957, 1958 and 1962. Our collective memory has dimmed over the years. In the absence of clear fact, we rely on those who created our logo many years ago. They set the "official" date at 1962. Good enough.

We can, however, proudly trace our activist roots back to 1956 or 1957, when Marge Weller's indignation gave birth to the idea that would one day become the WPRA we

know today. Marge, in a 1998 remembrance, puts it this way:

"One day, we saw in the paper that the U.S. Government was going to occupy Vista del Arroyo [the current home for the U.S. Court of Appeals on Grand Avenue]. The proposal was to create an induction center for the Army for the western U.S., from San Luis Obispo south to San Diego and east to Arizona. We asked what that would mean to the neighbors. There would be 400 people processed in a day, arriving in buses. Where would these buses park? There was only a very small parking lot across from the hotel.

"My first foray was to City Hall to protest. I was told 'This is the federal government, we can do nothing.' I remember my thoughts then: WE are the government. How dare they tell us what to do in our neighborhood! Being a Poly Sci major from Berkeley, I knew this. TO ARMS!

"We started to talk in the neighborhood, Becky (Wheeler), Cindy (Adams) and I. And then Kay Files joined. Steve Weller chaired the committee to organize [and then] John and Virginia Blankenhorn.

"We spent the entire Spring working on this,

Continues on page 4

Mayor delivers sobering SOTC

BY VINCE FARHAT

The following are excerpts from Mayor Bill Bogaard's annual State of the City address.

- Pasadena is preparing for its fourth consecutive budget year with serious revenue shortfalls, and once again expense reductions will be necessary. Such reductions cannot be accomplished without cutting City services our community will sorely miss, and without reducing our workforce.
- Pasadena has lost 11 auto dealerships during the last decade, resulting in a 30% decrease in annual sales-tax revenues in this category.
- Citywide sales-tax revenue is currently below Fiscal Year 2003 levels, and property tax and utility-user tax receipts are flat or down from prior years.
- City personnel expenses represent over 75% of the general fund operating budget, and the City faces mounting costs for employee benefits, particularly for the Calpers retirement plan and allowances to employees to purchase health insurance. Since 2009, the City has cut more than 300 staff positions.
- Although the City hoped it would be reimbursed from federal and state emergency relief programs for damages from the ferocious windstorm that swept through Pasadena late last year, its losses — about \$17 million — fell short of the minimum to qualify for such relief.
- The State Supreme Court's decision to uphold state legislative action eliminating community redevelopment agencies will cost the City more than \$30 million a year, funds that would have been used for debt amortization or for such items as affordable housing, parking structures and other infrastructure.

PALMETTO STREET:

Opened by H.W. Magee in 1885. Named for the palmetto trees planted along its borders. — *History of Pasadena*, by Hiram Reid (1895)

City OKs Rose Bowl-NFL study

BY BILL URBAN

City Council on March 12 voted 6-to-1 to green-light an environmental impact report (EIR) that could help determine the impact of a temporary lease of the Rose Bowl Stadium by a National Football League team. The lone dissenting vote was cast by District 7 Councilmember Terry Tornek, who was quoted by the *Pasadena Star-News* as saying "I think it's a highly speculative investment and an inappropriate one at this time."

The City will split the cost of the study, estimated at up to \$400,000. The Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) still must approve a \$200,000 transfer to the city's General Fund. The EIR would examine, among other things, the potential impact an arrangement with the NFL would have on air quality, land use, noise levels, and recreational activities, traffic and regional transportation. The EIR would assume lease by the NFL for up to five years, expansion of the number of permissible annual major (displacement) events to 25 from the current 12, and limitation of attendance at NFL games to 75,000.

The public is welcome to attend an EIR scoping meeting on **Thursday, April 12 at 6 pm** in the Rose Bowl Home Team Locker Room (Park in Lot F, enter at Gate A).

Two groups vie for team

Two groups are attempting to lure an NFL team to the Los Angeles area. If an NFL team does decide to come to the Los Angeles area, it will likely need an interim facility, such as the Rose Bowl or Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, until the permanent new stadium is completed.

EIR helps 'us compete,' 'keep options open'

District 5 Councilmember Victor Gordo, who is also RBOC president, said "Completion of an environmental impact report allows us to compete ... but it also formalizes an opportunity for community input I think it's important to keep our options open and to have all the relevant information as it relates to impacts and potential mitigation measures," according to the *Pasadena Star-News*.

NFL 'clarifies' position on move to LA

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, according to the *Pasadena Weekly*, said he would not approve any NFL team moving to Los Angeles until next year. "None of the franchises will receive permission to move to the vacant Los Angeles market until at least 2013," he said.

"Until there's an appropriate solution in Los Angeles, there won't be a team there," he said in a November 2011 *Los Angeles Times* article. "One, you have to get it built. Two, you have to have it financed. And three, it has to be able to generate the kind of revenue that's necessary to keep a team successful. Last, but not least, make sure it works for the community."

Community has mixed views

Pasadena area neighborhood and civic groups have expressed mixed views on NFL using the Rose Bowl. The Linda Vista~Annandale Association's board voted unanimously to oppose the idea under any circumstances. A recent WPRA survey indicated that 43% of respondents were against the City even considering NFL use of the Rose Bowl, 19% thought the City should consider it, and 37% said the City should consider it, but with restrictions. The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce directors voted unanimously to support consideration.

The WPRA will continue to monitor this situation, and make sure neighborhood concerns are kept at the forefront. Please send comments to urban@wpra.net.

