



THE NEWS

LAND USE / PLANNING

EDUCATION

OPEN SPACE / CONSERVATION

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

GOVERNMENT

PARKS / RECREATION

Metro drops San Rafael SR-710 alternatives; cuts options to five

WPRA board opposes all Metro 710 Freeway options

BY BILL URBAN
PRESIDENT, WPRA

Based on extensive input from our constituents and ample occasions for WPRA directors to personally experience Metro's unprofessional and duplicitous "outreach" during community presentations and board meetings, the West Pasadena Residents' Association board of directors on September 5 voted to oppose all five current Metro alternatives — not just the freeway and highway routes — slated to be included in a draft environmental impact report (EIR).

The resolution reads:

"The WPRA is opposed to all of the proposed options for the SR-710 draft EIR. No persuasive case has been made for these options. West Pasadena, as well as all of Pasadena, has suffered enough from freeway development over the years."

The five options currently being considered by Metro to close the 4.5-mile 710 Freeway "gap" between Alhambra and Pasadena are:

- **No build** — the existing freeway, arterial and transit system plus a series of system improvements that are already programmed in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program. None of these projects involve Pasadena.
- **TSM/TDM** — the existing transportation system, plus enhanced operations management and demand management activities
- **BRT 6** — a bus rapid transit alternative that in Pasadena would enter from the south on Fair Oaks, travel east on Colorado to Hill,

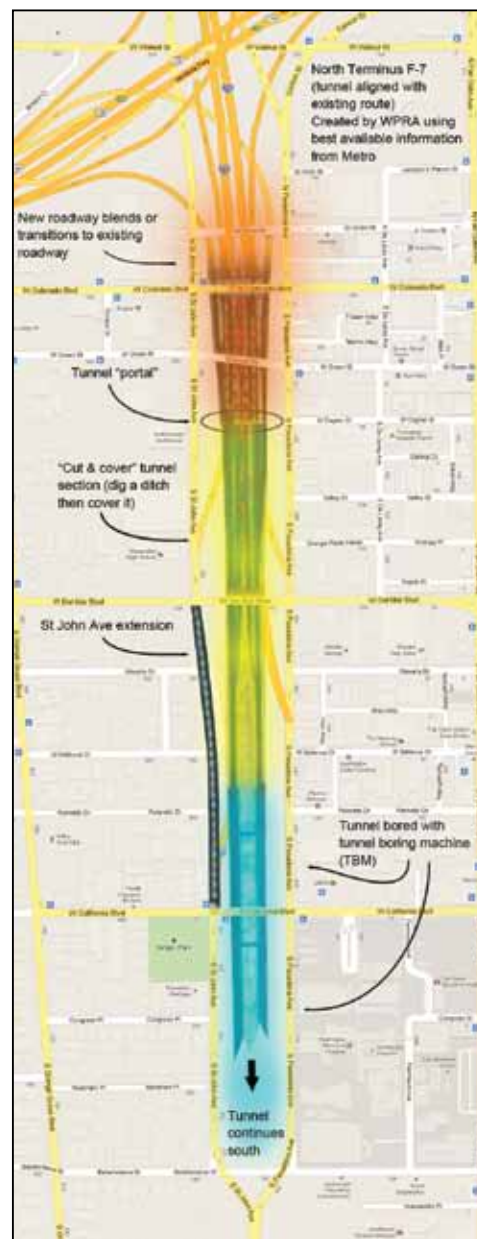
south to California, west to Lake and north to Colorado and then retrace to Fair Oaks and exit at the City limit.

- **LRT 4** — a light rail transit alternative that would enter Pasadena from the south through a tunnel under Fair Oaks Avenue and to an underground station adjacent to the Gold Line Fillmore Station near Arroyo Parkway and Fillmore Street
- **F-7 (freeway tunnel)** — a freeway tunnel that in Pasadena would be within the corridor already owned by the State, generally following Pasadena Avenue to the existing freeway stub.

Saying the study is in an early phase, Metro has released very few details. Most notably lacking is the potential impact the alternatives could have on local streets and neighborhoods. The WPRA board found no persuasive case for any of these alternatives.

For example:

- Metro's stated primary goal is "to help alleviate congestion and improve mobility," but it won't say if the goal is to move people, freight or both. *We think it matters.*
- Is the real purpose of the 710 extension to move container traffic from the Port of Los Angeles? *Wouldn't rail be a better and more cost-effective way to meet this need?*
- Is it a good idea to have a 4.5-mile tunnel and build vehicle exits/access points only at the start and end? How will we deal with all the car and truck pollution? How would Pasadena's air quality be affected? *Experts we consulted said that only a portion of exhaust pollutants can be removed from a tunnel of this nature with existing technology, less if traffic is not moving smoothly.*



Illustrated map of conceptual path of alternate F-7 (freeway tunnel) that would be built within the corridor, generally following Pasadena Avenue to the existing freeway stub. (Stylized by Blaine Cavena)

Continues on page 7

A study in contrasts: Metro and the neighborhoods

BY BILL URBAN
PRESIDENT, WPRA

Shortly after being installed as WPRA president this past May, I found myself, enmeshed in the controversy over Metro's proposed extension of the 710 Freeway to close the "gap" between the stump in Alhambra and Pasadena. Not surprisingly, it's been quite an education.

I am particularly surprised by the speed, fever, energy, dedication and effectiveness of neighborhood activists in Pasadena and our neighboring communities. Contrast this with what appears to most to be unprofessional and, in some cases,

duplicitous actions we've seen from Metro's SR-710 Study Team. Metro claims to be committed to transparency and community involvement, but I believe its actions tell a different story.

During July and August, I, personally, participated in six public 710 Freeway meetings — four were led by Metro and two were local city council meetings. During these meetings, I spoke about the project with Metro representatives, citizens from neighboring communities and technical experts.

A common perception held by many citizens and technical experts was that Metro outreach was really (in my words)

a "push." That is, Metro was pushing out carefully scripted and sometimes (we later found out) misleading information. Metro representatives didn't seem the least bit interested in listening to input from anyone.

A telling, and all too common example, occurred in the Pasadena City Council meeting on August 13, when the director of the SR-710 Study spent 20 minutes avoiding answering two simple questions that were repeatedly asked by our very patient Councilmembers: "Who is in charge?" "When will you make the next decision on your project plan?"

We must remain vigilant *and* vocal.

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

Geoffrey Baum

James B. Boyle Jr.

Joseph Cook (cook@wpra.net)
Communications co-director

Joan Hearst

Chuck Hudson (hudson@wpra.net)
Communications co-director

Laura Kaufman

Judy Klump

Richard McDonald (mcdonald@wpra.net)
Land use and planning chair

Audrey O'Kelley, past president

Marilyn Randolph (randolph@wpra.net)
Education co-chair

Priscilla Taylor

Michael Udell, past president

John Van de Kamp

Fred Zepeda, past president

Linda Zinn (zinn@wpra.net)
Membership, Open Space & Conservation chair

Commission's gain, WPRA's loss

In July, WPRA board member Vince Farhat was appointed to the Pasadena Planning Commission by Mayor Bill Bogaard. Following the precedent set by other WPRA board members when appointed, Vince resigned from the WPRA board to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.

While serving the WPRA since 1998, Vince has been president; a member of the executive committee; and founder of the weekly WPRA eNewsletter, *Neighborhood Update*. He has served on countless other board committees and as an editor and, most recently, a trusted, engaged, insightful adviser and writer for this publication.



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

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.

Arroyo sewer line to undergo rehab

By BLAINE CAVENA
TREASURER, WPRA

A trunk sewer built in 1924 runs south under Linda Vista Avenue, dips down into the Arroyo, crossing the flood control channel near the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center, and then runs south through the lower Arroyo along its eastern slope before continuing south on Arroyo Boulevard near La Loma Road. In 2010 some sections of this sewer under Linda Vista Avenue were rehabilitated by inserting new linings into the existing pipe.

