



THE NEWS

LAND USE / PLANNING

EDUCATION

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NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

GOVERNMENT

PARKS / RECREATION

You're invited to the WPRA's 51st annual meeting

Join us to "celebrate success and inspire change"

The West Pasadena Residents' Association cordially invites members and other West Pasadena residents to attend its 51st annual meeting on Wednesday, May 1. The event will be held in the storied, historic Rose Bowl Home Team locker room. "Celebrating success and inspiring change" is the theme.

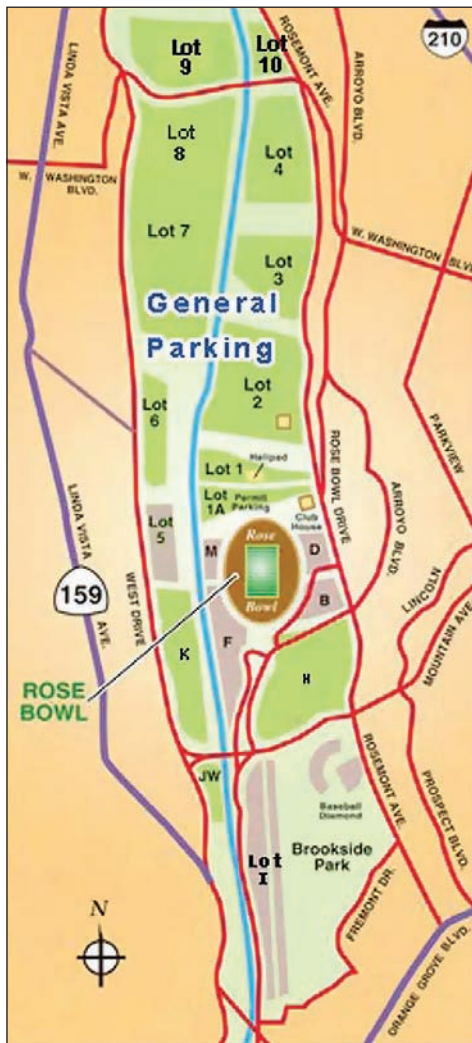
The annual meeting is open to the public and free of charge. Free parking is available to all in Lot F. Enter the stadium through Gate A.

Carts will be available for those who need a lift to the stadium and back to their car.

At 4:45, the evening starts with a reception and tours of the stadium to witness, first-hand, the remarkable progress the City has made in modernizing America's Stadium. During the reception period, attendees can enjoy light dinner fare, while visiting with the many community organizations that'll be exhibiting.

At 6:30, the main program opens with a celebration of Pasadena life as seen through the eyes of the late iconic television personality Huell Howser. Best known for his travel show, *California's Gold*, which aired for many years on Public Broadcasting station KCET, Howser died in January. He'll be with us in spirit, however, when we screen a segment of a program he taped several years ago from Old Pasadena.

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Save the date

What:

WPRA annual meeting

When:

Wednesday, May 1
5:30-8:30 pm

Parking-Entry:

Parking lot F
Enter through Gate A

Where:

Rose Bowl
Home Team locker room

Cost:

Free

Practicing (and printing) what we preach

The West Pasadena Residents' Association has been and continues to be a strong advocate for sound environmental practices, especially when it comes to the Arroyo Seco and the Hahamongna watershed. But do we practice what we preach when it comes to our quarterly newsletter? Do we print the newsletter on recyclable paper? Is our printing process respectful of the environment? In a word, yes.

Pasadena's Castle Press prints the newsletter on recyclable paper that meets the high standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an independent not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. The

FSC label, which you can find on our back page, provides a credible link between responsible production and consumption of forest products.

Also, Castle Press uses vegetable-based inks and a water-based satin aqueous coating, which gives the paper a shine, but involves no solvents and is environmentally safe.

In other words, you can confidently recycle our newsletter ... but only after you've had a chance to read each issue.

While it may cost a bit more, we believe our sustainability efforts are worth it to effectively communicate, as we do each quarter, with more than 7,000 homes and apartments in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes. We hope you agree.

Opinion

The more folks know, the more they oppose the 710 tunnels

Editor's note: The following are excerpts from an article written by former Assemblymember Anthony Portantino for the January 1, 2013 issue of Pasadena Weekly.

Would you allow a contractor to construct an addition to your house without knowing how many square feet he or she intended to build, how much it would cost to build and how

many family members were going to use the addition? Of course you wouldn't.

Unfortunately, when it comes to the Long Beach (710) Freeway extension tunnels, one of the most controversial public works projects in the state, the MTA and Caltrans are spending millions without first having acquired the same basic information.

At presentation after presentation stakeholders have been told that pertinent information will be forthcoming, but it never arrives. Available information does confirm that the 710 tunnels will be instantly gridlocked on the day they open. It also confirms that most of the arterial circulation in the San Gabriel Valley will not be improved by building the tunnels.

The more folks are exposed to the facts surrounding the 710 tunnels, the greater the opposition to the project. I have been joined

by Cong. Adam Schiff, State Sen. Carol Liu, and a unanimous vote of the Los Angeles City Council in opposing the 710 tunnels. South Pasadena is no longer the lone voice in opposition, as Sierra Madre, La Crescenta, La Cañada Flintridge, Glendale and the mayor and neighborhood associations in West Pasadena have all taken strong positions against the tunnels. Thousands of residents throughout the San Gabriel Valley are lining up in strong opposition to this project.

There are communities that need help with local traffic. There are goods that need to be moved. The answer lies with something other than the 710 tunnels. If there were facts available that supported the need for the tunnel, they would be front and center in the debate. They are not. Every effort to acquire accurate information before the project moves forward has been thwarted. Every effort to review air quality data has been denied. Cost

Continued on page 5

Recent WPRA community support

- \$15,000 to Rose Bowl-NFL suit
- \$10,000 toward the capital campaign to repair and rehabilitate La Casita del Arroyo
- \$1,700 to San Rafael Elementary School to purchase a portable public address system

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.

