

PUSD, community consider San Rafael Elementary's fate

By Catherine Stringer Vice President, WPRA

he Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) recently announced that results of geophysical testing at San Rafael Elementary indicate the presence of four seismic faults on the property, appearing to preclude modernization of campus structures planned as part of the Measure TT Bond Construction Program.

State law prohibits rehabilitation or construction of school buildings within 50 feet of earthquake faults determined to be active within the past 10,000 years. PUSD expects a ruling from the California Geological Survey, which is currently reviewing reports of the seismic testing, sometime this summer.

Because all school buildings on the campus at 1090 Nithsdale Road meet Field Act requirements for earthquake safety, the findings pose no additional risk to the safety of students and staff. The school will remain open through at least the 2012-13 school year, while the district moves forward with a plan

	Options for San Rafael Elementary School	Availability for occupancy (school year)	Total cost	Funding result Vs. \$5.3 million of Measure TT for SRES
1	Close San Rafael Elementary; disperse students to other schools	2013-2014	\$150,000	\$5.2 million surplus
2	Relocate to Loma Alta Elementary (3544 N. Canon Blvd., Altadena)	2014-2015	\$2.14 million	\$3.2 million surplus
3	Relocate to Allendale Elementary (1135 S. Euclid Ave)	2015/2016 with modernization	\$4.2 million	\$1.1 million surplus
4	Relocate to Burbank Elementary (2046 N. Allen Ave)	2014-2015	\$5.4 million	\$83,600 deficit
5	Relocate to Linda Vista Elementary (1259 Linda Vista Ave.)	2014-2015	\$12.3 million	\$4.8 million deficit
6	Build new campus on portion of SRES site	2015-2016	\$20.1 million	\$10.4 million deficit

for the future of the school and its rapidly growing Dual Language Immersion Program, established in 2009.

Since the May announcement, PUSD has held community meetings to discuss options

(See accompanying table) for San Rafael Elementary's future. District officials had originally hoped to select one by late June, but were convinced to delay the decision in the face of pressure from parents and the WPRA

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Outgoing president Michael Udell congratulates Claire Bogaard for receiving the highly coveted Dorothy Lindsey Community Service Award during the May 2 WPRA annual meeting.

WPRA cites committed membership for its longevity

By Joseph Cook Communications co-chair, WPRA

n May 2, the WPRA celebrated its 50th anniversary with an annual meeting theme of "50 Years: An effective voice for West Pasadena's neighborhoods."

Bill Urban (incoming president) and Catherine Stringer (incoming vice president) headlined the newly elected officers and board (see page 2). Bill told the gathering that the WPRA has benefited greatly from a vitally committed membership over the past five decades. He also underscored the WPRA's commitment to defend our neighborhoods' quality of life.

Outgoing president Michael Udell presented the Dorothy Lindsey Community Service Award to Claire Bogaard, whose contributions to historic preservation, Old Pasadena, the fight against the proposed 710 freeway extension, and all of Pasadena, are "beyond measure."

The WPRA also honored two of its founding members — Marge Weller and Becky Wheeler. Details of their adventures battling with the U.S. Army and repelling high-rise growth and a personal note from both can

Renewing our commitment to West Pasadena

By Bill Urban President, WPRA

s you may have heard or read, we (the West Pasadena Residents' Association) celebrated our 50th anniversary during our annual meeting on May 2. In my view, this is quite an impressive milestone for any neighborhood organization. The keys to our achievement include:

- Long-standing and consistent support from West Pasadena residents
- A special Pasadena tradition of engaged residents and activist groups, all valued by a City government that, although not always agreeing, is willing to listen

The long parade of passionate WPRA officers, board members and other residents willing to spend countless hours digging in to the local nitty-gritty

As I see it, several major issues will likely occupy the WPRA during the next 12 months:

- The proposed extension of State Route 710 under or through the Orange Grove and San Rafael areas
- The debate about whether we should permit an NFL team to lease the Rose Bowl, for as long as five years
- The closure and retrofitting-renovation of Fire Station 39

Pasadena Unified School District's announcement that earthquake faults found under San Rafael Elementary School could result in the school's closing

Each of these issues requires our focus and vigilance. On behalf of the WPRA board, we readily renew our commitment to be an effective voice in fighting to preserve the quality of life in our neighborhoods..

PS: Speaking of remarkable accomplishments, the Linda Vista~Annandale Association, our neighbor to the north, is more than 80 years old!

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.

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

Funding: All WPRA activities are funded through membership dues and contributions. The WPRA receives no public funding and has no paid employees. Since the WPRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation, contributions and donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law.

2012 - 2013 officers

- President: Bill Urban (urban@wpra.net)
- Vice President and education co-chair: Catherine Stringer (stringer@wpra.net)
- Treasurer: Blaine Cavena (cavena@wpra.net)
- Secretary: Robert Holmes (holmes@wpra.net)

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

2012 – 2013 board of directors

- Communications co-directors: Joseph Cook (cook@wpra.net)
- Chuck Hudson (hudson@wpra.net)
- Land use and planning chair: Richard McDonald (mcdonald@wpra.net)
- Education co-chair: Marilyn Randolph (randolph@wpra.net)
- Membership, Open Space & Conservation: Linda Zinn (zinn@wpra.net)
 Geoffrey Baum
 James B. Boyle Jr.
 Vince Farhat, past president
 Joan Hearst
 John Van de Kamp
 Laura Kaufman
 Judy Klump
 Audrey O'Kelley, past president
 Catherine Stringer
 Priscilla Taylor
 Michael Udell, past president
 Fred Zepeda, past president

Motions carried

The WPRA board has approved the following donations:

- \$1,000 to the Pasadena Windstorm Tree Fund to purchase and re-plant the estimated 1,500 street trees that were lost or too badly damaged during the late 2011 wind storm.
- \$2,500 to "Happy Birthday, Pasadena" party
- \$2,500 to Pasadena Heritage 35th Birthday Bridge Party
- \$1,400 to San Rafael Elementary School
- \$2,500 to July 4th Americafest



The News is mailed each quarter to nearly 7,000 homes in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes.

