



LAND USE / PLANNING

EDUCATION

OPEN SPACE / CONSERVATION

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

GOVERNMENT

PARKS / RECREATION

WPRA, citizens mobilize on multiple fronts

On the Western front

WPRA supports EIR suit against City

The WPRA Board on December 13 unanimously approved a motion to help support a lawsuit with the Linda Vista~Annandale Association, the San Rafael Neighborhoods Association, and, possibly, others, to legally challenge City Council's certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) related to the potential temporary lease of the Rose Bowl by an NFL team. The WPRA also unanimously authorized a contribution to help fund the lawsuit.

Previously, the Board had unanimously voted to inform City Council of its opposition to certification of the EIR, as it was presented in draft form. The Board based its decision on its conclusion that the City had failed to require that the EIR include analysis of certain aspects and conditions, which a December 2011 WPRA survey showed had to be met for our constituents to support such a project. (see sidebar story below)

Despite a swelling chorus of opposition, City Council on November 19 voted to certify the EIR anyway and amend the relevant ordinances to permit an expanded number of major events in the Rose Bowl, which would likely accommodate the NFL's needs.

*Continued on page 12*

On the Eastern front

WPRA battles over 710 Freeway tunnels

The WPRA board, along with many area city governments and elected officials, opposes LA Metro's plan to dig two double-decker, 4.5-mile, freeway tunnels that would extend the 710 Freeway from I-10 in El Sereno to the 710 stump in Pasadena. The following Q&A's provide additional insight into why the WPRA and so many others oppose the 710 Freeway tunnels.



Q. What problem is Metro trying to solve?

A. Good question. Metro's stated objective is to "improve mobility and relieve congestion between SR-2, I-5, I-10, I-210 and I-605 in Northeast Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley."

Q. What are Metro's proposed solutions?

- A. In addition to the tunnels option (F-7), Metro is studying the following alternatives:
- Expanding existing freeways, arterial and transit systems (no build)
 - Enhancing operations management and demand management activities (TSM/TDM)
 - Developing a rapid-transit bus alternative (BRT 6)

Continued on page 10

Community fights for San Rafael Elementary's future

Step on to the grounds of San Rafael Elementary today, and you'll encounter a thriving community of children learning in two languages, and a vibrant campus that boasts many improvements to play spaces amid the historic buildings and towering trees, which are a signature of the neighborhood. San Rafael is currently the only operating public school in West Pasadena, and the WPRA Board has actively supported it by organizing volunteer events, providing financial support for enrichment programs, and advocating on a range of issues affecting

the school and its students, staff and families.

Since the May disclosure of seismic faults running beneath the nearly century-old campus, San Rafael parent leaders and Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) officials have continued to discuss the options for rebuilding or relocating the school and its highly successful Spanish/English Dual Language Immersion Program. The school had been planning several upgrades to the campus (funded by



the Measure TT bond program) when the faults were discovered. The State prohibits structural improvements to public school buildings within 50 feet of faults.

Many parents of San Rafael students, following months of conversations with PUSD staff and board members, have advocated for either rebuilding on a portion of the San Rafael campus outside the setback zone (50 feet from projected fault lines) or relocating the school to Linda Vista Elementary, which was closed by the District some years ago and is the only other PUSD school site west of the Arroyo.

Continued on page 3

Where does your WPRA money go?

The WPRA is supported by the donations of its members. While we receive very modest sums from interest on deposit accounts and from the very limited advertising that occasionally appears in our newsletter, 99% of our revenue comes directly from you. We receive no grants or other funding from government or institutions, and have no other sources of revenue.

Currently, we are budgeting in this fiscal year to spend \$57,700 in the following ways:

- **67%** for producing and delivering our quarterly newsletter and weekly email Update, with a very small portion funding our annual meeting
- **15%** for grants to worthy organizations and events that directly affect our community, including public education
- **8%** for expenses associated with our Internet/web presence and processing of on-line donations

- **10%** for administration and clerical expenses, insurance premiums, tax filings, and preparation and mailing of donation acknowledgement letters

Additionally, through careful expense management and your generosity, we've accumulated a reserve fund for major issue advocacy.

This reserve has supported spending well in excess of budgeted amounts on past and current issues such as Ambassador/Sares-Regis, NFL/Rose Bowl and the 710 Freeway, and provides the "deep pockets" sometimes required for legal fees, consulting, education and communications.

While our advocacy reserve is essential when we need to respond quickly, we depend on your donations to continue such advocacy and to replenish the reserve for the future.

We take our financial oversight role seriously, believing the donations you entrust to us deserve our wise and thoughtful consideration.

Like you, the WPRA is affected by the economy, and donations are down. With the benefit of a small surplus accumulated over the years we have chosen to run a modest deficit this year rather than reduce or cut the services and support we provide to our community.

The WPRA is an all-volunteer organization with no paid employees. No benefits or "perks" are provided to any director or volunteer, beyond the personal satisfaction of contributing to our community.

If you'd like to learn more about our budgeting and finances or volunteer for a more active role with the WPRA, please attend one of our monthly board meetings — and remember that your generous donations allow us to achieve our mission of maintaining the character of our community and enhancing the quality of life in West Pasadena.

— *By Blaine Cavena, WPRA Treasurer*

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)

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Membership, Open Space & Conservation chair



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

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Visit our website at wpra.net

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



In December, Cindy Estorga, Marketing and Community Relations specialist for Whole Foods Arroyo, presented a check for \$1,592.51 to Pasadena Community Gardens. The money, which will help PCG complete its first community garden at 721 S. Pasadena Ave., came from equally generous Whole Foods shoppers who, in July, August and September, contributed their spare change (through the "Recycle Your Change" program) at the register. In the photo, with a stunt check, are Pasadena Community Gardens Board members Raquel Garcia, Sachiko Speaks, Co-chair Jody Hudson, Los Angeles Community Garden Council Executive Director Al Renner, Kyra Haussler and Co-chair Cathy Morrison. (Photo by Brian Speaks)

Community fights...

