

s I committed to you when I was elected, I have been spending a great deal of time trying to kill that project [SR-710 freeway tunnel option]. I must tell you that it was my expectation that this project was so flawed it would fail of its own weight. I was wrong. This is a terrible project, as you well know, that threatens not just west Pasadena, but our city and our region because there is an opportunity cost associated with this project.

"As long as Metro is preoccupied with this massive, \$5 billion-plus project, it's not making the kinds of improvements and devoting the kind of analysis it should to other projects that could improve our quality of life and our transportation network. It was my expectation that given all the flaws that were revealed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report [DEIR] it would only take one more "In reality, what has happened is that the various transportation forces that are controlling the transportation future of our region have decided that they need to finesse this issue until after the transportation bond issue comes before the voters in November. They do not want a robust discussion — in fact, they do not want any discussion — about the 710 project until Measure R2 [Measure M, as it is now known] passes. They do not want the 710 on the table; they do not want any discussion about the 710 because it might polarize voters and somehow impact the passage of Measure R2, which requires a twothirds vote.

Continued on page 3

Progress in the fight against the SR-710 tunnel

By Sarah Gavit Vice President, WPRA

■ *Measure M taxes will not fund SR-710 freeway tunnel.* The LA County Metro Board on June 23 voted 11-2 to place a new half-cent sales tax measure (Measure M) on the November 8 ballot to fund transportation projects. If approved by voters, the tax would, in 2018, replace Measure R and remain in effect forever unless there is a vote to rescind it. Originally, however, the proposed language would have permitted Metro to use a portion of the tax revenue to fund construction of the proposed SR-710 freeway tunnel. Thanks to almost a year of hard work by citizens and experts who oppose the tunnel proposal, the Metro Board agreed to explicitly prohibit funding of the "SR-710 North Gap

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WPRA director and Land Use/Planning chair Avram Gold presents WPRA Vice President Sarah Gavit with a Community Service Award for her tireless efforts as a leader for the team of local residents and professionals who responded on the WPRA's behalf to Metro's SR-710 freeway DEIR. (*Photo by Chuck Hudson*)



Kenyon Harbison delivers his first address as newly elected president of the WPRA. (*Photo by Chuck Hudson*)

The WPRA's past and current efforts, and the path forward

By Kenyon Harbison President, WPRA

was thrilled to accept the presidency of the WPRA at this year's annual meeting. It was also a pleasure to step into the shoes of outgoing president Geoffrey Baum, who



has worked tirelessly over the past two years on behalf of our neighborhoods. Mostly, however, I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this organization that has for so long dedicated itself to protecting our neighborhoods and

Kenyon Harbison

keeping the citizenry informed. To that end, I'll use my first newsletter message to give you some more detail about work done by the WPRA in the past year or so. I'll also preview some of what the upcoming year will likely bring.

The WPRA has been passionately opposed to the building of the SR-710 tunnel, which we believe will harm both Pasadena and the region. Those efforts have required significant

About us

2016 - 2017 officers

- President: Kenyon Harbison (harbison@wpra.net)
- Vice President: Sarah Gavit (gavit@wpra.net)
- Treasurer: Blaine Cavena (cavena@wpra.net)
- Secretary: Justin Chapman (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.

work and expenditures over the past two years, as many of you know, and such efforts will continue. However, the WPRA has also focused on many other issues as well.

- We've regularly collaborated with the City and Rose Bowl management — on behalf of west Pasadena residents — to help minimize the impact of Rose Bowl Stadium events. For example, last year the WPRA provided extensive scoping comments relating to the proposed Rose Bowl Music & Arts Festival Draft Environmental Impact Report.
- When residents reported an uptick in crime approximately two years ago, the WPRA actively addressed the issue by publishing local crime statistics, which are updated monthly, on its website. Also, the WPRA board invited Pasadena Police Chief Phillip Sanchez to speak to the board about neighborhood safety concerns and then address these issues to WPRA members at our recent annual meeting.
- The WPRA, along with many others, has worked for the past three years to prevent the closure of San Rafael Elementary,

2016 – 2017 board of directors

- Geoffrey Baum, past president
- Dan Beal
- Bill Christian
- Avram Gold (gold@wpra.net) *Land use, Planning*
- Ken Grobecker
- Joan Hearst
- Chuck Hudson (hudson@wpra.net) *Communications*
- Audrey O'Kelley, past president
- Catherine Stringer (stringer@wpra.net) *Education*
- Priscilla Taylor
- Bill Urban, past president
- John Van de Kamp
- Nancy Walker (walker@wpra.net) Neighborhood Safety
- Gazelle Raye Wichner
- Fred Zepeda, past president
- Linda Zinn (zinn@wpra.net) Membership, Open Space & Conservation

the last public school west of the Arroyo. Those efforts bore fruit last fall, when PUSD rescinded its prior decision to close the school. The WPRA is now monitoring traffic issues at the school and is working hard to ensure that neighborhood children have open access to the school.

- Last but definitely not least, the WPRA continues its historical focus on land-use issues. For example, we're actively engaged in:
 - Arroyo developments, including Habitat for Humanity's project at the former Desiderio Army Reserve Center, which culminated in, among other things, one of the future homeowners speaking at our annual meeting
 - Mansionization, which we expect to be a major issue in Pasadena in the coming year
 - Potential regulation of Airbnb-like arrangements.
 - Finally, at the June WPRA meeting, the board heard from Joel Sheldon, the owner of Vroman's Bookstore, about

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

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P. O. Box 50252 Pasadena, CA 91115-0252

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

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Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek addresses the WPRA membership during the annual WPRA meeting in May. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)

Mayor warns of SR-710 tunnel threat to region

Continued from page 1

"So with all due respect, the reason Metro is not producing answers to the thousands of questions raised in the comments on the DEIR is not because it cannot work fast enough, but because it does not want to have any discussion about this item until after November. I am telling you with absolute confidence that as soon as the November vote is over, Metro's coming for us, and this project is going to be pursued with renewed and even unprecedented vigor.