Beginning late this year and extending to the summer of 2013, many sections of this sewer in the Arroyo and on its eastern slope, from the channel crossing near the Aquatic Center to just south of Bellefontaine Street, will undergo similar rehabilitation by Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (the owner of this sewer). The lining techniques used require no digging; existing manholes provide all necessary access.

Temporary trunk sewer bypasses will be installed to allow work to be performed without interrupting sewer flow, with piping and equipment at access points in the Arroyo and along Arroyo Boulevard. Pasadena has its own separate sewer serving Arroyo Boulevard so there should be no disruption of residential sewer function. (This was not the case in Linda Vista, where many residences are directly connected to the trunk sewer.)

The West Pasadena Residents' Association and District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison are working to minimize disruption in the neighborhoods, facilitate communications and ensure the Arroyo is cared for during this important and essential effort. A community meeting will be held this fall to provide citizens with more information on the project.

(The information for this article was provided by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.)

UCLA, pavilion brighten Fall; RBOC, City deal with funding gap

Excitement is building at the Rose Bowl. The UCLA football team is off to its best start in years, and Phase 2 of the stadium renovation is in the books. This season is offering a preview of the stadium's new premium seating pavilion — roughly 20% of which is in use and providing a whole new fan experience.

As former City managers Phil Hawkey, Cynthia Kurtz and Don McIntyre wrote recently in an op-ed piece in the Pasadena Star-News: "We are witnessing a unique blend of building for the future while preserving the past."

As you might guess with a 90-year-old building, preserving the past hasn't always

been easy, with unforeseen construction issues and unknown costs. As this publication goes to print, the expected cost is approximately \$165 million, which includes \$14 million in proposed deferments. Rose Bowl staff is working with the Tournament of Roses and UCLA to reach a consensus on which elements can be deferred.

In addition, "bridge" financing of approximately \$30 million will be needed to complete the project. In part, that's because some of the revenue streams — the 2014 BCS game and Legacy fund-raising — won't kick in until later.

District, parents, community discuss San Rafael school's future

By Catherine Stringer
Vice president, WPRA

Since the May announcement of the presence of four seismic faults underneath the San Rafael Elementary campus, precluding modernization of campus structures planned as part of the Measure TT bond construction program, Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) officials have worked with parents and City leaders to consider the options for rebuilding the campus or moving the school community — and its signature Spanish/English dual language immersion program — to another site.

In a series of meetings with parents led by San Rafael neighborhood residents Emily Mencken and Jim Patterson, who co-chair a school leadership committee on the issue, parents overwhelmingly supported rebuilding San Rafael on a portion of the property outside the fault setback zone or relocating the school to the site of the now-closed Linda Vista Elementary School campus, at the corner of Linda

Vista Avenue and Bryant Street. Either option would keep a public school in West Pasadena. A third option being considered by the district is to move the dual language immersion program to Allendale Elementary, 1135 S. Euclid Ave. Emily and Jim are also working closely with the West Pasadena Residents' Association and the Linda Vista~Annandale Association to explore the alternatives.

The PUSD board will make a final determination this fall about which option to pursue. In any case, San Rafael Elementary will remain open at least through the 2013–14 academic year. If PUSD decides not to rebuild on the current San Rafael campus, the WPRA board has asked to be involved in the district's plans for the current campus property.

PUSD posts all documents related to the seismic findings and options for San Rafael Elementary's future on its website. Learn more at srfaults.pasadenausd.org.

[Note: Catherine's two children are enrolled in the Dual Language Immersion Program at San Rafael.]

BRIEFS

City Ventures applies for Ambassador West landmark designations

In April of this year, City Ventures, master developer for the Ambassador West campus, submitted applications for landmark designation of two historic entities on the campus: the Jamieson House, also known as the "Terrace Villa," and the Grove Manor Apartments.

Terrace Villa is a Mediterranean Revival-style residence built in 1924 and designed by Pasadena architect Walter C. Folland for Stillman B. Jameison, a retired lawyer from Highland Park, Illinois.

The Grove Manor Apartments consists of five multi-family garden apartment buildings in the Minimal Traditional-Style built in 1949 by Lionel V. Mayell, a prolific builder of Modernist apartment buildings. (Source: Pasadena Heritage)

JPL on-site parking structure environmental assessment

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has issued an environmental assessment that considers the construction and operation of on-site parking structure at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) to replace the current East parking lot at the mouth of Arroyo in Hahamongna Watershed Park. For several decades, Pasadena has leased the 10-acre lot to JPL; the current lease expires next year on June 30.

In 2007 the City notified JPL that it intends to use the site to enhance local water resources with spreading basins. As the Draft Environmental Assessment states, "NASA JPL supports the City of Pasadena's groundwater improvement projects relative to environmentally beneficial use of its land as a spreading basin. Thus, NASA JPL must vacate the East Arroyo Parking Lot and construct an onsite parking structure."



Construction/destruction is underway at Ambassador West campus — City Ventures, the Ambassador West master developer, reports that Phase 1 construction of a 10-unit condominium structure along W. Del Mar is underway. By the end of November, the foundation will be complete and framing will start shortly after. Phase 2 construction is also now underway, most notably involving demolition of the Library and Library Annex, removal of several nonessential (unprotected) trees and laying of new utility lines. Construction on the planned 20-unit condominium structure, in the center of the campus at the top of the Great Lawn, and subterranean garage is expected to begin no later than mid 2013. A concept design review hearing about the Phase 3 proposal to construct five two- or three-story condominium buildings (39 total units) on the northwest corner of the campus, and two subterranean parking garages, was conducted in September. (Photo by Jody Hudson)

Notes from Pasadena Heritage

BY SUE MOSSMAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PASADENA HERITAGE

Freeway opposition for 35 years

The recent outrage over alternative routes for the 710 Freeway expansion is the latest uproar in the decades-long saga. For its entire 35-year history, Pasadena Heritage has been opposed to the freeway because of the dire consequences it would cause for historic homes and neighborhoods in Pasadena, South Pasadena, El Serena and Los Angeles. Though we were greatly relieved, along with many residents, that several alternatives that would have taken some version of the freeway to the vicinity Avenue 64 have now been set aside, it all comes back to the endangered buildings in the Pasadena Avenue corridor that have suffered for so long. Pasadena Heritage joined with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Los Angeles Conservancy and the city of South Pasadena in filing legal challenges to this project years ago. We continue to advocate for the proper maintenance and repair of the historic homes now owned by Caltrans along this corridor.

It's almost time for Craftsman Weekend

Pasadena Heritage's annual three-day Craftsman Weekend will take place October 19 – 21, headquartered at the Pasadena Convention Center. With walking tours, bus tours, an exposition with more than 60 exhibitors, lectures, special evening events and our Sunday house tour, the celebration of the American Arts & Crafts Movement is one of the largest such programs in the country. We expect to welcome visitors from the all over the U.S. and even overseas who come to Pasadena to experience our fair city as one of the best places in the world to see this period in architecture and the arts. Special guest speaker this year is the historian from the Stickley Furniture Company, Mike Danial, who will deliver two talks about the legendary furniture that started it all.

For more information or to buy tickets for any of the tours and events, visit Pasadena Heritage's website.



Planning, by design

In a nutshell: The 411 on the EIR

BY MIC HANSEN
PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER
DISTRICT 6 APPOINTEE

Q: I know that an EIR just came out about the NFL in the Rose Bowl, and aren't they talking about an EIR for the 710 Freeway? And I remember other projects that needed EIRs. I think I know what they are, but some more details would be helpful. When are EIRs done? How does the process work? How does the public participate in this process?