BRADFORD STREET:

Opened by H.J. Holmes. He had a favorite son who graduated in the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, and held an official position in the U.S. Navy. This son married a Miss Bradford; they had a boy baby named Bradford Holmes, and Mr. Holmes named his new street after this little grandson. — *History of Pasadena*, by Hiram Reid (1895)

BRIEFS

Cell-tower project approved in close vote

City Council on January 9 approved a request by T-Mobile to install an antenna array on an existing wooden utility pole near the corner of California and Grand. Council opponents of the installation (Chris Holden, Steve Madison and Victor Gordo) were unable to round-up the five votes necessary to overturn the appeal of the permit issuance, which had previously been granted by Public Works. The array is expected to be installed this fall.
— Vince Farhat and Joan Hearst

Art Center buys former Post Office to expand South Campus

Pasadena's Art Center College of Design has acquired the former U. S. Postal Service facility at 870-888 S. Raymond, directly north of its South Campus. The purchase was made possible through gifts from alumni. Plans now call for the college to create three centers of learning:

- An expanded South Campus
- A renovated Hillside Campus (at 1700 Lida)
- A virtual campus

Each would be optimized for the particular needs of promising artists and designers, while at the same time fostering new collaborations among disciplines. (Source: *Pasadena Now*)



Architectural rendering of One Green, a retail-office development on the northwest corner of W. Green and S. Fair Oaks.

Developer begins Old Town project

M+D Properties is preparing to begin construction on One Green, a three-story retail/office building at the northwest corner of West Green and South Fair Oaks. The project, which the developer expects to complete by the end of the year, will include

about 46,000 square feet of retail and office space, and two levels of underground parking. M+D anticipates the project will create 397 permanent new jobs. (Source: *Pasadena Star-News*)

Developer 'takes a pass' on Sunrise

BY VINCE FARHAT

Arroyo Realty and Management on March 8 informed the WPRA that it had reversed its prior intention to develop the senior-living portion of the Ambassador College campus.

"For a myriad of reasons," an Arroyo Partners' representative told the WPRA, "our partnership decided to pass on the Sunrise project. I am sure that Sunrise (Living) will announce soon what its intentions are moving forward."

Arroyo Realty had been in escrow to purchase Sunrise Realty, a subsidiary of Sunrise Living, to develop a senior-living facility on the

northeast corner of the Ambassador West campus, where the former Worldwide Church of God Administration building is. Arroyo Realty had planned to handle construction and then engage another company, possibly Sunrise Living, to manage the property. Unlike Sunrise Realty's original condominium plan, Arroyo Realty intended to build rent assisted-care and dementia-care units.

Arroyo Realty, which had previously assisted Maranatha High School with the purchase of the southwestern portion of the Ambassador College East Campus property, had presented its vision to the WPRA board of directors in January.

We are the government

Continued from page 2

and everyone in the neighborhood became involved. Word got directly to Washington, and we pushed all of the buttons possible. In June, the *Star-News* carried this headline: ARMY DEFEATED. I remember hearing that our congressman, H. Allen Smith, had said 'GET THOSE DAMNED WOMEN OFF MY BACK.'"

That spirit continues to guide us today. After all, as Marge puts it, "We are the government," to arms! — *Chuck Hudson*

Update: Rose Bowl Stadium renovation, fundraising

BY AUDREY O'KELLEY

Construction of the new and wider (but not higher) press box, which is an essential component of the stadium's renovation, is on schedule. Once expanded and remodeled, the press box will provide new premium seating revenue.

The central core of the existing press box will remain intact, but the two narrow wings above the C level are being rebuilt. This will provide the stadium with the flexibility to modify ceiling heights, expand seating-section profiles and increase premium seating.

The Rose Bowl Legacy Campaign

The Rose Bowl Legacy Campaign continues to raise money to make sure that all components of the Rose Bowl renovation project are completed. Its fund-raising goal is \$20 million. The campaign has collected \$5.7 million in pledges so far.

Meanwhile, donations continue to come in from a generous community. Pasadena-based Western Asset has developed a unique fundraising process. Employees can wear jeans every Friday for a year, if they donate one-quarter of 1% (0.25%) of their base salary to stadium renovation. Tax-deductible funds are matched by Western Asset and employees become eligible for Rose Bowl-related prize drawings. This approach, as of February, has generated contributions of more than \$102,000.

"We're excited about the renovation to modernize the stadium," said Western Asset president and CEO Jim Hirschmann, who is also chair of the Legacy Campaign board, "and we're trying to do our part to raise the funds to ensure the success of the project."



Urban Land Institute

A group of experts in January from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) visited Pasadena. Following a tour of the Central Arroyo, comprehensive background briefings and meetings with numerous community stakeholders, the ULI panel found Arroyo

Seco Park and the Rose Bowl to be "showing strains of underinvestment and poorly coordinated management." The group agreed that with enhancement, the Rose Bowl and Central Arroyo have great potential as "a community amenity and economic development catalyst." The ULI will issue a full report soon.



Construction has begun on the first of three phases of development at Ambassador West.

Phase one construction is underway at Ambassador West

Recent construction activity on West Del Mar near South Orange Grove signifies the start of phase one construction on the Ambassador West campus.

City Ventures, the developer, has started site work, which includes shoring and grading for the first 10 homes, as well as developing a shared driveway and parking lot.

