



## THE NEWS

LAND USE / PLANNING

EDUCATION

OPEN SPACE / CONSERVATION

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

GOVERNMENT

PARKS / RECREATION

**New data may save school from closure**

# Trenching at San Rafael Elementary reveals no evidence of active faults

BY KENYON HARBISON AND  
CATHERINE STRINGER  
DIRECTORS, WPRA

In 2012, acoustic testing was conducted on and around the San Rafael Elementary School (SRES) campus in west Pasadena in advance of planned school modernization. Those tests suggested the existence of multiple active earthquake faults — defined as seismic movement within the past 11,700 years — running through the center of the campus. Renovations were halted, and in 2014 the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education voted to close the school and “surplus” the property.

During this period, many in the community, including the WPRA, steadfastly supported saving the last remaining public school in west Pasadena, and advocated this position before the Board and City leaders.

Subsequent changes in PUSD administration and new information provided to Board leadership led to a re-evaluation of the situation at SRES. The new information came from the recent seismic retrofitting of Fire Station 39 on Avenue 64. Although superficial findings indicated seismic activity under the fire station, which would have resulted in its closure, subsequent trenching — a more definitive test to establish whether a fault is active — revealed that the initial evaluation was inaccurate. As a result, the City was able to move forward on the fire station retrofit.

In light of this new information, the PUSD Board voted to reinvestigate the status of the potential faults on the school site by doing limited trenching on the property. The decision to conduct these additional tests was also driven by the work of the 7-11 Surplus Property Advisory Committee, which recommended trenching and on which

WPRA Board members Catherine Stringer and John Van de Kamp, and future Board member Kenyon Harbison served, along with Don Watson of the San Rafael Neighborhoods Association, and numerous other parents, educators, and neighbors.

Trenching on the SRES campus was conducted during summer recess, and the results of those tests were submitted to the Board in a preliminary report. As PUSD has already made known, and as residents and supporters of SRES were relieved and happy to hear, the preliminary report on the trenching indicates that active faults do not exist on the site under the buildings and that the “potential for any surface rupture during the design life of the existing school buildings is very low,” according to the report.

These findings were presented to the PUSD Board during its September 24 meeting. We

*Continued on page 11*



A large group of southwest Pasadena residents (and others) assembled on Sunday, October 4 for a Fall Party and Neighborhood Social at WPRA board member and former president Fred Zepeda's home on Grand Avenue. Among those who braved the risk of rain were: (left to right, front row) Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek, U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-28), WPRA Secretary Justin Chapman, WPRA board member Elissa DeAngelo, WPRA President Geoffrey Baum, WPRA board members Kenyon Harbison and Ken Grobecker; (back row) WPRA board members Jim Keating and Priscilla Taylor, WPRA Vice President Sarah Gavitt, WPRA board member Nancy Walker, WPRA Treasurer Blaine Cavena, WPRA board member and former president Bill Urban, and State Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-41). For more photos of the event, visit the WPRA website. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)

## WPRA analysis finds SR-710 DEIR 'grossly inadequate'

BY SARAH GAVITT  
VICE PRESIDENT, WPRA  
CHAIR, WPRA 710 DEIR/EIS RESPONSE TEAM

The West Pasadena Residents' Association on August 5 submitted a 430-page formal response to the 26,000 page SR-710 North Study Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (report).

This herculean WPRA effort required the services of 27 experts and volunteers including scientists, engineers, university professors,

*Continued on page 13*

# What keeps Pasadena special? The neighbors!

BY GEOFFREY BAUM  
PRESIDENT, WPRA

A few years ago, I was meeting with local historian and *bon vivant* Nat Read. He was explaining the difference between Glendale and Pasadena. In Glendale, he said, after coming home from work downtown, residents relax after a long day and spend time with friends and family. In Pasadena, by contrast, after work you'll find many neighbors heading off to volunteer with service, community, cultural and faith-based organizations, attending local commission, city council, school board and other government meetings — actively participating in the civic life that has defined the unique character of Pasadena for more than a century.



Geoffrey Baum

In this spirit, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Charles "Kicker" McKenney.

More than 40 years ago Kicker grew increasingly concerned by threats of development along the South Orange Grove corridor and traffic in the lower Arroyo Seco. He became a neighborhood activist, was elected to two terms on the City Council (then known as the City Board of Directors), served as president of the WPRA and, together with Betty, his wife of 45 years, founded Arlington Garden on a vacant three-acre Caltrans parcel in the heart of west Pasadena that had been neglected for years. [For more, see related article on page 3.]

Although Kicker passed away in August, his impact and leadership are evident every time we drive down Orange Grove, take a walk through the Arroyo or enjoy the peace and beauty of Arlington Garden.

He, and countless others over the past 54 years, fostered a tradition of committed and constructive activism on which we continue to build as we confront the challenges facing our neighborhood today.

Among those threats is the active effort calling for a tunnel to be built through west Pasadena. Both the Environmental Protection Agency and the South Coast Air Quality Management District have now cited serious, dangerous deficiencies in the SR-710 Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) distributed by Caltrans and Metro.

The concerns raised by these two public agencies reinforce many of the issues raised by the WPRA in response to the DEIR and will help form the basis for the legal challenge to this multi-billion dollar project. With volunteer and financial support from hundreds of neighbors in west Pasadena, the WPRA will continue to actively challenge the proposal and welcomes additional contributions. You can learn more or donate online on our website: [wpra.net](http://wpra.net).

Like Kicker, let's plan to leave west Pasadena better than we found it and work together to preserve the unique character of our neighborhoods for generations to come.

## About us

### 2015 – 2016 officers

- President: Geoffrey Baum ([baum@wpra.net](mailto:baum@wpra.net))
- Vice President: Sarah Gavit ([gavit@wpra.net](mailto:gavit@wpra.net))
- Treasurer: Blaine Cavena ([cavena@wpra.net](mailto:cavena@wpra.net))
- Secretary: Justin Chapman ([chapman@wpra.net](mailto:chapman@wpra.net))

**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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- Kenyon Harbison ([harbison@wpra.net](mailto:harbison@wpra.net))  
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*Membership, Open Space & Conservation*



The News is mailed each quarter to nearly 8,000 homes and businesses in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes and beyond.