- Editor: Chuck Hudson (hudson@wpra.net), Communications co-chair
- City Hall editor: Vince Farhat (farhat@wpra.net), board member and past president

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

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

Voters OK PUSD subdistricts

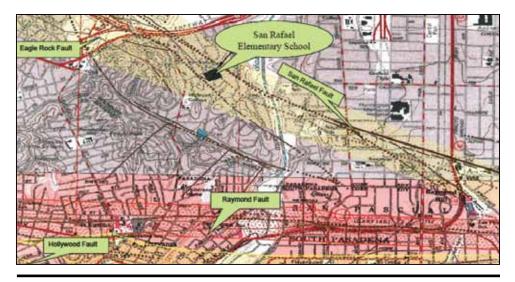
In the June 5 election, voters from Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre approved Measure A to create geographical subdistricts, replacing the current at-large method, for selection of Pasadena Unified School District board of education members. Nearly 55% of the voters (12,597) supported the measure, while 45% (10,387) opposed it. PUSD will roll out the new subdistricts incrementally, with four geographic seats for the 2013 election and the remaining seven seats in 2015.

WPRA voices concerns about use of Rose Bowl by NFL

The City of Pasadena is funding an Environmental Impact Report analyzing the potential impacts of an NFL team using the Rose Bowl as a home field for up to five years. The WPRA participated in community EIR scoping meetings in April, and submitted a formal letter detailing its concerns (read the letter at wpra.net). The WPRA's recent concerns are similar to those it voiced when permanent use of the Rose Bowl by NFL was considered by the City in 2005. The WPRA believed the 2005 draft EIR was deficient and hopes the new EIR will be substantially better. (Bill Urban)

Update: Rose Bowl renovation

The Rose Bowl Stadium renovation project, which started in October 2010, is now in the middle of phase two and is on track for substantial completion by the beginning of the 2013 UCLA football season. Due to a funding gap, estimated at about \$35 million for the three-year \$174.5 million project, stadium and City officials are considering eliminating and/ or deferring of renovation elements, extending the renovation period, and/ or searching for additional financing, including, reports the Pasadena Star-News is the federal EB-5 program, "which allows foreign investors to pump money into construction projects in exchange for a green card, and ultimately, citizenship."



PUSD, community considers

Continued from page 1

Board of Directors. As it stands now, the final determination by the Board of Education will not be until October 2012 at the earliest.

At the June 6 WPRA board meeting, PUSD representatives made a presentation and fielded questions from board members about the findings, the process for community input on options, and plans for the campus property should the district decide not to rebuild at the current site.

A school leadership committee, co-chaired by San Rafael parents and neighborhood residents Emily Mencken and Jim Patterson, will work through the summer to gather input from the school community, West Pasadena residents and city leaders as it vets the options put forward by the district.

- Learn more about the seismic findings and options: srfaults.pasadenausd.org
- Read the letter the WPRA sent on May 17 to PUSD: wpra.net

A note from the author: This fall, I will have a daughter in first grade and a son starting kindergarten at San Rafael. Although I was initially devastated by the news that our beautiful school must be entirely rebuilt or abandoned, I have been heartened by the show of neighborhood support, PUSD's commitment to an option that is in the best interest of students, families and the community, and the determination of parents and staff to preserve the foundation that really matters – a rich and diverse educational experience that prepares our children for success, both academically and as citizens of a global society.

Ambassador West update: City Ventures purchases Sunrise parcels

WPRA has learned that City Ventures, master developer of the Ambassador West campus, has announced it has purchased the Sunrise Senior Living property on the northeast corner of the campus. Plans for the Sunrise property are still preliminary. The WPRA board will continue to closely monitor developments.

In 2010, the real estate investment and development firm City Ventures purchased a significant portion of the Ambassador West campus and assumed the role of master. Under the Ambassador West plan, the parcels at the northeast corner were reserved for senior housing. The owner of those parcels, Sunrise, abandoned the project several years ago and has since been trying to sell the property.

The approved Ambassador West plan calls for the preservation of an existing 2-acre public park; historic gardens, streams and mansions; and 80% of the trees on the former Worldwide Church of God headquarters site.

Green Hotel Apartments

Goldrich & Kest Industries has filed plans to construct a six-story mixed-use development at the southeast corner of Fair Oaks and Dayton, abutting Castle Green and the Green Hotel. In response to concerns expressed by Pasadena Heritage and others, the developer hired historic preservation consultants Architectural Resources Group to redesign the proposal. The objective was to be more compatible with the adjacent historic buildings. The proposed development is anticipated to return to the Design Commission later this year. (Source: Pasadena Heritage)

Ambassador West under construction

City Ventures is engaged in phase one construction on W. Del Mar near S. Orange Grove on the Ambassador West campus. Site improvements for the first phase, including a new driveway and parking lot off of W. Del Mar, are almost complete. Construction on the 10-unit podium building will begin in July and is expected to be completed by year-end. 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 phases two and three. Phase two construction is scheduled to begin in 2013, and phase three in 2014. The construction walls along W. Del Mar have been adorned with colorful murals, the result of a volunteer art project conceived by Maranatha High School students Johan Wijesinghe and Jarrod Suda. (Vince Farhat)

Historic preservation awards

Each year Historic Preservation Awards are given to Pasadena property owners, designers/architects and contractors to honor their exceptional historic resource restoration or rehabilitation projects. This year's award recipients are: for single-family-home rehabilitation, Manor del Mar, 359 West Del Mar Blvd.; and for cultural landscapes, Storrier-Stearns Japanese Garden, 270 Arlington Dr.

Hahamongna field, trail plan resurfaces

he City of Pasadena will hold a series of environmental impact report scoping meetings on plans to add a sports field and trail to the western edge of Hahamongna Watershed Park.

