THE NEWS

Pasadena, California

Celebrating 51 years of community service

Summer 2013

LAND USE / PLANNING

EDUCATION

OPEN SPACE / CONSERVATION

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

GOVERNMENT

PARKS / RECREATION

How will a 710 tunnel impact Pasadena?

MORE: Traffic. Congestion. Noise. Pollution. Dirt. Trucks.

By Mic Hansen
Mayor's appointee to the
Stakeholder Outreach
Advisory Committee

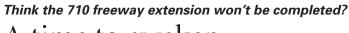
A Metro and Caltrans are moving ahead with the Environmental Impact Report/
Studies (EIR/EIS) for the tunnel option of the North SR-710 Freeway extension. Many believe that after more than five decades this controversial highway project will never be completed. (See accompanying story, "A time to awaken") But Metro, encouraged by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), continues to aggressively pursue this project. (For more information, see the Alternatives Analysis Report at dot.ca.gov/dist07/resources/envdocs/docs/710study.)

Opinion

How would the tunnel project likely affect us in Pasadena? In a word, **MORE**: more traffic more dirt and more trucks.

- The proposed twin 4.5 mile tunnels will have an approximately 4% uphill grade with the only three exit/entry points, as indicated by Metro, at San Rafael and Lake avenues, and Mountain Street. The tunnel will have no interchange or connection with The 110 Freeway (Arroyo Seco Parkway).
- The project calls for a 40-50 foot covered trench what Metro calls "cut and cover" from approximately 200-300 feet north of California Boulevard to the Ambassador Auditorium. Eight lanes of tunnel freeway traffic will surface adjacent to Old Pasadena.
- Construction, says Metro, will require the removal of about 200 million cubic feet of dirt. This translates into at least 138 truckloads of dirt (assuming large-volume trucks) transported through Pasadena seven days a week for 10 years. The excavation of the portal alone, says Metro, will generate 45 million cubic feet of dirt; the haul destination has not yet been identified. We can only imagine what this may mean in terms of collateral noise, dirt, pollution, neighborhood disruption, street closures, traffic congestion and trucks.
- Caltrans reports that 66,000 cars now exit the Del Mar/CA-710 stub each day. Metro is projecting up to 200,000 cars and trucks for the tunnel a 300% increase from current traffic flow.
- If you think the 210 is congested now, imagine a projected threefold increase in traffic and additional pollution these

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A time to awaken

By Thomas Seifert Former WPRA president

"It will never ever happen, at least not within our lifetime."

hat has been my standard and consistent retort whenever the subject of the 710 Freeway extension came up. So when Claire (Bogaard) and Mic (Hansen) began their presentations at (District 6 Councilmember) Steve Madison's Town Hall meeting in May, I was, once again, ready to tune it out.

But I started to listen a little bit, and then a little bit more. And pretty soon they had my attention. I started thinking to myself..."my God, this could actually happen."



For so long, with all the twists and turns, false starts and proposals going nowhere, my complacency was, in my opinion, very well founded. But complacent we can no longer be.

LA Metro and Caltrans, who are proposing the tunnel option, are serious, well organized and may well view the tunnel as their last great hurrah. They are pulling out all the stops and if you, like me, have been tuning it out, please, join the awakening.

Let's collectively do whatever is necessary to STOP the 710 ... within our lifetimes.



A sign for the times? Found on the 710 Freeway stub at the Del Mar exit. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)

Local update from Sacramento

By Chris Holden Assemblymember 41ST DISTRICT

s we head into the half-way mark of the Legislative session, I am happy to bring you this update from Sacramento.

Gold Line extension

Even prior to my election to the State Assembly, I was committed to seeing the Metro Gold light-rail extended east to the Ontario Airport. That's why earlier this year I convened a meeting with the major stakeholders in the Foothills region including Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard to ensure that the Gold Line remains a top priority.

I also introduced AB 268 to serve as a vehicle, should Metro and the Gold Line Authority come to an agreement on future Gold Line expansion. It's always been my belief that

light-rail relieves traffic congestion, is environmentally friendly and is an economic booster for the San Gabriel Valley.