**Editor:** Chuck Hudson  
([editor@wpra.net](mailto:editor@wpra.net))

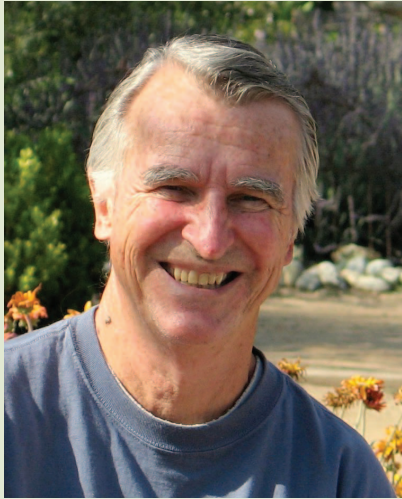
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Visit our website at [wpra.net](http://wpra.net)  
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## WPRAs remembers Charles 'Kicker' McKenney

**T**he West Pasadena Residents' Association mourns the loss of former WPRAs president Charles "Kicker" McKenney, who, at age 77, died on Thursday, August 27. He is survived by Betty, his wife of 45 years; their children, Stephen, Brendan, and Sara Gillissie; and five grandchildren.

Kicker attended schools in Pasadena, graduated from Stanford University and USC law school, and settled in Pasadena. Spurred by the demolition of a lovely 1920s office building to make way for a gas station, Kicker ran for and was elected to the then called City Board of Directors.

During his Board tenure (1972-78), he successfully advocated for preserving the open-channel section of the lower Arroyo Seco under the Colorado Street bridge; for maintaining the elegant streetscape of South Orange Grove Boulevard by retaining both the historic street lights and the pattern of alternating magnolia and palm trees; and for closing the lower Arroyo Seco natural area to automobiles.

Kicker was also a past member of the Pasadena Center Operating Company and Pasadena Recreation and Parks Commission, and a longtime volunteer at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens.

*Continued on page 7*

# The view from City Hall

By STEVE MADISON  
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 6

**J**ust as our world is ever-changing, so, too, our country, state and city constantly evolve and adapt, to (among other things) new technology and unexpected challenges. One thing that we have consistently worked together to maintain is the high quality of life in our beautiful, west Pasadena neighborhoods — Linda Vista, San Rafael, San Rafael hills, Orange Grove and the central city (any omissions are unintentional!).

I often joke that I live in a small, Midwestern town just nine miles from downtown Los Angeles. Of course this is an oversimplification on both the micro and macro levels: the neighborhoods in west Pasadena have unique characteristics and different views of how Pasadena should look and feel. And Pasadena, as a city, is more like a microcosm of much larger cities in terms of its demographics, institutions and commerce. Our commitment to maintain and even enhance the quality of life for all Pasadenans is unwavering.

What follows is an update on some of the specific issues we have worked on recently.



Steve Madison

## General Plan update

City Council last month adopted updates to the Mobility and Land Use elements of our General Plan, following a six-year endeavor involving 5,000 residents and

over 200 meetings. Under the updated plan, our residential neighborhoods shall remain as is, with continued preservation of historic resources. The greatest growth will focus on the Central District, where residents envision a vibrant and walkable city.

Many have concerns that any more development means more traffic, noise and congestion. Council adopted a methodology, based on staff research, under which automobiles are just one means of getting around, and all forms of transportation — bicycles, vehicular, and walking — must be accommodated. Businesses are promoting ride-sharing, public transportation and

*Continued on page 12*



District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Sonja Yates, and City Manager Michael Beck grip the ceremonial sledge hammer that, figuratively, will be used to demolish the Desiderio Army Reserve Center structures to make way for the new Desiderio homes and park. (Photo by City of Pasadena)





At long last, the restoration of the historic La Loma bridge began in mid-September, following its closure in July. The \$13 million collaborative project between the City of Pasadena and Caltrans is the culmination of meetings involving an Advisory Council of community leaders and neighbors who worked with staff and Dokken Engineering to come up with the final plan. The result will be a seismically retrofitted and reconstructed bridge. It is scheduled to be reopened in December 2016 with a wider road surface and restored decorative railings and street lights. *(Photo by Chuck Hudson)*

## Council adopts General Plan with ‘hybrid’ density levels

BY AVRAM GOLD  
DIRECTOR, WPRA

**C**ulminating a six-year initiative that involved more than 3,000 area residents and more than 200 meetings, City Council on August 17 adopted the City’s 2015 General Plan, which serves as our master planning document. The vote to adopt the plan was unanimous.

Prior to General Plan adoption, however, a number of residents debated building-height restrictions for future multi-unit complexes adjacent to single family homes. The disagreement involved opposing views of what is best for Pasadena: more or less growth of new residential and non-residential construction.

- Supporters of higher density development argued for the initial recommendation from Council, which would have permitted growth caps of up to 7,905 new dwelling units and 7.8 million square feet of new non-residential construction.
- Supporters of lower density development endorsed what was referred to as the “hybrid” alternative, which would permit up to 6,979 new dwelling units and nearly 6 million square feet of new non-residential construction.

City Council voted 6 to 2 in favor of the lower density hybrid project caps, which were added to the General Plan prior to adoption. Councilmembers John Kennedy, District 3,

and Andy Wilson, District 7, voted against the compromise “hybrid” caps.

The term hybrid represents a compromise between Council’s higher density recommendation (first bullet above) and the recommendation from the Planning Commission, General Plan Update Advisory Committee and City to limit the growth cap at 6,365 residential units and 5.8 million nonresidential square feet of development allocated across the seven Specific Plan areas.

Specific Plans for selected geographical areas of the city further refine General Plan guidelines with detailed development standards, types of land uses, infrastructure requirements and implementation measures.

## BRIEFS

**Paseo Colorado embarks on major redevelopment**

A groundbreaking ceremony on August 19 at Paseo Colorado marked the beginning of the first phase of a \$70 million redevelopment of the shopping center at 300 E. Colorado Blvd. The redevelopment of Paseo Colorado by owner DDR Corp. will include two major components: the former Macy's building will be replaced with two new buildings — a six-story, 179-room Hyatt Place hotel, on the south end of the site along E. Green Street, and a seven-story building on the north end of the site, along E. Colorado Boulevard. These two components will include a mix of restaurants and retailers, as well as 71 for-sale residential units.