Work requiring lane closures will continue into mid-April until grading is complete. City Ventures expects construction to be completed by the end of this year. Sales of the

phase one units should begin this summer. City Ventures also plans later this year to begin work on site improvements necessary for the second and third phases. Phase two construction is scheduled to begin in 2013, and phase three in 2014.

Direct questions or concerns about construction to construction manager Ron Ewing at (626) 844-6658. If you have any questions about City Ventures' role, email Ben Besley at ben@cityventures.com.

Monitoring Old Town, preparing for birthday bash

BY SUE MOSSMAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PASADENA HERITAGE

All Saints Church expansion reviews continue

The final environmental impact report for the proposed expansion of All Saints Church, 132 North Euclid, was issued in early March. Although no group or individual has expressed opposition to the church's need or desire to expand on land north of its historic church buildings across from City Hall, much debate has arisen over the size, shape, orientation and design of the new buildings.



The Design Commission did not recommend approval of the report or the master plan and made specific requests for additional information and conditions, including consideration of an additional alternative (#8) submitted by members of the public. However, on March 14, after a five-hour public hearing, the Planning Commission voted 5 to 3 to recommend certification of the impact report and approval of the master plan. The commission did, however, request that City Council direct the Design Commission to consider specific areas of the site plan.

Lincoln Properties planning for Parsons' site

City Council in early March reviewed, for information only, the first draft of a proposal to develop the large site around the Parsons building, now owned by Lincoln Properties, on the north side of Old Pasadena. Plans include new housing (on the Fair Oaks' side) and office development (along North Pasadena Avenue), open plazas and underground parking. From a historic preservation perspective, the frontages along Fair Oaks and Union are key because this is where the site interfaces with Old Pasadena. Before Parsons, these blocks were part of the original downtown with a variety of turn-of-the-last-century buildings. One encouraging aspect of the Lincoln Properties proposal

is the re-opening of Holly Street as a true street through the property, recapturing an important part of the original street grid and east-west axis of the Bennett Plan for the Civic Center.

Former YWCA now belongs to the City

The City in late February completed its acquisition of the former YWCA building, designed by noted architect Julia Morgan. According to reports, a price was set just before the jury trial date and is about \$2 million higher than the original appraisal of \$6.4 million.

Save the date for our Birthday Party on the Bridge

It's Pasadena Heritage's 35th anniversary year, and we plan to celebrate at our signature summer event, this year to be called "Pasadena Heritage's Birthday Party on the Bridge." The date is **Saturday, July 14**.



Colorado Street Bridge

Planning, by design

BY MIC HANSEN
PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER

Q: What's the role of the Design Commission? How do planning and design differ? Does every project go through Design Review, and what does it entail? *KB, S. Pasadena Ave.*

A: The Planning Commission evaluates projects for appropriate land use, zoning, size and density, as specified in our zoning code, General Plan and Specific Plans. The Design Commission evaluates a project's architecture and appearance, such as aesthetics and building appearance and quality issues.

The Design Commission currently comprises nine members, five of whom are appointed "at large" by the Mayor, upon recommendation of councilmembers, and four represent the Transportation Advisory, Arts and Culture, Historic Preservation, and Planning commissions.

The commission reviews new construction, alterations and historic preservation in the Central District, as well as new construction and alterations to existing buildings in the Specific Plan and multiple-family residential areas. It is also charged with reviewing design of multi-family development projects of three or more total units, and any new building over

5,000 square feet, citywide. For most projects, the design review consists of:

- **Preliminary consultation**, the first step for new construction or major alterations to existing buildings. The applicant receives comments and feedback on the proposed design concept prior to preparing detailed drawings and plans.
- **Concept design review**, to ensure that the proposed project complies with the development standards specified in the Zoning Code, including traffic assessment, public art and, in the case of multi-family housing, compliance with the inclusionary housing requirement. All applications must conform with the City's applicable design guidelines.
- **Final design review**, for review of architectural plans and revisions; materials; exterior colors, signs and details; landscaping; and all other details.

In other words, the planning and design continuum ensures that the character and substance of Pasadena's built environment is protected and improved, while ensuring that current and future needs for growth are met.

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

Guest opinion: PWP supports water plan; concerned about policies

BY ANGELA KIMMEY
LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MANAGER
PASADENA WATER & POWER

The Sacramento Bay Delta, formed by the confluence of the state's two largest rivers, the Sacramento and the San Joaquin, represents a significant source of water for Southern California water agencies such as Pasadena Water and Power (PWP).

The 2009 Delta Reform Act created the Delta Stewardship Council to adopt an enforceable delta plan no later than January 1, 2012 to achieve the coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California; and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.

Late last year, the Delta Stewardship Council released the fifth draft of the Delta Plan and its related environmental impact report. While PWP fully supports the goals of the plan, we do have significant concerns about certain policy provisions. We believe the plan is overly prescriptive and will erode local control of important water supply and conservation activities such as those expressed in PWP's "2010 Water Integrated Resources Plan" (see pwpweb.com/waterplan).

Under the proposed policy, the Stewardship Council would review whether local water agencies are complying with state law; working diligently to meet water conservation goals; using appropriate water-rate structures to encourage conservation; and, properly investing in local water conservation, efficiency, and development. This proposal to regulate self-sufficiency alters the nature of the Delta Stewardship Council by expanding its authority to cover communities all across California, rather than focusing on the Delta. We believe the desired improvements in regional self-sufficiency would best be achieved through local decision-making and oversight with respect to the proposed Reliability Elements.



Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, along with volunteer students and neighbors, spend a Saturday morning planting roses in Singer Park.

Pasadena Beautiful Foundation rallies for trees, roses

BY JOHN POER
VICE PRESIDENT
PASADENA BEAUTIFUL FOUNDATION

Singer Park spruce up

Singer Park was the scene of a great deal of activity on Saturday, February 25. Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, along with several volunteer students and neighbors, planted approximately 80 new roses. Since then, we've also added a new irrigation system and header boards and a new flower bed. The result is something in which all of West Pasadena can take delight. Please drop by to see the beautiful results.

Windstorm Tree Fund is up to \$40,000

The Pasadena Windstorm Tree Fund is progressing nicely, thanks to dozens of

generous donations from all over the Pasadena area, including those from the WPR, Pasadena Beautiful and the Pasadena Community Foundation.



Since it began in March, the effort has raised more than \$40,000, which includes the \$10,000 matching grant from Pasadena Community Foundation. The City plans to replant all of the approximately 1,500 trees that were lost in the windstorm. The replanting project will start in April and could very well carry on into 2013.

If you'd like to donate or help the cause, visit the Pasadena Beautiful website at pasadenabeautiful.org

GRAND AVENUE:

One day some time in 1885, Thomas Nelves 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. Nelves 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 depleted; but the name stuck. — *History of Pasadena*, by Hiram Reid (1895)

A thank-you to our donor-members!

The WPRM appreciates the above-and-beyond financial support of all those who join/contribute. The membership donations listed below include the names of all those who contribute \$100 and more between February 2011 and February 2012. If your name is not listed or is not listed correctly, please contact me. We thank you for your support. *Linda Zinn, Membership chair, zinn@wpram.net.*

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 Lourita E. MacNeill
 Rick and Jennifer Madden
 Maria and Sandy Mallace
 Jane Mallary
 Bob and Marvine Malouf
 Dick and Karen Mandeville
 Maranatha High School
 Marlow and Herrad Marrs
 Ilene and Howard Marshall
 John and Patricia Martin
 Phillip and Lois Matthews
 Dorothy and John Matthiessen
 Laura Matz
 Richard and Rosemary McDonald
 Delford McGee
 Judith McLaughlin
 Mel and Marcia Means
 Emily and Scott Mencken
 Carolyn and Charles Miller
 Ann and John Mills

Cathy and Steve Morrison
 Charles Morse
 Andrew and Martha Nasser
 Robin and Steve Newquist
 Christopher C. Noble
 Howard and Virginia Noll
 Audrey O'Kelley and Jim Fahlgren
 Dennis and Linda O'Leary
 Juanita and Ray O'Marah
 John and Margaret Odell
 Ola and Delores Olambiowonu
 Kay and Steve Onderdonk
 Alfred and Jeanne Paiz
 Ronald Paler
 Tom and Cheryl Palfrey
 Jane Palmer
 Gary and Julie Pantiskas
 Randy and Lee Parks
 Pasadena Heritage
 Ken and Sharon Pelton
 Diana Peterson-More
 Mary Prickett
 Diana Raney
 Lori MacPherson and Keith Rawlinson
 Brent and Carla Riggs
 Robert and Juli Roginson
 Enrique Romero and Minerva Zermeno
 Rose Bowl Operating Company
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 Glenn and Magdalena Rothner
 John Rouse
 Michael Sanchez
 Dave Schaar
 Ann Scheid
 Bill and Sharon Schlarb
 Jason and Colleen Schwab
 Katherine and Chris Schwarpenbach
 Norman Schwartz
 Dorothy M. Scully
 Donna and Jerry Secundy
 Linda and John Seiter
 Anthony Shaw, M.D.
 Shirley R. Shivers
 Mike Sigler
 Betty and Norri Sirri
 Don Cunningham Smith
 Luchus Smith

Marcia L. Smith
 Robert and Judith Spare
 Sarah and Chuck Steidel
 Roger W. Stephens
 John Stipanov and Cynthia Sherman
 Taylor Stirling
 Storrier-Stearns Japanese Garden
 Catherine Stringer and Paul Pierrandozzi
 Jaynie and Woody Studenmund
 Geraldine M. Stumpus
 Raymond W. Suchy and
 Gregoria Karides Suchy
 Walt and Dottie Sumner
 Lorraine E Supple
 Edmund Sutro
 The Valley Hunt Club
 Joe Thomas
 Vicky L. Thomas
 Robert Thorell
 Danzey Treanor
 William and Susan Tully
 JoAnn Turovsky
 Sid and Betsey Tyler
 Michael and Melissa Udell
 Jim Ukropina
 Pete and Joan Ulyatt
 Bill and Jaine Urban
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To donate using your credit card, visit wpra.net and click on EZ Donate in the upper left corner of our home page. The West Pasadena Residents' Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation. Memberships and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

BRIEFS

New radio system boosts first-responder efficiency

The City rolled out a new radio system designed to streamline communications for first responders just in time for the 2012 Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game. The \$7 million project replaced an antiquated municipal radio communications system with a modern encrypted digital system that allows for seamless communication among City departments and other local governments.

The new system allows emergency personnel to communicate easily without having to visually select the proper channels. According to the City's Public Affairs Office, firefighters in the pitch blackness of a burning building will be able to hear the name of the selected channel announced by the radio instead of having to pause to look at the radio's display.