Hahamongna **Watershed Park**

As a former Pasadena

Councilmember, I realized early on that if what's bad for Hahamongna Watershed Park could be good for the residents in northwest Pasadena. Just recently I wrote to Pasadena officials to reaffirm my longstanding position in favor of moving the multi-use/multi-benefit field improvement project from Hahamongna to Muir High School. Early on in the process, I pointed out that the State grant associated with the project development must be spent in an area serving underprivileged children.

I also realized the project could adversely

impact the Hahamongna ecosystem.



Chris Holden

710 Freeway update

I want to make it perfectly clear that I do not support a surface option for the 710 Freeway closure. That option is dead. I also want to emphasize that while I think studying the environmental feasibility of a tunnel makes a lot of sense to me, I am opposed to any tunnel option that includes truck traffic.

I think that asking questions about smoke stacks or some kind of exhaust stacks is fair. and that's where an Environmental Impact Report comes in. If environmental issues can't be mitigated, that will pretty much kill the project. Caltrans and Metro are currently analyzing a series of options to get traffic moving in the region. I strongly support the community process and an environmental review to determine what options work best to protect the quality of our neighborhoods.

About us

Mission: Founded in 1962, the West Pasadena Residents' Association is dedicated to maintaining the character of our community and enhancing the quality of life in West Pasadena.

Area: The WPRA service area is bounded on the north by Colorado Boulevard, on the east by Fair Oaks Avenue and on the south and west by the city limits.

Funding: All WPRA activities are funded through membership dues and contributions. The WPRA receives no public funding and has no paid employees. Since the WPRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation, contributions and donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law.

2013 - 2014 officers

- President: Bill Urban (urban@wpra.net)
- Vice Presiden: Catherine Stringer (stringer@wpra.net)
- Treasurer: Blaine Cavena (cavena@wpra.net)
- Secretary: Robert Holmes (holmes@wpra.net)

2013 - 2014 board of directors

- · Bill Crowfoot
- · Sarah Gavit
- Joan Hearst
- Chuck Hudson (hudson@wpra.net) Communications Director
- Laura Kaufman
- · Audrey O'Kelley, past president
- Marilyn Randolph (randolph@wpra.net) Education chair
- Priscilla Taylor
- Michael Udell, past president
- John Van de Kamp
- Fred Zepeda, past president
- Linda Zinn (zinn@wpra.net) Membership, Open Space & Conservation chairs



The News is mailed each quarter to nearly 7,000 homes in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes.

Editor: Chuck Hudson (hudson@wpra.net), Communications Director

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Visit our website at wpra.net

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

Update: San Rafael Elementary's future

Following the discovery last year of seismic faults beneath the San Rafael Elementary campus, concerned parents have been working with the Pasadena Unified School District and the Board of Education to explore options for the school's future. These options include rebuilding the school on the Nithsdale Road site or relocating it, and its rapidly growing dual-language-immersion program, either to the nearby nowshuttered Linda Vista Elementary campus or to another PUSD campus. The District has deferred any lease negations for the Nithsdale property until it reaches a decision, recently announcing that San Rafael Elementary will remain open, at its current site, through at least the 2014-15 school year. — Catherine Stringer

Ask the WPRA

Q: "Having recently received a parking ticket in an unmetered 2-hour parking zone, I moved my car back to the next vacant spot before two hours expired. I got a ticket anyway. Could you clarify/validate the related rules?"

A: Pasadena Parking Enforcement's response: Relocating a parked vehicle to another space in the same block does not reset the parking clock. Rather, it is considered an extension of the original parking action.

Council renews hotel/ motel room tax

In May, City Council renewed the annual Tourism Business Improvement District tax of 2.89% on hotel and motel rooms. The tax must be renewed each year. It was set at 2.39% for fiscal years 2003-2006. Since 2007 the tax has been set to the maximum rate of 2.89%. The City estimates the tax revenue for 2013-2014 fiscal year will generate about \$2.9 million, which will be used to retire the convention center expansion debt.