Paseo Colorado property manager Michael De Leon also took this time to announce the arrival of several new retailers and restaurants. Committed to leasing space in the new building are Victoria's Secret, Chico's, Soma, White House | Black Market, West Elm and The Rose, a new dinner-theater concept. (Source: *Pasadena Now*)

**PWP launches new outage map**

Pasadena Water and Power has launched a new power outage map. With its community-owned utility, Pasadena typically experiences fewer outages and shorter durations than many other cities. However, if the power should go out in an area of the city, a new online outage map provides information about the general location and, if available, when the power will be restored.

To view the outage map visit PWP's section of the City's website, and click on the Outage Map. PWP also recommends that customers register their mobile phone number with PWP's Outage Management System by contacting PWP Customer Service at (626) 744-4005. When registered, customers who experience an outage can call (626) 744-4673 for a "call back" to be notified when power has been restored. (Source: *Pasadena Now*)

## Phase one of 100 W. Walnut (Parsons) project offers planning opportunity

By SUE MOSSMAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
PASADENA HERITAGE

**K**nown as 100 West Walnut, the Lincoln Properties project approved by City Council for construction on the parking lots surrounding the Parsons building will add substantial new housing and office space adjacent to Old Pasadena. This is one of



the largest development sites in the city and one that is located in a particularly sensitive gateway location.

The Design Commission is now reviewing Phase One, which will include 475 residential units along Fair Oaks Avenue and Holly Street, and new commercial and office space at the corner of Walnut and Fair Oaks. We salute a number of changes made to improve the site plan as the project evolved. As a planned development, flexibility is permitted. This should provide opportunities for better planning and design of the buildings and open spaces that comprise the project. The design team should take full advantage of these options to make this very large project a truly fine one. Based on drawings presented at the first meeting with the Design Commission, Pasadena Heritage would like to see more variety in the proposed buildings and more references to the scale, massing and architecture of the existing historic buildings along Fair Oaks, which are neighbors to this project.

**710 corridor properties continue to be a focus of attention**

The more than 100 Pasadena homes in the path of the SR-710, many of them owned by Caltrans for decades and three-quarters of them considered historic, continue to be on our agenda. Plans are evolving for the sale of many of the properties, depending on their location and the outcome of the SR-710 project alternatives evaluation (tunnel or other transit options or start over). There is a complex hierarchy of preferred potential purchasers, governed in large part by the Roberti Bill, including original owners, tenants, other government agencies, non-

profit housing developers, and finally regular market-rate purchasers. Pasadena Heritage's primary concern is to be sure that historic homes are sold with appropriate protection in place. Caltrans is required to assure that state-owned historic resources for which it is responsible will have proper oversight when sold. Houses within the Markham Place National Register District (and overlapping Governor Markham Landmark District) do have protection under City codes; those further south do not. Our goal is to work with Caltrans to put restrictions in place, and to identify those homes that warrant increased protection as individual local monuments or through historic preservation covenants. The varying architectural significance and the condition of these properties must figure into this analysis. We continue to work on gathering all the relevant information to make the right recommendations.

**Craftsman Weekend coming in November**

Pasadena Heritage is proud to present its nationally-known Craftsman Weekend for the 24th year. This three-day celebration of the American Arts and Crafts Movement is scheduled for November 13-15. A variety of walking, bus and drive-yourself tours will again be offered, along with lectures, hands-on workshops, and an exhibition and sale of antique and contemporary furnishings at the Pasadena Convention Center. More than 40 exhibitors will display their wares, and the ever-popular Silent Auction will have something for everyone, with many items at special bargain prices. Three evening events are planned, each unique, and all providing opportunities for lively social interaction as well as a wonderful historic setting: Thursday evening at the Raymond Restaurant, Friday evening at The Judson Studios, and Saturday night at the Crowe-Crocker House, designed by Greene and Greene. Information is available on the Pasadena Heritage website or you may call for a brochure to be mailed to you. Tickets went on sale September 28, and some events sell out quickly, so make reservations early for your favorite offerings. Many volunteers are also needed, so let Pasadena Heritage know if you'd like to be involved (contact [mking@pasadenaheritage.org](mailto:mking@pasadenaheritage.org)).



## BRIEFS

**Radio station will help time showers to save water**

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has turned to music as a way of encouraging area residents to conserve water during the state's continuing drought. This unique approach involves creation of an Internet radio station that offers five-minute songs that can be used to time showers. The "Water Lovers Station" on Pandora and Spanish-language Uforia streaming-music services offers a variety of tunes, many with water or rain themes. The Pandora Internet radio playlist includes about 100 songs, including Adele's "Set Fire to the Rain," Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water," Prince's "Purple Rain" and Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Have You Ever Seen the Rain." To access the playlist, Pandora users should search for "Water Lovers Playlist" in the create-a-station box. (Source: The Patch)

**Pasadena appoints Selvidge to airport authority**

The City of Pasadena has appointed Ross S. Selvidge, Ph.D., to the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority. Selvidge, who was officially sworn in on July 22, joins District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison and Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek as one of the Authority's three Pasadena representatives. He replaces Jacque Robinson, who stepped down in May 2015. Dr. Selvidge is a long-time west Pasadena resident and has had a lifelong interest in aviation, undergoing his initial pilot training and conducting his first solo flight in 1968 at what was then called the Hollywood-Burbank Airport. He holds a Ph.D. in finance and land economics from the University of Southern California and previously served in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps, retiring with the rank of Commander. Dr. Selvidge has held positions on various Pasadena boards and commissions in the past, including seven years on the Board of Directors of the Rose Bowl Operating Company. He currently represents southwest Pasadena, west Altadena, and La Cañada Flintridge as an elected member of the Pasadena City College Board of Trustees.