A: EIR stands for "Environmental Impact Report," which is a study required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) signed in 1970 by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan. CEQA was enacted to inform the public and decision-makers about potential

environmental damage. EIRs are detailed reports that analyze a proposed project and recommend alternatives to help avoid or lessen (mitigate) these damages.

Under CEQA, not every project requires an EIR. Usually, an initial study is conducted, and if this shows that there will be no substantial environmental damage from the project, then the project moves ahead under a Negative Declaration. However, if there is evidence that supports potential environmental damage (also called effects or impacts), then an EIR must be undertaken.

The EIR process has a number of steps:

1. The initial Notice of Preparation (NOP) summarizes the proposal and anticipated effects it may have, and usually gives a 30-day public response period where

comments are received, and further analysis and review conducted.

2. The Draft EIR (DEIR), which outlines the project's intent, environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and alternative versions of the project to consider, is issued.
3. A 30-45 day public review and comment period usually follows, during which hearings may be conducted and written comments collected.
4. The Final EIR — incorporating and addressing the comments — is prepared and submitted for approval by the appropriate agencies (such as advisory review by the Planning Commission and approval by the City Council).

EIRs contain descriptive information about the purpose, location and uses of a project. An EIR evaluates the changes the project will bring to the area, and how, if potentially detrimental effects are identified, these effects may be alleviated or mitigated.

EIRs usually consider air quality, cultural and aesthetic resources, water resources, noise, land use, recreation, traffic, public services, as well as other areas, as applicable. When it's determined during the EIR process that certain aspects of the project will have adverse impacts, mitigation measures are required to be put into place to lessen or remove these impacts.

For example, if a project design requires the removal of protected trees, then a recommendation may be to redesign the project to avoid removing the trees or to require the planting of a number of new trees to replace those that were lost.

Public participation is an important part of the EIR process and helps frame the content of the EIR. Notices and hearings are published and posted, and provide opportunities for all who are interested to take part and contribute.

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

WPRA comments on Devil's Gate sediment removal project

The West Pasadena Residents' Association in August responded to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) with comments on the 20-year Sediment Management Strategic Plan at Devil's Gate dam in the Hahamonga watershed.

While the WPRA recognizes the importance of managing flood risk, it also urged the County to expand the plan to include larger goals for comprehensive watershed management, "under which sediment is not solely thought of as a waste product to be trucked off and dumped at a different site ... a practice that is not sustainable beyond 20 years with the large volume of sediment that is predicted."

"The ramifications of sediment removal now involve massive environmental consequences, with the destruction of large natural areas at both the removal and disposal sites. The County needs to re-investigate the use of flow-assisted

sediment transport, with analysis and testing. River restoration is importantly linked with sediment management and could be tested in select areas.

"Currently, large volumes of storm water flow through concrete channels to the ocean. This huge waste of clean water is unacceptable — water is an increasingly valuable resource in Southern California, and there should be systems developed to capture every possible drop to replenish our groundwater aquifers. One way is to restore river channels where possible, to develop more natural stream environments that will aid in replenishing ground water and create a riparian habitat that can be enjoyed by people and the many wild creatures living in our Arroyo Seco."

The WPRA concluded the letter by quoting Albert Einstein: "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

The little bird that could?

Discovery of endangered species could stop MBMU soccer field

BY LINDA ZINN
OPEN SPACE CHAIR, WPRA
JOAN HEARST
BOARD MEMBER, WPRA

Can a little bird achieve what so many Pasadenans have been unable to accomplish over more than a decade? We hope so, since the City has once more proposed construction of a soccer field and parking lot in Hahamongna Watershed Park, which represents the majority of natural open space left in the city. Worse, that plan, which many residents previously and consistently opposed, has somehow found its way into the Arroyo Seco Master Plan of 2003.

After receiving withering input from many citizens (including a demand for a new environmental impact report; the previous EIR was conducted prior to the 2009 Station Fire, which damaged the Hahamongna watershed area) during the July EIR scoping meetings, City Council asked its staff to look for alternative sites for the field.

The staff returned several months later only to renew the proposal to build the soccer field and parking lot in the same park. They euphemistically called this reincarnation "The Multi-Benefit/Multi-Use Project" (MBMU). In addition to the soccer field, the project would also create a Westside perimeter trail and restore Berkshire Creek and the habitat along the western edge of the Devil's Gate basin.

The soccer field, however, would consume 27 acres of natural habitat and require raising the land by 12 to 25 feet. It would lead to significant deterioration of Hahamongna by adding pollution, noise and lighting. (Note: Additional lighting is not currently permitted in the park.) Also, it would destroy the habitat of at least 50 different species of birds and countless wildlife.

To add insult to injury, the grant money that the City may use to fund construction of the soccer field requires that underprivileged children be served by and have easy access to it. As most know, the park is remote, accessible only by motor vehicles and adjacent to one of the most affluent areas of our region. Additionally, given the City's current budget constraints, few believe the City could afford the cost of transporting underprivileged



The Least Bell's Vireo (Photo by Dave Bell)

children from elsewhere in the City to and from the park.

Thankfully, Pasadena Audubon members have been monitoring the birds that reside in Hahamongna. During a recent bird-watching outing, Dave Bell (no relation to the bird)

identified two Least Bell's Vireos. This little bird is on the federal list of endangered species in Southern California, and as such, may now have the power to stop the soccer field project.

Audubon members have documented the bird's presence with photographs and recordings and brought it to the attention of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which along with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), administers the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Long live the little Vireo!

To join the fight to save Hahamongna join the Facebook group "Save Hahamongna!" For additional updates, visit savehahamongna.org/mbmu.

ULI recommends strategies to better manage Central Arroyo

The Los Angeles-based chapter of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) was invited in late January to review upcoming Rose Bowl Stadium renovations and myriad issues surrounding the use of the Central Arroyo Seco, which surrounds the stadium. The City prepared a series of questions that formed the scope of the review.

The ULI panel subsequently developed a set of recommendations ("Strategies for an iconic landmark and its surrounding area") to "help the City better manage the Central Arroyo Seco, better coordinate activities, manage scarce resources, pool financial resources and improve the overall user experience."

To accomplish these tasks, the panel recommended that the city immediately:

- Create a Central Arroyo Conservancy;
- Create and manage a Rose Bowl visitors' program built on existing and potential visitor flows; and
- Develop a fee-based parking program for the Central Arroyo.

In addition, the panel recommended that the City and newly formed conservancy should plan and implement a series of near and longer-term Arroyo-wide improvements, including:

- Redeveloping the clubhouse so that it serves a broader range of visitors;
- Reimagining and reorganizing the golf course, including xeriscaping (to conserve water and use more drought-resistant plants), raising greens' fees, and coordinating with other users in the Arroyo;
- Reorganizing the parking and playfields; and
- Naturalizing the Arroyo stream.

The mission of the Urban Land Institute is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. Established in 1936, the Institute today has nearly 30,000 members worldwide, representing the entire spectrum of the land use and development disciplines.

Notes from Pasadena Beautiful Foundation

BY JOHN POER
VICE PRESIDENT
PASADENA BEAUTIFUL FOUNDATION

Summer is over, and Pasadena Beautiful Foundation has once again jumped into action by planting trees, clipping and weeding in selected city parks to fulfill part of its mission statement: "To protect and enhance Pasadena's urban forest and streetscape by encouraging beautification and sustainable landscapes, both public and private."

Tree fund update

The Windstorm Tree Fund that Pasadena Beautiful Foundation established, along with the Pasadena Community Foundation, received a substantial boost late this summer. The Kaiser Foundation gave a grant of \$30,000 specifically for the purpose of replanting trees downed or damaged in the windstorm. So far the total raised is over \$70,000, every penny of which will be used for this purpose.