Pasadena's radio project was completed nearly a year in advance of the Federal Communications Commission deadline of January 1, 2013, for local governments to convert to "narrowband" radio systems, which use a narrower section of the radio spectrum.

Pasadena city officials promised to come up with a plan to arm area media outlets with digitally equipped scanners. The City will likely replicate the plan used in Orange County, under which news outlets and law enforcement agencies are able to lease or receive the scanners on loan. — *Vince Farhat*

ST. JOHN AVENUE:

Opened by James Campbell, and named after his Ex-Gov. John P. St. John of Kansas, the prohibition candidate for president in 1884. Mr. Campbell and his wife were much devoted to the cause of state and national prohibition, and thus testified their regard for the great leader of that cause. — *History of Pasadena*, by Hiram Reid (1895)



A rescue ambulance is parked in the driveway of this San Rafael Hills neighborhood, its new temporary home. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)

Update: Fire Station #39

BY VINCE FARHAT

Due to seismic safety concerns, the City of Pasadena earlier this year closed Fire Station 39, located at 50 Avenue 64. As reported in the last issue of the *WPRA News*, following a series of what proved to be unacceptable proposals to solve the short and long-term issues raised by the station shuttering, the City Council finally arrived at an acceptable long-term solution: retrofitting and rehabilitating the existing station.

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, late last year the City Council approved the seismic retrofitting and rehabilitation of the existing facility, which the City estimates will cost \$2.4 million. According to City staff, the architect is now working on the seismic retrofit and

building renovation plans for the permanent fire station. Construction is expected to commence before the end of the year.

The short-term solution

As a stop-gap measure until the permanent fire station is rebuilt, City staff has abandoned the idea of putting a temporary fire station on the campus of San Rafael School. Instead, the Fire Department has decided to house an ambulance at a private residence to bolster response times for emergency services.

On February 15, rescue ambulance 734 (RA 734) began operations at 159 Glen Summer Dr. The rescue ambulance, which will be staffed by two firefighter/paramedics, should provide faster response times for emergency medical services, which accounts for approximately 75% of all fire department calls in Fire District 39.

For more information, visit the "Glen Summer FAQ" page on the Pasadena Fire Department's website at cityofpasadena.net/Fire

BRIEFS

Pasadena deals with results from state budget, prison crowding

Prison overcrowding and budget shortages in California have resulted in transfers of prisoners from state to county and other facilities, as well as many early releases.

The Pasadena jail is relatively small, with a maximum capacity of about 100 persons. Although it is a Class A facility, it does not have a medical facility. It's used primarily as a short-term holding facility for those arrested and awaiting arraignment.

The Pasadena jail also houses illegal aliens awaiting deportation, usually for only two or three days until the Federal government assumes custody. The jail also has holding area for those arrested for drunkenness. They are incarcerated for a few hours until they sober up and then released.

As a result, Pasadena will not likely have to accept prisoners from the state or county. However, early release policies could mean that some parolees may find themselves back on Pasadena area streets sooner than they (or the courts) expected.

The number of parolees with Pasadena addresses has remained fairly steady over the past several years. What has risen — to about 80, and growing by up to 10 each month — is the number of prisoners released to community supervision or “informal parole.” Most are lower-level non-violent offenders, many of whom were sent to prison for narcotics violations.

Concerned that this situation may lead to an increase in burglaries and other crimes, the Pasadena Police Department has instituted the Parolee Reintegration Enforcement Program (PREP). PREP helps parolees regain a place in society, find jobs, identify classes that can provide an opportunity to upgrade skills, and even introduce them to churches. — *Bob Holmes*

Pasadena Community Service Area 1 crime statistics

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Vehicle burglaries													
2010	28	25	31	18	24	12	19	12	16	18	20	22	245
2011	12	20	18	8	14	4	8	5	10	8	6	8	121
2012	8	9											17
Residential burglaries													
2010	11	13	7	5	6	17	8	9	9	11	13	21	130
2011	14	4	7	12	15	15	10	12	5	11	12	11	128
2012	9	7											16
Commercial burglaries													
2010	5	1	6	4	2	5	3	2	3	3	6	3	43
2011	3	4	2	9	2	5	1	4	3	4	4	4	45
2012	6	0											6
Robbery													
2010	4	4	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	15
2011	0	1	1	11	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	4	25
2012	1	1											2
Grand theft auto													
2010	7	1	5	5	8	3	4	12	0	6	0	8	59
2011	6	5	0	3	3	2	3	4	5	11	5	3	50
2012	3	1											4
Recovered stolen vehicles													
2010	4	0	3	1	0	3	2	2	0	1	0	1	17
2011	1	3	0	0	0	1	2	-	-	-	2	1	10
2012	2	1											3

This table provides crime statistics for Pasadena Community Service Area (CSA) 1, which includes Council District 6 and small portions of districts 1 and 7, from January 2010 through February 2012.

CSA 1 crimes unchanged or lower

The Pasadena Police Department has released crime statistics for the month of February 2012. All types of crime within our local Community Service Area (CSA1) in 2012 are unchanged or lower than last year.

The Police Department attributes at least some of this positive news to recent arrests of persons suspected of committing crimes. Also, there has been a nationwide trend of lower rates of criminal activity.

For more details on crime in all the CSAs as well as by City Council district, visit the WPRC website.

The site also has a map showing the boundaries of CSA1 and City Council districts. Go to wpra.net, scroll down to “Check out updated crime statistics”, and then click on “Local Area Crime Statistics.”