The project, which has been titled (euphemistically, some say) the "Hahamongna Multi-Benefit/Multi-Use Project," includes:

- 1. Creation of a Westside perimeter trail
- 2. Creation of a Sycamore Grove sports field
- 3. Restoration of Berkshire Creek Project (see article on page 6)
- 4. Restoration of the habitat along the western edge of the Devil's Gate basin

The public meetings will be held:

- Thursday, July 12, 6:30 pm
- Saturday, July 14, 10 am Salvation Army Fellowship Hall
 960 E. Walnut St. (Enter parking lot from Mentor, south of Walnut)

The project had been criticized in the past by some because it reduced open space in the park, which is part of a critical watershed area. This version of the plan has been scaled back from the original plan, which included three sports fields.

Although the project is not connected to the plan to clean out the Devil's Gate Dam of sediment, the City is considering using sediment from the dam as fill for the sports field.

Pasadena Heritage prepares for 35th birthday party

By Sue Mossman,

Executive Director, Pasadena Heritage

Pasadena Heritage to celebrate its 35th birthday party on the bridge!

oin Pasadena Heritage for its great summer party on one of the most

beautiful bridges in the world — our very own Colorado Street Bridge — on Saturday, July 14 from 6 – 11 pm. The popular summer attraction is held every other year,



and momentum has been building since 2010 for the next big bridge bash. WPRA is a proud co-sponsor of the event. For tickets and more information, visit pasadenaheritage.org or call them at 626/441-6333.

Concerned over potential renovation cost-cutting

Since 2006, when the NFL offer of \$500 million to upgrade the Rose Bowl Stadium in exchange for a 25-year lease was defeated, and then 2010, when the city adopted the "Plan B" to upgrade the stadium, Pasadena Heritage has been a strong supporter of the rehabilitation of our National Historic Landmark stadium.

The three-year project, designed to improve the 90-year-old stadium for fans and users while retaining its historic character and unique

identity, is what the community wanted, but the process has been a little rocky and budget escalations are worrisome. Recent construction and materials cost increases for the remaining work on the stadium and expanded press box, as well as some unanticipated requirements and discoveries, are now putting pressure on the project. Difficult choices lie ahead.

The Rose Bowl project team, led by General Manager Darryl Dunn and the Rose Bowl Operating Company board, are currently reviewing costs and the scope of work. Options to be considered in the coming weeks will likely include revising the plans or delaying parts of the project. Some important decisions are likely to be made by mid-July. Pasadena Heritage continues to monitor the project closely and to participate, as appropriate, in making the best choices for the current project and for the future of our world-famous stadium.



Planning, by design A brief history of planning in Pasadena

By Mic Hansen

Planning Commission member Council District 6 appointee

Editor's note: Mic Hansen presented the following during the WPRA's annual meeting on May 2.

ormal city planning goes back to the advent of the City Beautiful movement, its origin credited to the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, where Charles and Henry Green got inspiration from the Japanese Pavilion. Our Civic Center is a beneficiary of these efforts.

In the early 1920s, George Ellery Hale visionary renaissance man, scientist, eminent astronomer, a founder of Cal Tech and a friend of Daniel Burnham — became the guiding light of a growing and prosperous Pasadena's first Planning Commission, and the champion of the development of our Civic Center.

The Bennett Plan

City elders enlisted the talented planner Edward Bennett, a protégé of Burnham, to craft the plan for Pasadena's Civic Center. Many of you may be aware that in April the Bennett Plan was the recipient of the National Planning Landmark Award at the American Planning Association's National Conference. Pasadena was recognized because the Bennett Plan has proven to be an enduring and influential roadmap through the decades; time and again the community has returned to it as its guide, Plaza Pasadena's demise being a not-too-distant example.

Landscape changes, frays

Pasadena had come of age subsequent to the building of the Civic Center, but with the Great Depression and then World War II, our landscape began to change. Pasadena experienced another population growth after the war, as it did during the boom years of the railroads, and by 1950 the population exceeded 105,000.

New housing tracts were opening in the San Rafael, Hastings and Linda Vista areas, and the once thriving downtown was fraying. Businesses were moving to South Lake, anchored by the new Bullock's department store, which opened in 1947.



Considered one of the finest examples of the California Mediterranean style and the dominant building in the Pasadena Civic Center, the Pasadena City Hall epitomizes the City Beautiful movement. (Google Earth)

As migration continued east, the old downtown fell into disrepair, with high vacancy and depressed property values. The late 50s and early 60s saw major companies leave Pasadena because there was no land for expansion.

PRA solves, creates problems

This gave rise to the Pasadena Redevelopment Agency (PRA), construction of the 134 and 210 freeways, which bisected the city and resulted in the loss of neighborhoods, Plaza Pasadena, the Conference Center, several large corporate buildings, and many new multi-unit residential as well as commercial structures. However, redevelopment triggered concern for the loss of noteworthy and historic buildings. A grass roots community effort ensued, calling for the preservation of neighborhoods and the city's architectural legacy. In 1981 the Redevelopment Agency was abolished.

Central District restoration

Plans for the rehabilitation of Old Pasadena were put into place, and a slow-growth initiative was passed in 1989. This was repealed in 1992 with the caveat that a General Plan would be crafted to address balanced growth and the protection of the neighborhoods. The 1994 General Plan channeled growth to the Central District and to transit-oriented areas to preserve Pasadena's character and scale.

Since the mid-nineties, we've seen the evolution of our Central District, with the renovation and restoration of Old Pasadena, thanks to the vision and collaboration of the community, city staff and the businesses.

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

County grants sediment-removal plan review extension

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works has extended for an additional 90 days (until August 28) the comment period for the Draft Sediment Management Strategic Plan in response to concerns raised by the public.

Berkshire Creek to be restored

A stream that flows into Hahamongna from La Canada Flintridge, just south of the City's maintenance yard, has over the years been damaged by erosion and other factors. The California Department of Water Resources announced that Pasadena, partnering with the Arroyo Seco Foundation, has been awarded a \$638,410 grant to restore the creek. The project will resolve damaging storm-water drainage at the headwaters of Berkshire Creek, which cause flooding on the adjacent road and severe erosion and water pollution in the creek. The project will concentrate on ameliorating the drain outlet and restoring and stabilizing Berkshire Creek. The project includes restoration of riparian and Oak Woodland habitats and protection of existing wetlands.