The City and the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) Board of Directors on June 8 invited the community to tour the new Rose Bowl Stadium Pavilion level, featuring 185,000 square feet of premium space, and witness an official ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Pavilion includes 1,200 Club seats, 48 four-person Loge boxes and 54 Luxury suites, as well as private lounges and working press boxes. Participating in the ribbon-cutting were (from left) District 1 Councilmember Jacque Robinson, District X and RBOC president Victor Gordo, Mayor Bill Bogaard, U.S. Rep, Judy Chu, and RBOC board member Chris Chahinian. (*Photo by City of Pasadena*)

How does a pastry chef put a bridge on a cake?

One arch at a time!

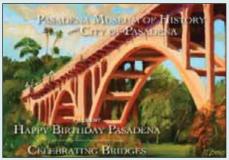
By Ann Erdman

Pasadena" was the theme on June 22 of our community's 127th birthday celebration, which coincided with the 100th anniversary of the Colorado Street Bridge. Festivities took place on the grounds of the Pasadena Museum of History, where hundreds of people of all ages participated in a number of activities, nearly all centered on "bridges":

- Bridges to Exploration from Pasadena to Mars and beyond, as narrated by JPL representatives
- Bridges to Health about early Pasadena settlers who came here seeking cures
- **Bridges to History** an exhibition of our historic local bridges
- **Bridges to Imagination** hands-on projects to keep youngsters engaged
- **Bridges to Understanding** about Pasadena's relationship with its five sister cities worldwide

The celebration culminated in a formal program, emceed by Ann Erdman, that included remarks from local, state and federal elected officials, the singing of "Happy Birthday" and the unveiling of a set of themed cakes designed by Vons' pastry chefs.

Mayor Bill Bogaard, who cut the first ceremonial slice, was assisted by Vice Mayor and District 1 Councilmember Jacque Robinson, District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, U.S. Rep Judy Chu, State Sen. Carol Liu, State Assemblymember Chris Holden and others.



R Jay Ewing, "Through the Arches," oil on canvas, 11" x 14" (courtesy Segil Fine Art Source)

Commission questions Desiderio park budget

Reviewing the Capital Improvement budget for the upcoming fiscal year, some Recreation and Parks Commissioners questioned the large budget for the proposed park on the former Desiderio Army site under the Colorado Street Bridge. The Commission requested being included in a close review of the project.

— Ann Scheid

Commission supports field move to Muir

The Recreation and Parks Commission strongly supports City Council's decision to create a new multi-use/ multi-benefit soccer field at Muir High School, instead of in the Hahamonga Watershed Park. — Ann Scheid

City celebrates new **Defenders Parkway lighting**

Commissioners, City officials and Tournament of Roses Association participated in a ceremony to celebrate the installation of lighting in Defenders Parkway. Located at the east end of the Colorado Street Bridge and dedicated to World War I veterans, Defenders Parkway was once a landscaped parkway linking the bridge to the WWI Memorial Flagstaff at the intersection of Orange Grove and Colorado. The Tournament of Roses Association funded the new lights and installation along the north side of the park. - Ann Scheid

Japanese garden open on last Sunday of each month

The Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden, 270 Arlington Dr., is now routinely open to the public on the last Sunday of every month. Reservations, which are necessary, can be made starting the first day of the each month by emailing info@japanesegardenpasadena.com. Tickets are \$7.50. The garden is wheelchair accessible.

Commission takes aim on an archery solution in the Arroyo

By Ann Scheid RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION DISTRICT 6 APPOINTEE

iscussions concerning the Lower Arroyo archery range began in 2010, after the established agreement between the City and the Pasadena Roving Archers (PRA) was inadvertently allowed to lapse. Although PRA continued to use and maintain the range, the City and PRA found themselves in limbo, with no agreement.

Responding to various questions and interests about archery activities and other uses from residents, the WPRA, District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison and others, City Public Works staff convened a series of meetings with Commissioners from the Recreation and Parks Commission, PRA representatives, and citizens to try to reach a new agreement.