"We can all pat ourselves on the back for all the work we have done these past decades, but in reality the only way ultimately we are going to kill this project, I believe, is with litigation and absolute confrontation politics.

"One final point: Without opposition, this project, which none of us believes is even plausible, will be approved. I know the WPRA is not afraid of a struggle, and I think this is going to be the struggle of this decade for the City of Pasadena."



La Loma Bridge update

Work on the La Loma Bridge continues, with completion still planned for the end of this year. With much of the work to strengthen the arch and pier foundations of the bridge complete, and reinforced primary pier columns at the east and west ready, the activity is now focused on the upper structure of the bridge and at each end. Forms for the major exterior girders can be seen running the length of the bridge on each side. At each end retaining walls are being added to the abutment foundations as part of bringing the abutments up to roadway height. Once the girders and substructure are complete and the abutments reconstructed then construction of the new bridge deck will begin, two feet wider than the old. Soon after the deck is complete the railings and streetlights will begin to appear, following the original design, and we will begin to get a real sense of our stronger yet more historic bridge. For more photos of construction, project updates, information on detours, and Lower Arroyo access below the bridge visit cityofpasadena.net/ PublicWorks/La_Loma_Bridge_Project/. (Article by Blaine Cavena; Photo by Chuck Hudson)

Progress in the fight against the SR-710 tunnel

Continued from page 1

Closure Project" with Measure M revenue, although nothing would prevent Measure M revenue from funding other projects, allowing funds previously allocated to those projects to be used for the tunnels.

PUSD joins opponents to SR-710 freeway tunnel. The Pasadena Unified School District's Board of Education on June 17 joined the battle against the SR-710 freeway tunnel extension. A unanimous board agreed with representatives from neighborhoods, community organizations, school districts and universities, that the pollution resulting from the tunnels was a serious threat to children's health and academic achievement. Thanks to this important decision, the 5-Star Education Coalition-Burbank, Glendale, La Canada, Pasadena and South Pasadena school districts, which represent approximately 70,000 K-12 students — approved a resolution

to oppose the tunnels and, instead, support the development of a fiscally and environmentally responsible alternative.

• City Council defers ballot measure to repeal Measure A. At the June 13 Pasadena City Council meeting, Mayor Terry Tornek proposed placing a measure on the November 8 ballot to repeal Measure A. Measure A, which was approved by Pasadena voters in 2001, directed City Council to support completion of the SR-710 freeway, as it was then proposed. Much debate has since arisen as to whether that measure applies to the current project. At the time of the vote, the proposal called for a surface route, not a tunnel; a "free"way, not a tollway; and explicitly prohibited trucks from using the route, which is not the case now. Council decided to defer action on the Mayor's proposal until after a closed

\$182.7 million Rose Bowl renovation

he final phase of The Rose Bowl Stadium's \$182.7 million renovation project is now well underway. The project, which was approved and funded in 2010 by the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) and Pasadena City Council, has five primary objectives:

1. Improve public safety.

- Early stages of the project widened a total of eight stadium tunnels and added intermediate aisles and handrails in both end-zone seating sections to permit much more efficient and safe movement into and out of the stadium. The time it takes to exit the stadium has been cut by half.
- The field level has been returned, as much as possible, to an elliptical shape, as envisioned by its original architect, Myron Hunt, by removing seats on both side lines and adding concrete walking paths to major field tunnels. These new paths expanded routes to the stadium seats.

2. Enhance fan experience.

- A state-of-the-art energy-efficient LED video board and a new LED scoreboard were installed on the east rim.
- The south scoreboard was reconstructed to recall the 1940 vintage housing and scoreboard.
- The concourse has been widened where possible along with eight entrygate structures rebuilt to provide more permanent and prominent site identification.
- Exterior directional signage has been added and improved for better guest navigation, and four restrooms have been rebuilt on the west side.
- Unquestionably the most visible and highest cost element of the renovation was the new Terry Donahue Pavilion on the west side of the stadium. In compliance with the EIR, while the building maintained its overall height, it did grow in length and width.
- Along with providing multiple new levels of true premium seating with air conditioning, the Pavilion provides a commercial kitchen, a state of the art emergency command center and media

and AV control rooms, along with covered and secured storage space.

3. Improve facility operations.

- A new and more efficient electrical service was brought to the stadium and over the course of the phased construction the old obsolete service has been transferred and decommissioned.
- The stadium's servic and storage areas on the north end have been reconfigured to improve their appearance from the golf course and provide more usable and organized space for operational needs.
- The reestablished field-level hedges and concrete walking paths on both the east and west sidelines have not only provided an enhanced aesthetic, but also a very functional means to service the stadium while maintaining premium field conditions.
- The grassy median on Arroyo Boulevard was also improved. A vegetated bio-swale was added within the median in both a beautiful and environmentally friendly upgrade. Bio-swales were installed instead of impermeable storm systems to help

filter pollutants from water runoff, while recharging the groundwater with clean water.

4. Develop the opportunities for long-term revenue streams.

- Sponsorship Six new LED boards were installed to give a new home for sponsorship and advertising and clean up the stadium rim from the years of mismatched sponsorship and advertising displays. As a direct result of the added sponsorship inventory and other improvements, the stadium was able to sign a long-term agreement with IMG College, which now sells all stadium sponsorship signage. This deal increased the stadium's sponsorship revenue by over \$1 million a year.
- Premium seating The response to the completed Terry Donahue Pavilion has been very positive, and resulted in sales that have exceeded goals and budgets. This was possible due to built up demand for the Premium Seating product, UCLA performance, marquee events (100th Rose Bowl Game, BCS Championship game,



An aerial view of the Rose Bowl Stadium complex following recent major renovations.

project enters final phase

concerts, etc.), a focused sales effort lead by our partners at Legends, and most important, a menu of premium seating products in the Pavilion that fit market demands. By far the largest revenue stream for the RBOC, Premium Seating now generates more than \$9 million in annual gross revenue.