# Community, City address structural incompatibility, 'contextual cacophony'

BY MIC HANSEN

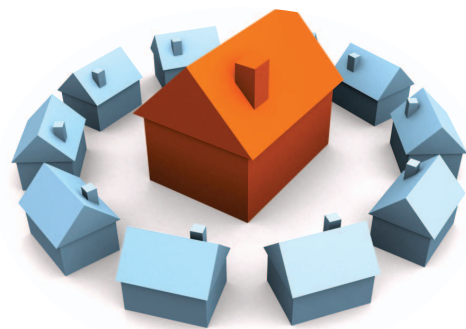
There have been several articles regarding "mansionization", defined as the practice of enlarging, remodeling, or demolishing-to-rebuild smaller, neighborhood-compatible homes in established neighborhoods with oversized, embellished structures that dwarf the surrounding dwellings — even though they comply with current zoning ordinances.

This practice came to the forefront approximately 15 years ago, although it has been accelerating in the last five years and is prevalent not only in Pasadena but within a majority of our surrounding communities as well. In the last several years, we have seen increasing number of behemoths masquerading as family homes cropping up in Pasadena's historic, verdant, well-matched neighborhoods, akin to the screeching of a loud and out-of-tune-violin, while listening to Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*. No conductor would allow such cacophony, and no music patron would countenance listening to it. Similarly, the community is objecting to the incompatibility and "contextual cacophony" of these new structures.

As we outlined in the Summer 2015 WPRA newsletter, this issue is being addressed in three phases.

- In the first phase, the City has placed a moratorium on new structures in the Lower Hastings Ranch area while the neighborhood and City staff discuss what considerations may be included in a new ordinance.
- Phase two will address areas of Pasadena not designated as historic or hillsides districts.
- The third phase will deal with the hillside districts.

Concurrent with phase one, eight community meetings were held throughout Pasadena to obtain public input on mansionization and receive feedback from all areas of the community. The responses received during these meetings consistently underlined the concern neighbors had regarding scale, size, style and compatibility of the



new construction with its neighbors, appropriateness of materials, setbacks, encroachment on privacy, obstruction of views, the clearing of trees, and loss of property values. Neighbors also expressed a desire that codes and regulations be diligently enforced.

Currently, the most effective means to preserve a neighborhood's existing structures and character is by forming a Landmark District. The staff of the Design and Historic Preservation section of the Planning Department can assist residents of a neighborhood in determining potential eligibility and the logical boundaries for the district, and conduct a meeting to explain to the neighbors the parameters for landmark district designation. A majority of the property owners must support the designation and sign the petition to proceed with the application.

The Planning Staff is continuing to sift through the comments received during the eight community meetings and to devise alternatives and solutions to propose as the project transitions to its second phase. An informational meeting held at the September 23 Planning Commission public meeting summarized the outreach to date, as well as outline potential changes to development standards for Phase One.

*Mic Hansen currently serves as chair of the Planning Commission and is a member of the Design Commission. She has been a member of the WPRA and Pasadena Heritage boards of directors, and the General Plan Update Advisory Committee.*

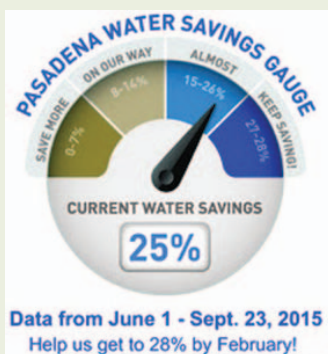
## BRIEFS

## Water update

Due to the severe drought in California, City Council on June 1 adopted a Level 2 water-supply shortage plan, which imposes additional mandatory water restrictions for residents and businesses. Level 2 permits outdoor watering only on Tuesday and Saturday, between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. It also requires the city to reduce water consumption by 28%, based on 2013 consumption, and reinforces that violators face fines up to \$500 per incident. Council action also included the following water-use restrictions:

- No turf irrigation within 48-hours following a measurable rain
- No washing hard or paved surfaces using potable water, except as necessary to alleviate safety and/or sanitary hazards
- All master-metered multifamily properties must certify installation of water efficient shower heads and aerators on faucets by September 30, 2015
- The abbreviated outdoor watering schedule is effective through October; a one-day-per-week outdoor watering limit will be effective from November to March
- All identified water leaks must be fixed within 48 hours, and filling ornamental lakes and ponds is prohibited

Pasadena Water and Power will regularly report to City Council on progress to meet the 28% conservation goal. If water savings are not sufficient during the summer, the City Council may have to mandate additional water use restrictions. [See conservation meter graphic below, which will be updated regularly on the City's website.]



# Multi-year greywater project could reduce demand for potable water by 9%

By ELISSA DEANGELO  
DIRECTOR, WPRA

**P**asadena Water and Power (PWP) is the lead agency for a project that envisions construction and operation of a new non-potable water distribution system to deliver recycled water produced by the Los Angeles/Glendale Water Reclamation Plant, tunnel water from Devil's Gate and Richardson Springs, and surface water from the Arroyo Seco stream.

According to the project's recently released Draft Environmental Impact Report, the project, when completed, could result in as much as a 9% reduction in potable water demand.

Likely customers of that greywater are within the service areas of PWP; the Foothill Municipal Water District, including its member agencies; and the California "American Water Company. The primary PWP customers who could benefit from Phase 1 of the project would be Art Center College of Design, Brookside Golf Course, The Rose Bowl Stadium area, Brookside Park, and with an optional extension in Phase 6, to more than 51 other customers. This new supply of water would be used for landscape irrigation, cooling, industrial needs, and other non-potable uses.

More specifically, the project calls for the construction of pipelines, storage reservoirs, pressure-reducing stations and pumping stations. The project, as determined by need, would be implemented in six phases. Phase 1 would be operational by 2018, and Phase 6 would be online in 2028.

After evaluating alternatives, PWP determined that this project will meet its four main objectives:

- Maximize the use of local water supplies and use of PWP's existing water rights;
- Reduce reliance on imported water from the Metropolitan Water District;
- Improve water supply reliability by providing a new local, dependable and environmentally sustainable water source that will be available even in droughts for irrigation and other non-potable uses; and

- Develop a new water source that is cost-effective, relative to other new water sources.

As recommended by its Land Use committee, the WPRA Board concluded that the project appears to be necessary and beneficial.