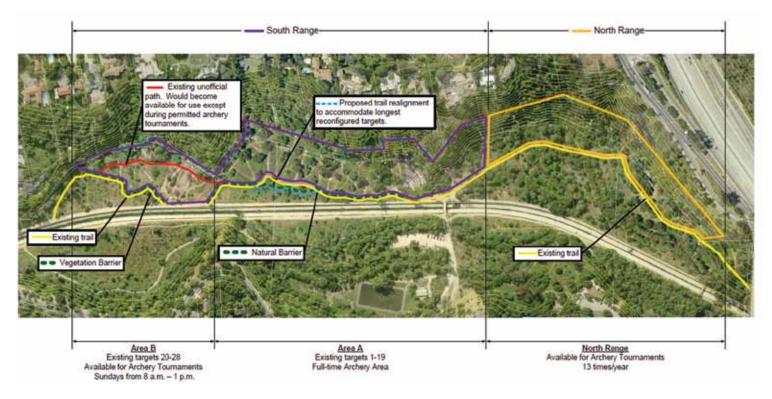
Background

The LA Times reports archers in the Arroyo as early as 1939, apparently in Oak Grove Park. Later articles report a shooting area below California Street, a County resolution banning archery within 200 feet of homes, and archery practice at Jefferson School. (Archery was a standard element of public high school physical education in Pasadena well into the

For many decades a permanent range and clubhouse have been located west of the channel in the Lower Arroyo near the casting pond. The clubhouse burned down in 2002, but well before then the PRA had moved the primary range from north of the small access bridge to south of the bridge, retaining the northern range with 14 temporary targets whose use is limited to 13 Sunday tournaments annually. The southern range of 28 permanent targets plus 6 practice targets



A lone archer hones her skills in the Lower Arroyo. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)



This diagram illustrates City staff's most recent proposal for the established archery range in the Lower Arroyo.



is open to the public for shooting during daylight hours, when not in use by the PRA

To address boundary questions raised by adjacent property owners, City staff recently conducted a partial land survey of the range. Three targets found to be on private property or on a property line are to be relocated, resulting in slight expansion of the range.

Commission hears testimony, makes recommendations

This topic has come before the Recreation and Parks Commission several times, most recently in late May. During that meeting, City staff made a number of proposals including offering use of Rosemont Pavilion near the Rose Bowl for Saturday archery classes, whenever the pavilion is not used for float building.

One particular issue is a trail in the southern third of the southern range, where walking use may conflict with archery. (This portion contains nine of the 28 targets in the southern range.) Staff proposed limiting archery use in this area to Sunday mornings, making that portion of the range available to walkers at all other times. Additional elements included revenue sharing by the PRA, information on PRA membership and range use, credentialing of archers, safety training and range instruction, insurance requirements, range demarcation, and signage.

The Commission did not support the staff recommendation. Instead, it recommended continued public access to the archery range, as it is today, installation of hard barriers to prevent access for uses other than archery, provisions for safety training and on-site monitoring, and analysis of environmental impacts. The proposal was later reviewed by the Design Commission which asked City staff to return with more detailed drawings of the proposed signage, target design and course layout.

LOOKING BACK: 1895

Arbor Street: "Opened by I.M. Hill, and named from the cypress arbor leading from the front of his house to Orange Grove Avenue. This house was the third one built in the original colony settlement – built by Col. J. Banbury, who also planted and trained the arbor in front, and it was a notable thing in the early colony days, as a cool and shady place for the family meals in warm weather, and the scene of many delightful social gatherings. [The arbor was cut away in 1895.]" — History of Pasadena, by Hiram Reid

Grove Manor apartments sell for \$3.4 million

City Ventures, the master developer for the Ambassador West campus on S. Orange Grove, has sold the historic Grove Manor townhome apartments, built in 1927, for \$3.4 million. The transaction, reports the National Real Estate Investor, "is one of the highest per-unit sales in recent months; with the seven-unit complex going for \$492,859 per unit.