Continued from page 1

At its December 11 meeting, the PUSD Board of Education discussed the potential closure of additional school campuses in the District due to declining enrollment at many of its school sites and projected budget shortfalls in the coming years. San Rafael was on the short list of schools considered for closure during the last round of PUSD school consolidations in the fall of 2010. The school was spared closure at the time, and in the two years since has seen its enrollment increase significantly with demand for the Dual Language program. The school now draws families from the immediate neighborhood as well as throughout Pasadena and surrounding cities.

For now, the District has agreed to keep open the option of relocating the school to the Linda Vista site, despite a hefty price tag to renovate and expand campus buildings needed to accommodate the rapidly growing program at San Rafael. District officials have largely dismissed the notion of rebuilding at San Rafael because of the even greater projected expense.

Leadership of the Linda Vista~Annandale Association (LVAA) has expressed support for reopening the Linda Vista campus and appeared at the December 11 meeting to urge the Board to reopen Linda Vista as a public school.

The Board will not make a final decision about San Rafael Elementary's future until sometime next year, and the school will remain open at least through the 2013-14 academic calendar. Meanwhile, the students, staff and families continue to invest in a program that is widely recognized as a rising star among education programs in the city.

The campus, despite going without its promised upgrades, sports new murals and playground equipment thanks to the efforts of parent volunteers, and buzzes with the excitement of teachers and students creating a unique learning community for the 21st century — building on a strong foundation poured nearly 100 years ago.

— *By Catherine Stringer, WPRA vice president. Catherine's two children attend San Rafael and participate in the dual-language immersion program.*

"Come grow with us"

Pasadena Community Gardens prepares to open garden gates

If you're a resident of Pasadena and would like to grow your own fruit, vegetables and/or flowers, but don't have the space to do it at home, you're in luck. Pasadena Community Gardens (PCG) is preparing to kick off a membership drive for its first garden at 721 South Pasadena Ave. (between California Boulevard and Bellefontaine Street, and across from Huntington Hospital).

To find out more about the garden membership application process, as well as volunteer and donor opportunities, make plans (and save the date) to attend a public forum:

- When: Saturday, March 9 OR Sunday, March 10 at 1 pm
- Where: Huntington Hospital's Braun Auditorium, 100 West California Blvd.

(enter from S. Pasadena Avenue, across the street from the garden)

NOTE: Those who wish to become a member of the garden must attend one of these two sessions.

Pasadena Community Gardens' mission is to transform abandoned, vacant properties into attractive and beneficial edible community gardens; teach the benefits of sustainable, eco-friendly gardening; and preserve these gardens for generations to come.

For more information, visit PasadenaCommunityGardens.org or our Facebook page "Pasadena Community Gardens."

Pasadena Community Gardens is NOT affiliated in any way with Pasadena Community Gardens Conservancy.

BRIEFS

Update: Ambassador West construction

The first condo structures are rising from the ground on the Ambassador West campus, W. Del Mar. Developer City Ventures reports the podium for the first 10 units is almost done, and that the first building will be complete in July of 2013. A sales office will open in the Spring. Meanwhile, construction has already started on the second phase of the project. Utility connections are underway, and the site has been cleared for construction of a new building. Work on this second building, which will include 21 condo units built over a subterranean parking structure, will begin this year. City Ventures also announces that it has added another member to the project management team. Joining Ben Besley and Ron Ewing is Brian Buckridge, a veteran of the City Ventures mixed-use project in downtown Alhambra. Brian will focus on construction of the residential buildings.

EIR underway for new Marriott hotel

The proposed Marriott Residence Inn, at the northwest corner of Fair Oaks and Walnut, consists of the new construction of a 144-room, five-story, 94,091 square-foot extended-stay hotel. The hotel will include a 117-space underground parking garage. The site has been vacant since 2007. The project, as presented, appears to adhere to the intent and requirements of the City's General Plan and the Central Business District Specific Plan, and should complement neighboring uses to support the Old Pasadena Business District. It will also create an entrance to the City's northwest gateway corner that's compatible with its urban context and encourages pedestrian-oriented, less-motorized circulation between Old Pasadena and Northwest Pasadena. The Draft Environmental Impact Report is expected to be released for public comment in January 2013.

— Richard McDonald, WPR Planning and Land Use chair



A young crowd dances to a live band in the Exhibition Hall. Social events and dances were popular uses for the Hall in its early decades, as well as flower shows and exhibits open to the public. (Historic photo courtesy of the City of Pasadena; no date or photographer identified.)

Pasadena Heritage celebrates, marks and monitors

BY SUE MOSSMAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PASADENA HERITAGE

This year marks Pasadena Heritage's 36th year. The second largest preservation organization in California, Pasadena Heritage remains a strong voice and vital force in the community. With the picture now improving for new development, the organization's advocacy efforts are sure to be called upon regularly in 2013.

New historic district

The Markham Place Historic District, encompassing the local Gov. Markham Landmark District, will soon be officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Final adjustments to the nomination are in progress and approval from the Keeper of the National Register in Washington is expected soon. Pasadena Heritage nominated the district (previously determined eligible) to strengthen the area's pedigree and to increase opportunities for possible preservation incentives. A second goal was to highlight the area's historic significance as the 710 Freeway extension controversy continues and in case Caltrans-owned properties are put up for sale. A second district further south, the Pasadena Avenue District, could also qualify for actual

National Register listing when time and funds permit.

Projects to watch

City-owned structures are high on Pasadena Heritage's list these days, including the former YWCA, Glenarm Steam Plant building, the Rose Bowl and the original Exposition Hall behind the Civic Auditorium. In all cases, historic preservation is a critical goal as these facilities are rehabilitated.