Commercial design awards

Every four or five years, Pasadena Beautiful Foundation presents "Pasadena Commercial Design Awards," which recognize recently renovated commercial property that has gone above and beyond with its design, presentation and landscaping. Those who will receive an award on Thursday, October 18 at the Westridge School campus, are:

- The Broad Center for the Biological Sciences, Caltech Campus
- St. Andrew's Church piazza, 140 Chestnut St.
- Arlington Garden, 295 Arlington Dr.
- Westgate Apartments, 231 S. De Lacey Ave.
- Sequoyah School, 535 S. Pasadena Ave.
- La Casita del Arroyo, 436 Arroyo Blvd.
- Locust Street mural, near the corner of Locust and Allen
- Westridge School for its Science Building, 324 Madeline Dr.
- Arroyo Parkway, City of Pasadena
- Fillmore Station, Fillmore Street and Arroyo Parkway
- Fuller Seminary Hubbard Library and Garden, 135 N. Oakland Ave.

More information may be found at the PBF website: pasadenabeautiful.org

WPRA board opposes...

Continues from page 1

- Could the money be better spent? Metro estimates the cost to build the tunnel at \$5 billion; other experts, using comparisons from smaller tunnel projects — this project would be the largest tunnel in the U.S. — put the cost between \$12 billion and \$25 billion.

The WPRA's efforts to oppose the 710 Freeway alternatives were initially focused on the San Rafael area. In August and September, the WPRA:

- Mailed postcards to more than 1,800 households in the San Rafael area to provide what for many was the first complete and accurate description of the two San Rafael alternatives;
- Financed and printed many of the yard signs and banners posted on lawns and buildings around the area;
- Financed additional signs and banners for local activists to distribute;
- Set up and managed an email system enabling residents to send an email to a single email address — metroboard@wptra.net — to automatically send a personal message to more than 30 Metro board members and other political and administrative influencers. To date, more than 600 residents have sent emails;
- Appeared and spoke at multiple Metro board meetings, Metro "outreach" sessions, and Pasadena, South Pasadena and Los Angeles city council meetings;
- Submitted formal letters stating our strong opposition to various 710 alternatives;
- Distributed multiple blast emails to inform recipients of this issue and announce upcoming meetings and to urge action;
- and
- Supported and facilitated the District 6-hosted information forum held on September 18 at the Pasadena Convention Center.

These activities, in concert with major efforts by the Church Street Neighborhood Organization, Linda Vista-Annandale Association, San Rafael Neighborhoods Association and many dedicated individuals, resulted in Metro's early decision to reduce the alternatives under consideration from 12 to five.

To learn more about this issue, visit the WPRA website, metor.net/projects/sr-710-conversations, or write to President@WPRA.net.

A thank-you to our donor-members!

The WPRA 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 August 2011 and August 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@wpri.net.*

Platinum

Robert J. DeBlasis	Bob and Kathy Gillespie	Chris and Lois Madison	Eileen White Read and
Barney and Courtney Evans	Donald Hall	Steve Madison	Charles C. Read
Mr. and Mrs. Richard N. Frank	Sarah MacDowall and Jim Levin		Fred G. Zepeda

Benefactor

Mark and Pam Algorri	Cherie and Mark Harris	Rick and Jennifer Madden	Glenn and Magdalena Rothner
Linda Beek	Lois and Jonel Hill	Michael McCormick and	Phil Sotel
Allan and Terri Comstock	Priscilla and Gary Hoecker	Christine McCarthy	G & R Sugimoto
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Dencik	Kelly and Steven Huang	Richard and Rosemary McDonald	Nino and Bob Sutcliffe
Louise O Dougherty	Bob Koch	Adolfo and Isabel Méndez	Lonee and Charles Urtuzuastegui
Jon Dudley and Colleen Williams	Carolyn Kunin	Audrey O'Kelley and Jim Fahlgren	Chris Wadden and Susan Booth
Tom and Patricia Ellison	Mark and Phaedra Ledbetter	Alfred and Jeanne Paiz	Tim and Janet Walker
Dr. Richard C. Gilman	Pat Lile	Gordon J. Pashgian	Robert Walp
Mic Hansen and Len Evans	Ethan and Joanne Lipsch	Samantha Pietsch	Dick Wood

Patron

Franklin and Rosie Acevedo	Barbara Campbell	Richard and Barbara Ealy	Kenneth Glazier
Les Allan	Dr. and Mrs. Howard D Cantwell	Veronica and Bob Egelstom	Fred Glienna
Mr. and Mrs. W. Reid Allen Jr.	Virginia and Blaine Cavena	Mary Ann Eldridge	Juliet and Rob Goff
Norman and Anna Arnheim	Maggi Cherniss	Steve and Janet Elkins	Eric and Audrey Gray
John and Margaret Asher	Chuck and Janet Chillingworth	Steve English and Molly Munger	Jean Greco
Bob and Jan Ashford	Gary and Marlene Ching	Edward Engs	Kathleen Grzegorek and
Elie and Joanna Attar	Ruth Christensen	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Esbenshade	Jamil Tahir-Kheli
Beverly and Donald Bailey	Helena Chui and Nancy	Mr. and Mrs. Falardeau	Vincent F. Guinan
David A. Bailey	Nielsen Brown	Frank Falzetta	Jim and Tina Hart
Lourdes C. Baird	Don and Sally Clark	David Farah	Elaine Hawkes
Marlene Konnar and John	Richard Clark	David and Christine Farguson	Charlotte S. Hayden
Baldeschwieler	Dawn Herbeuex Cobb	Vince and Betsy Farhat	Thomas Hays
Eugene and Liz Baldridge	David and Susan Codiga	Dave and Mitsuko Felton	Pamela and Craig Hearn
Dan and Sandy Bane	Dee Cody	Ty H. Fernandez	Ron Hemingway
William J. Barney	Mr. Kenneth L Colborn	Rafael and Racquel Fineza	Phyllis and Michael Hennigan
Geoffrey Baum and Lisa Gallaway	Michael Connell	Belinda Fischer and Peter Lee, MD	Betty R. Henno
William and Susan Bauman	Herb and Francine Cooper	Janet and Robert Fitzgerald	Christine & Curt Hessler
Andrea Becker	John and Bette Cooper	John and Ruth Fleck	Charles Hilliard and
Bob and Louise Beggs	Lynn and Carl W. Cooper	Clarence and Anne Fleming	Laila Muderispach
Doug Bello	Dr. Cheryl M. Craft	Sue and Dick Fletcher	Cece Horne
Martyn Belmont	and David Lain	Francine and Ralph Flewelling	Barbara and John House
Vera Benson	Larry and Dinah Crispo	Clifford Ford	Chuck and Jody Hudson
Joan and Gerry Bergman	Bill Crowfoot	Tom and Louise Fox	Marylou Ingram
Barbara and Scott Bice	Ms. Wendy Currier	James B. and Jane Fox	John and Carol Jacobsen
John and Linda Bidasio	Patricia Curry	Richard R. Frank	Paul and Missy Jennings
Lasley and Jack Biven	James Cutt and Frances Marsden	Lauren Frankel	Dr. and Mrs. Jeyaranjan
Philip and Lourdes Bloom	Ambassador and Mrs.	Will and Anita Freeman	Marilyn and Phil Jordan
Mrs. William E Bloomer	Peter H. Dailey	James and Harriet Fullerton	Mary Lou Judson
Stuart and Rebecca Bowne	Tim and Gay Degani	Katherine Gabel and Eunice Shatz	Michael and Janet Kadin
Judith B. Brandt	John and Elena DeMarco	Jim and Priscilla Gamb	Laila Karme, MD
Claire Bryan	Bill and Margi Denton	Jill Ganon and David Arnay	Harvey Kaslow and Alicia
Ernest A. Bryant	Deping DeQuattro	Anita and Anton Garnier	McDonough
John and Pat Bucklin	Dolores Diaz-Carrey	Mr and Mrs Ryan George	Bill and Priscilla Kennedy
Timothy Butler and	Steve and Christina Doerfler	Dennis and Susi Gertmenian	Lisa Kenyon
Robert Morris, MD	Barbara Donagan	Don and Meg Gertmenian	Mr. and Mrs. Khalaf E Khalaf
Rick Button and Mary Hinkley	Robert and Ginny Doyle	Tom Gertmenian	Richard Kirtland
Mrs. Lois Calhoun	Ken and Juliet Duncan	Garth Gilpin and	Edward Kleinbard
Joan and Charles Callanan	Richard C. Dunn	Elizabeth Smalley	Judith S. Klump