## WPRA remembers Charles 'Kicker' McKenney

*Continued from page 3*

Twelve years ago Kicker and Betty took a three-acre empty lot and transformed it into Arlington Garden. Friends, family and the community, and horticulture professionals contributed to the garden's creation, but Kicker and Betty were the *constant gardeners* in every sense of the phrase.

Under their steadfast stewardship, Arlington Garden became a beautiful and sustainable, and Pasadena's only dedicated public garden. This beautiful public garden is the culminating tribute to Kicker's lifelong devotion to Pasadena. Kicker's wit, humor, quiet wisdom and thoughtful intellect will be missed.

John Van de Kamp, WPRA board member and former California attorney general, remembers campaigning for Kicker in the 70s. "I campaigned for Kicker when he first ran for City Council - and upset the front runner," says Van de Kamp. "Our secret: walking precincts all over town in the runoff we passed out (or dropped) little packets labeled 'Forget me not -Vote for Charles Kicker McKenney' - of course containing forget-me-not seeds."

"Kicker was an unfailingly kind and generous neighbor and friend who always offered a smile and encouraging word," said Geoffrey Baum, WPRA president. "He exemplified the very best in our community. We have all benefited from his warmth, leadership and devoted service over the years and he will be deeply missed."

# A thank-you to our donor-members!

The WPRA appreciates the above-and-beyond financial support of all those who join or contribute to our effort. The membership donations listed below include the names of all those who contributed \$100 or more between August 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015. 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.

*NOTE: To make it easier to help fund the WPRA services and efforts, we have enclosed an envelope within this issue. Just insert (1) the completed form on the envelope flap and (2) a check (made out to WPRA) into the pre-addressed envelope, add a stamp and mail it. You may also donate using your credit card by visiting wpra.net and clicking on EZ Donate in the upper left corner of our home page.*

*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.*

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# The City plans to manage our arboreal wealth, burdens

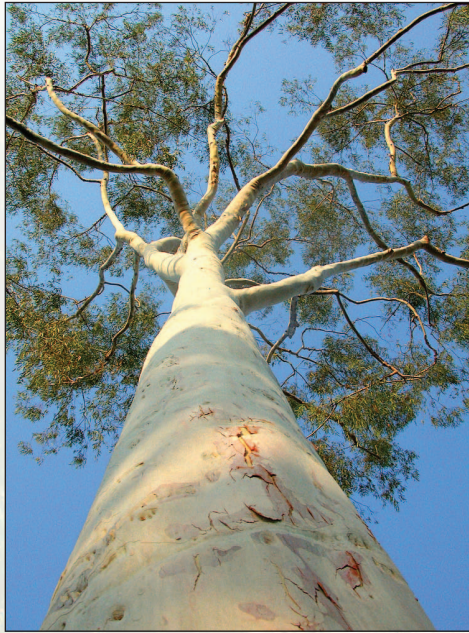
BY JOHN FAUVRE

**T**rees have become news, and Pasadena is part of that news. On a grand scale, trees are part of our environment: “a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity,” as phrased in the Pope’s *Laudato Si*.

On a local level, cracks at the edges of our urban forest draw attention — damage to over 5,500 street trees in the 2011 windstorm, conflict over the clearing of four trees interfering with the full use of the casting pond in the Arroyo last year, removal of 51 drought-killed trees in Hahamongna Park and 65 dangerous beetle-bored Sycamores in the Lower Arroyo this year, and, in July, collapse of a Pine injuring two children near Kidspace in Brookside Park.

Less publicized, but still significant, is the City’s effort in October of last year to develop a comprehensive plan for trees by retaining an outside consultant, Dudek Environmental Consulting. The objective was to state the vision, policies, and practices of managing our urban forest.

The process became public in January 2015 by a survey of self-selected residents. They were asked how they felt about trees in the City (mostly good). Then in April,



management similar to streets or utilities. Since the Pasadena area “did not [historically] include significant canopy cover,” the wonderful collection of trees we now have depends more on nature’s grace than institutional controls.

From this perspective, the first step was to count the trees. Now we know that Pasadena has about 63,000 street trees, 25,000 park

controlling fire risk, removal of dangerous trees, and planning for the whole operation.

The April draft sets the unitemized total costs at \$2.8 million per year, but with a total return at \$8.8 million, though none of the benefits seem to flow back into the City budget. Rather, they go to the region generally and to private landowners.

One issue raised in public comments to the April draft was the possible inclusion of the role of Pasadena Water and Power. While Public Works is solely responsible for street and park trees, PWP deals with privately owned trees through its “Cool Trees” program, which provides subsidies of up to \$50 per tree for specified shade trees and helpful information about siting, planting, watering and pruning shade trees. PWP has not so far offered a cost-benefit analysis, but it does report that the air conditioning needs of the City are greatly reduced by well-placed shade trees and all of the benefits from public trees are also generated by private trees.

Another issue identified through public comments was the possible development of a program to sell the carbon emission offset credits potentially available from the planting of new trees through the California cap-and-trade market, as has been pioneered by

*“The arboreal wealth also comes with considerable burdens: acquiring, planting, watering, pruning, controlling pests, controlling fire risk, removal of dangerous trees, and planning...”*

the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee received the first draft of a new “Urban Forest Management Plan.” The Committee asked for more time to study the 345-page document and for a further presentation at a joint session with the Design Commission. The committee also requested additional public comment. A new draft is now anticipated to be unveiled before such a joint committee session in October.

The ambitious undertaking reflected in the April draft shows the evolving program for our urban forest. The draft envisions the urban forest as “infrastructure” needing

trees, and 123,000 trees on private property, according to the April draft. In addition to setting the character and identity of the City, other benefits include:

- Improved air quality
- Carbon sequestration
- Increased water infiltration
- Energy savings (from shade)
- Increased property values.

The arboreal wealth also comes with considerable burdens: acquiring, planting, watering, pruning, controlling pests,

Sacramento, which raised \$50,000, and Santa Monica.

As the anticipated October version is still a work in progress, it’s difficult to say what new information and management proposals will be forthcoming or how we should react to them, though the urban forest in our neighborhood is important to us all.