BRIEFS

Postal Service will close Pasadena processing operations

The Postal Service has made the decision to move all mail-processing operations from the Pasadena Processing & Distribution Center on Lincoln Ave. to Los Angeles. Once the transfer is completed, the mail processing operations in Pasadena will be closed. There will be no change to the retail or business mail entry units at the Pasadena P&DC location, 600 Lincoln Ave. Until a specific date has been announced, residential and business mailers will continue to be served through the current facilities. In December 2011, the Postal Service agreed to impose a moratorium on closing or consolidating post offices and mail processing facilities prior to May 15, 2012 or, more recently, until after this fall's elections. [Source: *Pasadena Now*]

City to lay off 14; brings total cuts since 2009 to 300

City Manager Michael Beck announced in February that 14 staff members were notified that their positions were being considered for layoff in March. The City has 1,953 full- and part-time employees. The effects of the recession, which continue to impact municipal revenues despite recent improvements in the broader economy, growing pension costs and the state's dissolution of redevelopment agencies, make additional staff reductions necessary to ensure City Hall remains on track to balance its budget. Since the beginning of Pasadena's five-year budget plan in 2009, designed to address the effects of the recession and a structural deficit, City Hall has cut nearly 300 positions, most of which were achieved through voluntary separations and the elimination of vacant positions. The elimination of these positions, almost all in mid-level management, is expected to save the city approximately \$1.77 million per year. City Hall still must absorb approximately \$17 million in windstorm recovery costs, which will not be reimbursed with state or federal disaster funds. [Source: City of Pasadena]

PUSD prepares to change the shape of board representation

BY KEN CHAWKINS
CHAIR
PUSD DISTRICTING TASK FORCE

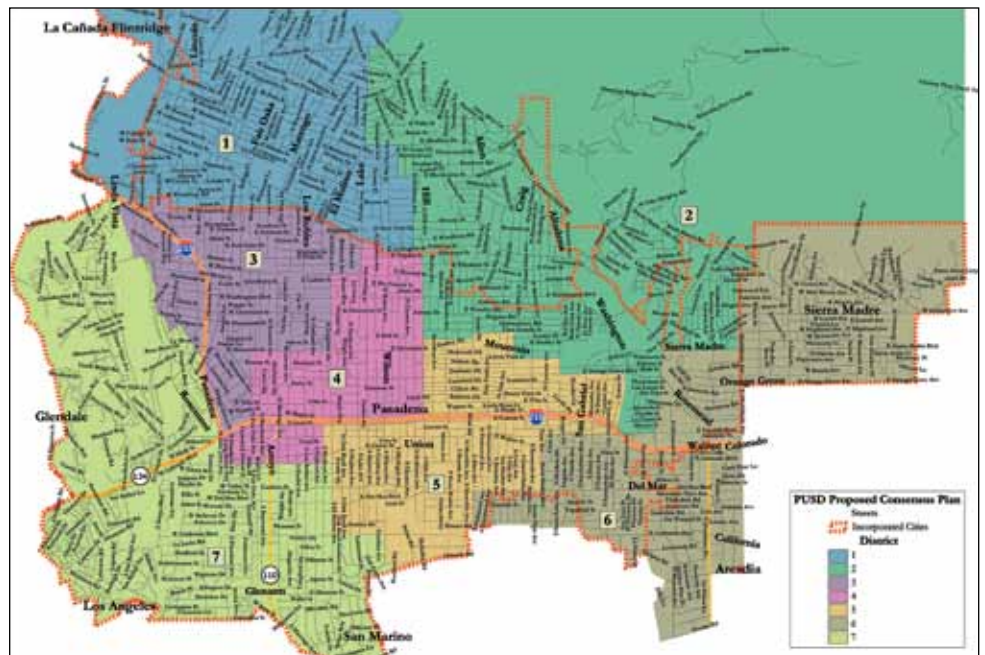
Since July, 2011, I've had the pleasure of chairing the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Districting Task Force. Not to be confused with the City's redistricting effort, our work seeks to change the Pasadena City Charter to allow for the election of PUSD board members by specific geographies (like City Council districts), as opposed to the current at-large system.

While smaller electoral jurisdictions might allow PUSD board members to be somewhat more parochial in their decision-making, it could increase accessibility to the elected official and lower the barriers for someone to run for a board seat since an at-large campaign is very expensive.

The change would allow certain board members to represent specific communities when directing PUSD policy. In short, areas such as West Pasadena would have a louder voice. I believe the new arrangement will make the system more responsive, effective and democratic.

I urge all to get involved. This is a very important issue for our kids and our overall communities. If you have specific questions of me, feel free to contact me directly at kenchawkins@yahoo.com or by calling me at (818)422-7412.

To view the array of subdistrict maps, including the consensus map and the demographic information, visit the Task Force section of the PUSD website, at pusd.us



After months of meetings and community input, the Task Force has developed a consensus map based on input that was received from the various public forums. This map is said to represent many interests from the entire PUSD community.

BRIEFS

City transfers more money from Water & Power

Facing a widening budget gap, City Council in January approved a plan to dip into Pasadena Water and Power's \$400 million cash reserve to balance its books. Council voted to increase the amount transferred from the PWP by an additional \$3.2 million. This comes months after PWP transferred \$12.6 million from its power fund and \$2.8 million from its water fund, bringing the total transferred to \$18.6 million. PWP commonly transfers between \$14 and \$16 million each year to the general fund, according to press accounts. Over the last decade, PWP has transferred more than \$150 million from its coffers to the City's general fund. — *Vince Farhat*

Former Pasadena mayor named president of nonprofit

William (Bill) Paparian, a former Mayor of Pasadena, who has been a criminal defense attorney for more than 31 years, was appointed president of the nonprofit organization Men Educating Men About Health (MEMAH) in February, 2012.