Ryan and Alison Knoll
 Janet A. Kobrin
 Pat Korbel
 Susan and Doug Kranwinkle
 Sidney and Hiroko Kunitake
 Coralie Kupfer
 Gary and Teresa Kvisler
 Marianne Lamutt
 Joseph Laws
 Janet and Jeff Leitzinger
 Robert and Sylvie Levis
 Sara Lippincott
 Yvonne Llewellyn
 Henry Lo
 Bob and Patricia Locke
 Claude and Frank Logan
 Donald Lomas
 Jack and Mary Loos
 Else and Robert Lord
 Sam and Gail Losh
 Gail Lovejoy
 Fred Lowe and Karen DeMott
 Lois Ludwig and Jerrold
 Betty J.
 Bob Mackin and Merrilee Fellows
 Lourita E. MacNeill
 Willy and Eileen Mahan
 Bob Malone
 Bob and Marvine Malouf
 Richard T. Mandeville
 Maranatha High School
 Marlow and Herrad Marrs
 Ilene and Howard Marshall
 John and Patricia Martin
 Phillip and Lois Matthews
 Laura Matz
 Bill and Nancy McDonald
 Delford McGee
 Judith McLaughlin
 Mel and Marcia Means
 Emily and Scott Mencken
 William Meurer
 Mr. and Mrs. Lary Mielke

Carolyn and Charles Miller
 Louisa N. Miller
 Ann and John Mills
 Kris Miner and Phyllis Chang
 Norah Morley
 Cathy and Steve Morrison
 Larry and Petite Morrison
 Charles Morse
 Mr. and Mrs. R Stan McClain
 Dr. and Mrs. John Nackel
 Andrew and Martha Nasser
 Timothy Neufeld
 Mei-Lee Ney
 Christopher C. Noble
 Linda and Mary Nolan
 Howard and Virginia Noll
 Dennis and Linda O'Leary
 Juanita and Ray O'Marah
 Kay and Steve Onderdonk
 Gary and Ellen Osheroff
 Ron Paler and Michael Loya
 Tom and Cheryl Palfrey
 Gary and Julie Pantiskas
 Linda Eliana Paquette
 Randy and Lee Parks
 Pasadena Museum of History
 Ken and Sharon Pelton
 Maiya Penberthy
 Diana Peterson-More
 John Poer
 Dick and Jill Polsby
 Mary Prickett
 Marilyn Randolph
 Diana Raney
 Amy Regalado
 Brent and Carla Riggs
 Dorothy S. Rogers
 Rose Bowl Operating Company
 George R. Rossman
 John Rouse
 Virginia H. Rowan
 Joyce and Jan Sakonju
 John and Olga Salisbury

Elizabeth Loucks Samson
 Michael Sanchez
 Dave Schaar
 Bill and Sharon Schlarb
 Richard and Esther Schuster
 Jason and Colleen Schwab
 Katherine and Chris
 Schwarpenbach
 Norman Schwartz
 Teri Schwartz
 Dr. Michael Scoggins
 John and Sharon Scull
 Donna and Jerry Secundy
 Thomas Seifert and
 Dianne Phiibosian
 Linda and John Seiter
 Pat Shanks
 Anthony Shaw, M.D.
 Shirley R. Shivers
 Mike Sigler
 Barbara Simpson
 Betty and Norri Sirri
 LP Smith
 Marcia L. Smith
 Robert and Judith Spare
 Jim and Judy Spencer
 Anonymous
 Sarah and Chuck Steidel
 Roger W. Stephens
 Robin Stever and Ricardo
 Barrantes
 John Stipanov and
 Cynthia Sherman
 Storrier-Stearns Japanese Garden
 Catherine Stringer and
 Paul Pierrandozzi
 Jaynie and Woody Studenmund
 Kelly and Geraldine M. Stumpus
 Raymond W. Suchy and
 Gregoria Karides Suchy
 Walt and Dottie Sumner
 Lorraine E Supple
 Edmund Sutro

Dawn Suttle Forkner
 John and Lee Taylor
 Christopher S. and Pat Teske
 The Baltimore Fund
 The Valley Hunt Club
 Martha and John Thompson
 Robert Thorell
 Danzey Treanor
 William and Susan Tully
 JoAnn Turovsky
 Sid and Betsey Tyler
 Michael and Melissa Udell
 Pete and Joan Ulyatt
 Bill and Jaime Urban
 John and Andrea Van de Kamp
 Jim and Gail Vernon
 Paula Verrette
 Paul and Char Vert
 Bart and Pam Wald
 Jim and Robin Walther
 Lily L. Wang
 Mike Ward
 C.F. and P.D. Waterman
 George Way and Maria Low Way
 Frank and Barbara Way
 Normarie Waybourn
 Lawrence S. Westfall
 J. Patrick and Lynda Whaley
 Anne and Gary Wheatcroft
 Judy and John Whiting
 Edgar and Peggy Whitmore
 Kathy and Warren Wimmer
 Robert Winter
 Elsbeth Wittler
 Bill and Rebecca Woods
 Anonymous
 Fran and Amnon Yariv
 Larry M. Young Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Heinz Zaiser
 Stanley Zerme, MD
 Linda Zinn



WPRA 2012-2013 membership

Print or type, then return this form with your contribution.
 Make your tax-deductible check payable to **WPRA**.
The WPRA never releases your personal information.

Thank you for supporting the WPRA!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State & ZIP: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Email: _____

*Name as it should appear in the newsletter _____

- ☐ Do not send email updates to this email address.
- ☐ Tell me how I can help the WPRA and West Pasadena.

Please indicate your membership level:

- ☐ \$25 Associate
☐ \$50 Friend
☐ \$100 Patron*
☐ \$250 Benefactor*
☐ \$500 Platinum*
☐ \$_____ Other*

**Donors of \$100 or more are acknowledged in the newsletter. Please indicate below the name to be used for this purpose.*

Please return to:

WPRA, P.O. Box 50252, Pasadena, CA 91115

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

City will continue to observe Brown Act

The Pasadena City Council, on behalf of all city commissions, operating companies and other bodies subject to the Brown Act, unanimously approved a motion to continue to observe all of the Act's provisions, despite the State's decision to suspend certain requirements and reimbursements to local governments during the 2012-2013 budget year. The State, in 1953, approved the Ralph M. Brown Act (also known as the California Open Meeting Law) to guarantee the public's right to attend and participate in local legislative sessions. Since then, cities including Pasadena, have posted agendas with a general description of matters to be considered or discussed at least 72 hours prior to that meeting.