- Minor events The addition of spaces like the Loge Lounge, Club Lounges and luxury suites as well as upgrades to the Court of Champions and field level enabled the event sales team to consistently grow minor event revenues. These events include corporate meetings, social engagements, family celebrations and community benefits. Currently this business represents the annual revenue equivalent to at least two major displacement events.
- 5. Maintain stadium as a National Historic Landmark.
- All the improvements completed were planned in an effort and sensitivity to the stadium's historic status.
- Reconstruction of the South scoreboard (1940s vintage), field-level shape, reestablished field hedges and use of real board formed concrete walls at the pavilion and tunnel walls.

Construction began in January 2011 immediately following the Rose Bowl Game and continued until September and the start of the UCLA football season.

Each subsequent phase of work has continued with the same timeline, working around the major football tenants as well as the monthly flea markets and various other scheduled events. The project is scheduled to be substantially complete prior to the Rose Bowl Game 2017.

While the project may be coming to an end, the need to maintain this nearly 100-year-old treasure continues.

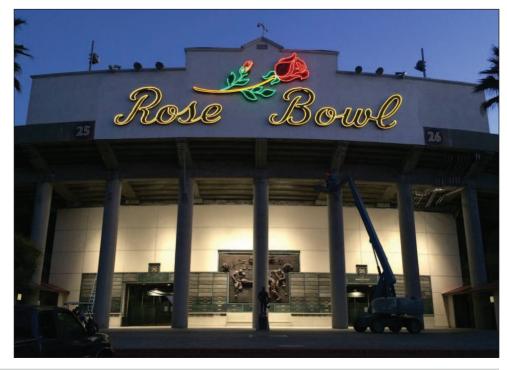
Some of the future improvements that are currently unfunded include new stadium seating, new more energy-efficient field lighting, an improved sound system and new concession stands.

Local business participation and hiring update

- 285 Pasadena residents hired by contractors
- \$2.6 million in wages paid to local tradesmen/tradeswomen (certified payroll)
- \$5.2 million in local procurement and subcontracting reported by the contractors
- \$7.2 million paid directly by the RBOC to Pasadena consultants, testing agencies, materials and services



Above: the Terry Donahue Pavilion under construction. Below: an upgraded Court of Champions.



BRIEFS

Update on General Plan implementation

The City's Planning & Community Development Department in early May issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Consultant Services to implement the recently adopted General Plan. The purpose of the RFP is to hire a qualified consultant or consultant team to assist with the implementation of the plan. Professional consulting individuals or firms were asked to submit proposals for one or more of the tasks listed below, as were multi-disciplinary teams with the ability to manage multi-faceted planning projects and coordinate sub-consultants. The deadline for submitting proposals was June 9, 2016; nine proposals were received. The proposals and consultant qualifications are currently being evaluated, with a selection expected by late summer. The tasks include:

- Specific plans, overlay districts and other special planning areas
- Planning and urban design, architecture and master planning, including project management and coordination of sub-consultants
- Environmental analysis, including preparation of environmental clearance for specific plans and implementing ordinances
- Economic feasibility and marketdemand analysis, including consideration of affordable and workforce housing, small-business development, and community benefits
- Form-based coding, including building form standards and use regulations
- Public meetings and community outreach

Solar rebate changes coming in August

Since 2008, Pasadena Water and Power has offered incentives for the installation of solar electric systems through the Pasadena Solar Initiative ("PSI") Program. However, on August 1, 2016, PWP must reduce PSI program incentives in accordance with the guidelines of SB1, which requires that incentives decline over time.

Hotels, landmarks and bi-annual party

By Sue Mossman Executive Director, Pasadena Heritage

YWCA/Kimpton Hotel Final EIR released; Planning Commission to consider

The Planning Commission is currently reviewing and accepting comments on the former YWCA/Kimpton Hotel Environmental Impact Report and approval documents. The Commission will then make its recommendations to City Council, which will consider the project in late July. Pasadena Heritage is reviewing the 400-page environmental documents now.

A primary focus is the YWCA building, designed by noted architect Julia Morgan, and how it will be treated as part of this proposed project, as well as impacts on the Civic Center as a whole. Directly across Garfield Avenue from City Hall, this highly visible location demands a new building that will respect the former YWCA and respond to the civic nature of the larger site as well as the historic, underlying Bennett Plan. We believe that the hotel use is ideal for the historic building and provides the opportunity to energize and activate the Civic Center.

We do not support the project as proposed, but Alternative 2A is promising with further modifications because it strikes a balance between reserving a comfortable amount of green space, complementing the historic building, and adding a new building of stature that can help define Centennial Plaza and contribute to the Civic Center's prominence as an important public place.

New hotels or housing proposed near PCC

Two project proposals are in the works for the intersection of Hill Street and Colorado Boulevard, the larger of which is on the site of the old Loud Ford Dealership on the north side of Colorado. The proposal for a hotel at this location is accompanied by a second, smaller proposal on the south side of Colorado, west of the intersection. Pasadena Heritage has asked that the historic dealership showroom





be retained and incorporated into the new building on the north side.

Pinney House Landmark eligibility remains in place

In recent months, the Design Commission twice denied requests to reverse the landmark eligibility of the Pinney House, located at 180 S. Euclid, so that the owner/developer could demolish the existing residence without environmental review. Pasadena Heritage argued strenuously that the house retained its historic character. More than 100 letters and emails were submitted in support of our position. The developer appealed the Design Commission's determination to the City Council. When the matter was heard late on the night of June 6, there were not enough votes to overturn the Design Commission's decision. So, for now, the Pinney House retains its eligibility, although this is most likely not the end of the story.