City recognizes contributions to historic preservation

The City of Pasadena presented its 10th Annual Preservation awards on May 30. The program, run by the City's Historic Preservation Commission and the City's Planning Department, recognizes positive contributions to historic preservation in Pasadena by acknowledging property owners, designers/architects and contractors for their exceptional restoration or rehabilitation projects in the following six categories:

- Rehabilitation: The Henry Ware House, 460 Bellefontaine
- Preservation: Urban Homestead, 631 Cypress
- Education: Pasadena Digital History Collaboration
- Residential restoration: The Merwin House, 267 W. State Street
- Commercial restoration: American Express Travel & Lifestyle Services, 599 E. Colorado
- Adaptive use: BJ's Restaurants, 234 E. Colorado

New hotel may be rising at Paseo

City Council recently reviewed a proposal for Paseo Colorado by RTKL Associates to demolish the recently shuttered Macy's and adjacent commercial buildings to the north, to construct a new 6-story, 175-room hotel and 2-story commercial building, and to build a new vehicular ramp to the underground parking areas off of Green Street (for the hotel). In addition, the project proposes smaller modifications

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Pillars and projects on the agenda

By Sue Mossman
Executive Director
Pasadena Heritage

PH names WPRA a "Pillar of South Orange Grove"

asadena Heritage looks forward to honoring West Pasadena Residents' Association, one of five "Pillars of South Orange Grove," on July 13 at the Hulett C. Merritt mansion on the Ambassador West campus. Alternating every other year with its famous "Celebration on the Colorado Street Bridge," Pasadena Heritage hosts a special event honoring individuals or institutions that played leading roles in the preservation of Pasadena's architectural treasures and legendary local traditions. This year, the WPRA, the Tournament of Roses Association, Westridge School for Girls, the Valley Hunt Club and City Ventures will honored. Remaining reservations for the dinner (\$200 each) are limited. For availability and more information, call Pasadena Heritage at (626) 441-6333.

Former YWCA project negotiations announced

On June 10, the City announced it had entered exclusive negotiations with Kimpton

Hotels to develop a project including the historic Julia Morgandesigned building, originally serving as the Pasadena YWCA, as a boutique hotel. After worrying, watching over and advocating for a real future for this



landmark building for most of its 36-year history, Pasadena Heritage is very pleased with this show of progress.

The interest in the Julia Morgan building and this project, as well as the importance its prominent Civic Center location, were evident in the strong attendance in two programs hosted by Pasadena Heritage on Julia Morgan and the former YWCA last year. Kimpton was the unanimous first choice of the selection panel, which reviewed the six proposals received by the City. The panel worked diligently to balance critical factors including historic preservation, conceptual new construction, financial considerations, and the strength and qualifications of each proposing team. City Council approved this

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City Ventures developing new "Sunrise" project plans

ity Ventures, master developer of the Ambassador West campus, continues to work on a new design for the former *Sunrise* section on the corner of Green and St. John streets. The City's Transportation Department is completing its review of a study to identify potential traffic impact of the new design, if any. Ben Besley, project manager, previewed a preliminary conceptual design at the June 5 meeting of the WPRA board meeting. He will return with an updated concept once the traffic study is complete.

Phase 1 nears completion

Phase 1, comprising 10 condominium homes in two buildings along West Del Mar, at the Ambassador West campus is nearly complete. Exterior finishes are being applied and interior improvements are wrapping up.

Phase 2 is getting underway

Phase 2 construction, at the former Library and Library Annex site, has also begun. The resulting 21-unit, three story building will be located above Fowler Garden. Excavation for the subterranean parking area is complete, and the podium will be out of the ground by the end of the year.

Model and Sales center opening this fall

Finally, City Ventures has begun work on the sales center, which will be located near the Merritt Mansion, and campus renovation improvements. The first model and the sales center will open this Fall.

General Plan update moves forward to draft EIR

By Vince Farhat
Planning Commission
Mayor's appointee

asadena's General Plan consists of over a dozen chapters, sometimes called "elements." As reported in the last issue of *The (WPRA) News*, the City of Pasadena is currently updating the Land Use and Mobility elements. The Land Use Element specifies how much and where various types of development will be allowed. The Mobility Element includes strategies to achieve a safe, efficient and balanced approach for moving people and goods within Pasadena. These elements were last updated in 1994 and, again, in 2004.