Windstorm tax relief bill signed into law

California Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law a bill that provides tax relief to residents and businesses suffering damage as a result of last year's fierce windstorm. That law (from Senate Bill 1544) enables taxpayers in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties whose property was damaged during the windstorm on December 1, 2011, to carry forward 100% of their uninsured losses for 20 years and to claim losses on amended tax returns. (Source: *Pasadena Star-News*)

Caltrans wants to change speed limit on Pasadena Freeway to 45 mph

When in 2011 Caltrans renamed the Pasadena Freeway, now known as the Arroyo Seco Parkway, it was more than just semantics. By dropping "freeway" from the title, Caltrans can change the rules on the 8.2-mile portion of the 110 between downtown Los Angeles and Pasadena. First on the list of recommended changes is to reduce the maximum speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph from Glenarm Street in Pasadena to the I-5 junction. (Source: *Pasadena Star-News*, 8/2/2012)



Happy Birthday, Pasadena. District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison and Pasadena Police Chief Phillip Sanchez share a cake knife and the moment during the synchronized cake-cutting ceremony during the City's 126th birthday party in late June. The event, co-sponsored by the City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Museum of History, provided an annual opportunity for Pasadenans to reflect on our rich, diverse and fascinating history, as well as to share our hopes for the future. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)

OPINION:

Are you ready for NFL football?

BY NINA CHOMSKY
PRESIDENT

LINDA VISTA~ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION

The Linda Vista~Annandale Association asks if you're ready for...

- Football in the Central Arroyo, weekend after weekend — UCLA on Saturdays and the NFL on Sundays for at least six months each year (up to 23 games a year), including the probability of UCLA and the NFL playing in the Rose Bowl on the same weekends?
- NFL Rose Bowl games to start in mid-August and continue into January?
- Two week-day evening games per season and Sunday night games?
- DOUBLE the traffic, air pollution, noise, trash and degradation of the physical condition of the Central Arroyo?
- 75,000 NFL fans per game, plus an unknown number of ticketless tailgaters in the Central Arroyo and our neighborhoods?

- NFL tailgating outside the stadium for hours, including continuous alcohol consumption (as opposed to UCLA), plus commercial events like the "NFL Experience"?

- All forms of community-based recreation in the Central Arroyo to be prohibited continuously for days at a time for nearly half the year; these include golfing, kids' soccer, swimming, Tournament of Roses Float activities and all Loop activities?

And are you ready for all this to go on for FIVE years?

The City has started the process to approve the lease of the Rose Bowl Stadium to the National Football League for five years (which would involve increasing the number of major events from 12 to 25) even though there's NO NFL commitment for any Los Angeles-based team, and NO contract detailing what the NFL will demand from Pasadena and what the NFL will pay the City.

We were heard on the 710 Freeway. Now it's time to be heard on the NFL in the Rose Bowl.

BRIEFS

Cities cash in on film shoots

The City issues about 480 film permits a year and for about 800 film days a year. Film permit revenues bring the city about \$750,000 each year. (Source: *Pasadena Sun*)

There's an app for that!

Graffiti? A shopping cart? Some roadside debris, a dark streetlight, a broken park sprinkler or drinking fountain? There's a quick way to report it using a free app for your Apple or Droid smart phone, with many issues handled in less than 24 hours; sometimes the same day.

For app information visit the Citizen Service Center web page at cityofpasadena.net/CSC/ — where you can also report issues directly, without using a smart phone.

Pasadena joins regional homeless effort

A new initiative by the United Way, "Homes for Good," has set for itself a bold challenge in the fight against homelessness in Los Angeles County: move thousands of the region's chronic and veteran homeless into permanent homes by 2016.

The project may seem like a utopian ideal to some, but many believe it can happen. The initiative has distributed \$105 million in public and private funds to homeless service organizations throughout Los Angeles County, including those in Pasadena.

For Pasadena, it means \$143,000 in additional funds for the homeless and housing vouchers for the 20-unit Mar Vista apartment complex to house homeless families. (Source: *Pasadena Star-News*, 8/16/2012)

Foundation partners with City to refurbish La Casita del Arroyo

BY VINCE FARHAT
CAMPAIGN CHAIR

La Casita del Arroyo ("The Little House on the Arroyo") is a West Pasadena icon. It serves as a neighborhood meeting house, water demonstration garden and butterfly sanctuary. It has also been the major community project for the Pasadena Garden Club since it was designed by Myron Hunt and built as a public works project during the Great Depression.

After a devastating fire in 1985, La Casita was repaired and restored by the City, at which time the Pasadena Garden Club assumed responsibility for the design and installation of the Isabelle Greene/Yosh Befu garden, which demonstrates the use of native and non-native Mediterranean climate plants.

Today La Casita faces new challenges. Although the gardens continue to flourish, La Casita itself has suffered serious wear and tear since its reconstruction almost 30 years ago. The bathrooms and kitchen are in very poor condition, and the central meeting room is in dire need of refurbishment.

Recognizing this, the City has partnered with the La Casita Foundation to raise funds to refurbish La Casita so it will continue to be a special community resource for future generations.

The La Casita Foundation recently launched a community capital campaign to raise funds for this important project. District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison and the West Pasadena Residents' Association recently co-sponsored a community "friendraiser," which brought together neighbors, garden enthusiasts and community leaders to celebrate La Casita's past and plan for its future.

Actor and garden enthusiast William "Bill" Christopher served as master of ceremonies. Bill is a West Pasadena resident and is best known for playing Fr. Mulcahy on the television series *M*A*S*H*, as well as Pvt. Lester Hummel on *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.*

For more information about how you can support the refurbishment of La Casita, visit lacasitadelarroyo.org.



La Casita del Arroyo. Reproduced with permission by Wayne Frost Photography © Wayne Frost (waynefrost.com)

BRIEFS

Residential burglaries

Residential burglaries continue to be the most prevalent type of crime in our area. The most potent force in combating these crimes is ... you. Would-be thieves often park on the street and watch for people to leave their homes.

Call the Pasadena Police at (626)744-4241 if you see a stranger parked nearby. Also, when you leave your home, make sure all windows and doors are locked and your alarm is set. If you'll be gone for more than a few hours, tell your neighbors, who can then be alert to any illegal activity at your house.

A common scam

In one common scam, two people come to the door asking for a drink or to use the bathroom or to make a phone call. While you are engaged in talking with one of pair, the other will take whatever valuables are lying about.

When strangers come to your door, speak to them through a closed door. (If you don't answer the door, they may assume no one is home and break a window to enter the house).

Call the police at (626)744-4241 and give them a description of the people and their vehicle. If you feel you're in danger at any time, call 911.

Back to school creates new opportunities for theft

Pasadena schools are back in session, and this means lots of new cell phones and tablet computers are in students' hands. This creates new opportunities for those who hope to profit by stealing these devices.

Remind your children to never leave their devices unattended or in plain sight.

Crime rate remains low; police credit vigilant citizens

By BOB HOLMES
CHAIR, NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY, WPRA

Statistics released by the Pasadena Police Department show that crime rates in West Pasadena continue to be low, as compared to previous years.

Five burglaries from vehicles were reported in August, as compared to 12 in August 2010 and five in August 2011. Vehicle thefts were up slightly from 2011, with five in August compared to four in August 2011. These levels were well below the 12 recorded in August of 2010.

Residential burglaries continue to be a problem. Twelve burglaries were reported in August, the same as in August 2011. In August 2010, nine residential burglaries were reported, however, that followed the breakup of a burglary ring in July.

Police credit part of the decrease to vigilance on the part of citizens who report suspicious activities to the police. This enables the police to focus their attention in those areas and either capture the burglars or drive them out of the area.

The West Pasadena Residents' Association publishes crime statistics on its website page:

- Go to wpra.net
- Scroll to the bottom of the page
- Click on Local Area Crime Statistics

You will be able to see the numbers of crimes reported for 2010 – 2012, as well as a chart which presents the information in a graph. In addition, more detailed numbers are shown for each City Council District for the past several months.