It's the year of the Bridge Party

Pasadena Heritage's most popular community celebration is set for Saturday, July 16, on the historic Colorado Street Bridge. Come and enjoy an evening of live music, dancing, children's activities, vintage cars, and festive food and beverages of all descriptions on the world-famous Bridge! It's the biggest and best block party in town! Visit our website to buy tickets at the advance discount price or to see more of what's in store. Many thanks to WPRA for being a co-sponsor of our big event!



It's a bridge party year!

City, Habitat break ground for new Desiderio development and park

By Avram Gold

DIRECTOR AND CHAIR, LAND USE AND PLANNING, WPRA

What is the Desiderio Homes

Development? In 2005, the U.S. Army recommended that its South Arroyo 5.17acre Desiderio Reserve Facility be closed. In 2006, a notice ran in the Pasadena Star News inviting Reuse Proposals. The City of Pasadena was appointed the Local Responsible Agency to receive Reuse Proposals and to coordinate with the Army in selecting an appropriate Reuse Plan. By the deadline of September 2006, 11 proposals had been received, and in February 2007 City Council chose the San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity proposal to build nine affordable three-bedroom, two-bath units of 1,244 to 1,248 square feet and with detached two-car garages. An adjacent open space component would be designed and regulated by the City.

What is Habitat for Humanity all

about? Founded in 1990 and covering a 400 square mile area, San Gabriel Habitat for Humanity (SGV Habitat) engages the community to volunteer time, talent, money and donated materials to build affordable housing. SGV Habitat seeks to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action while eliminating poverty housing and homelessness from the San Gabriel Valley.

So what exactly is affordable

housing? In Pasadena, and specifically the future Desiderio Community, the price of these affordable new homes would be considered expensive in 90% of the rest of the country. Still, these units will cost below local market value. To qualify for these highly discounted mortgages, the applicant families could not earn more than 60% of the area's median income, a stipulation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a condition for conveying 1.3 acres of land to SGV Habitat for "self-help" housing. While being incomechallenged, each applicant must still earn enough to afford a 30-year mortgage and to maintain his or her new home. In its 26 years of operation, SGV Habitat has never had a single premature sale or foreclosure.

Habitat expects its buyers to seize educational opportunities and improve their capacities to expand their earnings.

What kind of people will live at 605-695 Westminster Drive? One hundred and thirty-three families applied for the nine units. Beyond minimum-maximum income requirements, the applicants — families of three to five members — were also selected on the basis of their current rent burden and living conditions. This is who they are:

- A veteran and human resources consultant for military families, who is helping other vets return to normal life
- A husband/father, who was a recently discharged vet and is training as an electrician
- A recent veteran and ex-marine, who is studying theology
- An assistant pastor in Pasadena and his wife, who is a fund development officer for a not-for-profit in LA County, which has an office in Pasadena
- A dad who works for Allied Security in Pasadena, and a mom who is an office manager at the Volkswagen dealership in Pasadena
- The wage earners of remaining families include a high-end restaurant waiter

"We are so grateful for the blessing and the opportunity to purchase a home through San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity. This opportunity is life changing, and we are hopeful for the future!"

Omar Leyva, future Desiderio home owner and human resources consultant for military families

"Pasadena has a tremendous need for affordable housing, and while these nine units meet only a small portion of the deficit, they set a new standard in persistence and dedication for sponsors of affordable housing. On behalf of the City Council, I congratulate City staff, Habitat and others who have tirelessly worked to make this possible."

Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek

working in two restaurants; a future teacher working in Glendale as a technology lab assistant; a couple, both artists and college teachers; and a mom who works for a security and paging system company in Pasadena.

How will the 3.78 acres of adjacent public land be used? The space will be a meadow-like park maintained by the City and landscaped with draught resistant Arroyotype plants and grasses. Ground breaking will begin early 2017 but as of now, based on current designs, the project is \$350,000 under budgeted. Still, there are enough allocated funds to start initial park construction.



Future residents of the Desiderio Homes development dig in on April 9 to celebrate the official start of the project that will bring them a new home at the site of the former Desiderio Army Reserve Center. (Photo by Cathy Morrison)

WPRA celebrates its 54th annual

Article by Justin Chapman Secretary, WPRA

Photos by Chuck Hudson Director, WPRA

he West Pasadena Residents' Association held its 54th annual meeting on Wednesday, May 18, at the Maranatha High School Student Center. About 200 people attended event, with the theme "Imagining the Future of West Pasadena."

During the opening reception, attendees enjoyed food and refreshments from Los Tacos. Setting up exhibits were a dozen local organizations, including San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity, Pasadena Community Gardens, Pasadena Museum of History, Kidspace Children's Museum, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena Fire Department, No on 710 Committee, La Casita del Arroyo, Rose Bowl Stadium, Day One, Pasadena Heritage, Old Pasadena Management District, Arroyo Seco Foundation, Pasadena Sister Cities, Connecting Pasadena Project, Friends of the Pasadena Library, and Arlington Gardens.

Outgoing WPRA president, Geoffrey Baum, called the meeting to order and introduced special guests, including members of neighborhood associations, candidates running for local offices, exhibitors, media, city officials, and San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity executive director Sonja Yates.

Steve Chang gave a welcome from Maranatha, and WPRA past president Bill Urban led the business portion of the meeting. This included election of the 2016-17 officers and board members. The WPRA membership in attendance unanimously approved the slate, which included Kenyon Harbison as president, Sarah Gavit as vice president, Justin Chapman as secretary, Blaine Cavena as treasurer, and board members Geoffrey Baum, Dan Beal, Bill Christian, Avram Gold, Ken Grobecker, Joan Hearst, Chuck Hudson, Audrey O'Kelley, Catherine Stringer, Priscilla Taylor, Bill Urban, John Van de Kamp, Nancy Walker, Gazelle Raye Wichner, Fred Zepeda, and Linda Zinn.