- Pasadena Heritage is carefully reviewing proposed changes at the Steam Plant (see related article on page 11). The building and fountain, on the corner of Glenarm and Fair Oaks, are designated Historic Monuments, so change must include the protection of these historic features. While it's true that improving our local power-generation facilities can benefit all of us, Pasadena Heritage simply wants to ensure the City maintains the important historic flavor of the building.
- The Rose Bowl renovation project, for all its financial stress, continues to move forward with the historic features of the Bowl being well treated. We believe it's

Continued on page 5

Planning, by design

Historic preservation can pay off with the Mills Act

BY MIC HANSEN

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER

DISTRICT 6 APPOINTEE

Q: A neighbor said she got tax relief from the Mills Act because she lives in a historic house. Could you explain what the Mills Act is? AO, S. Grand Avenue

A: The Mills Act, passed in 1972, is a California tax-incentive program for the conservation of historic properties by private property owners. It grants participating local governments the authority to enter into contracts with owners of qualified historic properties who actively participate in the rehabilitation, restoration, preservation and maintenance of their historic structures according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The City of Pasadena established its Mills Act Program in 2002.

Mills Act contracts are for an initial term of 10 years, at the end of which they are automatically renewed each year, on a rolling 10-year basis. The contract stays with the property in case of transfers.

For a building to "qualify" for Mills Act participation, it should be a designated landmark or historic monument, a work of Greene and Greene, listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places or a contributing property to a designated Pasadena Landmark District or National Register District. For possible exceptions, visit

the Design and Historic Preservation Section of the City's Planning Department website.

A single-family home must have an assessed value of \$1.5 million or less to be eligible to apply. One exception per year may be granted for special considerations outside the above limits. Applicants are asked to submit a plan for future rehabilitation of their property. If the building has already been rehabilitated or is not in need of rehabilitation, then it is not eligible to participate. The City can process up to 20 contract agreements for single-family residential properties each year.

As a rule, owners who have bought their homes in the past 10 years are most likely to benefit from this plan. Long-term owners of historic properties or properties with relatively low assessed valuation will probably not be able to effect savings. Savings are not guaranteed and may vary a great deal, although the average benefit to Pasadena owners has been a 54% reduction in property taxes.

All assessed values are subject to annual review to reflect market variations. The County Assessor is the authority for all valuations after the contracts are signed. Owners considering application for the Mills Act Contract are encouraged to consult their financial advisors.

For detailed and up-to-date information, including exceptions to some rules, and for Mills Act forms, visit the Design and Historic

Preservation Section of the City's Planning Department, 175 North Garfield Ave., window #4 in the Permit Center Lobby, or through the City of Pasadena Web site.

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

The WPRA needs you

If you'd like to serve your community and do it with a group of your neighbors who are equally dedicated, the WPRA encourages you to join your neighborhood residents' association. If you live within the WPRA service area (see page 2), we'd welcome your help.

Got the local *news bug*? Just curious about your city (and would like to share news with 1,000 or so of your closest friends), consider serving as a co-editor of this weekly eNewsletter, the *Neighborhood Update*. It will only take a few hours a week (on your own schedule) in the month or two a year in which you serve. We'll train you.

We have lots of opportunities to serve on one of our many committees:

- **Land use and planning.** If you care about what, how and where it gets built.
- **Education:** If you want to help save public education in West Pasadena.
- **Open space & conservation.** If you care about preserving open space and conservation of land and resources.
- **Membership.** If you'd like to help us continue to build and serve our membership so we can do more for our members.

If you'd like to chat about ways we could help you become more involved or, more likely, more effective (by helping us), send an email to president@wpdra.net. Tell us about your interests.

Pasadena Heritage...

Continued from page 4

important to protect our stadium, while improving it for several reasons. First, because it's so rare. Most of the historic college stadia across the country have already been lost. Second, the Rose Bowl has been designated a National Historic Landmark — the highest in the land. And last, but not least, we believe that the stadium's history and traditions are keys to its successful marketing and financial viability in the future.

- How smart of our early civic planners and

architect Cyril Bennett, who designed the historic Civic Auditorium, to include exposition space for shows, exhibits and parties! With the skating rink now removed, the first Exhibition Hall is again vacant, and the Pasadena Center Operating Company is evaluating the auditorium's space, future programming and rehabilitation needs. A comprehensive study should be available in early 2013.

For more information, visit pasadenaheritage.org

BRIEFS

The 2012 Arroyo Verde Awards

The annual Arroyo Verde Awards recognize those who have made a valuable contribution to protecting and improving the Arroyo Seco watershed and our local communities over the past year. This year's winners include: Lee Zantson (Best Advocacy), the Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy (Greening the Arroyo: Organization), Pasadena Water and Power (Greening the Arroyo: Governmental Entity), Theodore Payne Foundation (Greening the Arroyo: Commercial Association), Lin Cher (Best Volunteer), Dianne Patrizzi (Citizen Activist), Pasadena City Councilmember Terry Tornek (Public Official), Lewis MacAdams (Lifetime Achievement) and Meredith McKenzie (Special Award).

A&F Conservancy raises \$675K for Millard Canyon purchase

The Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy has raised \$675,000 to purchase part of Millard Canyon. The 13-acre area in Millard Canyon above Hahamongna Watershed Park is a prime wildlife corridor and a good habitat for amphibians and other species, including at least 80 bird species in the tree canopy. The parcel is west of the La Vina housing development and east of homes in The Meadows, another residential neighborhood. Leaving the parcel undeveloped preserves a connection between open space north of JPL and the foothills north of Altadena.

Forest Service opens new Angeles Forest headquarters

The U.S. Forest Service in December dedicated a new \$14 million Angeles National Forest headquarters at 701 Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia. The funds, totaling \$20 million from the American Reinvestment and Recover Act, paid for the environmentally friendly headquarters, trail reconstruction and water-system upgrades. — Source: Pasadena Patch, 12/11/2012

ASF wins \$3.3M grant for Hahamongna

The Arroyo Seco Foundation (ASF), in cooperation with the Los Angeles Flood Control District and Pasadena City Council, has secured a \$3.3 million State grant to improve water reliability and environmental conditions in the Hahamongna watershed area.