Idea for new national park gains county support

Support for making the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo rivers and the Puente-Chino Hills into a National Recreation Area (NRA) received a huge boost in April from two powerful local agencies. The county Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to express support for the proposal to the U.S. Secretary of Interior and the National Park Service. In addition, the county Department of Public Works wrote a letter of support to the U.S. Department of the Interior. Supporters say a NRA designation for a 581,000-acre swath of wild forest and river land would bring status and extra federal resources in the form of rangers, trail maintenance and coordinated signage. (Source: Arroyo Seco Foundation)

Single-use plastic carryout bag ban goes into effect

he first phase of the ordinance banning the use of single-use plastic consumer carryout bags in Pasadena is now in effect.

The ordinance attempts to reduce the negative impacts of plastic bags on marine life, environment and waste in our landfills. Restaurants and fast food establishments are not subject to this ordinance. Stores that provide recyclable carryout bags can charge 10 cents for each bag they provide.

To allow sufficient time for retailers and shoppers to adjust to the requirements of this ordinance, the ordinance will be phased in:

- On July 1, 2012, the ban went into effect for grocers and foodmarts with gross annual sales of \$2 million or more, and stores of at least 10,000 square feet of retail space with a licensed pharmacy.
- On December 31, 2012, the ban will include smaller grocers, food markets, liquor store, convenience stores, farmer's markets, drugstores, pharmacies, and vendors at City-sponsored events, City facilities, or City properties

Letting Golden Arrows fly, planting street and replacement trees

By John Poer Vice President, Pasadena Beautiful Foundation

Pring is a busy time for all of us at Pasadena Beautiful. Golden Arrow signs for outstanding Pasadena gardens have recently been awarded and several have popped up in many West Pasadena neighborhoods.

Update on the Windstorm Tree Fund

As you may recall, Pasadena Beautiful Foundation and Pasadena Community Foundation (PCF) established the Pasadena Windstorm Tree Fund to raise the money to purchase and re-plant the estimated 1,500 street trees lost or badly damaged in last year's windstorm. The fund has grown to \$50,000, including \$10,000 from the Odwalla Tree Contest. We're proud to say that Pasadena, with 1,667 votes, won the money in a nationwide contest.

PCF 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 Ave., Suite #268, Pasadena, CA 91101.

Tree planting has begun

Pasadena Beautiful has begun planting both regular street trees and replacement windstorm trees. We got a



late start this year, due to the huge amount of clean-up following the windstorm. In spite of this, Pasadena Beautiful has planted 106 trees since early March. We've also been asked to replant the one tree in the San Rafael Elementary School playground. It had been lost in the November windstorm. Look for it in the fall.

The City sends our lead coordinator, Emina Darakjy, a list of tree locations, which need to be planted. From her source of tree growers, she personally chooses each tree, usually the 24" box variety, which is a fairly well established tree. She then gathers the stakes, ties and fertilizer and supervises its planting in the designated location. Planting will cease during the hot summer months, but will resume in September.

Singer Park update

The planting, irrigation and new border work has been completed at Singer Park. However, the weeds really got the upper hand, and several of our recent Wednesday work days have been devoted to eliminating them. We're winning the battle, and the rose garden and other areas have never looked so good.



Shovels ready, the following did, in fact, "dig it," during the Pasadena Community Garden groundbreaking; (left to right) Caltrans Tenants Association board member John Kvammen; Pasadena Water and Power Utilities Service Planning supervisor Richard Thompson; District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison; Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard; Los Angeles Community Garden Council executive director Al Renner; former president of the Pasadena & Foothill Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Mark Gangi. Leading the event is an energetic Teague Weybright, garden construction manager and president of the Los Angeles Community Garden Council. (Photos by Chuck Hudson)

Pasadena Community Gardens breaks ground, launches fundraising campaign to build first garden

By Eileen White Read Secretary, Pasadena Community Gardens

fter nearly three years of planning, Pasadena Community Gardens' first garden has taken a great step forward. On June 9, dozens of Pasadenans from diverse neighborhoods and backgrounds came together to break ground for a public community garden on historic property that once held the ranch home of former California Gov. and U.S. Congressman Henry H. Markham.

Joining in the groundbreaking festivities at 721 S. Pasadena Ave. were "dig"nitaries Mayor Bill Bogaard and District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison. The ceremony also featured representatives from Los Angeles Community Garden Council, Pasadena & Foothill Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and Pasadena Water and Power. Latin-Caribbean ensemble Domingo Siete provided background music, with breakfast provided by Whole Foods Market-Arroyo and Perkup Coffee & Tea truck, sponsored by Jones Coffee Roasters.

At the Markham historic site — a Caltrans property, unused for decades — architects, master gardeners, potential donors and local property owners praised the garden drawings and models, created by a volunteer committee of the Pasadena & Foothill Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, under its Citizen Architect program.

Fundraising campaign begins

To realize the architects' vision, Pasadena Community Gardens is seeking to raise about \$80,000. Toward this goal, the garden is collaborating with a committee of more than 25 prominent citizens — leaders of the Pasadena cultural, arts, nonprofit, gardening and business committees — to launch a fundraising campaign this fall. The committee includes Joseph H. "Trader Joe" Coulombe and Robert Simon, proprietor of AKA Bistro and Bistro 45.



District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison generously donated a kumquat tree to the new garden. With him (and the tree) are Jody Hudson, left, and Cathy Morrison, right, Pasadena Community Gardens co-chairs.

This effort will culminate on Sunday, November 4, when the garden hosts a gala fundraising dinner at AKA Bistro, in Old Town Pasadena.

Visit PasadenaCommunityGardens.org

2012 WPRA annual meeting: The reception

By Joseph VL Cook WPRA Communications co-chair

Ithough the late afternoon sky was overcast, it didn't diminish in any way the enthusiasm of the residents of West Pasadena and other guests planning to honor the WPRA's 50th Anniversary at the organization's annual meeting May 2 at Westridge School.