The *WPRA News* will provide an update when the new draft is released. In the meantime, deep water your trees through the drought.



## Trenching at SRE

*Continued from page 1*

anticipate that the Board, during its October meeting, will take formal action to remove SRES from the District “surplus” list.

Our advocacy for San Rafael Elementary is another example of the WPRA’s commitment to protecting and preserving the resources that make our community such a vibrant and special place. From the start, the WPRA has said that a decision to close the only public school in west Pasadena would have a negative generational impact on our neighborhood and on our city.

The road to this point has been a long one, and with many ups and downs, but it now appears that our once-again thriving school will live on in our community for decades to come.

## City warns Red Flag violators of auto tow

The City of Pasadena reminds residents that vehicles will be towed (\$300 to reclaim vehicle) if they are on city streets within the pre-designated Red Flag zones in violation of the City’s Municipal Code once a Red Flag Alert is declared.

Most pre-designated Red Flag areas are in and around the Arroyo Seco area of west Pasadena, plus some foothill areas of east Pasadena. If you live on a hillside or foothill area of Pasadena, especially on a narrow road, chances are good that you live in a Red Flag zone. If you are not sure if your home is in a Red Flag zone, visit [cityofpasadena.net/Fire/Red\\_Flag](http://cityofpasadena.net/Fire/Red_Flag) or call (626) 744-7311.

Once declared, special “Red Flag” signs will be visible at key entry points into or out of those pre-designated neighborhoods. Vehicles with special disabled placards or license plates are **not** exempt and will also be towed.

Red Flag notices can be sent to residents and others who have signed up for emergency alerts through the Pasadena Local Emergency Alert System, or PLEAS at [cityofpasadena.net/Fire/PLEAS](http://cityofpasadena.net/Fire/PLEAS).



SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## 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 west Pasadena, through the WPRA-sponsored Student Enrichment Program.*

BY RUDY RAMIREZ  
PRINCIPAL, SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY

Dear friends:

It brings me great joy to share with you that on September 11, 2015, San Rafael Elementary School received a report from Earth Systems regarding the recently completed “Phase 2” of a Fault Rupture Hazard Evaluation on our campus. Although the summer work caused Pasadena Education Foundation’s Summer Enrichment Program to relocate to the Roosevelt Elementary School campus, it was a small price to pay for the following news: “Based on the results of our investigation . . . it is Earth Systems’ opinion that there is no evidence of active faults present at [San Rafael].”

Every time that I read this report, my smile gets wider and wider!

As you can well imagine, this news has created a sense of excitement and opportunity on our campus. After years of uncertainty, our school community is starting to see hope at

the end of the tunnel. In a few short months, San Rafael will, once and for all, know its destiny. In the best scenario, our campus will be taken off of the “surplus” list for PUSD and a renovation and upgrade project can get underway.



Rudy Ramirez

As many of you have seen for yourselves, San Rafael Elementary School is a precious jewel to be protected by our community. It is for this reason that we extend a huge thank-you and gracias to the West Pasadena Residents’ Association for its unwavering support, compassion, and commitment to our students. Along this rollercoaster of a journey, it has always been in our corner.

In the months to come, I’m sure we’ll have plenty of opportunities to show you, in person, how much we appreciate every member of the WPRA. For now, please join us in smiling and looking ahead at the endless possibilities.

Previously, I told you “the best is yet to come” for San Rafael Elementary. Today, I believe that more than ever.



## Rose Bowl updates

By BILL URBAN  
DIRECTOR, WPRA

### Beyond the Fence Line program

To mitigate impact of Rose Bowl events on its neighbors, Rose Bowl management has started a new program they call “Beyond the Fence Line.” Through it, six managers act as area managers for specific areas outside the Rose Bowl complex, including in surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, the Rose Bowl is continuing to make changes to both improve fan experience and reduce impact on the neighborhoods.

Some changes instituted early this summer include:

- Use of solar-powered lights, rather than gas-generator-powered lights, at intersections to reduce noise from the generators
- Creation of a residential emergency lane on Seco Street
- Relocation of a Rosemont toll plaza so that no toll plazas are in front of homes
- Opening parking feeding lots all at once to minimize backup entering the stadium parking areas
- Moving employee parking to off-site

### RBOC Says “No” to NFL

The Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) voted unanimously NOT to respond to a request for proposal the NFL sent to Rose Bowl and at least four local venues. The other five venues are the Los Angeles Coliseum, Dodger Stadium, Angel Stadium and StubHub Center, according to a July 8 article in *Los Angeles Times*.

“We believe,” said Victor Gordo, RBOC president and a member of the Pasadena City Council, according to the *LA Times*, “that a music-and-arts festival is more fitting with Pasadena’s brand, ... with the future of the stadium, [and] with our desire to have certainty of finances of the stadium and to have a world-class event that’s fitting of the city ... the distraction that the NFL question poses at this time could take away from our collective efforts as a city to realize a music-and-arts festival. What you saw from the board today is we don’t want that distraction.”

## The view from City Hall

*Continued from page 3*

telecommuting. Pasadena will continue to have great appeal for new businesses and residents as it changes, but first and foremost those changes must always consider the needs of current constituents.

### Desiderio

In 1943, the 5.1 acres below the Colorado Bridge that had been part of the Vista del Arroyo Hotel was acquired as a U.S. Army training center. For the last decade-plus, the City has worked on reacquiring this property, and finally the federal government conveyed the parcel to the City.

There were 11 separate reuse proposals, including some envisioning hundreds of apartment units. Our vision was to restore the land to nature — to “repatriate” most of it to the Arroyo once again. However, the federal government required that affordable housing be a part of any reuse project, as a condition of conveying the property back to us.

The Council adopted a joint-use plan with 25% of the property going to Habitat for Humanity for construction of nine single-family homes — at least three of which will be designated for veterans and built in the style of craftsman bungalows. The rest will become Desiderio Park, a mostly passive recreation area with native plants, boulders and walkways, and dry streambeds where water will flow during the rainy season.

Demolition began in September, and we all look forward to celebrating the grand opening.