The grant comes from the California Department of Water Resources as part of Proposition 84, which was approved by California voters in 2006.

"We are pleased that we've been able to win this funding for Hahamongna and to work in partnership with Pasadena on a project that is a model of environmental stewardship and community involvement," says Tim Brick, managing director of the Arroyo Seco Foundation.

"The project, he adds, "will save innumerable fish in the Arroyo stream and millions of dollars for Pasadena ratepayers."

The grant will enable the ASF to:

- Upgrade the Arroyo Seco water intake structure to capture Pasadena's full water rights
- Evaluate the potential advantages of an inflatable dam
- Improve recreational opportunities for local residents by installing a restroom, interpretive signage, picnic tables, a water fountain and a horse trough
- Restore riparian habitat in the Arroyo Seco stream by removing unused facilities, planting native plants, improving fish conditions and removing invasive species



The water intake structure, in this photo, was designed to divert 25 cubic feet of water per second (cfs) to help the City reduce its reliance on imported water from the State Water Project and the Colorado River. Storm damage following the 2009 Station Fire reduced the amount the City is able to divert to 18 cfs. In addition, a similar structure on a stream running through Millard Canyon, a tributary to the Arroyo Seco, was completely destroyed by the storms. The Lincoln Avenue Water Company, as a result, is currently unable to divert any of its allowable 7 cfs from the stream. The grant, among other things, will fund repair of both intake structures.

Pasadena Beautiful completes mission to replace wind-storm trees

By JOHN POER
VICE PRESIDENT
PASADENA BEAUTIFUL FOUNDATION

In late November, Pasadena Beautiful Foundation completed its commitment to replace trees downed or badly damaged in the December 2011 windstorm that devastated many areas of Pasadena.



PBF raised \$43,000, including \$10,000 from the Pasadena Community Foundation, to purchase and plant 316 trees. Planting began early last spring and was concluded within two days of the one-year anniversary of that horrific storm. In addition, PBF paid to re-stake 135 trees that were toppled in the high winds.

The effort was led by PBF board member, Emina Darakjy, who personally selected all of the new trees and advised the City about proper species and sites. Among the replacement tree species are quercus agrifolia, southern magnolias, Chinese elms, camphors,



Newly planted Southern Magnolias on S. Orange Grove Boulevard

jacarandas, southern live oaks and California sycamores.

This, of course, doesn't mean PBF won't be planting more trees in the future. After all, planting trees was the basis for Pasadena Beautiful's founding in 1960.

If you see a location in need of a new tree, or perhaps discover a dying tree, call 626/795-9704. We'll make every effort to replace it.

For more information visit our website at pasadenabeautiful.org.



This 12,130 pound potato (equal to 32,346 medium-sized potatoes) visited Pasadena late last year, making a stop at the Fork in the Road park in West Pasadena. The visit was part of the Idaho Potato Commission's 75th anniversary.

PH receives state preservation honor

Pasadena Heritage was recently honored by receiving the California Preservation Foundation (CPF) 2012 President's Award in recognition of its 35 years of historic preservation. CPF is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of California's diverse cultural and architectural heritage.



Haddads restore Japanese garden for historical, cultural and personal reasons

PHOTOS BY DEANIE NYMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Few cities in the nation have a richer history of ornamental gardens than Pasadena. One can travel back more than a century to encounter private and public home gardens such as Jeanne Carr's 42-acre Carmelita Gardens (1877); Glen Rosa, the 30-acre Nelmes' family garden; the 10-acre Durand family's estate garden (1904); and Adolphus Busch's 30-acre garden (1905) that was the original Busch Garden.

One garden, however, that may not be quite as well-known today is the spectacular Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden, for which restoration has just been completed by Jim and Connie Haddad.

The original garden

In 1931 Charles Storrier Stearns and Ellamae Sheppard were married. They started their life together in a three-story Georgian mansion, Ellavista, on an estate covering more than seven city lots on Arlington between South Orange Grove and South Pasadena.

During that time, the couple made several trips to Japan, which surely served as the inspiration to create the crowning touch to Ellavista: a Japanese garden. To realize their dream, in 1935 they hired master Japanese landscape designer Kinzuchi Fujii. The commission turned out to be the one great one of Fujii's life. He devoted the next seven years of his life to it.

According to Leslie McGuire, managing editor of Landscape Online, the garden Fujii created is now the oldest true Meiji garden in California. Construction began in 1937 and was nearly complete when Fujii was relocated to an internment camp soon after the outbreak of World War II.

Garden transition and decline

Charles died in 1944, and Ellamae passed away four years later. In 1950, a year after Ellamae's death, Gamelia Haddad Poulsen, mother of Jim Haddad, bought the estate at a probate auction.

Ms. Poulsen gradually sold off most of the estate, including the mansion, which was dismantled for reuse elsewhere, but kept the Japanese garden and enough property to build a house for herself and her husband. She kept the garden maintained until 1976, when Caltrans, using eminent domain, acquired a valuable easternmost piece of the property. Caltrans also took an easement for its trucks to use during the then-planned construction of the 710 Freeway, which would have sliced right through the middle of the garden.

Believing that the garden was lost, Mrs. Poulsen let it fall into disrepair and sold off some of the valuable artifacts. The final blow came in 1981 when, under mysterious circumstances, the teahouse burned down. Four years later Mrs. Poulsen died.

Garden restoration

The garden continued to languish until 1990, when Jim and his wife Connie decided to restore the garden to its former state for historical and cultural reasons and to honor his mother's memory.



Left: Rock-lined walkways bound the ponds and guide the visitor through the restored garden

Above: The NiKo-an Teahouse ("Abode of Two Ponds")

Above right: Walkway

Right: Charles Storrier Stearns and Ellamae Sheppard pose in the mid-1930s in their new Japanese garden.

Far right: Jim and Connie Haddad take a well-deserved respite amid the beauty of their restored garden.