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Pasadena, California
Celebrating 50 years of community service
Winter 2013

THE NEWS

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 Director

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

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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.

City breaks ground on Fire Station 39 retrofit, rehab

Preliminary work has begun on the seismic retrofit and rehabilitation of Pasadena Fire Station 39. The estimated completion date is late 2013. To mark the moment, the City on March 2 held a groundbreaking ceremony. Ready with the symbolic shovel in the photo to the right are (from the left) City Manager Michael Beck, District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, Mayor Bill Bogaard, Director of Public Works Siobhan Foster and Fire Chief Calvin Wells. The station, at 50 Avenue 64, was originally built in 1952 and is one of the oldest of the department's eight fire stations. The brick exterior of the two-story, 4,400-square-foot building has historic significance and improvement work was specifically planned to retain the exterior while completing the extensive interior remodel and seismic upgrade. The \$1.78 million construction project, which is managed by the Pasadena Department of Public Works, involves seismic and engineering improvements, to help the building withstand a major earthquake. The City will also make the building more



accessible to those with disabilities and more energy efficient. The interior will be remodeled and get new utility systems, fire sprinklers and alarm systems. Finally, a new

patio deck and emergency generator room will be built. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)

Opinion: What happened to the NFL?

BY NINA CHOMSKY
PRESIDENT, LINDA VISTA~ANNANDALE
ASSOCIATION

Although there seems to be a lull in hard facts, the rumors about the possibility of a National Football League team leasing the Rose Bowl abound.

Some say AEG is out. Some say Dodger Stadium money is in. And since the NFL did not announce a team for Los Angeles by this year's deadline, some are saying the possibility of an NFL team in the Rose Bowl is dead.

More to the point, some ask if the Coalition for Preservation of the Arroyo's legal challenge of the related City-certified environmental impact report (EIR) was premature.

Our response? Powerful forces continue to push for a temporary NFL lease of up to five years. Also, the amendment City Council

made to the ordinance, which permits up to 13 NFL games in the Rose Bowl each year (doubling the number of Rose Bowl major displacement events), never expires and, as it stands (subject to the outcome of the legal challenge) has cleared all environmental hurdles.

To question timing, of course, begs the central issue: When is the correct time to study the issue? Before we have specifics? Before we know whether the possibility of an NFL lease still exists?

That's exactly what the City did: "study" a factless possibility to clear the way for future NFL negotiations. The City admits this. Members of the City Council have publicly stated: "We'll take care of you (citizens) later."

And let's not forget that the purpose of an adequate EIR, especially in this case, should have been to protect us, our neighborhoods

and the Central Arroyo. That can only be accomplished by identifying and adopting enforceable, performance-based, mitigation against the negative impact of an NFL lease of the Rose Bowl. That's why we believe that permitting the City to sidestep its environmental obligations so it can freely negotiate with the NFL is neither acceptable nor legal.

The Coalition for Preservation of the Arroyo is composed of the East Arroyo Neighborhood Preservation Committee, the Linda Vista~Annandale Association, and the San Rafael Neighborhoods Association, and is supported by the West Pasadena Residents' Association.

We encourage you to support the NFL EIR litigation. Help us protect our neighborhoods and the Central Arroyo. To read more and contribute, go to lvaa.net, srnapasadena.org, or wpra.net.

BRIEFS

ASF comments on ULI Central Arroyo proposal

The Arroyo Seco Foundation released the following statement about the Urban Land Institute's (ULI) proposed strategy for the Rose Bowl and the Central Arroyo Seco, which is to generate revenues from existing users to maintain and enhance the Arroyo experience: "This strategy comes with the critically important conditions that displacing existing users and affecting the surrounding residential neighborhoods is strictly prohibited. The conditions come as a breath of fresh air to those residents threatened by the possibility of an invasion by the National Football League. Perhaps the most satisfying components of these recommendations are the establishment of a Central Arroyo Seco Conservancy and the naturalization of the Arroyo Seco stream. The panel recognized the value and economic potential of natural ecological systems as public amenities. The final report of ULI provides a path forward for a city that is on the leading edge of technology, education, urban living and sustainability."

Pasadena's first "bicycle boulevard" opens

The City in late January opened Pasadena's first dedicated "Bicycle Boulevard," which stretches about three-quarters of a mile along Marengo Avenue and is anchored at the intersections with Orange Grove Boulevard and Washington Boulevard. Special bicycle signals at these intersections alert bicyclists when it is their turn to enter the "Bicycle Boulevard," while posted signs discourage motorists from entering. This effort was the latest step in a neighborhood traffic management plan for Marengo Avenue. The goal was to create a low-traffic area that offers pleasant cycling. This is only the second such "Bicycle Boulevard" in Los Angeles County. The project was funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Caltrans' "Bicycle Transportation Grant" program.



An artist's drawing of Phase 1 buildings, along Del Mar Boulevard, will be complete in August of this year

Ambassador West goes into high gear

Phase 1

City Ventures is five months from completion of Phase 1 construction of new condominiums on the Ambassador West campus, which is bounded by Orange Grove on the west, Green on the north, St. John on the east and Del Mar on the south. As travelers on W. Del Mar can see, the buildings have been framed and are ready for exterior finishing.

Phase 2

City Ventures also reports that it is starting Phase 2 construction. This phase calls for 21 condominiums in three separate three-story buildings near the center of the campus, just west of Fowler Garden.