City better at protecting residents from tobacco smoke

Pasadena is doing a better job of protecting its residents from secondhand smoke, according to a new report from the American Lung Association. Pasadena scored "A" grades in the "State of the Tobacco Control 2012" report. According to the report, Pasadena was among five cities (including South Pasadena) named as the best in Southern California at protecting people from tobacco smoke. Pasadena, which received a "B" last year, has since passed a tough anti-tobacco ordinance. The ordinance goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2013 and bans smoking in apartment buildings and common areas like patios, swimming pools, laundry rooms and garages in multiunit properties. According to Pasadena Tobacco Control Program Coordinator Statice Wilmore, 12.2% (16,454 people) of residents smoke tobacco. (Source: *Pasadena Weekly*)

Census prompts City to redraw Council lines

By RICHARD McDONALD
VICE-CHAIR
2011 REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE

Every 10 years, after the census is taken, the City must modify the boundaries of the districts from which councilmembers are elected so that the districts are as nearly equal in population as practicable.

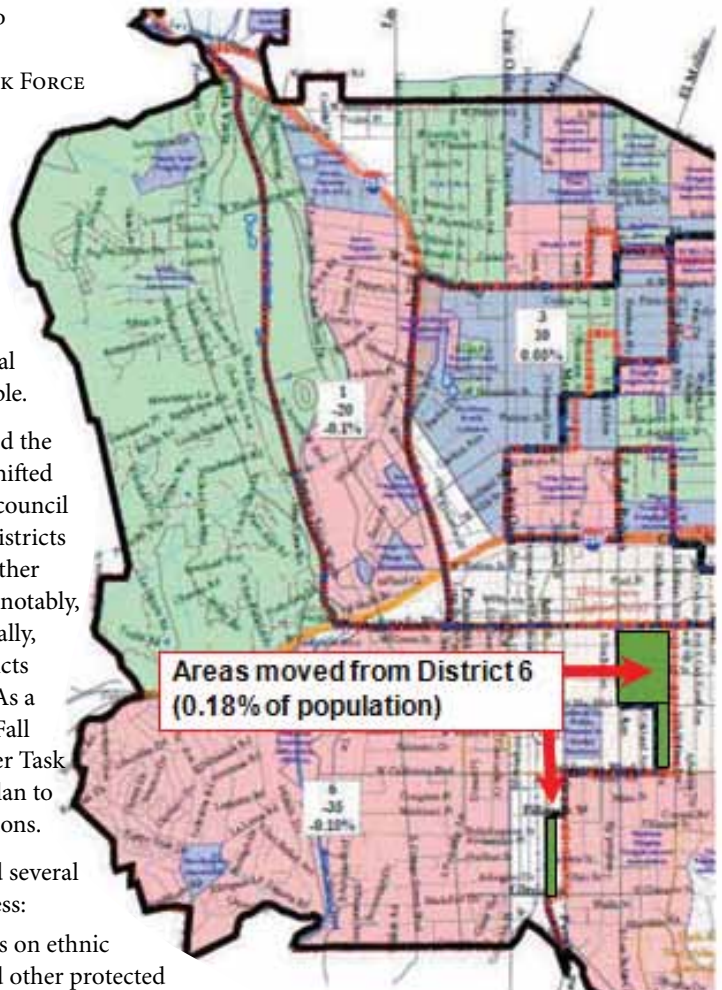
The 2010 census indicated the population had indeed shifted within Pasadena's seven council districts. Some council districts gained residents, while other districts lost them. Most notably, District 6 grew substantially, to exceed the other districts by almost 2,200 people. As a result, City Council last Fall appointed a nine-member Task Force to recommend a plan to equalize district populations.

The Task Force identified several criteria to guide its process:

- Avoid disparate impacts on ethnic or minority groups and other protected classes
- Consider existing and emerging neighborhood associations, communities of interest and voter relationships within each district
- Maintain the historical use of Colorado Boulevard as a border for all seven districts.

Based upon the data and criteria, the Task Force selected two of 11 new maps for public input. In November and December of 2011 and January of this year, the Task Force held public forums throughout the city and received testimony. On February 1, the Task Force unanimously adopted one map for recommendation to City Council.

The recommended map modifies the east boundary between Districts 6 and 7 by



This is the western portion of the map the Task Force has recommended City Council adopt. The only changes to District 6 boundaries are in the southeast corner, which are highlighted on the map. The large colored areas of the map indicate neighborhood association service areas. The reddish area on the lower left is WPRA, the green area in upper left is Linda Vista ~ Annandale Association.

moving population from District 6 to District 7. It also adjusts boundaries between other districts. The result, is that population has been equalized among districts to within less than a 1% variance, while meeting the three key criteria.

To view the maps, visit the City's website at cityofpasadena.net

BRIEFS

PUSD sees service needs rise, funding fall

Over the past decade, enrollment in Pasadena Unified School District schools has shrunk from 23,500 to about 19,800, resulting in a proportional decrease in per-student funding from the State. Meanwhile, the number of students who are homeless or in unstable living arrangements and in need of special services has risen to 617, about 3% of all students.