### La Loma Bridge

The restoration of the historic La Loma Bridge began in mid-September with a ceremony marking its closure in July. This \$13 million collaborative project between the City of Pasadena and Caltrans is the culmination of meetings involving an Advisory Council of community leaders and neighbors who worked with staff and Dokken Engineering to come up with the final plan. The result will be a seismically retrofitted and reconstructed bridge, which will have a wider road surface and include decorative railings and street lights to restore its original look.

I’m pleased and grateful that the Council supported my request to restore the historic bridge, rather than put in a new structure. I understand the inconvenience to many during

its closure, but hope that the detours will become familiar until the bridge reopens in December 2016.

### Water conservation

I want to thank constituents who have worked diligently to conserve water to help the City reach its targeted water-use reduction of 28%. Taking a phrase from fashion, “Brown is the new green.” We are slightly short of that 28% mark, but are working with shared-meter users on flow restrictors for showers and sinks. Everyone’s contribution counts in this effort.

Also, in the future we will use greywater pumped from Glendale to supplement our water source for large properties such as Art Center, the Rose Bowl Golf Course and Caltech.

### Embezzlement update

Nine months after the discovery of an 11-year embezzlement scheme, the City has taken significant steps to recover the lost funds and adopt new strategies and policies to improve our internal checks and balances and ensure the City is never victimized again. The City has filed a civil lawsuit against the former employees, while the Los Angeles District Attorney’s office handles the criminal prosecution.

KPMG has also provided the City with a comprehensive audit report, including recommendations for strengthening our policies and controls, especially in the Finance Department. And we have made other claims to recover the lost money, including a Fidelity Insurance claim. I chair the ad hoc City Council committee overseeing these efforts, while a citizen task force of highly regarded and experienced residents is reviewing and analyzing the City’s system of financial reporting.

All of this information and more can be found on the City website ([cityofpasadena.net](http://cityofpasadena.net)).

We remain highly interested in hearing your thoughts and bringing them to Council. To all of those who have sent to my office correspondence regarding these issues and others, and those who come to our six annual District town hall meetings, I’m grateful for your voice and commitment to keeping Pasadena great.



# WPRA analysis finds SR-710 DEIR ‘grossly inadequate’

*Continued from page 1*

environmentalists, attorneys, planners, policy experts and historic preservationists. The WPRA has invested well over \$50,000 in this effort, so your support is essential.

## Our conclusion

The WPRA response team found the report to be grossly inadequate. The team believes the report showed clear bias, and:

- Misrepresented data solely to support the tunnel alternative by failing to address substantial negative environmental and community impacts it would likely bring.
- Selected the study area and alternatives to eliminate from contention what the team believed were important transportation alternatives. For example, the Glendale-Burbank region — a primary source of the SR- 710 tunnel traffic — is excluded from the study area. Also, despite many community requests, the report failed to consider multi-modal alternatives such as a combination of light rail, bus transit, street network improvements.
- Proposed several tunnel alternative options that are not credible. The “no truck” option, for example, is unenforceable, and the single-tunnel option fails to incorporate reasonable safety features.
- Ignored meaningful Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) connectivity and broad area service.
- Failed to address safety and connectivity issues associated with the freeway stubs in Pasadena and El Sereno.

The WPRA team also found the environmental impact assessment to be grossly flawed. [Note: the federal Environmental Protection Agency also found the tunnel alternative impact assessment inadequate.] Our response team found significant inadequacies — too numerous to describe them all in this article — in all sections reviewed. Among key inadequacies:

- The tunnel alternative would shift traffic, but without clear improvements. The report demonstrates that the 210/134 interchange and the 210 north of the interchange will see a large increase in traffic. Traffic delays at the intersections of

Orange Grove and Colorado, and Del Mar and St. John, are predicted to increase by more than 170% and 450%, respectively. We, however, believe even these estimates are low due to deficiencies in traffic modeling. The report ignores the impacts on Rose Bowl traffic, or varying toll rates, which could generate cut-through traffic from drivers avoiding tolls.

- The tunnel alternative presents a “significant health risk to local residents,” according to the Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), which also found the air quality and health risk analyses to be inadequate.
- The report inappropriately deferred critical design and impact analyses, especially those most relevant to the tunnel alternative, such as those required to determine geotechnical feasibility, seismic risk, soil subsidence (ground settling) and effects due to vibration and blasting.
- During tunnel construction, up to 850 truckloads of dirt would be hauled each day from the twin tunnels in Pasadena along the SR-210 freeway for disposal.

Also, 884 Pasadena businesses, which employ 21,014 persons, are expected to have a “highest likelihood of business disruption.”

- The report projects up to an 11 dB increase in noise in areas adjacent to the SR-210 stub in Pasadena; exceeding the Federal Transportation Agency thresholds for allowable noise increases.
- The report failed to sufficiently address potential severe impacts to historic buildings, or to acknowledge Pasadena as a “site of cultural significance.”

## What’s next?

Caltrans and Metro have announced that it could take up to two years to respond to comments, select a preferred alternative and release the final environmental report. The WPRA will actively work with the numerous cities, preservation groups and other concerned organizations to convince decision-makers to eliminate the tunnel options and consider more rational and environmentally responsible transportation alternatives.

## Thanks to our team of SR-710 DEIR reviewers, analysts and writers

The WPRA thanks the following (and several who preferred to serve anonymously) for generously donating their time and expertise to help us review, analyze and provide comments to the SR-710 Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Study on behalf of both Pasadena residents and neighboring communities.

Justin Chapman	Gary Hackney	Sue Mossman
Nina Chomsky	Mic Hansen	Audrey O’Kelley
Bill Christian	Warren Haussler	Sophie Parker
Kristine Cloward	Roger Kintz	Andre de Salis
Vince Farhat	Debra Kirtman	Ann Scheid
Scot Fruin	Jesse Lattig	Bert Steece
Sarah Gavit, team chair	Ian Lockwood	Mitch Tsai
Frank Gilliland	Paul Miller	Lee Wallace
Avram Gold	Chris Morris	Gazelle Raye-Wichner



Gale and Cindy Davis  
(photo credit: Jim Staub)



Students from McKinley Elementary School hamming it up in My Masterpieces  
(photo credit: Hannah Yu)

### PMH's Junior Docent and My Masterpieces programs

## Students take a field trip in a time machine

“Visiting the history museum was like going into a time machine,” says Frankie, a wide-eyed 3rd grader from Pasadena’s Franklin School. Frankie is one of more than 3,000 local students who benefit annually from Pasadena Museum of History’s innovative student education offerings, the Junior Docent program and My Masterpieces.