Newly elected president Kenyon Harbison thanked the membership for its vote of confidence and said he's looking forward to fighting for this community that we all love. "The WPRA is all about people who really care about their neighborhood, and we're doing everything we can to maintain it," he said.

Avram Gold presented a Community Service Award to Sarah Gavit for her tireless efforts in fighting the 710 tunnel on behalf of the west Pasadena community.

Mayor Terry Tornek covered a number of important topics during his remarks, including:

- His continuing interest in repealing Measure A;
- The City's efforts to ensure that next year's Arroyo Seco Music & Arts Festival does not become another Coachella;
- How the City will benefit from Kaiser Permanente's planned medical school at Los Robles Avenue and Green Street;
- Striking the right balance between growth and development and maintaining the city's unique character;
- The ongoing search for a new City manager, which he hopes will be completed by early summer;
- PUSD's flourishing public schools;
- The restructuring and other internal changes that the City made in response to the embezzlement scandal;
- The City's current budget process. He said the City's five year economic forecast is not looking good, as expenses are rising faster than incoming revenues.

Pasadena Police Chief Phillip Sanchez reported that crime Citywide is down 15%, which he attributed partially to proactive policing, but mostly to community engagement and awareness.

Local architect Stefanos Polyzoides gave a presentation detailing the Connecting Pasadena Project, a community-led effort to imagine what could fill the 710 ditch should Caltrans drop its plan to build the tunnel. The plan includes refilling the ditch, reconnecting severed surface streets, developing a grand boulevard, introducing lots of new green space, and layered retail, office, and residential development. Polyzoides said the 22 acres of developed land could provide \$50 million in taxes to the city over 30 years. For more information, visit CPP's website at connectingpasadena. squarespace.com.



Outgoing WPRA president Geoffrey Baum delivered his final address to the membership in his capacity as president.



Pasadena Police Chief Phillip Sanchez discussed crime trends and best practices.



Local architect Stefanos Polyzoides provided an update on the Connecting Pasadena Project.

meeting with a vision of the future





Among the organizations that exhibited during the annual meeting were: *Top row from left*: Future residents of the Desiderio development and representatives of Habitat for Humanity, Arlington Garden and Pasadena Community Gardens; *Middle row from left*: Pasadena Sister Cities, Rose Bowl Stadium, Old Pasadena Management District, and Pasadena Heritage; *Bottom row from left*: La Casita del Arroyo and Art Center College of Design. The above right photo is of a future resident of the Desiderio development, who expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to own her own home.

BRIEFS

Kim Kenne elected president of PUSD Board of Education

Kimberly Kenne was elected president of the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education, Roy Boulghourjian was elected vice president and Larry Torres was elected clerk at the Board's annual organizational meeting May 2, 2016. Ms. Kenne was originally elected to the Board in 2011 and re-elected in 2013 to represent District 1. A systems integration expert by profession, Ms. Kenne combines her passion for genuine parent engagement in education with a commitment to compliance with state and federal law when it comes to spending public dollars. She lives in Altadena.

Refinancing of PCC bonds will reduce taxes for property owners

Pasadena City College has completed the refinancing of the outstanding balance of a major portion of the \$150 million Measure P bonds, which were approved by voters in 2002. Funds from the bonds have been used to make various renovations and upgrades on the main campus and to construct several new buildings.

Ross Selvidge, chairman of PCC's Budget and Audit Committee and southwest Pasadena's representative on the Board of Trustees, said "It was important to seize the opportunity presented by continued low interest rates to reduce the tax burden on property owners over the remaining years of the bonds."

With the new lower interest rates, the property tax savings will come from approximately a 15% reduction in the annual bond debt service over the remaining 16-year term of the bonds. The combined savings to property tax payers in the entire PCC District over those remaining years will be in excess of \$8.3 million. Based on its share of assessed value in the District, Pasadena property owners' share of the savings will be approximately \$2.9 million.

San Rafael Elementary issues and outlook

By Kenyon Harbison President, WPRA

nother year is in the books for San Rafael Elementary School (SRES). The school musical, Seussical Jr., was a success. The Principal of the school on May 24 accepted the school's Gold Ribbon School award from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Another class of fifth graders moves on to middle school, and many will be attending Blair Middle School, while others will be moving on to private schools.

Traffic management is a key issue

As detailed in last quarter's newsletter, traffic in and around the school's immediate area continues to be a major concern for some residents, and for students' parents. The WPRA continues to work with the school and District, and with parent groups, to implement improvements.

On May 20, PUSD issued its year-end report on traffic and parking mitigation efforts at the school. The report details efforts that PUSD and the school have made during the past year to improve the traffic situation in and around the school. This includes additional:

- Staff members supporting drop-off, observation of the site by plain clothes police officers to observe traffic and pedestrian conditions
- Engagement by PUSD of a safety consultant to make recommendations
- Implementation of an expanded program to include traffic safety, parking guidelines, and pick-up and drop-off protocols in the school's Kindergarten orientation program.

More work needs to be done, and WPRA will continue to monitor the situation. Please send an email to president@wpra.net if you would like to receive a copy of the report.

A matter of principle

SRES is over-subscribed, meaning that there are significant waiting lists every year now. The WPRA recently learned that a small number of neighborhood families applied to the school during PUSD's "open enrollment" period last year, and were initially denied



admission, though all who reapplied were ultimately given a spot.

Two WPRA board members, along with various other members of the community, met on May 16 with PUSD Superintendent Dr. Brian McDonald, Scott Phelps, this district's representative on the PUSD Board of Education, and with various staff members to discuss our concerns about this issue, and to recommend solutions.