Conversation flowed easily around exhibitor's tables along the campus walkways and over a lovely selection of edibles provided by Perfect Equation Catering, highlighted by a terrific anniversary cake.

Special thanks for the great reception go to board members Gerry Silver, Laura Kaufman, Judith Klump, Priscilla Taylor and James Boyle, as well as to the exhibitors: A Noise Within, City Ventures, Lincoln Property Company, Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena Community Gardens, Pasadena Educational Foundation, Pasadena Museum of History, Pasadena Water & Power, Rose Bowl Aquatic Center, and the Rose Bowl Operating Company.







Top photo: One of the WPRA founders, Marge Weller, right, chats with her long-time friends Betty and Kicker McKenney; **Above photo**: Another of the WPRA founders, Becky Wheeler, center, shares a moment with her daughter, Sarah Cobb Wheeler, and WPRA past president Vince Farhat; **Left photo**: District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison at the podium; **Right photo**: WPRA board member Richard welcomes Congressman Adam Schiff to the annual meeting. (Photos by Chuck Hudson)



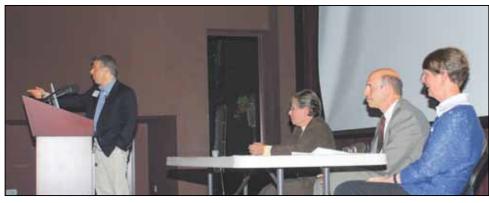
2012 WPRA annual meeting: The program





Michael Udell congratulates Becky Wheeler (left) and Marge Weller (right) for receiving a WPRA Community Service Award.

Michael Udell congratulates Judy Klump for receiving a WPRA Community Service Award.



Vince Farhat, at the podium, moderated a panel discussion featuring Mic Hansen, Planning Commission member; Darryl Dunn, Rose Bowl Stadium general manager; and Claire Bogaard, founder of Pasadena Heritage.

Open letter to the WPRA and Pasadena residents

I am indeed honored to be acknowledged as a" founding mother" [along with Becky Wheeler and Kay Files] by WPRA. While one person may start a fire, unless the torch is carried on by many, the flame will go nowhere.

I am most impressed by those who followed our original inspiration to protect the residential quality of West Pasadena. It was truly a walk down memory lane to return to Pasadena and attend the annual meeting. Our early efforts must surely be studied by people who wish to change what they consider to be wrongful actions by local government, for our group was truly non-partison. In my opinion, neighbors working together for a common cause CAN effect change. Becky and I hope our example continues to inspire West Pasadena residents to become engaged in important local issues, without regard to party affiliation.

-Marge Weller

WPRA cites

Continued from page 1

be found on our website. "Everything you're doing is superb," they said. "Thank you so much for carrying on what we started with our little project."

Board member Judith Klump received the 2012 WPRA Community Service Award for her more than 10 years' of contributions as co-editor to Neighborhood Update, the weekly eNewsletter.

Guest speakers included:

- Congressman Adam Schiff, who praised the WPRA for "a half-century of excellence" and noted his good fortune to still represent West Pasadena after the recent redistricting.
- Mayor Bill Bogaard, who began his public life as WPRA president in the 1970s, praised the WPRA for its "truly influential" impact.
- District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, who spoke on political redistricting, school districting, the City's budget, future development, Fire Station 39 and the La Loma Bridge.
- A panel comprising Mic Hansen, Claire Bogaard and Darryl Dunn, with WPRA board member Vince Farhat serving as moderator. The panel discussed current planning and development in Pasadena; the history and status of historic preservation and the proposed 710 freeway extension; and the state of the Rose Bowl Stadium renovation.

As emcee Blaine Cavena observed "Let's make sure the next 50 years are as productive and rewarding as the first 50."

HURLBUT STREET:

"Named after E.F. Hurlbut. It stops at the stone wall which encloses the east side of his fine home place. It was first called "Terrace Avenue," and is so named on some old maps; but the name had no sense or fitness in that locality, and was changed to Hurlbut." Excerpt from History of Pasadena, by Hiram Reid, 1895.

Wells named fire chief

Calvin E. Wells, who has been Interim Fire Chief since late 2011, when former Chief Dennis J. Downs retired, was named Chief of the Pasadena Fire Department. A career firefighter with more than 30 years of experience serving our community, Chief Wells has extensive experience with the Pasadena Fire Department's operations and administration. He joined the Fire Department in 1979 and has served in numerous positions here during his 32-year fire service career. Chief Wells resides in Pasadena with his wife, Rhanna, and their two children.

Boyer is new Public Information Officer

William H. Boyer is the City's new Public Information Officer (PIO), replacing outgoing PIO Ann Erdman, who recently retired after serving the City of Pasadena and its residents with distinction for 30 years. Boyer brings to the city a strong background in government service and public information as well as online communications, journalism and TV programming. Boyer most recently served as the Communications Director for the County of Santa Barbara.

City's red-light camera program cancelled

Pasadena has terminated its Red Light Camera program due to cost overruns and difficulty collecting fines. Court challenges prompted Los Angeles to cancel its program, too. The program cost the City \$350,000 to operate, and resulted in collection of only \$340,000, which the City was required to split with the state.

ARLINGTON DRIVE:

"Opened and named by C.H. Richardson of Pasadena and Dr. W.G. Cochran of Los Angeles, in November, 1885. But just why this name was given I failed to learn." Excerpt from History of Pasadena, by Hiram Reid, 1895.