In Spring 2012, Pasadena City staff presented a draft General Plan "concept plan" at a series of community forums for public feedback. During the course of its review of the concept plan, the Planning Commission made numerous recommendations concerning the General Plan guiding principles, the proposed General Plan land use map, and the environmental review process for the updated Land Use and Mobility Elements.

Among its many recommendations, the Commission voted to recommend that the General Plan retain the important neighborhood protection principle that "higher density development will be directed away from residential neighborhoods" and into the Central District and other commercial areas.

The current General Plan also includes "caps" on overall new development. The Commission voted to recommend retaining these caps as a safeguard against future overdevelopment. In late February, the Planning Commission reviewed a summary report of its General Plan concept recommendations and voted to send its recommendations to the City Council.

In late April, following several public hearings, City Council adopted the concept plan and directed City staff to begin the General Plan environmental review. In approving the concept plan, City Council adopted the Planning Commission's recommended language for the General Plan's first guiding principle — that higher density development be directed away from residential

neighborhoods and into the Central District and other commercial areas. City Council also followed the Planning Commission's recommendations to repeal the now-outdated West Gateway Specific Plan and to maintain development "caps" in the General Plan.

In adopting the concept plan, however, City Council also modified some of the recommendations made by City staff, the Planning Commission and other advisory bodies. City staff prepared the following summary of City Council's actions.

Guiding principles

City Council approved staff's recommendations, including:

- Guiding Principle 2: Pasadena's historic resources will be preserved. Citywide, new development will be in harmony with and enhance Pasadena's unique character and sense of place. New construction that could affect the integrity of historic resources will be compatible with, and differentiated from, the existing resource.
- Guiding Principle 8: Pasadena is committed to public education and a diverse educational system responsive to the broad needs of the community.

Development caps

Council approved keeping development caps in the General Plan with the following changes:

- In the Central District Specific Plan, the EIR will study a maximum residential cap of 5,000 units and an EIR alternative with a cap of 3,750 units.
- In the Central District Specific Plan, the EIR will study a maximum commercial cap of 4 million square feet and an EIR alternative with a cap of 2.5 million square feet.
- In the Lincoln Ave Specific Plan, the EIR will study a maximum cap of 180 residential units and 300,000 square feet, and an EIR alternative with a cap of 90 units and 150,000 square feet.
- In the South Fair Oaks Specific Plan, the EIR will study a maximum cap of 800 residential units and 800,000 square feet and an EIR alternative with a cap of 600 units and 600,000 square feet.



Vince Farhat

Land-use diagram

Council approved staff's recommendations with the following changes:

- For the AT&T building on the north side of East Colorado Boulevard between Arroyo Parkway and Marengo Avenue, provide a designation of High Mixed Use (0.0-30) for the entire site.
- For CD-23 (generally, the north and south side of East Colorado Boulevard from Mentor Avenue to Catalina Avenue), change the land use designation from Medium Mixed Use (0.0-2.25) to High Mixed Use (0.0-3.00).
- For the South Raymond Avenue and South Fair Oaks Avenue Corridor change the land use designation from Medium Mixed Use (2.25) to High Mixed Use (3.00).

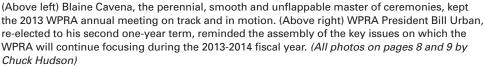
City Council's actions in approving the concept plan provide the foundation for what City staff will study in the required environmental impact report (EIR), in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City's website (cityofpasadena.net) has updated reports and exhibits.

Twice in June, City Planning Department staff held community "pre-scoping" meetings to seek early input on the scope of the EIR. These meetings will be followed by formal scoping sessions after the EIR initial study has been prepared.

After the scoping process is complete, the City will prepare the draft EIR, which should be ready for public review and comment late this year or early next year.









Mayor Bill Bogaard, ably filling in for District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, who was unable to attend the annual meeting, provided attendees with updates about a variety of topical issues.