We anticipate that these solutions will be implemented shortly, and that we will be able to report upon them in the fall issue of this newsletter. As a matter of principle, the WPRA will work tirelessly to make sure that San Rafael Elementary is open to any neighborhood family wishing to enroll.

A personal note

My daughter is a rising fourth grader at the school. As a result, she has been educated in both Spanish and English since prekindergarten.

Neither my wife nor I speak Spanish, and my daughter often refuses to "show off" by speaking it to us. Thus, please permit a humble brag: two weeks ago we took her to the home of two friends who had just adopted two little girls from Latin America, and my daughter started blathering away with their new daughters as if it were the most normal thing in the world.

That, my friends, is a powerful testimonial to the value of the dual-language immersion program at San Rafael Elementary.

EDUCATION

The WPRA's past and current efforts...

Continued from page 2

a proposed "Road Diet" that would transform five blocks of Colorado Boulevard in downtown Pasadena into one lane in each direction. The WPRA will, at a minimum, support efforts to make sure that the process is transparent and that appropriate studies are done before action is taken.

These issues are only a sampling of what the WPRA has focused on over the past two years and will continue to focus on in the coming years. If you have opinions about any of the issues in this column or other issues that affect our neighborhoods, please let me know. We cannot represent your interests unless we hear them from you. Email us, attend our monthly board meetings or volunteer to help edit the weekly Neighborhood Update email. Our doors and minds are always open. We thank all of you for this opportunity to be of service.

Progress in the fight against the SR-710 tunnel

Continued from page 3

session to discuss legal implications and whether a repeal is, in fact, necessary. The closed session would also be used to further inform Council on the timing implications of a proposed measure, as they relate to the benefits and risks of introducing the ballot measure coincident with the 2016 November national election, the 2017 March municipal election, or at a special City election. Council will set its course in a future Council meeting, during which public input will be considered.

WPRA receives 'consulting party' status. In response to a WPRA letter to Caltrans on April 9, 2016, Caltrans granted WPRA "consulting party" status to participate in the review process for the SR-710 North Study. Caltrans has reclassified the project as having a "significant impact" on historic resources and will release a revised Draft EIR/EIS sometime in the next 3-6 months, after which "consulting party" meetings will be held during work hours.



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 School

Dear friends of west Pasadena:

Although the 2015-2016 school year has come to an official end, there is much to celebrate at San Rafael Elementary School as we continue to create the best learning environment for our students.

In March, San Rafael celebrated Read Across America (in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday) by having realtors from the Pasadena area visit our school and bring literacy to life. Our "guest readers" were Elizabeth Adams, Kate Barnett, Adam Bray-Ali, Jan Emamian, Maggie Navarro and Angie O'Brien. A heartfelt thanks to our local real-estate professionals for taking time out of their busy schedules to provide our students with such a special experience.

Also in March, San Rafael had the honor of being selected as the only school in PUSD to receive a visit from Dr. Arturo Delgado, LA County Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Delgado was joined by PUSD Superintendent Dr. Brian McDonald and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Shawn Bird. Dr. Delgado toured our classrooms and was highly impressed by the academic rigor of our programs and the skill level and creativity of our students in both English and Spanish.



Rudy Ramirez

Other highlights this spring:

- Staff and parents organized a miniature Olympics on our campus. You'll pardon the pun, but our kids had a ball!
- Fifth grade students went to Science Camp at Arrowhead Ranch for three days and two nights
- Five students from our school were awarded first or second place in the district-wide Cesar Chavez Art and Essay Contest

And last but definitely not least, as I alluded to in our March article, on May 24, San Rafael Elementary School was officially recognized by Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, as a 2016 California Gold Ribbon School! This was an exciting moment for San Rafael as our academic community's hard work and commitment to student achievement was applauded and celebrated.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy summer.

City library director, Jan Sanders, to retire

asadena Public Library Director Jan Sanders will retire this summer. Sanders' decision to retire will bring to a close a remarkable career of 45 years in library leadership throughout the United States, 11 of them in Pasadena.

Her path to Pasadena wound through Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Washington before bringing her to the Pasadena Public Library in 2005. Throughout her career she has served as children's librarian, bookmobile librarian, branch manager, community college librarian, and library construction supervisor before first becoming a director in 1990.

"Jan Sanders has done a remarkable job establishing the Pasadena public library system as one of, if not the, premier library system in the state," said Steve Mermell, interim Pasadena City Manager. "Through her leadership Jan has proven that libraries can remain vibrant and relevant in the digital age and an ongoing source of creativity. I wish Jan all the best for her well-deserved retirement."

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BRIEFS

City prepares ordinance to restrict use of styrofoam containers

Pasadena's City's Council recently directed the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to restrict the use of polystyrene foam, commonly known as "styrofoam." The ordinance would apply to grocery stores, restaurants, farmers' markets, convenience stores, food vendors, food trucks, groups or individuals that provide prepared foods to the general public. It would also apply to City facilities, events and meetings, and all retailers selling food packaging. The new restrictions would not apply to the use of polystyrene for uncooked meat, poultry, fish, eggs and fresh produce.

According to the ordinance document, more than 90 cities in California have already adopted a polystyrene ban of some sort. City of Pasadena Environmental Programs Manager Gabriel Silva testified at an earlier committee meeting that polystyrene products account for 17% of the City's litter stream. A recent Citysponsored survey, which contacted 100 restaurants employing fewer than 20 workers along with 25 food packaging retailers, showed that 69% of respondents used polystyrene packaging for food.