City considers first balanced budget in 10 years

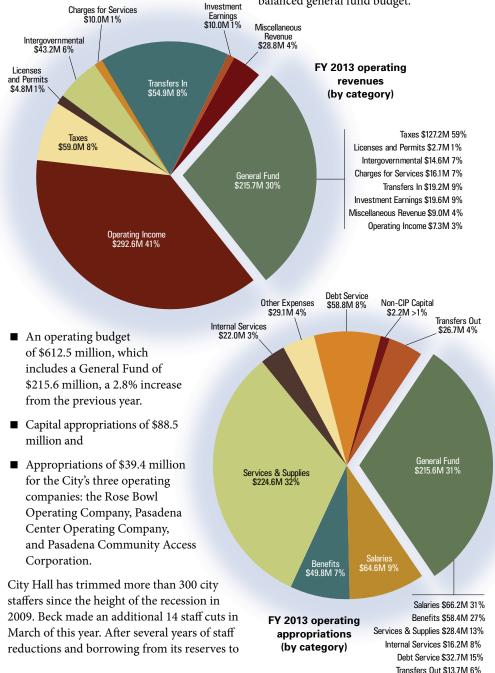
By Vince Farhat

he Pasadena City Council began holding public hearings in May on the City Manager's proposed Fiscal Year 2013 operating budget. The City Council is expected to adopt a budget this summer. According to staff reports, this is the first balanced recommended budget in over 10 years.

City Manager Michael Beck's proposed budget totals \$740.4 million. This includes:

balance the budget, the City will likely spend less than its revenue projections for the year.

The City will continue to borrow from Pasadena Water and Power. The draw for the new budget is estimated at approximately \$14.3 million. Pasadena's charter permits transfers of money from its utility to the general fund. The charter limits the annual transfer to the **lesser** of 16% of gross revenue or the net PWP income. Historically, the transfer has averaged about 8%. Staff anticipates it will be necessary to make a 9% transfer through FY 2015 to maintain a balanced general fund budget.



California cities lose battle with state for property tax funds

A Sacramento County Superior Court judge in May ruled against a group of California cities, including Pasadena, in their battle with the state over hundreds of millions of property tax dollars that used to flow to local redevelopment agencies. Judge Timothy M. Frawley said he would not grant the request from Glendale, Pasadena, Huntington Beach and other cities for an injunction that would have prevented the payout of property taxes on Friday to schools and counties. Cities believe some of the money belongs to them and should be used to pay for such projects as parks, affordable housing and freeway intersections that had been agreed upon before Gov. Jerry Brown won his battle to eliminate California's 400 municipal redevelopment agencies late last year. Brown argued that the state can no longer afford redevelopment; the \$5 billion in property taxes that cities took in each year will now flow back to school districts and counties. (Source: Los Angeles Times)

Schiff introduces bill to help cities get disaster relief

Congressman Adam Schiff, D-Pasadena, has introduced legislation that would help small and medium-size California cities like Pasadena to qualify for federal disaster relief following events such as last year's devastating windstorm. The windstorm downed hundreds of power poles, thousands of trees and caused more than \$34 million in public sector damages in the Los Angeles County area. Unfortunately, the figure fell short of the \$50.3 million federal threshold for assistance in California from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Pasadena had to foot the bill for more than \$14 million dollars in public sector damage and response costs. Schiff's legislation would direct the FEMA to take into account the ability of small and medium-size communities in large counties and in large states to pay for disasters.



Of the 12 current alternatives for 710 freeway extension, three go through Pasadena

METRO, Caltrans push for 710 freeway extension

By Bill Urban President, WPRA

Editor's note: The WPRA is preparing a letter to Metro, CalTrans and Pasadena City officials indicating that it is adamantly opposed any 710 freeway plans that would be destructive to our neighborhoods and businesses. The letter, with comments on all the proposed alternatives, will be published on our website once it has been approved and sent. Thanks to Claire Bogaard, and Fred Dock, City Transportation director, for providing information for this article.

he 710 Freeway, now a 60-year controversy, is in the news again. In December 2003, the Federal Highway Administration withdrew its approval for the 710 Surface Freeway through El Sereno (Los Angeles), South Pasadena and Pasadena. Shortly thereafter, representatives from Caltrans, METRO and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) began promoting a subterranean tunnel as the solution for extending the 710 from the 10 freeway near Alhambra to the 210/134 freeways in West Pasadena.

12 alternatives announced

Now using Measure R funds, METRO, in cooperation with Caltrans, is analyzing 12 alternatives. By the end of summer, they plan to announce five alternatives selected for full environmental review. Several of the 12 alternatives being considered would extend the 710 into southwest Pasadena. One proposal would transform Avenue 64 into a highway to carry large cargo trucks and cars to a new interchange at the 134 Freeway.

Another alternative envisions two 4.5mile tunnels to be constructed from Valley Boulevard to the 210/134 freeways. The tunnels would be approximately 100 feet below ground with four lanes in each direction. There will be no vehicle entrances or exits between the portals at either end. The two tunnels will cross through the active Raymond fault. There is also a tunnel alternative in the Avenue 64 corridor.

Scoping the tunnels

METRO consultants describe the tunnels as surfacing to the north of Sequoyah School to connect to the 210/134 freeways. Other engineers argue that the change of grade from Valley Boulevard to the 210/134 freeways may be too steep for trucks, which would force the tunnel to the surface near Columbia Street and to become a wide-open freeway ditch through Pasadena.

Large tubes will be constructed inside the tunnels to blow the partially cleaned air out of the tunnels. In Pasadena, that pollution would impact nearby neighborhoods, including schools, hospitals, homes and businesses.

To learn more about this controversial issue, visit metro.net/projects/sr-710-conversations, or write to cwbogaard@earthlink.net

Pasadena Police improve access to public information

The Pasadena Police Department is increasing its public information efforts by providing more crime statistic information on its website and the radio frequency codes for the public to listen to radio calls for service. The department released programming information needed to listen to the Pasadena Police radio. The technical information for the Pasadena Police Department's talk group is 39760 or 2485, depending on the make and model of the digital scanner. The public will now hear the initial call for service broadcast; however, follow up transmissions will be encrypted.