Phase 4

Finally, City Ventures is redesigning the former Sunrise senior living project on

the north end of the campus. As soon as a conceptual plan is complete, Ben Besley, from City Ventures, will share the plans with the WPRa for comment and input. Look for an announcement later this summer about the new plans for this segment of the development. *Editor's note: Look for a notice of that meeting in the WPRa's weekly eNewsletter, Neighborhood Update.*

Miscellaneous notes

The Olcott and TV buildings on W. Green have been demolished. These long-abandoned and deteriorating buildings will be replaced this summer by a project sales center. Once cleared of debris, the area will also serve as a temporary nursery area for the boxed trees that are being relocated as part of the approved Urban Forestry Plan for the campus.

Ambassador West condominium project summary			
Phase	# Buildings	# of units	Estimated completion
1	2	10	2013
2	3	21	July 2014
3	5	39	April 2015
4	?	?	First redesign of former "Sunrise" project expected soon
TOTAL	10+	70+	

BRIEFS

City takes possession of Desiderio

After many years of waiting, the City has finally accepted possession of the former Desiderio Army Reserve Center (in the Arroyo) from the Federal Government. The City has begun the environmental impact study, which should take about a year, as it plans to demolish the existing buildings. Funding is in place to expand the City's open space, make one of the most beautiful vistas of the Colorado Bridge accessible to all, and add affordable housing through Habitat for Humanity. *Source: City Manager's weekly newsletter*

County map can help homeowners going solar

If you're a homeowner and you'd like to see how viable your property is for conversion to partial or full solar power, visit solarmap.lacounty.gov/map. This Los Angeles County site can help you tell if your solar dreams are practical in your location.

Opinion...

Continued from page 2

estimates have been so widely variable (\$1 billion to \$14 billion) as to be invalid.

So why is this even an issue? MTA has \$780 million from a local sales tax earmarked for this project. Even though it's not enough to build the tunnels, it's enough to keep an army of consultants, lawyers and planners working for the next decade. Wouldn't this money be better spent on projects that solve problems, are wanted by the public and can actually be financed?

When a project relies on misinformation, missing information, the silencing of critics and generalizations to move forward, reasonable people need to say, "Enough!" and continue to put pressure on MTA and Caltrans to consider alternatives that actually solve problems and create jobs.

La Loma Bridge moves forward: "pillars" to be honored in July

SUE MOSSMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PASADENA HERITAGE

La Loma bridge update

Plans for the La Loma Bridge are moving steadily forward. The Design Advisory Group is meeting monthly with City staff and Dokken Engineering to discuss design details with and answer questions. The Advisory Group is composed of City staff Roubik Mardirosian, Robert Barsam, Steve Walker and Dan Rix; and community members Ann Scheid (at large, appointed by Councilmember Steve Madison), Taka Suzuki (field representative for Councilmember Madison), Andrea Rawlings (Historic Preservation Commission), Robert Carpenter (Design Commission), and Michael Krakower, Chris Peck (Pasadena Heritage) and myself. The committee has an impressive repertoire of expertise including architecture, structural engineering, architectural history and historic preservation.

Careful attention is being given to how new structural elements will be integrated with original historic fabric and the recreation of missing architectural detail like the beautiful balustrade and light fixtures. Copies of the original plans for the bridge and historic photos are being used as references for replicating design elements that were removed over time.

Pasadena Heritage first raised red flags about the project when an initial study failed to recognize the bridge as a historic site and proposed replacing it with a simple modern structure. We are very pleased that with strong community support from the West Pasadena Residents' Association and others, that approach was revised to rehabilitate, retain and restore historic features of this beautiful historic span, a sister and echo to the Colorado Bridge.

The construction schedule is yet to be determined, with the key factor being approval of federal funding. That approval, expected, but not yet received, will trigger a final series of reviews and approvals by Caltrans.

In the meantime, the design and detailed plans are moving forward so the project will be ready to be put out to bid as quickly as possible. Once the federal funds are authorized, it will take about seven months until construction can begin and then eighteen months to complete the project. The earliest construction could begin is October 2013. As soon as a more definite timeline can be established, a public meeting will be scheduled to present the design and discuss construction details.



The bridge closure and actual construction process will, of course, directly impact nearby neighbors and users of the Lower Arroyo, as well as those who use the La Loma Bridge frequently, and the City promises to provide more information as soon as possible and keep the community updated during the process.

WPRA to be honored by Pasadena Heritage this summer

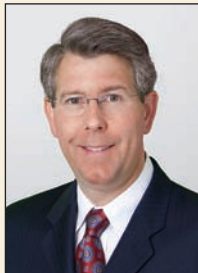
Pasadena Heritage is delighted to announce that the West Pasadena Residents' Association will be among the "Pillars of South Orange Grove" to be honored at our summer gala. Save the date – Saturday, July 13 – for this elegant evening at the Hulett Merritt mansion on the Ambassador West campus. Alternating every other year with its famous Celebration on the Colorado Street Bridge, Pasadena Heritage holds a fabulous reception and dinner honoring those who played leading roles in the preservation of Pasadena's architectural treasures and traditions. This year, WPRA, the Tournament of Roses Association, and Westridge School for Girls will be among those deserving institutions honored. You're all invited, of course, to celebrate with us!

For more information, visit: pasadenaheritage.org

A Pasadena planner's perspective

BY VINCE FARHAT
PLANNING COMMISSION

After nearly 14 years on the West Pasadena Residents' Association board, I was honored last year to be nominated by Mayor Bill Bogaard to serve on the City of Pasadena Planning Commission. The Planning Commission advises the City Council on the preparation and review of the General Plan, as well as the adoption of programs under the General Plan,



Vince Farhat

including the creation of specific plans, modification to and administration of zoning regulations, review of the City's capital improvements program, and review of other programs and projects which affect Pasadena development. It has been a privilege to work with my colleagues on the Commission as we strive to enhance neighborhood quality of life in Pasadena.