The Pasadena Police Department reports that in 2011 it made 8,562 arrests, 67 of which involved use of force. Recently, the department has been criticized for use of force in arrests. The department is addressing the problem and plans to hold a public meeting on the subject.

That meeting will address the department's policy on use of force and discuss how the policy has been applied in the field. The WPRA will provide notice of the date and time of that meeting in the weekly eNewsletter, Neighborhood Update. If you do not receive the Update, send an email to update@wpra.net and ask to be added to the distribution list.

Update: Fire Station #39

On February 15, 2012, a rescue ambulance and two firefighter/paramedics were placed in service at 159 Glen Summer Rd. In this six month period (through end of August) the unit responded to 297 calls for service, including several on Glen Summer Road.

The calls were for medical assistance, fire alarms, traffic accidents and a variety of miscellaneous reasons.

Plans for the permanent replacement station have been completed and were put out to bid in late September. The City expects to complete the project by the end of next year.

The project scope will include a complete renovation of the building's interior, a seismic

retrofit of the building's structure, along with accessibility upgrades and new mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. Total project cost is estimated at \$2.4 million, which was approved by City Council under the Capital Improvement Program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call 626/744-4655.



BRIEFS

**PUSD adopts
\$174 million budget**

With continuing uncertainties as to the amount of money the district will receive from the state this year, the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education on June 26 formally ratified a \$174 million operating budget for the 2012-2013 year. The budget includes \$7.3 million in cuts and one-time savings. This budget, however, hinges on the outcome of the education tax initiatives slated for the November election.

**PEF announces \$300,000
grant from AT&T**

Through a nationwide highly rigorous and competitive process, Pasadena Educational Foundation was awarded a \$300,000 grant from AT&T in recognition of their success and effectiveness in preparing students for success for college, apprenticeships and other post-secondary programs. Funding will support the Pasadena Unified School District's College and Career Pathways as part of its Aspire program. The funds, to be awarded over the course of two years, will support PUSD's high-school programs that prepare students for successful careers and higher-learning opportunities in specialized fields.

**PCC cancels winter session,
moves up spring amid protests**

The Pasadena City College's board of trustees has cancelled the winter session. The new 2012-13 calendar, which moves up the start of spring semester to fill the void left by canceling the winter period, was approved on a temporary basis, giving administrators a chance to bring the changes to the negotiating table with the PCC Faculty Association.

The association already opposed the change, submitting a request to postpone the vote. The board also approved an administrative reorganization that will eliminate some top administrative positions and combine departments under single heads. (Source: *Pasadena Star-News*)

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 Rudy Ramirez, the school principal, and his staff on behalf of the students.

**Dear West Pasadena residents:**

It is with great honor and privilege that I write to you as the new principal of San Rafael Elementary School. Although I am new to the Pasadena Unified School District, I feel as though I have been here forever. The students, parents, staff, and community have welcomed me with open arms and contagious smiles, and it truly feels like home.

Great things are happening at San Rafael this year. Over the summer, our PTA partnered with the district on several improvements to both the upper and lower playgrounds and our common areas, including the installation of new sod, asphalt and a beautiful mural. Very soon, we will spend a weekend repainting games such as four-square and hopscotch on our blacktop, which will definitely make San Rafael feel more like home.

Our preschool program has been redesigned into two Dual Language Immersion classes. These new classes teach 100% of the day in Spanish. Our goal is to better prepare our incoming students for our signature Spanish/English Dual Immersion Language Program, which in its fourth year has expanded to 228 students in nine classes for 2012-13.

I know WPRA has been very supportive of San Rafael, and I look forward to enhancing our partnership for the benefit of our students and our community. Our goal is to make our school the jewel of the Pasadena Unified School District. I am sure that with your involvement, the sky's the limit!

Rudy Ramirez

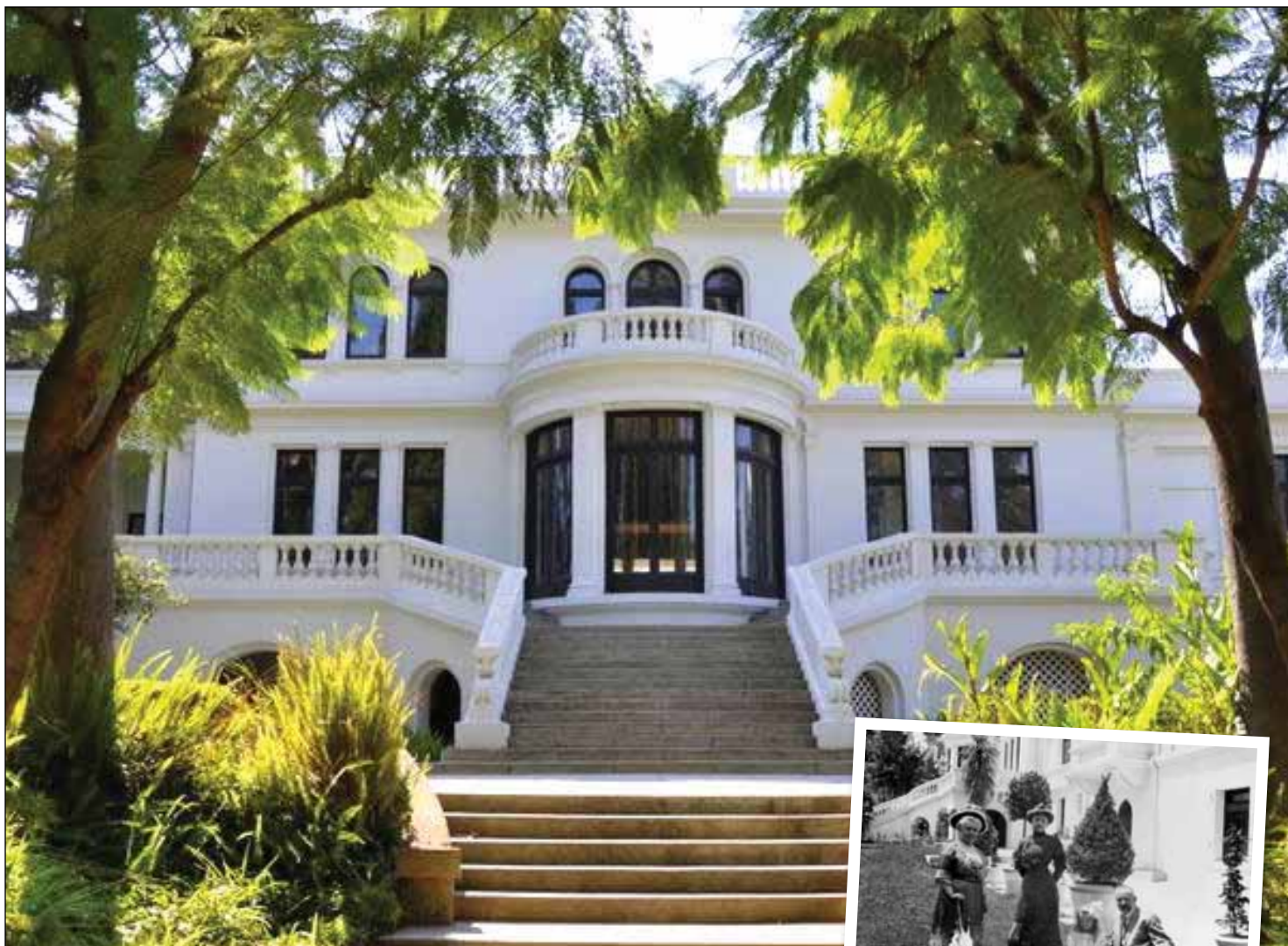


Rudy Ramirez, principal, San Rafael Elementary School (photo by Marilyn Randolph)

About Rudy Ramirez

"I come to San Rafael having served as a principal in both El Rancho and Saugus Union Unified School Districts, and, early in my career, as a classroom teacher in a variety of classroom settings and grade levels. At San Rafael, I aim to leverage all of my professional training and work experience in collaboration with teachers, parents and the community to create the best elementary school experience for all of our students. I live in Arcadia with my wife, Annette, also a school principal, and our three children, Metzli, Izel and Joaquin. Since our eldest is a senior in high school and our youngest just turned 10 months, we have our work cut out for us on the home front!"