(Left) City Public Health Director Eric Walsh, M.D., Dr. P.H., delivered the keynote address at the WPRA annual meeting. His theme was "Building a healthier Pasadena." He also discussed findings of the Pasadena-Altadena 2012 Quality of Life Index, based on 20 broad indicators of health equity in Pasadena and Altadena.

WPRA convenes 51st annual meeting

he West Pasadena Residents' Association convened its 51st annual meeting on Wednesday, May 1 in the storied, historic Rose Bowl Home Team locker room. "Celebrating success and inspiring change" was the theme.

The evening started with tours of the stadium to enable attendees to witness, firsthand, the remarkable progress the City has made in modernizing America's Stadium.

During the reception period, attendees enjoyed refreshments, while visiting with exhibiting community organizations.

The main program opened with a celebration of Pasadena life as seen through the eyes of

the late iconic television personality Huell Howser. Mayor Bill Bogaard, a former WPRA president, ably served in place of perennial meeting speaker District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, who was unable to attend, by providing attendees with updates for a variety of topical issues.

The WPRA formally recognized, with WPRA Community Service Awards, Thomas Seifert, Pasadena Beautiful and, jointly, the Valley Hunt Club and residents of Palmetto Drive — all of whom have materially improved the quality of life for residents of West Pasadena. Also, members elected the 2013-2014 WPRA officers and directors. (See page 2 for the listing)

Keynote speaker was Eric G. Walsh, MD, Dr.P.H., Director of Public Health and Health Officer of the City's Department of Health. Dr. Walsh focused on "Building a healthier Pasadena." He set the stage with his approach to public health by quoting President John F. Kennedy: "Things don't happen. Things are made to happen."

Dr. Walsh revealed findings of the 2012 City of Pasadena-Altadena Quality of Life Index, identified the top priorities of the Public Health Department and discussed strategies to improve citizens' health. — Chuck Hudson and Ann Erdman



The WPRA honored Thomas Seifert with a WPRA Community Service Award for his long-time efforts to help preserve the character and quality of life in Pasadena. Tom, a former WPRA president, helped establish a relationship with the Pasadena Garden Club and the Friends of the Arroyo to work together on La Casita del Arroyo. Through the decades Tom has often donated his time and money. He has also served on numerous boards. advisory committees and City commissions, including the Pasadena Heritage board, the Rose Bowl Operating Company and the Pasadena Convention Center board. Today, as president of the La Casita Foundation, Tom carries forward that work begun so many years ago to restore the Little House on the edge of the Arroyo. Former WPRA President Audrey O'Kelley presents the award to Tom.



As you may have noticed, the photo to the left, was taken after the annual meeting. Tom was unable to attend the WPRA annual meeting, so Claire Bogaard and Donna Secundy accepted the award on his behalf during the meeting. A highlight of the evening, Claire, left, held aloft a photo of Tom for the very few in the audience who didn't already know him, while Donna delivered words of praise, along with a good dose of humor, of Tom.

2013 WPRA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Seifert

Beautiful

Thomas Pasadena Valley Hunt Club & Palmetto Drive Residents



The WPRA recognized the Valley Hunt Club, the organization that put Pasadena on the world map by inventing the Tournament of Roses parade, for putting a neighborhood first. Instead of extending the clubhouse into a historic house next door and using the house's yard for parking, the Valley Hunt Club collaborated with Palmetto Drive residents. The result was preservation of the house and construction of an underground parking garage beneath the club's existing parking lot. In the photo, WPRA Vice President Catherine Stringer, right, presents the award to both Jinny Dalbeck, center, of the Valley Hunt Club board, and Virginia Escamilla, a resident of Palmetto Drive.



The WPRA also celebrated the astounding commitment made and met by Pasadena Beautiful to raise \$43,000, including \$10,000 from the Pasadena Community Foundation, to purchase and plant more than 300 trees lost during the historic windstorm of November 2011 and to re-stake more than 135 trees toppled in the high winds. Accepting the award, which was presented by WPRA board member Joan Hearst, second from left, were Pasadena Beautiful board members (from left) Andrea Nagata, Polly Wheaton and John Poer.