Silva said the City estimates the unit-cost increase for restaurants to convert from polystyrene packaging to a comparable alternative is expected to be about 4 cents. Source: *Pasadena Now*

Forest Service puts a price to the benefits of urban forest canopies

The U.S. Forest Service has published a new report that finds the canopies lining California's streets, avenues and boulevards are worth about \$1 billion in benefits to its cities and residents. That number breaks down like this:

- \$10 million in carbon storage
- \$18 million in removing air pollutants
- \$41.5 million in catching rainfall
- \$101 million in energy savings
- \$839 million in boosting property values

Forester and lead author Greg McPherson noted that "These trees are benefiting their communities 24 hours a day, 365 days a year." Source: The Atlantic CityLab



Japanese garden is new home for Hiroshima Camellia

The Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden has been chosen as the home of a sapling that descended from one of the scarred and blackened trees considered lost after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Green Legacy Hiroshima, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Tokyo Yoneyama Yuai, is taking the seeds and saplings of some 170 A-bombed survivor trees worldwide in a message of peace and hope. With the Hiroshima Camellia, the United States joins 27 countries around the world where these special trees are growing.

Pasadena receives \$100K grant, publishes water quality report

asadena Water and Power was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Federal Bureau of Reclamation to expand PWP's existing Laundry to Landscape ("L2L") Greywater Recycling Program. Currently, the program provides training, on-site technical assistance and financial incentives to single family residents who apply to install a L2L greywater system at their home.

An L2L greywater system is designed to reuse water drained from a clothes washing machine, for subsurface irrigation in a garden. According to Shari Thomas, interim General Manager the grant will provide the department with the opportunity to enhance the program with a new option to provide direct installation of L2L greywater systems at no charge for income-qualified customers.

PWP will also expand the program to perform site evaluations and offer financial incentives for Home Owner Associations that might have multiple units with the site specifications ideally suited for a L2L greywater system. In addition, PWP has developed a streamlined permit application process for more complex greywater systems (which include showers, bathtubs, and bathroom sinks), and will cover a percentage of the permit fees associated with installing these more complex systems, as an incentive for residents to recycle more water on their properties. In the coming weeks, PWP's greywater web page will be updated with this information.

Also, PWP has recently published the Consumer Confidence Report on Water Quality, representing data from year 2015. The report contains important information about the source and quality of Pasadena's drinking water. It includes a summary of tests completed by PWP's Water Quality Lab. Shari Thomas, interim General Manager is also proud to announce that Pasadena's water supply has again met all drinkingwater quality standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water. PWP customers will receive bill inserts notifying them that the report is available on the PWP website for electronic viewing. Hard copies of the report will be available at Pasadena City Hall, community centers, and libraries, and can be mailed to customers upon request.

Citywide crime down 15%, but theft, burglary up

By Nancy Walker Director, WPRA Chair, Neighborhood Safety

he Pasadena Police Department reports that there has been a 15% reduction in crimes in Pasadena since this time last year.

According to statistics released by the Pasadena Police Department, crime rates in west Pasadena (Council District 6) continue to be low, as compared to recent years. Police Chief Phillip Sanchez credits part of this

Category definitions

- Homicide: Murder and non-negligent manslaughter
- Rape: Rape including attempts (not including statutory offenses)
- **Robbery:** Theft or attempted theft by force or fear
- ADW: Assault by a deadly weapon
- Assault: Aggravated and simple assaults including attempt homicide (excluding domestic violence)
- Assault DV: Any assault or attempt homicide where domestic violence is involved (spouse, live-in domestic partner, co-parent of child)

 Burglary commercial/other/ residential: Unlawful entry and attempted unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft including locked vehicles

- Theft: Theft or attempted theft of property that does not fall into the burglary category including unlocked vehicles; identity theft, embezzlement, forgery and fraud are not included
- Stolen vehicle: Grand theft auto; vehicles stolen from Pasadena

decrease to neighborhood watch programs and vigilance on the part of individual citizens who report suspicious activities to the police.

However, theft and burglary are on the rise. Some of this increase may be due to the unintentional consequences of AB 109 (Early Release from Prison) and Proposition 47 (Reduced Felonies to Misdemeanors).

The West Pasadena Residents' Association provides access to City crime statistics on its website. These stats, posted by the Pasadena Police Department, are for the current month (May, in this report), year-to-date and trends across several years for each Council District and service area.

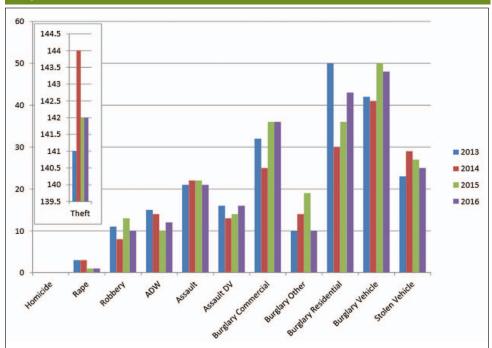
- Go to wpra.net
- Scroll to the bottom of the page
- Click on Local Area Crime Statistics

Chief Sanchez urges those who have home and auto alarm systems to use them, and to, call (626) 744-4241 if you see suspicious activity that does not appear to be a police emergency.

Council District 6 crime statistics

	May 2016		Year to date 2016	
	Council District 6	City	Council District 6	City
Homicide	0	0	0	1
Rape	0	1	3	12
Robbery	1	10	7	57
Assault by deadly weapon	3	12	13	77
Assault	7	21	29	114
Assault domestic violence	3	16	9	68
Burglary commercial	3	36	30	171
Burglary other	3	19	15	72
Burglary residential	5	43	27	163
Burglary vehicle	8	48	41	211
Theft	32	142	136	666
Stolen vehicle	2	25	16	128
TOTAL	67	364	326	1740

Citywide crime trends



COMMUNITY



On December 1 an event was held for public officials and various stakeholders to officially introduce Pasadena Transit as the City's new transit brand. Pictured above from left to right: former City Manager Michael Beck; Assistant City Manager Julie Gutierrez; Nikolaus Hafermaas, Art Center; Mayor Terry Tornek; Julie Yeow, Art Center; Valerie Gibson, City of Pasadena Transit Manager; Professor Gloria Kondrup, Art Center; Councilmember Margaret McAustin; and Fred Dock, City of Pasadena Director of Transportation.