The opinions expressed herein are my own; they do not represent the views or positions of other Planning Commissioners or the City of Pasadena. Contact me at vince.farhat@sbcglobal.net.

General Plan update

Pasadena's General Plan consists of over a dozen chapters, sometimes called "elements." The Land Use and Mobility elements are currently being updated. The Land Use element specifies how much and where various types of development will be allowed. The Mobility element contains strategies to achieve a safe, efficient and balanced approach for moving people and goods within Pasadena. These elements were last updated in 1994 and again in 2004.

The City launched the current General Plan update in the Spring of 2009 and since then has held more than 100 meetings and events to identify community concerns and issues. In the Fall of 2010, a series of community workshops were held to translate those ideas into four land-use alternatives. In the Summer of 2011, City staff distributed a community survey to solicit feedback on the alternatives and the existing General Plan's guiding principles. In the Spring of 2012, City staff presented a draft "concept plan" at a series of community forums for public feedback. Since then, staff has been completing technical work on the concept plan, and the Planning Commission has held a series of public hearings to solicit input and

recommendations from stakeholders and Commissioners.

During the course of its review of the concept plan, the Planning Commission approved a series of recommendations concerning the General Plan's guiding principles, the proposed General Plan land-use map, and the upcoming environmental review process for the updated Land Use and Mobility elements. Among them are that City Council should:

- Retain the important neighborhood protection principle that "higher density development will be directed away from residential neighborhoods" and into the Central District and other commercial areas
- Create a new guiding principle that clearly states the City's support for public education: "Pasadena supports public education and is committed to community planning that furthers a diverse educational system responsive to the broad needs of our community"
- Retain new-development "caps" (limits) as a safeguard against future overdevelopment

- Repeal the now-outdated West Gateway Specific Plan. (Longtime readers of *The News* will recall that this area-specific plan authorized more than 2,000 new residential units to be built on the site of the former Ambassador College, a project that ultimately was rejected by the City.)
- Devote sufficient financial resources to the upcoming environmental review process to ensure the draft General Plan environmental impact report (EIR) fully and accurately studies all potential impacts of future growth

As this issue of *The News* goes to press, City Council is scheduled to review the concept plan at its regularly-scheduled meeting on April 29. After Council approves the concept plan, planning staff will schedule several "pre-scoping" public meetings to seek early input on the scope of the EIR for the General Plan update. These meetings will be followed by formal scoping sessions after the EIR Initial Study has been prepared. After the scoping process is complete, the City will move forward with the preparation of the draft EIR, which should be ready for public review and comment late this year or early next year.

710 Freeway tunnel

Readers of *The News* are also no doubt aware that LA Metro is studying whether to build two double-decker, 4.5-mile, 710 Freeway tunnels through West Pasadena neighborhoods. The City of Pasadena is not the “lead agency” in the preparation of the EIR for the 710 Freeway Tunnel. Metro (not City Hall) will draft, circulate and receive comments on the tunnel EIR. Because the City is not the lead agency, it is not clear at this point what role (if any) the Planning Commission will have in reviewing and commenting on the draft EIR.



As the proposal stands today, I have grave concerns about Metro’s plan to build the 710 Freeway Tunnel. All the air pollution from the north end of the tunnels would be expelled into Pasadena. Exhaust portals would be built near Huntington Hospital and three schools. The tunnels would be hazardous to build and operate; they would cross four earthquake faults and punch through two major aquifers. The project would be extremely expensive (estimated to be \$1 billion to \$14 billion) and current financing proposals are highly speculative. Moreover, the tunnels would not ease traffic congestion in West Pasadena. The tunnels would add to traffic volumes by attracting up to 200,000 cars and trucks every day. Given these concerns, it comes as no surprise that most cities along the 710 Freeway route actively oppose Metro’s tunnel proposals.

LOOKING BACK, 1885:

“Arlington Drive was opened and named by C.H. Richardson of Pasadena and Dr. W.G. Cochran of Los Angeles, in November, 1885. But just why this name was given I failed to learn.”

— *History of Pasadena*, by Hiram Reid in 1895

Desiderio Army Reserve Center

After waiting more than three years, the City recently took possession of the former Desiderio Army Reserve Center from the federal government. City planning staff is moving forward with the initial stages of the preparation of a draft EIR for the reuse of 5.1 acre Desiderio site. Plans for the site call for a mostly natural City park to be shared with “Desiderio Court”, a privately financed nine-unit Habitat for Humanity bungalow court on approximately 1.9 acres of the site under the Colorado Street Bridge. No work will begin on the site until three concrete buildings are torn down. The Planning Commission will likely review the draft EIR for the new project.

Get involved with planning

Encourage all West Pasadena residents to get involved in Pasadena planning issues. Planning Commission meetings are open to the public, and Commissioners truly value public comment.

For more information, please visit the City’s website.

LOOKING BACK, 1894:

“First contract was given to light the streets with electricity.”

— *Pasadena Community Book*, 1943

NFL at the Rose Bowl

In September 2012, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the draft EIR for the proposed temporary lease of the Rose Bowl by a National Football League (NFL) team. Following extensive public comment, many Commissioners expressed concerns that the draft EIR failed to fully and accurately analyze the potential environmental impacts of NFL at the Rose Bowl. A number of Commissioners also commented that the draft EIR could be deficient.

The Commission unanimously approved a motion requesting that City Council refer the final EIR back to the Commission for further review. However, Council ultimately declined the Commission’s request to review and comment on the final EIR. In November, City Council voted 7 to 1 to certify the final EIR and adopted a “statement of overriding considerations” (SOC) finding that the potential economic benefits of NFL at the Rose Bowl would outweigh the negative environmental impacts.