Progress was slow through 2004-5, until the Haddads hired Takeo Uesugi, professor emeritus of landscape design at Cal-Poly Pomona and one of the leading experts on Japanese garden design, to take charge of the project. To ensure the restoration was accurate, the Haddads and Uesugi followed Fujii's original plans, which included rebuilding the teahouse.

On February 15, 2005, the restored garden was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and listed as a California Historical Landmark on the California Register of Historical Places. Additionally, the garden was recently awarded a Historic Preservation Award, in a ceremony in the garden, by the City of Pasadena.

Inside the Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden

- An 11-foot entrance gate, similar to the original, which was sold when the garden was thought lost
- Two large interconnected and irregularly shaped ponds in the style of the Edo period
- More than 2,000 granite boulders and large rocks, trucked in from the Santa

Susana Pass north of Pasadena, to represent an ocean shoreline

- Two waterfalls, one cascading 12 feet into the larger pond and the second flowing gently into the pond next to the teahouse
- A 25-foot hill forming the eastern boundary of the large pond
- A winding, dry "riverbed" of stones through the garden that catches the overflow from the pond in heavy rain
- Four original bridges and one replacement bridge
- A rainwater harvesting system to collect water in a 10,000-gallon cistern for use in maintaining water levels during drier months
- The NiKo-an Teahouse ("Abode of Two Ponds"), an exact replica using the plans of the original teahouse
- A waiting house constructed of cedar logs to permit visitors a transition into a contemplative attitude before completing a stroll around the garden
- Plants and trees are typical of a Japanese woodland: black pine, Japanese maple, Chinese elm, camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons and a variety of ferns

- Native California trees: California redwoods, live oak and sycamores
- Live, silk and cork oaks; a purple leaf plum and a peach tree; Canary Island, Aleppo and Yew pines

Register for January 27 open house

The restored Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden will be open to the public on Sunday, January 27. If you wish to view the garden on this day, however, you must first reserve your place in a docent-led tour for a nominal fee. Tours will be conducted at 10 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. Send an email to info@japanesegardenpasadena.com for more details, payment (nominal) instructions and confirmation of your place in a tour.

Battle over the 710 Freeway

Continued from front page

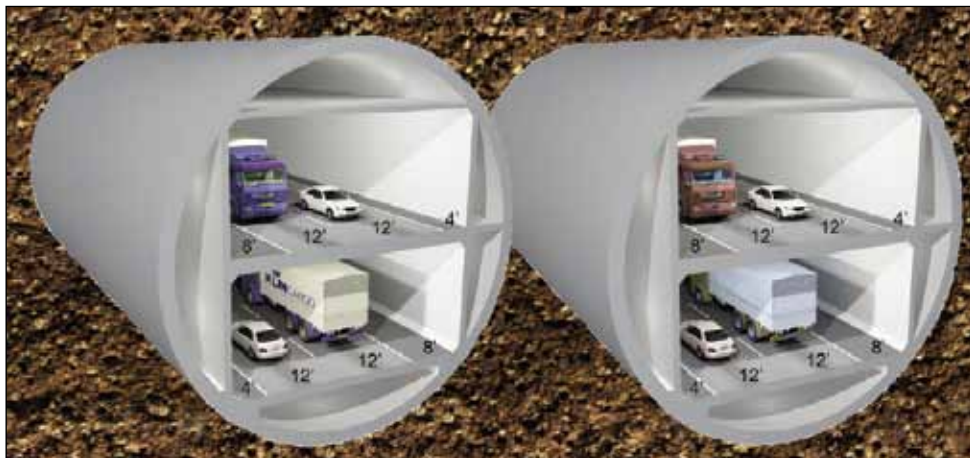
- Developing a light-rail transit alternative (LRT 4)

While the tunnels idea is only one of five alternatives, Metro appears to favor it because it would “complete the natural goods movement corridor” and best serve long-haul trucks.

Q. What’s wrong with the tunnels?

A. Let us count the ways:

- All the pollution from the north end of the tunnels would be expelled into Pasadena. This would be the first attempt to filter vehicle exhaust in the U.S. Worse, we have no current technology to effectively filter out the dangerous fine particulates. Exhaust portals would be erected near Huntington Hospital, one of the largest hospitals in the region, and three schools. Air pollution would be trapped in foothill communities by the mountains and an atmospheric inversion layer.
- The tunnels would be hazardous to build and operate. The tunnels would cross four known earthquake faults and punch through two major aquifers. They would be more than twice as long as the longest current double-decker tunnels in the U.S. Construction would take up to 12 years [Metro 2006 PB Study], giving rise to a continuous stream of trucks moving hundreds of thousands of tons of dirt and



An artist's cross-section of the 710 Freeway tunnels

construction materials that will disrupt mobility, force street closures and interrupt access to downtown businesses.

- The project will be extremely expensive. Official estimates of the cost of the tunnels range from \$1 billion to \$14 billion. Additionally, because of the many technical unknowns, the risk of cost overrun is very high. To put it into perspective, the higher ranges of tunnel cost estimates are comparable to ALL the rail-freight improvements identified by Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for the next 15 years.
- Financing and construction of the tunnels would be highly risky. Metro plans to use a Public Private Partnership (PPP) to finance the highly risky construction and operation. The private companies would require public guarantees to minimize their risk. In other words, cost overruns could be borne by the public, and the tolls would be set by the PPP to ensure a profit.
- The tunnels will attract up to 200,000 cars and trucks every day. Metro originally reported that the 710 extension was essential to complete a truck corridor. Lately, however, the story has changed. Now Metro says it doesn't expect many trucks to use the tunnel — an odd pronouncement considering that cargo volume moving through the LA basin is projected to double over the next 20 years.
- The tunnels would not ease traffic congestion. Many of us recall that closing the “gap” between I-210 and I-15, also billed as a way to ease traffic congestion, resulted

in quite the reverse for both the freeways and surface streets along the route.

- Tunnel traffic would bypass Pasadena's businesses. The first northern exits would be on Lake and Mountain, well past Pasadena's business center.