Pasadena Transit connects riders with high-tech convenience

Pasadena's local transit system, formerly known as the Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System (ARTS), is now Pasadena Transit. This new brand clearly communicates the role Pasadena Transit has in connecting nearly 1.6 million passengers a year to destinations within Pasadena, as well as to the greater Los Angeles area as a local feeder to the regional transit system, including the Metro Gold Line.

In addition to the new look and name, the system is now equipped with new technology that lets customers track the real-time arrival of their Pasadena Transit bus, thus providing even greater reliability and more convenient, seamless travel. Passengers can access the real-time arrival information of the buses by calling 511 or via web and mobile platforms at pasadenatransit.net. This new real-time bus arrival technology was made possible by local grant funding from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Federal grant funding.

Pasadena Transit currently offers six routes that provide service throughout the City of Pasadena. When Pasadena's service began in 1994 as a single free shopper shuttle, few would have imagined the transformation it would experience over the next couple of decades. Today, Pasadena's transit system is one of the largest locally funded operators in Southern California and serves as an essential feeder system in support of the regional transit

network. The expansion of Pasadena's bus service has been closely tied to the growth of the regional system as a whole, including the opening of the Metro Gold Line in 2003. It is this shift in the role of Pasadena bus



system that prompted the rebranding effort. As a result, the City of Pasadena embarked on a multi-year partnership with the renowned Art Center College of Design to assist with the development of a new transit brand. The new brand was developed by Art Center graduate Julie Yeow who described the theme as retaining a "friendly energy" and communicating the primary goal of connecting people and places in Pasadena. To convey this theme, iconic images of Pasadena are integrated the new look, such as the Colorado Bridge and City Hall.

City library director to retire

Continued from page 11

"It was a privilege to work with Jan. Her humor and ability to help everyone have a good time are surpassed only by her leadership. Pasadena's libraries excel on every level because of Jan Sanders. She will be missed." said Cynthia Kurtz, former Pasadena City Manager.

"Never have I worked with a finer staff or community, or one so dedicated to the work of the library," Sanders said. "During my tenure in Pasadena, we have seen libraries undergo monumental changes. We no longer serve as a simple depository for books and information. We have expanded to be the hub of community life, the center for conversation and ideas, and the spot for creation to occur. I look forward to staying connected with our public libraries as a faithful user. I'm not leaving town, and I certainly won't stop using this library. I can't wait to see what's next!"



Although it might not look like it, they're having a great time. One of the R.W. Gardner photographs of the Rigg family picnic at Devil's Gate on March 31, 1888.

Arroyo Seco and Devil's Gate: early picnics in west Pasadena

By Kirk Myers Assistant Archivist Pasadena Museum of History

Before the Gilbert Darling family moved from Iowa to Pasadena in December 1891, the daughters were told that Pasadena was a place "where one can plan a picnic in the summer and be sure it will not rain."

Picnics were a very popular form of entertainment in early Pasadena, but they were not limited to summer. There was an Iowa and Illinois picnic on January 1, 1889, a Lake Vineyard Water Company picnic on February 23, 1895, and a Pasadena Band of Hope picnic on March 18, 1890.

The Pasadena Museum of History has photographs of some of these early picnics at Devil's Gate and the Arroyo Seco, two of the favorite spots in west Pasadena. The formal dress may seem surprising to us, but that was proper picnic etiquette for the 19th century.

Etiquette books of the time were full of specific instructions for picnics, and there was detailed advice on which foods should be brought. There was a definite way to conduct a picnic in a dignified manner. But picnics were also a change of pace and great fun. The Rigg family had a wonderful time on March 31, 1888 at Devil's Gate, and that experience was preserved by photographs and an account in the April 2, 1888 issue of *Pasadena Daily Star*:

"A jolly crowd of picnickers passed through our streets on Saturday morning on their way to Devil's Gate. The party consisted of T.J. Rigg and family.They report a very pleasant time exploring the hidden mysteries of mountain and stream. The party are indebted to Mr. R.W. Gardner for several group pictures taken at the Gate in various positions with his private camera, which will serve as a pleasant reminder of this delightful excursion to the picturesque Arroyo."

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



A picnic in the Arroyo Seco, sometime in the 1880s.



WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Post Office Box 50252 Pasadena, CA 91115-0252 Visit our website @ wpra.net



Pasadena: city on call

Police Department

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

Services

Bulky trash items
Missed trash pickup
Missed residential recycling pickup (626) 744-4087
New trash container
New street light
Pothole
Recycling(626) 744-4087
Sewer problem
Shopping cart pickup
Street light not working
Storm drain blockage
Traffic signal malfunction
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	
Code enforcement	
Dog licenses	(626) 792-7151
Graffiti	
Historic preservation	(626) 744-4009
Neighborhood Watch	
Park/picnic reservations	(626) 744-7275
Parking permits/exemptions	(626) 744-6440
Parking tickets	
Pasadena Transit	(626) 744-4055
Street tree maintenance	(626) 744-4321
Trash pick-up	
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 Steve Mermell, interim City Manager smermell@cityofpasadena.net Tyron Hampton, Council District 1 thampton@cityofpasadena.net Margaret McAustin, Council District 2 mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net John Kennedy, Council District 3 johnjkennedy@cityofpasadena.net Gene Masuda, Council District 4 (vice mayor) gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net Victor Gordo, Council District 5 vgordo@cityofpasadena.net Steve Madison, Council District 6 smadison@cityofpasadena.net Andy Wilson, Council District 7 awilson@cityofpasadena.net

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