Council also amended the relevant ordinances to permit an expanded number of major events at the Rose Bowl, which would likely accommodate

the NFL’s needs. Subsequently, the East Arroyo Residents, Linda Vista~Annandale and San Rafael Neighborhoods associations filed a lawsuit challenging the certification of the EIR, a move supported by the West Pasadena Residents’ Association.

Council’s stated rationale for approving the EIR was to preserve the option of negotiating a deal with the NFL to help cover the Rose Bowl’s renovation deficit. Although well-intentioned, I disagree with Council’s decision to certify the arguably deficient EIR. In adopting the EIR and SOC, Council effectively justified seriously degraded neighborhood quality of life in exchange for the still-speculative promise of money from the NFL. West Pasadena’s quality of life should not be for sale at any price.

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 February 2012 and February 2013. 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@wpra.net.*

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To donate using your credit card, visit wpra.net and click on EZ Donate in the upper left corner of our home page. The West Pasadena Residents' Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation. Memberships and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Recreation and Parks Commission briefing

BY ANN SCHEID
DISTRICT 6 APPOINTEE
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

Hahamongna and soccer fields

The long debate over the Sycamore Grove soccer field in Hahamongna Park seems to be nearly over. A new proposal to improve an existing field at John Muir High School will provide a full-size soccer and softball field, including sports lighting for evening use, a new restroom building, soccer goals and other site improvements.

The City also hopes to seek funding for a new field in East Pasadena. These efforts have taken the pressure off the Hahamongna

site, at least for the time being. To make sure that plans for the field and for other fields proposed in the Hahamongna Park Master Plan never return, environmentalists are asking to amend the plan to eliminate all sports fields except the existing multi-purpose field.

City trees

Newcomers to and even long-term residents of Pasadena are often unfamiliar with Pasadena's street-tree plan and its goals. To remedy this, Public Works Director Siobhan Foster has announced that the city will develop and implement a comprehensive guide to Pasadena's urban forest, using funding from a recently awarded grant.

The guide, produced with community involvement, will be a user-friendly resource that encourages the promotion and protection of Pasadena's urban forest, informs about tree-related policies and procedures, and explains the City's balanced management approach toward this vital natural resource.

Changes to recreation programs

The Recreation and Parks Commission received a report at its March meeting about the effects of recent fee increases for recreation programs offered by the City. A survey conducted by the City showed that Pasadena's program fees were generally lower than in neighboring communities and in cities of comparable size and demographics.

Undertaken in consultation with various city commissions and departments, the restructuring has increased many fees to help meet costs, while at the same time advertising the programs more widely to increase participation, and offering scholarships to those in need, mostly children and seniors.

Recreation and Parks Commissioners were concerned that the fee increases could negatively affect lower-income residents of Pasadena, but the Commission supported the fee increases on condition that they receive a full report on the impacts after the first six months of the program.

The resulting report shows that participation in recreation programs has increased, and revenues have also increased, thanks to successful publicity efforts. To further raise

revenues and reduce costs, City staff is working on increasing cooperation with the school district on after-school programs and other recreational programs at the schools. The fee restructuring is planned to continue over a four-year period.

Human Services also reported to the Commission in February the results of a Needs Assessment Survey aimed at providing programs to better serve Pasadena residents. Some of the results of that survey, along with other issues, will be discussed by Dr. Eric Walsh, Pasadena's Health Officer, at the West Pasadena Residents' Association annual meeting on Wednesday, May 1.

Public Works project in the Arroyo

A sewer re-lining project scheduled to begin in the next month or so will impact residents and traffic on Linda Vista Avenue and along Arroyo Boulevard. You may have noticed the unsightly sewer manholes sticking up along the eastern slope of the Lower Arroyo.

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County owns and maintains this trunk line that runs from La Cañada down Linda Vista Avenue, crossing the concrete channel in the Arroyo north of the Holly Street Bridge, and then running south along the east side of the Arroyo. Pasadena built the line in the 1920s to serve the Linda Vista area. After La Cañada's incorporation, its properties were moved off septic tanks to connect to the Arroyo line. That's when the CSD took over the line.

Relining the mains promises to extend the life of the line another 50 years. The project will take several months, and will proceed in stages from north to south. Traffic will be affected intermittently on Linda Vista Avenue and South Arroyo Boulevard. Also, some residents may experience sewer-service interruptions lasting for several hours. Portable toilets will be provided! Residents will be notified in plenty of time before the project reaches their portion of the line.

For more information, contact Dan Rix, City Engineer at drix@cityofpasadena.net.

WPRA's 51st annual meeting...

Continued from page 1

Keynote speaker will be Eric G. Walsh, MD, Dr.P.H., Director of Public Health and Health Officer of the City's Department of Health. In addition to being on staff at Loma Linda University School of Medicine and at the University of California, Irvine, as an adjunct professor, Dr. Walsh has served under the current and previous White House administrations on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Walsh will focus on "Building a healthier Pasadena." He'll discuss findings of the 2012 City of Pasadena-Altadena Quality of Life Index, identify the top priorities of the Public Health Department and discuss strategies to improve citizens' health.

Mayor Bill Bogaard, a former WPRA president, will join us, and we'll hear an update of key district issues and activity from District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison.

Board members Audrey O'Kelley, also a former WPRA president, and Joan Hearst will formally recognize individuals and organizations whose activities over the past year have materially improved the quality of life in West Pasadena. Also, members will elect 2013-2014 WPRA officers and directors.

— Chuck Hudson

BRIEFS

Pasadena plastic bag ban yields positive results

Volunteers from Mayfield Junior School and Farmers Insurance Group, in January, partnered with the Arroyo Seco Foundation to clean trash from the Central Arroyo Seco stream. This reach of the Arroyo was heavily polluted throughout the football season and in dire need of some care. Over 30 volunteers removed plastic bottles, snack bags, Styrofoam, cardboard, barbed wire and glass from the stream and riparian area. One thing that was in short supply during this outing was plastic grocery bags. Volunteers found far fewer plastic bags this year, as compared to last year's haul. A new City ordinance to ban use of plastic carry-out bags in grocery stores became effective last July.