Current projected PUSD deficit \$7.2 - \$17 million

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education recently notified 78 teachers and administrators that their positions may be eliminated due to a budget deficit that could reach up to \$17 million for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Even if the Governor's proposed tax initiatives are approved by voters in November, PUSD's deficit would still be \$7.2 million. The district has already made more than \$30 million in budget cuts, closed two elementary schools, increased class size, eliminated positions, shortened the school year and furloughed employees.

Private-school enrollment in Pasadena is triple state average

More than 50 private schools operate within the boundaries of the Pasadena Unified School District, according to the California Department of Education. Nearly two dozen more are based in nearby La Cañada Flintridge, San Marino and South Pasadena. Nearly 30% of Pasadena children attend private schools, roughly triple the statewide average." (Source: *Pasadena Star-News*)

CONGRESS STREET:

The H. H. Markham tract was platted and put upon the market by a real estate firm while Mr. Markham was in congress from this district, and the street was named by them in honor of the public place which he then held - 1885. This was five years before he reached the higher distinction of governor of California. — *History of Pasadena*, by Hiram Reid (1895)

A letter from San Rafael Elementary

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

**Dear WPRA friends:**

San Rafael Elementary School has been fortunate over the years to have some wonderful volunteers. I thought it would be fun to feature several of our WPRA volunteers to spotlight the amazing work that they are doing at the school. Here are three neighbors who have developed outstanding programs and inspired so many students in the process.

Nino Sutcliffe — Three years ago, Nino Sutcliffe established a twice-a-month art history class for the upper grades. Mrs. Nino, as the students call her, has an amazing rapport with the children and they work extremely hard for her. She teaches students about different artists and techniques, styles and movements in visual art. Students also produce their own artwork in the program, which culminates in a trip to a local museum.

John Favre — A couple of years ago, John Favre came and read for Read Across America, and he stayed — first as a volunteer reading with students in small groups, and then by supporting the school library to provide an alternate activity at lunch time for children who might want to read books or play board games. There are many young children who have learned their sight words thanks to Mr. Favre's dedication. The lunch-time program has become quite popular with the children; without Mr. Favre's commitment, we would never be able to offer this service to students.

Angie Arzili — Angie Arzili is both a neighbor and a San Rafael parent. Last year, Angie helped start the Literacy Café, a program that "brings books to life" through special activities, themes such as the Harlem Renaissance, and through special, in-person visits from authors and illustrators. The Literacy Café has become quite popular with students, some of whom have pitched ideas for new Cafés based on their time with her. Each Café event takes hours of planning and preparation; Ms. Angie's time, commitment, and vision to this program is what has made it so successful.

We are truly thankful for each one of our neighborhood volunteers who have chosen to give of themselves and their time. Your efforts and dedication are one reason San Rafael is such a special place for children to learn.

If you are interested, please call us at (626)396-5790. Also, 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/#!/sanrafaelemenary

Sincerely,

Alyson Beecher
Principal

Catherine Stringer
WPRA board member & San Rafael parent



Gone, but not forgotten

President Theodore Roosevelt visits West Pasadena

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

BY KIRK MYERS
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST
PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

On May 8, 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt came to Pasadena on his tour of western states. One of the purposes of his visit was to pay his respects to a former first lady – Lucretia Garfield, widow of James A. Garfield who was assassinated in 1881.

Mrs. Garfield was living in a home at 150 South Orange Grove. The *Pasadena Evening Star* reported that:

“The visit to Mrs. James A. Garfield was one of the many delightful incidents of the day. The charming old lady stood with her daughter, Mrs. Stanley Brown, and received the president’s hearty, but gentle greeting. After chatting a few moments with Mrs. Garfield and Mrs. Brown in the front parlor, the president was conducted to the rear parlor...”

There he met guests of Mrs. Garfield, and after an informal toast, “...talked to Mrs. Garfield of her son James, who is chief of the bureau of corporations, in the new department of commerce and labor. He expressed the highest regard for Mr. Garfield and told an amusing story of how he got the president’s boys into a scrape by telling them where he went swimming when he lived at the White House.”

The president was only in Pasadena for two hours. The *Star* proclaimed his visit was “A Grand Success” and noted that “Pasadenans were not disappointed when they saw the president. He is all that was expected, and more.” Another article gave more details about Theodore Roosevelt – “The president is almost redheaded. His favorite by word is “By George!” He shows his fine teeth when talking, both upper and lower.”

Three days later, the *Pasadena Daily News* wrote that Mrs. Garfield had purchased a lot on the corner of Buena Vista and Meridian streets in South Pasadena, intending to build a “handsome new home.” The home would be designed by relatives Charles and Henry Greene, and is still standing. The home at 150 South Orange Grove was demolished in the late 1960s.

Above: The home of President James Garfield’s widow, Lucretia, at 500 South Orange Grove.

Below: President Teddy Roosevelt and his entourage after paying his respects to Mrs. Garfield.



The Pasadena Museum of History is located at the corner of Orange Grove Boulevard and Walnut Street (470 W. Walnut, Pasadena 91103); free parking in the Museum lot. The Research Library & Archives are open to the public free of charge Thursdays-Sundays from 1:00-4:00 pm. For additional information, please visit the Museum’s website, www.pasadenahistory.org, or call 626-577-1660, ext. 10.



**WEST PASADENA
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

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

Services

Bulky trash 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

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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!

Much is going on in our city that affects 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

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

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Terry Tornek, District 7

ttornek@cityofpasadena.net