— Rudy Ramirez



Above: the Fenyes mansion today (photo by Thomas Holaday); Right: the Fenyes family in 1911 poses outside their residence; from the left are Eva, Leonora, "Babsie" and Adalbert

Welcome to the Fenyes Mansion!

Historic Orange Grove residence reopens for tours

More than two years after the landmark 1906 Fenyes mansion at Pasadena Museum of History was closed for extensive repairs and renovation, PMH docents will once again stand in the elegant foyer and bid visitors a warm welcome. Public tours of the Mansion resume on Friday, December 7, and will be offered at 12:15 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year.

"We are pleased to offer museum members the first opportunity to visit, with a series of special members-only tours on select dates in November," notes PMH Executive Director

Jeannette O'Malley. "In addition, this Fall we launch a year-long series of special programs related to the mansion, the family, and the Victorian/Edwardian era."

Since 2010, the mansion has been undergoing a \$1.7 million rejuvenation that includes exterior painting and recreation of the original balustrade, interior painting, air conditioning installation and wall covering replacement. In addition, mansion closure made it possible to repair and/or restore select items in the house.

Designated a Pasadena Cultural Heritage Landmark in 1965 and a California Point

of Historical Interest in 1993, the Fenyes mansion is unique historically, having housed four generations of the Fenyes-Curtin-Paloheimo family.

Today the legacy of this philanthropic family is carried on by the Paloheimo Foundation, which has funded this renovation. Its foresighted generosity, along with the vision and determination of the seven PMH trustees who spearheaded the project, was celebrated at the September 29 gala reopening and ribbon-cutting.

Gone, but not forgotten

A stink in 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

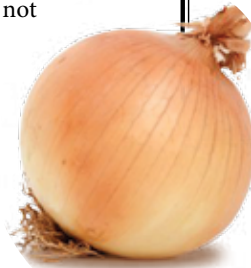
For many in West Pasadena, a reason to celebrate arrived a few days before the Fourth of July in 1899. Shortly after 9 pm on June 30, “residents of the west side really enjoyed a rather expensive illumination,” according to the Pasadena Daily Evening Star.

In less than a half hour, a two story wood building on Bradford Street near Grand Avenue was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin. Hundreds rushed to see the fire, which eliminated “a source of much annoyance to the residents of Orange Grove Avenue.”

For nine years, the “onion factory,” as it was popularly known, emitted a powerful odor that pervaded west side homes and was “present at all meals” during the drying season in summer. The business was actually named

the “Condensed Vegetable Company” – “manufacturers of condensed vegetables and evaporated fruit.” The Pasadena Daily News noted that “this fashionable residence district has not endured the presence of the factory, where tons of onions threw off their lusty aroma, without protest, but the effort to have it abated as a nuisance was not successful.”

At the time of the fire there were about eight tons of onions in the building, and eight to ten tons of potatoes. “That they were roasted to a finish, there can be not the slightest doubt,” the Star reported, “with the dying aroma of the succulent vegetable still hanging on as if loath to desert the neighborhood in which it had heretofore caused so much annoyance.”



ROASTED ONIONS.

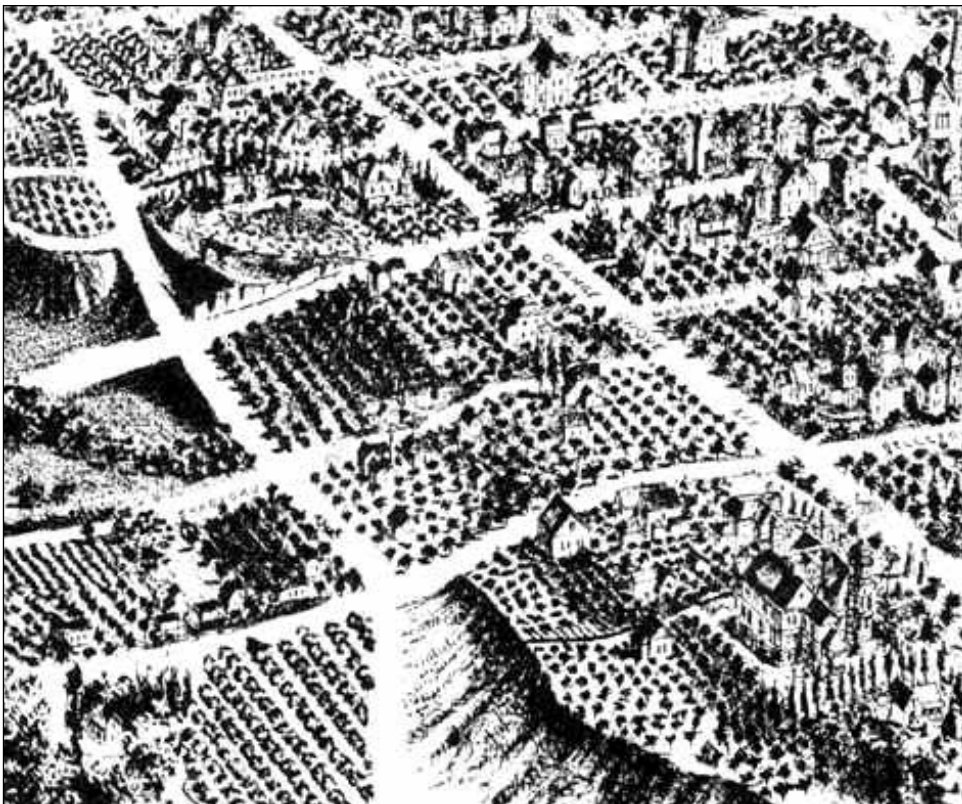
A Large Quantity of the Odiferous Vegetable Ruined.

Many Tons of Potatoes Were Burned to a Crisp.

The Famous Onion Factory a Mass of Charred Ruins—Heavy Loss, but no Insurance — Another Small Blaze.

Above: Headline for the article in the *Pasadena Daily Evening Star* on July 1, 1899. Both the *Star* and the *Pasadena Daily News* had fun reporting the story.

Bottom left: Close-up of a lithograph of Pasadena in 1895 shows the area of Bradford Street and Grand near the center. The nearest fire hydrant was nearly 2,000 feet away, and the News reported that the fire “had its own way” before the fire department was able to make the connection.



After the fire was nearly over, the owner, D.G. Baker, remarked “I suppose now the people on Orange Grove Avenue are satisfied.” Undoubtedly they were. They would not have to suffer the next round of onion drying, which had been planned to occur about a month away. The Daily News printed a joke the next day. “It is not true that the tony Orange Grove Avenue residents are making up subscriptions today to start a new onion factory.

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.

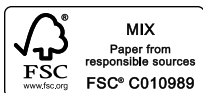


**WEST PASADENA
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Post Office Box 50252
Pasadena, CA 91115-0252

Visit our website @ wpra.net

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PASADENA, CA
PERMIT #1105



Pasadena: city on call

Police Department

Emergency..... 9-1-1
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

Frequently called numbers

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

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

Make your own motion!

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

smadison@cityofpasadena.net

Terry Tornek, District 7

ttornek@cityofpasadena.net