QRs will offer handier access to restaurant grades

A \$450,000 grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will fund the City's Public Health Department's plans to develop a more transparent system and to make it easier for consumers to discover health issues associated with their favorite Pasadena restaurants. Pasadena is one of a few cities in Los Angeles County that do not require restaurants to post a letter grade in the window. What must be posted is a pass/fail certificate. Under the new system, the grading report certificate would include a Quick Response (QR) Code. Citizens would be able to scan the code with their smart phone to find out the restaurant's violations and overall grade.

LOOKING BACK, 1890:

"California Street School became the James A. Garfield Elementary School when a new building was constructed at the corner of Pasadena Avenue and California Street."

— Pasadena Community Book, 1943

Mayor delivers upbeat 2013 "State of the City" address

Editor's note: On January 24, Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard delivered the 2013 annual State of the City event in the Beckman Auditorium on the Caltech campus. The following are excerpts from that speech.

The State of the City is very positive.

Pasadena is on track, and we are taking affirmative steps to move forward in 2013 and beyond, on many important issues and projects. At a time when many cities in California and the nation continue to struggle, Pasadena stands firm as a national role model of excellence in municipal services and governance.

Last June, the City adopted its first balanced budget since the recession of 2008, and during the year also completed pension reform covering about 70% of City staff who now pay the total 8% of their annual pension contributions. This fundamental change in Pasadena's public employee pension has an immediate positive fiscal impact and will continue to save the City millions of dollars over the years that can be redirected into programs, services and civic improvements.

Capital Improvement Program

- During the fiscal year ending June 30, our capital investment program totals more than \$88 million, including \$40 million on our electric and water systems; and more than \$10 million on streets and transit.
- The City will move forward with other important investments, including the renovation of Fire Station 39; accepting the Desiderio property from the Federal government for new City parkland; rehabilitation of La Loma Bridge; and new power-generation equipment at the Glenarm Power Plant.

Rose Bowl renovation

- City Council recently gave unanimous approval to a revised financing plan for



Mayor Bill Bogaard

renovation of the Rose Bowl, America's Stadium. The renovation, at \$181 million, is the biggest capital improvement project in the City's history and is being financed through bonds, Rose Bowl Operating Company revenues and donations — not the City's General Fund.

Private investment activities

- Jacobs Engineering, OpenX, and Guidance Software during 2012 shifted their headquarters to Pasadena.
- The Singpoli Group is busy finishing an extensive historic rehabilitation of the Constance Hotel building on Colorado Boulevard.
- In Old Pasadena, Westgate Apartments is adding some 400 residential units.
- The property surrounding Parsons headquarters at Walnut and Fair Oaks is being revitalized under a new Master Plan proposal calling for over 1 million square feet of new development.

PUSD-City Work Plan

- The City and Pasadena Unified School District forged a new model of collaboration and alignment of services, which resulted in the School/City Work Plan. This plan provides a framework to improve the education of our young people and will seek grants from foundations and government sources. The Work Plan also provides direction for mobilizing the assets of schools, the City and the community to improve educational, health, social, family, and economic results.

In his second inaugural speech, President Obama offered this reminder, "You and I, as citizens, have the power to set this country's course. You and I, as citizens, have the obligation to shape the debates of our time—not only with the votes we cast, but with the voices we lift in defense of our most ancient values and enduring ideals."

I am inspired by his words, as I hope all of us are, to help us focus on working together in the coming year to build a better—and a safe—community.

BRIEFS

Dispose of unwanted firearms through Pasadena Police

Pasadena citizens may dispose of unwanted firearms through the Pasadena Police Department to ensure the weapons won't end up in the wrong hands. The Department accepts all types of firearms, including pistols, rifles, shotguns and antiques or replicas, regardless of the condition. A police officer will visit homes or businesses in Pasadena to take possession of unwanted weapons or they may be surrendered — unloaded — at the Pasadena Police Department, 207 N. Garfield Ave. If you intend to surrender the firearm at the police station, please first call 626/744-4241.

Police report 2011 "use of force" stats

The Pasadena Police Department recently released 2011 statistics related to its use of force. In 2011, the Department received 100,257 calls to 911 and 250,000 calls to the non-emergency number (626/744-2421) for a total of 350,257 calls. More than a third of those calls merited response by officers and 8,562 resulted in arrests. Only 67 of those arrests involved use of force. The department defines use of force as the "application of physical techniques or tactics, chemical agents or weapons." These incidents could involve officer-involved shootings, use of tasers, carotid-artery restraint holds, batons, K-9 bites and less lethal techniques resulting in an injury to an individual that requires medical attention. Officer-handled searches, escorts or restraining activity are not considered "use of force."

Fire Department announces hazardous vegetation notifications

The Pasadena Fire Department has begun to make bush clearance inspections. The inspections will continue through June. Residents in high fire-risk areas should have received a brochure outlining the requirements mandated by the State of California to keep them and their neighbors safe. *For more information please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 626/744-7178.*

Calling the police**Q&A with a police dispatcher****Q: What number should I call when I spot what appears to be suspicious activity?**

A: When calling to report suspicious activity, use the non-emergency line 626/744-4241. If the situation appears to be life-threatening, call 911.

Q: What does the dispatcher need to know?

A: The dispatcher needs to know what's going on or what you believe is suspicious. This may include where the incident is occurring and, if involving an auto, the direction of travel, description of the vehicle and, if available, the license plate number. The dispatcher will also appreciate getting a description of the individual or individuals, including gender, race, age and clothing. A complete description gives the police a better opportunity for the officer to spot the suspect.