Q. What should be done instead?

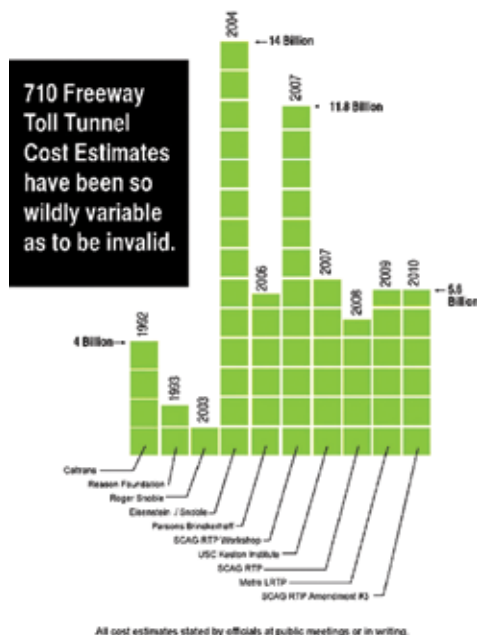
A. Metro is discounting (or simply choosing not to consider) 21st-century solutions to the issue. Just a few of the smart alternatives (using existing technology and available for far less cost) include:

- For people — Metro light-rail expansion and improvements, grade separations, express-train passing tracks, light-rail extensions
- For cargo — A completed Alameda (rail) Corridor and other port and rail projects
- Other low-build alternatives in the SR-710 study — dedicated bus rapid-transit routes, intersection/turning traffic improvements, park/ride/express facilities, transportation demand management and transportation systems management along the corridor between I-10 and I-210

The WPRA believes that every dollar spent analyzing and promoting traffic tunnels is wasted. That money — \$700,000 thus far to “study” the issue — would be better spent on worthwhile projects.

The WPRA looks forward to collaborating with Metro on transportation solutions that truly address our shared regional traffic needs in a fiscally and environmentally responsible manner. For more information, visit wpra.net.

— By Bill Urban, WPRA president



BRIEFS

Council attempts to address 710 tunnel alternative

In a December 10 Pasadena City Council meeting (held at the Convention Center), the Council agreed to request of Metro answers to numerous questions and to express their serious concerns about Metro's proposal to close the gap between the two 710 Freeway stumps with tunnels. A resolution, entered by District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, to formally object to the tunnels failed to garner the necessary five votes required for passage. Only Madison and Councilmembers Gene Masuda and Victor Gordo, and Mayor Bill Bogaard voted for the resolution. The Council was, however, able to unanimously approve a statement to regional transportation planners promising opposition to their plans in the future if the tunnels, should they be build, are open to truck traffic, increase air pollution or result in drivers detouring into neighborhoods to avoid tolls. Councilmembers also called for a City-funded study, separate from the environmental review being conducted by the MTA, of the tunnels' potentially harmful effects on the city. Mayor Bogaard cautioned that any City position about the 710 Freeway is advisory only.

Chris Holden sworn in, drafts first bill

Former Pasadena City Councilmember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena) was sworn in December 10 as the representative of the new 41st Assembly District and as majority whip of the California Democratic Caucus. Holden also filed his first Assembly bill to address job creation and economic development.

Mayor Bogaard elected president of city league

Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard in September was sworn in as president of the League of California Cities 2012-13 Board of Directors. Bogaard previously served on the League's Board and Executive Committee as its first vice president. He has served on the League's Board of Directors since 2007.

City to consider Rose Bowl financing plan

Over the course of the past two years, Rose Bowl Stadium construction has proceeded on schedule, with nearly 80% of the project completed or underway at this time.

Over that time, however, the project cost estimates have risen. To address both short-term cash-flow needs and long-term financing to fill the funding gap, City Council on January 7 is scheduled to consider approval of a stadium financing plan.

The plan includes a bond issue of approximately \$58 million that (1) restructures existing 2006 Rose Bowl bonds, (2) issues new bonds to net \$30 million of proceeds for the renovation project and (3) provides a temporary, internal \$6 million city loan that would be repaid when the restructured bond proceeds are received. The bond issue will be handled by Union Bank to provide a greater flexibility and limit issuance costs.



Pasadena Water and Power's Glenarm power plant site (Google Earth)

City releases "repowering" DEIR

BY RICHARD McDONALD
WPRA LAND USE-PLANNING CHAIR

The City, late last year, released for public comment the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Glenarm Power Plant Repowering Project. The DEIR finds significant unavoidable environmental impacts and that requires a Statement of Overriding Consideration.

In 2009, the City adopted the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), a blueprint through 2030 for the Pasadena Department of Water and Power (PWP) to ensure reliable and environmentally responsible electricity service, to keep electric service rates competitive, and to increase the City's energy independence. A key feature of the IRP is the replacement of inefficient local generating units at PWP's Glenarm power plant.

Key aspects of the project include:

- Replacement of the steam-generating unit on the Broadway site with a new combined-cycle power-generating unit
- Construction of administrative offices and an 18,000 square-foot control station within the Glenarm building
- Closure of State Street south of the Glenarm site between Fair Oaks and the Metro Gold Line tracks
- Incorporation of a one-acre parcel south of State Street into the Glenarm site
- Construction of surface parking for 14 vehicles
- Modification of an existing 4,000 square-foot building to house maintenance shops

The final EIR is expected to reach City Council for certification this spring. The City anticipates project construction will take up to 23 months to complete following project approval by the City.

Update: Work to begin on retrofit of Fire Station 39

Fire station 39, located near Ave 64 and Colorado Blvd, was closed in 2011 when an independent seismic safety audit disclosed a “significant risk of structural failure.” After investigating more than 400 potential locations for a replacement station, Fire Department officials concluded that the best alternative was to remodel the existing station.

In late November, City Council approved the \$2.6 million plan to renovate the building. MallCraft, a Pasadena-based firm, was awarded a \$1.95 million contract, and the City expects to spend another \$650,000 in administrative and inspection costs related to putting the station back into service, according to city documents.