Keep your guard up

May showed an increase in burglaries from vehicles. Many of these were from unlocked cars with valuables in plain sight. In addition, there was an increase in shoplifting from commercial establishments. The best way to prevent theft from your vehicle is to always lock your car, and never have anything worth taking visible from outside your car. All other types of crimes continued at low levels. The WPRA website shows the statistics for the last three years as well as more details of crimes in council district 6. For more information, visit *wpra.net, scroll to the bottom of the page* and click on Local Area Crime Statistics. (Bob Holmes)

Pasadena in the air

Pasadena police have five choppers, with a crew of 15 who fly them, maintain them and conduct police operations. Pasadena Police's Air Operations Section coordinates with the Glendale and Burbank police departments, which have their own joint air patrols, to use the expensive equipment with maximum efficiency. Pasadena also provides helicopter patrols for nine other San Gabriel Valley cities. (Source: *Pasadena Sun*)

Update: Fire Station #39

By VINCE FARHAT

ue to seismic safety concerns, last year the City of Pasadena closed Fire Station 39, at 50 Avenue 64. Following a 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 a long-term solution — retrofitting and rehabilitating the existing station.

Late last year City Council approved the seismic retrofitting and rehabilitation of the existing facility, which the City estimates will cost \$2.4 million. An 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 this year. As a temporary measure until the permanent fire station is rebuilt, a rescue ambulance, which is staffed by two firefighter/paramedics, began operations at 159 Glen Summer Dr. on February 15. The following is an activity summary of ambulance activity between February 15 and April 30:

- Total number of calls: 87
 - Fire: 23% (20 calls)
 - Medical: 75% (65)
 - Service/freeway responses: 2% (15)
- Average response time:8:31 minutes for fire
 - 5:01 minutes for medical
 - 5:58 minutes for service calls
- 26 (of 75) days with no incidents.

Are you prepared for 'the big one'

By Lisa Derderian Emergency Management Coordinator Public Information Officer Pasadena Fire Department

e live in earthquake country, and seismologists predict that we are well overdue for a large earthquake that would overwhelm public safety and other vital resources. There is no question about whether disaster may strike. It's just a matter of when.

While most homes would probably remain standing, residents need to be prepared for what could be weeks without basic necessities such as water, power, heat and food.

- Make a plan. Planning ahead is the first step to a calmer and more assured disaster response. Develop your earthquake preparedness plan and evacuation plan with your family.
- Put together a kit. What you have on hand when an earthquake strikes can make a big difference in the hours and days afterward. Plan to store enough supplies for everyone in your household for at least three days - and don't forget about pets.

- Make sure each bedroom has a working flashlight easily reachable. If a big quake hits at night, chances are there will be no lights working after the initial shake as you check on others and make your way to safety.
- Take time now to locate "safe places" in each room of your home, such as under a sturdy table or desk or against an interior wall away from windows, bookcases and tall furniture that could fall.
- Get training. Arrange for your neighborhood, business or group to receive Pasadena Emergency Response Team (PERT) training offered by the Pasadena Fire Department. You'll learn disaster preparedness, first aid, fire suppression and light search and rescue. Call 626-744-7276 to arrange for your group's training.

To learn more about our efforts to keep Pasadena safe and to share your thoughts, visit ci.pasadena.ca.us/Fire/Fire_Safety_Priorities_ Survey

San Rafael Elementary principal to leave at end of school year

Alyson Beecher, principal of San Rafael Elementary School, stepped down from her position at the end of the school year. She led San Rafael Elementary for the past six years, and will assume a new role within the Pasadena Unified School District. She noted that she had extended her initial five-year commitment by one year to see the students who started kindergarten when she arrived graduate from San Rafael.

Beecher established several innovative programs at San Rafael, including the Literacy Cafe, which combines foodrelated activities with reading; an art and math collaborative with Pasadena Armory; and a Spanish dual language immersion program.

Campaign launched to support school music and arts programs

With music and arts on the school chopping block again, among other drastic cuts, the Pasadena Educational Foundation launched a fundraising campaign, "No More Cuts," at the All-District Music Festival at Pasadena High School in April.

The campaign will continue at various events through the school year, in hopes of preventing budget cuts to elementary school music and art programs. The campaign goal is \$80,000, but the primary purpose is raising awareness about Pasadena Unified School District's plight. Elementary music teachers have become nomadic under current conditions, serving several schools at a time, and losing any more would force the district to choose what school get music education. Art supplies, already squeezed to meager allocations, could be cut off entirely under the current budget plan. For more information, visit the PEF website at pasedfoundation.org

Turning the page to a new chapter

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 the school principal and staff on behalf of the students.

Dear WPRA friends:

ife is a series of stories with beginnings, middles and endings. Each of our lives would fill dozens of books. As I say goodbye to San Rafael Elementary, I feel that the most recent book in my life is coming to a close.

In my six years as principal of the school, I have encountered so many characters, events and storylines. And as with any book, I know that as I turn the last page and move on to the next narrative, it will be the characters whom I will miss the most.

During my tenure, I met and worked with so many people who, together, make up a very special community that is very difficult to leave. For example,

- The membership of the West Pasadena Residents' Association, so many of whom took such strong personal interest in the school and worked diligently to support its success;
- The neighbors and community members who stepped through the school's doors to volunteer and give their time and energy to the children
- Councilmember Steve Madison and his Field Representative Takako Suzuki, who are committed to the school as a cornerstone of the community;
- The San Rafael Library, which serves the school in a variety of ways

... all have had a part in the transformation of the school into what it has become today.

Though my personal story at San Rafael has reached its end, a new one for the school



Former San Rafael Elementary School principal Alyson Beecher spending a moment with students.

will begin in a few weeks. You will welcome a new principal. And with your support, San Rafael — already poised for further growth and expansion — will continue its remarkable progress.

Even as I move on to a new position within PUSD, I know that I will see many of you at various community events and quite possibly over at Little Flower, where so many informal meetings in the neighborhood happen.

One thing won't change: I'll be there to support and encourage the efforts of those in the West Pasadena area, especially your transformative work at San Rafael school.

Thank you for all you've done and continue to do; I wish you all the best in the next chapter.