Q: Why do dispatchers ask so many questions?

A: Some who call the police are surprised by all the questions a dispatcher may ask. Often callers just want the police "to get here." What they may not know, however, is that often while the dispatcher is asking questions, he or she is also simultaneously broadcasting the call to officers nearby. With good auto and personal descriptions, the responding officers may recognize the suspect as they pass them on the way to the location. In other words, the dispatcher is gathering information to increase the odds the police will intercept the individuals.

Some callers also get the mistaken impression that "the dispatcher doesn't care about my concern." In fact, because the dispatcher cares, he or she moderates voice tone. Each dispatcher handles hundreds of calls a day. Some are very difficult and stressful, so effective dispatchers use a seasoned professional's voice. While they may develop a thick skin, out of necessity, they care.

Other callers feel as if they've been "rushed off the phone." Dispatchers are as eager as the caller is to address the situation, so they are also trying to get as much information as possible as quickly as

possible. Also, the dispatch center is a hive of activity, so minimizing call time can sometimes be very important to ensure all calls can be answered in a timely manner.

If a dispatcher asks you to repeat something, it's because he or she could be multi-tasking ... out of necessity. That is, he or she may be listening to you, typing the call in for service, and conferring with other dispatchers in the room.

Q: Does the dispatcher communicate with responding officers while I'm on the phone or after?

A: The dispatcher, while on the phone with you, may be taking information and entering it into the computer system so it displays as a pending detail, which another dispatcher could be monitoring. The dispatcher could also be reading the displays and broadcasting the call to officers — all simultaneously. That, however, doesn't mean that responding officers will arrive at the site in five minutes. Response, as you might imagine, depends on priority and availability of field officers. Dispatchers always do their best to send information as quickly as possible. Here's another reason they act as quickly as possible: dispatchers also receive the complaints of response delays from the citizens.

Q: What does the dispatcher tell field officers when they relay my call to them?

A: The dispatcher who answers your call broadcasts to the field officer the call type, location and any and all available details; the more the better. The dispatcher paints a picture of the person or persons the responding officer should look for. Then they let that officer know if they should contact you with any subsequent information about the incident you called in.

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 which is led by WPRA education co-chairs Marilyn Randolph and Catherine Stringer.

SAN RAFAEL

ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

San Rafael Elementary School

Dear Friends of the West Pasadena Residents' Association:

Great things have unfolded at San Rafael Elementary School since I last wrote, and much is due to the unwavering support of the West Pasadena Residents' Association.

On Friday, March 1, San Rafael celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by hosting a *Read Across America* event, during which distinguished West Pasadena residents and civic leaders served as literacy advocates.

They took time out of their busy schedules to read their favorite books to our San Rafael students.

Our special guests included District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison; Pastor Glen Weber, of New Hope Christian Fellowship Church; Roberta Martinez, author of "Latinos In Pasadena"; Victor Gonzalez, educational Leader; Ben Mishico, Pasadena Rotary Club member; Linda Helscher, community volunteer; Ann Erdman, community member; Marah Lyvers, community



Rudy Ramirez

volunteer; Quincey Hocutt, community volunteer; Daniel Beam, retired San Rafael teacher and volunteer; Tracy Mikuriya, from Pasadena Unified's Welcome Center; Marion Lo, CEIS teacher; Sgt. Lomeli, Pasadena Police Department; and our very own Dr. Kathy Onoye, WPRA member and Executive Director of Elementary Education with Pasadena Unified.

Read Across America culminated on our lower playground, where we held a "Concert in the Park" with world-famous children's book author, bilingual educator, and performing artist Jose-Luis Orozco. Jose-Luis performed some of his most popular songs. This concert would not have been possible, if it were not for the generous WPRA donation that enabled us to purchase a portable speaker system, which we used for the very first time on this day. The speaker system was a hit, and we will think of the WPRA every time that we hold an event on campus.

Gracias !

Rudy Ramirez

Principal

San Rafael Elementary School



The portable PA system the WPRA purchased came in handy when world-famous children's book author, bilingual educator, and performing artist Jose-Luis Orozco performed some of his most popular songs for the students.

'A garden and a library ...'