The City expects work to begin soon and to be completed by the end of this year. Plans include:

- An extensive remodeling of the interior
- Construction of a new exterior deck at the rear of the building
- Installation of new building systems
- A new ADA-compliant access ramp at the front entry

“Basically,” said City Manager Michael Beck, according to the Pasadena Star-News, “they’ll gut the inside of the building, its living and working spaces.”



Shuttered Fire Station #39 on Avenue 64

The Fire Department worked with Pasadena Heritage to design a new front entry that will include new apparatus doors and ramps and railings, but still retain the historic exterior of the building.

A paramedic truck has been stationed nearby on Glen Summer in the area since the closure to respond to medical emergencies, which are the most frequent type of calls to the

fire department. Although there have been some objections from residents, the truck has permitted quick response times in the area.

— By Bob Holmes, WPRA Neighborhood Safety chair

WPRA supports EIR suit...

Continued from front page

The WPRA hopes the lawsuit will persuade the City to rectify the deficiencies in the Final EIR and, by doing so, address and mitigate its constituents’ concerns if it should enter into negotiations with the NFL.

Editor’s note: Two competing corporations are attempting to bring a National Football League team back to the Los Angeles area. If one should succeed, the relocating team will likely need an interim game facility such as the Rose Bowl or the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum until its permanent new stadium is completed.

— By Bill Urban, WPRA president

Help the WPRA fund the EIR suit against the City

Approximately 80% of respondents to a December 2011 WPRA survey believed that the City should not consider opening the Rose Bowl, even temporarily, to the NFL or believed that the City could consider it, but only if certain requirements were met and problems mitigated. Sadly, the EIR, which the City recently certified, fails to adequately address these concerns.

For this reason, the WPRA believes the only remedy is to join the legal action against the City. Legal action of this nature, of course, carries significant cost. Your contributions are essential to our efforts. Please renew your current membership or become a member ... and give generously to help us right this wrong.

Visit WPRA.net and click on “EZ donate” (in the left navigation bar).

BRIEFS

PEF awards grant to San Rafael Elementary

The Pasadena Educational Foundation has awarded San Rafael Elementary a \$3,032 grant for classroom projects. The money will go toward purchase of traditional books, books on CDs, listening centers, art supplies, a campus-wide character education program and a die-cut machine.

San Rafael Elementary is rising to the challenge

For many years, San Rafael was dismissed by many in the community as an underperforming school, largely abandoned by neighborhood families with young children and failing to meet academic targets set by the State. Today, that perception couldn't be more outdated. Last year, San Rafael's API (Academic Performance Index) increased by 35 points in one year, and the school exceeded the State's AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) targets for all student groups in both English/language arts and mathematics.

Many factors contribute to the rapid progress the school is making, including strong parent involvement and the much-in-demand Dual Language Immersion Program. One thing, however, is clear: The student body now draws from every area of Pasadena and adjacent communities and, increasingly, from the neighborhood itself.

Walk the halls of San Rafael today, and you'll encounter children who, like those decades before them, arrived at school on foot, by bike, or after a 60-second car ride from a house around the corner.

— By Catherine Stringer, WPRA Vice President and Education co-chair

A letter from San Rafael Elementary

Editor's note: The WPRA has "adopted" San Rafael Elementary School, 1090 Nithsdale Rd., which is the last public elementary school in our service area. Through the WPRA Student Enrichment Program, led by WPRA education co-chairs Marilyn Randolph and Catherine Stringer.

**Dear West Pasadena residents:**

During this season of giving thanks, San Rafael Elementary School would like to give thanks to our friends at the West Pasadena Residents' Association for all of their continued support and guidance. WPRA members such as Marilyn Randolph, John and Joan Favre and countless other West Pasadena volunteers have played an instrumental role in providing enrichment opportunities to our students. They have dedicated countless hours and endless resources and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Ms. Randolph has worked tirelessly to secure visits from a variety of guest speakers at San Rafael that have brought their real-world learning and expertise in their field to our students. San Rafael students have had the privilege of hearing from experts such as Margaret Vinci, manager of Caltech's Seismological Laboratory, and Pasadena Fire Department Capt. Emilio Heraldez, along with their crew from Fire Station #38.

In the upcoming weeks, San Rafael is scheduled to host presentations from Pasadena Police Chief Phillip Sanchez, Mayor Bill Bogaard, Fire Chief Calvin Wells, Brenda Swenson (watercolor artist) and David Henriquez, who'll discuss the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's work with Mars Rover Curiosity. As you can see, San Rafael has a great variety of educational opportunities for our students besides what takes place in the classroom.

The Favres continuously give of their personal time to provide our students with a sanctuary in our Game Room — a space where students can go during their lunch time to play board games or read a book away from the hustle and bustle of "recess." West Pasadena residents are also commonly seen in our classrooms to provide instructional support for students. This support includes, for example, expert instruction in Spanish and Yoga.

Our San Rafael students will soon look for ways in which they can further give back to our community. On December 14, San Rafael hosted student council elections. For the first time in many years, students interested in holding a Student Council position have the opportunity to present a speech to our student body. Students in grades 2-5 had the distinguished responsibility of selecting the candidates they believed would best represent and serve our school. Our Student Council goal is to provide students with opportunities to design and implement activities that will foster leadership skills, collaboration, and more importantly, civic responsibility.

As you can see, great things are happening at San Rafael Elementary School, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the WPRA and all that it does for our academic community.

Rudy Ramirez
Principal
San Rafael Elementary School



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

La Casita Foundation launches community campaign

The La Casita Foundation, in partnership with the City, has launched a community capital campaign to raise \$125,000 to refurbish La Casita del Arroyo ("The little house on the Arroyo") so it will continue to be a special community resource for future generations.

La Casita del Arroyo ("The Little House on the Arroyo") serves as a neighborhood meeting house, water demonstration garden and butterfly sanctuary. It has been the major community project for the Pasadena Garden Club since it was designed by renowned architect Myron Hunt and built as a Public Works Administration project during The Great Depression. Although the gardens continue to flourish, La Casita itself has suffered serious wear and tear since its reconstruction almost 30 years ago.