Sincerely,

the Dar

Alyson Beecher

New animal care campus

Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA is expanding its role as a leading animal welfare provider in Los Angeles County by constructing a new Animal Care Campus on the corner of Raymond Ave. and Del Mar Blvd. The state-ofthe-art facility may open as early as January 2014. The 35,000 square-foot expansion will include a wellness and spay/neuter facility, a behavior, training and education center, an outdoor enrichment area, a larger retail store, subterranean parking, 36 new kennels and more.

CSC marks birthday with app

Nearly 1,500 Pasadenans have "visited" the Citizen Service Center in its first year. The CSC, located at cityofpasadena.net/csc, is a 24/7 connection to Pasadena city services and information. Through it, any time day or night, residents can request a service, report a problem or even compliment a helpful staff member — and now it's available through a smartphone app. See a problem? Take a photo and send it in. The app provides automatic mapping of every location-based request submitted, and a confirmation e-mail to let you know when the request will be handled. To get your smartphone Citizen Service Center app, go to cityofpasadena.net/ csc or directly to the Apple App Store or the Android Market at Google Play.

Enjoy a movie tonight!

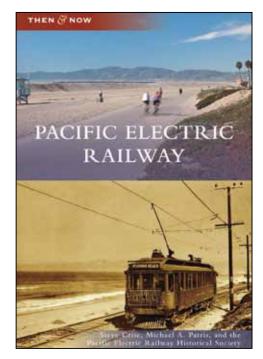
Checking out a movie has never been easier! You can now select, check out and return popular movie DVDs both classics and the latest releases at Pasadena Public Library's two new self-serve "media boxes" located at Central Library, 285 E. Walnut St. All you need to borrow DVDs is your Pasadena/Glendale library card. Browse the collection and reserve a DVD from home. After placing your reservations online, you have 24 hours to pick up your DVD selection. Check out up to six DVDs for seven days and simply return them directly to the media box.

PMH debuts new exhibitions

othing could illustrate the diversity of Pasadena's eclectic past and present better than the two exhibitions that Pasadena Museum of History will unveil on August 15.

The Pacific Electric Railway: Then and Now features the photographic collection of the Pacific Electric Railway Historical Society, recently featured in the book of the same title by Steve Crise and Michael Patris for Arcadia Publications. The exhibition, co-curated by the authors, will display an expanded collection of images found in this work from the PERYHS archives. On exhibit will be rare images from our past that will be compared with what can be seen in the same locations today, as seen through the lens of photographer Steve Crise.

Running simultaneously will be What A Long Strange Trip It's Been: 35 Years of the Pasadena Doo Dah Parade. This colorful, fun-filled exhibition will celebrate the wacky world of Doo Dah, named "America's Best Parade" by none other than Reader's Digest. The exhibition will include a photo wall of parade and crowd shots; vignettes of entries – including the Synchronized Precision Marching Briefcase Drill Team; costumes and memorabilia of various Queens and music groups. There may be more; but, to quote Ann Erdman, the grand marshal of the 2012 parade, "...this is Doo Dah after all, and one never knows…"



Cover of The *Pacific Electric Railway*, by Steve Crise and Michael Patris

The two exhibitions will be on display in the Museum's History Center Galleries from August 15, 2012 through January 13, 1013. For additional information, please visit www.pasadenahistory.org or call 626.577.1660, ext. 10.



Speaking of a "long strange trip," this shot is from the 2009 Doo Dah Parade. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)



Gone, but not forgotten Henry H. Markham's 'most pretentious mansion'

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

asadena was a small village of about 78 homes when Henry H. Markham and family arrived in February, 1879. In poor health, Markham had left his law practice in Milwaukee, attracted to Pasadena by an advertisement in a national magazine which read in part:

To Health Seekers: A Beautiful Home in a Beautiful Land A Fruit Farm in Southern California

He purchased the farm shortly after arriving. It was 22.5 acres, southwest of the intersection of Fair Oaks and California, with a small house, 750 fruit trees and a large vineyard.

In 1884, Markham was elected a member of the 49th Congress from the sixth district, which then included 14 counties — almost all of Southern California south of San Francisco. After serving only one term, he returned to Pasadena and his law practice in 1887, and in that year replaced the original house with what one writer labeled "the most pretentious mansion in Pasadena when built."

Another historical account said that the home at 703 South Pasadena Ave., near Congress Street, was "a residence that architects and builders pronounce the most elegant and conveniently-equipped of any in the city."

Elected governor of California in 1890, Henry Markham again served only one term, and returned to Pasadena in 1895. When he died in 1923 at the age of 82, the *Pasadena Star-News* described him as:

"A man of high ideals who brought to the public service all that is traditionally best in statesmanship, he gave unselfishly of his talents, and was in turn rewarded with the highest office within the gift of the people of California. ... Taking deep interest in public affairs, his active years as a practicing lawyer were never too crowded for him to find time Above: Henry H. Markham's home at 703 S. Pasadena Ave., either "the most pretentious mansion in Pasadena when built" or "a residence that architects and builders pronounce the most elegant and conveniently-equipped of any in the city."

to devote to civic causes in the life of the community."

From 1887 until it was torn down in January, 1939 the Markham home was a proud showplace in early Pasadena, and a reminder of one of its most remarkable citizens.

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



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Visit our website @ wpra.net

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Pasadena: city on call

Police Department

Emergency	-1-1
Pasadena Crime Stoppers	3477
Non-Emergency	501

Services

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

Frequently called numbers

City information operator
Abandoned vehicles (626) 744-7627
Alarm permits
Animal control
ARTS bus
Code enforcement
Dog licenses
Graffiti
Historic preservation
Neighborhood Watch
Park/picnic reservations
Parking permits/exemptions (626) 744-6440
Parking tickets
Street tree maintenance
Trash pick-up
Water/power billing inquiries (626) 744-4005
Yard sale permits

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

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Chris Holden, District 3 cholden@cityofpasadena.net

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Victor Gordo, District 5 vgordo@cityofpasadena.net

Steve Madison, District 6 *smadison@cityofpasadena.net*

Terry Tornek, District 7 *ttornek@cityofpasadena.net*