Each year field-tripping busloads of excited youngsters explore the history and art of the western San Gabriel Valley through interactive learning experiences that take place in historic Fenyes Mansion and its surrounding gardens. For kids accustomed to futuristic-focused entertainments, stepping back in time 100 years or more is a rare adventure; for a generation brought up on virtual reality, hands-on art is a revelation.

PMH volunteers Gale and Cindy Davis, the Museum’s 2014 Excellence in Education honorees, are especially enthused about the programs. These Pasadena natives now find themselves happily ensconced in a stunning Green and Green residence on Arroyo Terrace, retired from career demands that took them throughout the U.S. and Europe. “When we returned to Pasadena we embraced the City,” says Gale. “One method for doing so was to volunteer, and PMH is literally just across the street. I really appreciate Pasadena

history and enjoy learning more and more about it.”

One of the unique aspects of the Junior Docent program is its use of middle school students — 6th, 7th, and 8th graders — who are trained to tour younger class groups through historic Fenyes Mansion and explain Pasadena lifestyles of the early 1900s. The dress, the technology and the customs — all were so different 100 years ago! “Watching the student docents evolve from uncertain, shy youngsters into confident, knowledgeable public speakers in just a few months is so rewarding,” Gale enthuses. “In addition, the 3rd graders remember so much of the information from their tour guides. When they come back the next year for My Masterpieces they are familiar with it all!”

My Masterpieces is an award-winning program of the Pasadena Educational Foundation, operated in partnership with PUSD and 10 museums and arts organizations. When they come to PMH, students who have previously toured Fenyes Mansion know that Eva Scott Fenyes was both a patron of the arts and an accomplished watercolor artist, so it’s no surprise that part of the hands-on experience finds fledgling artists trying their hand at plein air painting. “I don’t have children,” notes Cindy, whose

artistic proclivities led her to volunteer for My Masterpieces, “but I’ve found that it’s wonderful and stimulating to be around them. Kids are very nice people,” she laughs, “and it is particularly rewarding to see youngsters discover their talents.”

“They also learn to work as an ensemble,” notes Gale. Lights ... camera ... action! Once the kids get over the shocking discovery that movies were once only black and white and had no sound, they learn that Fenyes Mansion was a film location for movie pioneer D.W. Griffith. Then, with a bit of magic and deft volunteer assistance, the 4th graders turn into an entire movie production team — costuming, makeup, props, camera, lighting, directors, and actors. This is one field trip they will long remember!

With the start of a new school year, Gale and Cindy are ready for action and hope others will join them as adult mentors for these outstanding experiential learning programs. Education volunteers are fully trained and paired with experienced colleagues until ready for solo assignments.

*For further details about volunteer opportunities with the PMH Education Programs, please visit [www.pasadenahistory.org](http://www.pasadenahistory.org) or call (626)577-1660, ext. 26.*



Gone, but not forgotten

# The Emery home: from S. Orange Grove to W. Green Street



An early postcard view of the Emery home at 707 S. Orange Grove Ave.

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

BY KIRK MYERS  
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST  
PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

**A**mong the mansions that lined South Orange Grove Avenue at the turn of the century, the home at 707 has experienced a more varied history than most.

Originally built in 1895 by the firm of Blick and Moore for George Hopkins, it



*Guns and Ammo* magazine published this view of the Golden State Arms Corporation at 386 W. Green St. in the February 1959 issue.

was purchased by Frank Emery in January 1896. Mr. Emery was a large stockholder in Standard Oil and a large land owner in Pasadena.

The distinctive “mission style” architecture of the home attracted attention from the start. The home was used to illustrate an article on residential architecture in the *Los Angeles Times* in 1899, and several views of the home appeared in an article in *House and Garden* in April 1905.

The magazine noted that “This style, which is so recently born and yet so distinctive, is a conglomerate composed of efflorescent Spanish and Moorish features molded in with the severe and heavy (but always picturesque) lines of the old California mission buildings. ... The two views given of a house of this description show plainly why a habitation built on these lines is most desirable here.”

The home had a succession of owners until 1950, when apartments would be constructed at 707 South Orange Grove Avenue. Hulett Merritt, who lived at 99 Terrace Dr., moved the front section of the home to 386 W.

Green St., to house part of his extensive art collection. After his death in 1956, the sale of that collection was said to be the largest on the west coast since the estate of William Randolph Hearst.

From 1957 to 1966, the former home was owned by the Golden State Arms Corporation, which billed itself as the world's largest retail gun shop. The home was then acquired by Ambassador College, which used it as a personnel office and later a television studio. It was demolished several years ago for the condominiums being constructed at Jamieson Place.

The Pasadena Museum of History is located at the corner of Orange Grove Boulevard and Walnut Street (470 W. Walnut, Pasadena 91103); free parking in the Museum lot. The Research Library and Archives are open to the public free of charge Thursdays-Sundays from 1:00-4:00 pm.

For additional information, please visit the Museum's website, [pasadenahistory.org](http://pasadenahistory.org), or call 626-577-1660, ext. 10.



**WEST PASADENA  
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## Pasadena: city on call

### Police Department

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!

Our representatives need to hear from you. Take a few minutes to make your voice heard, and make your own motion.

### Pasadena

#### Mayor Terry Tornek

[ttornek@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ttornek@cityofpasadena.net)

#### City Manager Michael J. Beck

[mbeck@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mbeck@cityofpasadena.net)

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#### John Kennedy, Council District 3

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#### Gene Masuda, Council District 4 (vice mayor)

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#### Victor Gordo, Council District 5

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### California

**Senator Carol Liu (D-21), (818) 409-0400**

**Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-41), (626) 351-1917**

### United States

**Representative Judy Chu (D-27), (626) 304-0110**

**Representative Adam Schiff (D-28), (818) 450-2900**

**Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), (202) 224-3553**

**Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), (202) 224-3841**