On October 7 WPRA co-sponsored a successful community "friendraiser," which raised \$45,000 and brought together neighbors, garden enthusiasts and local leaders to celebrate La Casita's past and plan for its future. Actor and garden enthusiast

William "Bill" Christopher served as master of ceremonies. A West Pasadena resident, Bill may be best known for playing Fr. Mulcahy on the television series *M*A*S*H* and Private Lester Hummel on *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.* Refreshments were generously provided by West Pasadena resident Robin Salzer, owner of Robin's Woodfire BBQ.

This year, the La Casita Foundation will leverage the success of the friendraiser to seek additional financial support from residents, local businesses and Pasadena non-profits. The project calls for refurbishing the bathrooms, kitchen and main meeting room.

Those who attended the kick-off event were able to see the renderings of the anticipated improvements. ONYX Architects, working with the City of Pasadena Public Works Department and the La Casita Foundation, has developed creative ideas while remaining true to the integrity of the structure. The target construction start date is mid-2013.

For more information about how you can support La Casita, visit LaCasitaDelArroyo.org

Looking back

"The name of Dr. Edward L. Thorndike of Columbia University struck Pasadena with startling force April 13, 1939, when the New York educator published a book entitled 'Your City.' The book, prepared on the basis of a three-year survey costing \$100,000, placed Pasadena first among American cities



where the 'general goodness of life' is highest. Dr. Thorndike rated 310 cities of more than 30,000 population on 37 points, covering such fields as health conditions, educational advantages, recreational facilities, economic and social conditions, physical comforts, public cultural institutions and municipal fiscal affairs."

— Pasadena Community Book, 1943



Wedding dress. An 1869 ivory silk wedding dress with satin cuffs and satin edging on bustle, worn by Ida Russell Stevens Halsted

PMH explores how Pasadenans tie the knot!

I do! I do!

Do — two words intimately associated with romance and marriage — will be the catchphrase for the Pasadena Museum of History's 2013 exhibition. *I Do! I Do! Pasadena Ties the Knot* will focus on Pasadena weddings from our founding in the mid-nineteenth century to the present. The two-part exhibition draws from the museum's costume and textile collection, fashion designers and community members to spotlight the wedding dress as an icon of social customs through the decades.

■ **Part 1, February 8-July 14 and covering 1850 to 1950:** Exhibit includes more than 35 bridal gowns and share the wedding stories that accompany them, showing the evolution of the wedding dress from a woman's best dress worn in weddings of the 1860s, to the lace and high waists of the 1900s, the long silk trains of the 1930s, and finally the hourglass silhouettes of the

1950s. These will include the 1880 dress worn at the wedding of early Pasadena settlers Jennie Hollingsworth and Joshua Giddings, the 1901 gown of the niece of Gov. Henry Harrison Markham and several intricately beaded knee-length wedding dresses favored in the 1920s. Gowns considered non-traditional by today's standards include a beautiful red-brown moiré taffeta gown and a silk taffeta dress featuring horizontal woven stripes of alternating salmon and a bluish gray. Formal portraits, engagement and wedding announcements, guest books, and other ephemera on display alongside the gowns, will provide a glimpse into the lives of local residents.

■ **Part II, August 2-October 20, covering up to the present day:** Focuses on national trends that influenced Pasadena brides.

For details visit pasadenahistory.org.

Gone, but not forgotten

The Lowe mansion: “A noble house”

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

BY KIRK MYERS
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST
PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

On August 22, 1891 the *Pasadena Daily Evening Star* presented its readers with a front page article about “A Noble House” – “One of the Finest Private Residences on the Pacific Coast.”

As the home of the colorful Thaddeus S. C. Lowe at 955 South Orange Grove was nearing completion, public interest was high and the paper provided a description “to let our readers know how fine a structure it is and how favorably it compares with any private residence on the Pacific coast in point of size and appearance.”

With 23,850 square feet of floor space, architects declared that no home in San Francisco could compare in size. “In thoroughness of construction, completeness of equipment and in the details which combine to make a comfortable and elegant home, the Lowe residence cannot be excelled, probably, by anything that has been built in California.”

The three-story home contained about 30 rooms, finished in oak, white cedar and redwood, and featured a 75 foot observation tower “crowned by a copper dome and flagstaff.” Lowe was having a 6-inch telescope made and would later mount it on the upper floor of the tower. The view from the tower was unsurpassed anywhere, according to the *Star*:

“Including the view of beautiful Pasadena in the foreground, and sweeping the whole circle of the horizon, as the eye does from the tower

of the Lowe residence, no such picture can be presented elsewhere in the world.”

The article concluded by congratulating all involved “in carrying out ... this notable work and in having a part in the production of what must long remain one of the proudest ornaments of this city of beautiful homes.”

Although it remained a fabulous showplace in its time, the Lowe home was razed in 1929, and was one of the earliest of the great mansions that once lined Millionaires’ Row to depart.

The Pasadena Museum of History is located at the corner of N. Orange Grove and Walnut. Parking is free in the museum's lot. The Research Library & Archives are open to the public free of charge Thursday-Sunday from 1-4 pm. For additional information, please visit the Museum's website, PasadenaHistory.org, or call 626/577-1660, ext. 10.



The *Star* noted that the stone foundation and columns, large pressed brick chimneys and broad porches around the building on all sides combined to “give the structure and appearance of massiveness that is compatible with its size.” The tower “sufficiently relieves the building from any aspect of heaviness it might otherwise have.” In 1906 the *Los Angeles Examiner* wrote that Mr. Blossom “lives in an immense pile south of the Burdettes and a corp of thirty servants helps him do so comfortably.”



**WEST PASADENA
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

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Pasadena, CA 91115-0252

Visit our website @ wpra.net

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Pasadena: city on call

Police Department

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

Services

Bulky 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.

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