San Rafael Library begins construction on patio, garden

BY KATHLEEN ROONEY HAMILTON

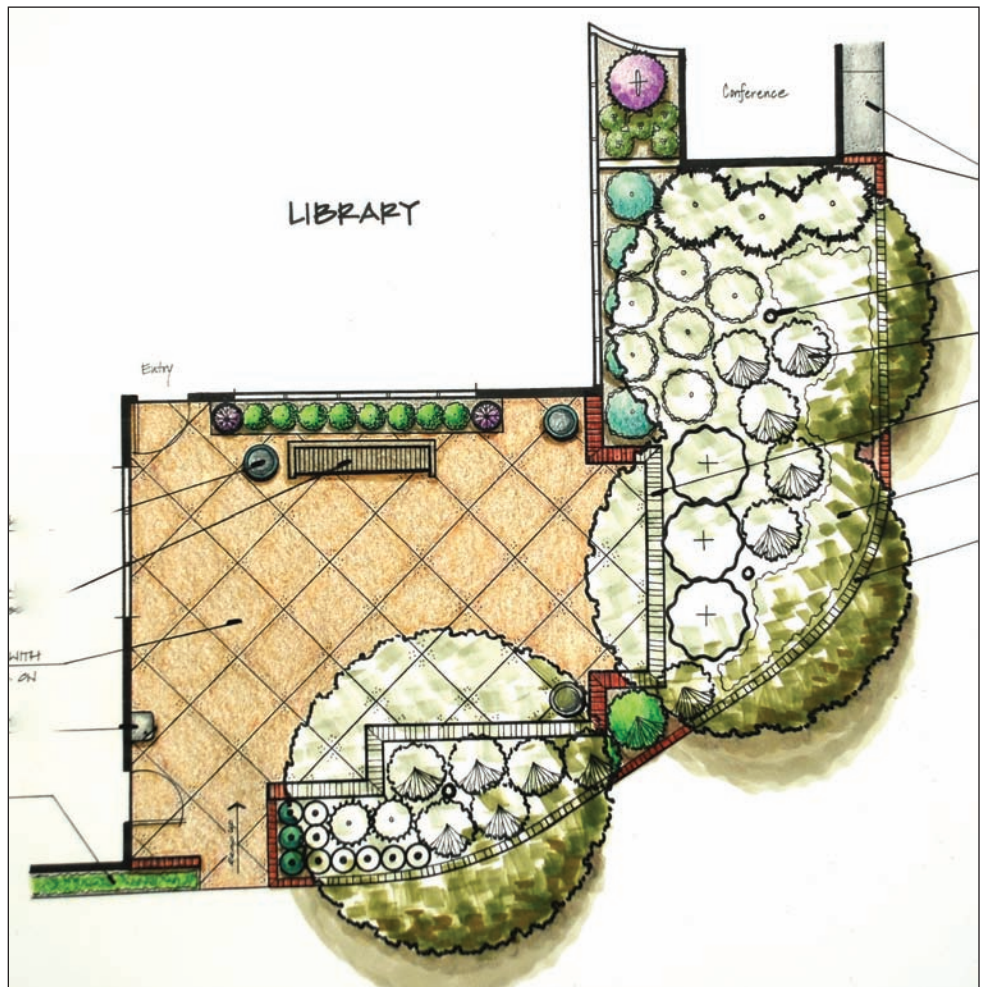
With the financial generosity and enthusiastic support of many neighbors and friends, the San Rafael Library will soon have a beautiful outdoor space with a thriving garden and new shade trees.

The project includes demolition of the existing paved patio and construction of a new and reconfigured paved space, construction of seating-height walls, lighting, irrigation and planting. Commercial-grade tables and chairs will be added, made from materials that do not require costly upkeep and maintenance. The project is being funded with private donations raised by the San Rafael Library Associates.

The San Rafael Library Associates (SRLA) is an organization of dedicated citizens focused on encouraging readers of all ages to come to the library on Nithsdale Road and committed to having that library visit be a pleasant experience, in a quiet and beautiful space, to read, think and reflect. Since its inception in 2002, SRLA has steadily checked off numerous items on its list of beautification and renovation efforts.

The SRLA in October held a Sunday afternoon garden party at a private home on picturesque Johnson Lake in support of the project. Funds raised from that event closed a funding gap and made it possible to complete the new patio space. The theme of the event was borrowed from Cicero, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need."

The SRLA chose a Pasadena icon, Peggy Dark, as the event honoree. Peggy was celebrated for her many contributions to our community and to Pasadena libraries. She was recognized for her artistry, creativity and knowledge of food, which made her the pre-eminent caterer for



Southern California in a career spanning over three decades.

Design drawings and plans, stylistically consistent with the mid-century architecture of the library, have been approved and pre-construction work is now underway. The on-site work should begin by late summer and, once commenced, is expected to take six weeks for completion. The eucalyptus trees which were previously on the site, and whose roots were damaging to the current patio, have been removed. The new landscaping will include shade trees with a lower and broader

canopy and colorful new plants and flowering shrubs. In addition to providing an inviting and restful space, the new patio space will improve functionality and safety at the library and will be handicapped-accessible.

The San Rafael Library Associates wish to express sincere gratitude for the significant donation given by the WPRA in support of this project. As with previous projects, the WPRA's participation and partnership has made the renovation of our library a reality for our community.

LOOKING BACK: 1939

"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*

Gone, but not forgotten

The Pasadena Cycleway

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

Pasadena historian Henry Markham Page wrote that "... there was nothing like it in the United States – or probably anywhere else for that matter."

It was a bold idea that seemed so visionary and yet so practical when West Pasadena resident Horace Dobbins first proposed it in 1897. "The wonder begins to be felt why somebody didn't think of such a project before" observed *Land of Sunshine* magazine in 1899.

America was in the midst of bicycle craze in the 1890s, and roads between Pasadena and Los Angeles were poor. Dobbins envisioned an elevated bicycle highway, or cycleway, from the Hotel Green to the Plaza in downtown Los Angeles, nine miles away.

The first section was opened to the public on January 1, 1900. Beginning at Dayton Street, just south of the Green Hotel, the cycleway extended one and one quarter miles south



Looking south from the Hotel Green, the cycleway was between Raymond on the left and Fair Oaks on the right. The toll booth is in the center of the photograph.

to the base of Raymond Hill, near Glenarm Street. It was about 20 feet above an alley that was midway between Fair Oaks and Raymond. For a brief time, that stretch of the cycleway seemed to hold the promise of an

exciting hour long ride to Los Angeles, and the possibility of a new era of transportation in Southern California.

But in two years, the city of Pasadena needed to clear the land for what is now Central Park, and that section of the cycleway came down. Some time later, the rest followed.

In 1931, Harlan Hall recalled the story of the cycleway in the *Pasadena Star-News*:

"Bicycling, like roller skating and other popular panics, was destined finally to settle down as a utilitarian feature of life, but there are middle-aged men and women who would like nothing better than to have back the thrill which came from a stately ride for a mile or more down the old elevated cycleway, with its extensive view over the roofs of the one-story buildings and houses south of Central Park."

The Pasadena Museum of History is located at the corner of N. Orange Grove and W. 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 cycleway crossing over Bellevue, next to the Pasadena Grand Opera House



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Emergency..... 9-1-1
Pasadena Crime Stoppers (800) 222-8477
Non-Emergency (626) 744-4241

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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Margaret McAustin, District 2

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