ASF wants Edison out of Hahamongna"

he Arroyo Seco Foundation has called on the City of Pasadena to exercise its stewardship responsibility to get Edison out of Hahamonga Watershed Park.

In a letter to City Manager Michael Beck, ASF Managing Director Tim Brick urged Pasadena to review the easement it granted to Edison more than 60 years ago to build and maintain power poles running north-south through the west side of the park in the light of contemporary environmental standards and law.

In May a contractor working for Southern California Edison cleared a giant swath of prime habitat in Hahamongna Watershed Park. Even though the rich habitat was destroyed during a particularly sensitive season for birds and other species in Hahamongna, the destruction apparently was conducted without any environmental documentation or even notification of the City of Pasadena.

The ASF letter states: "The condition of the habitat in this part of Hahamongna has dramatically improved in recent years.... Nonetheless, over the years the Edison poles have grown in size and number, and the access road they insist on has gotten wider and wider."

Brick points out "Since the California Environmental Quality Act was not enacted until 1970, Edison's intrusion on the rare natural conditions in Hahamongna has never been evaluated according to contemporary environmental standards or law. We believe that if the easement and Edison's operational practices are reviewed according to contemporary standards, it will be clear that Edison should move its power lines out of the Hahamongna Basin. They can do that, if Pasadena insists on it and if the California Public Utilities Commission approves it."

Arroyo Seco Canyon project to increase, enhance, restore and improve

By Jonathan Frame Arroyo Seco Foundation

he Arroyo Seco Canyon Project (ASCP), which is a partnership between the Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) and the Arroyo Seco Foundation (ASF), is designed to increase local water supply, enhance water quality, restore aquatic and riparian habitat and improve passive recreational opportunities. It's jointly funded by the State integrated regional water management program and Pasadena Water and Power.

Development of the conceptual design has been delayed by concerns over the safety and functionality of the restroom. The challenge, which continues for engineering consultants, has been to find a place for the restroom that is out of the flood-prone area, convenient for trail users, yet also suitable for waste disposal.

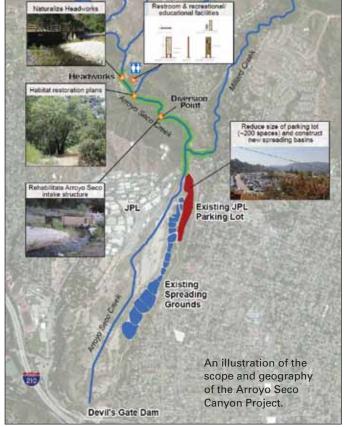
The ASF, along with other volunteers, conducted a headcount on the Gabrielino Trail up the Arroyo Seco Canyon during this past Memorial Day Weekend. The

objective was to gain an understanding of trail usage during a peak weekend. The data will be used to influence the design. For more information and the results of the headcount, visit arroyoseco.org/ascp.

The data will also inform the design of an appropriately sized parking lot for recreational use. The main parking lot will be at the north end of the current JPL parking lot, with a few parking spaces at the south end. Public stakeholders have clearly proclaimed their desire for a minimum number of recreational parking spaces, while meeting basic parking needs for park users. This is an important concept for the most environmentally sensitive use of the area.

The ASF and knowledgeable stakeholders also support a groundwater recharge management plan, which incorporates the natural stream bed and follows the findings of a 2000 study completed by Phillip Williams & Associates. We're continuing to work with the City and the Raymond Basin Management Board to incorporate these findings into the ASCP design to ensure the best land-use practices, while increasing the reliability and resiliency of our local water resources.

Also, the ASF is now partnering with La Loma Development Company, a sustainable design/build firm, to grow native trees and shrubs from our immediate region of the watershed at La Loma's grounds in Northwest Pasadena. The trees grown on La Loma's grounds will be used for tree plantings and restoration volunteer projects throughout the entire Arroyo Seco, including the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project. Through this partnership, La Loma will join the ASF in advocacy for a harmonious approach to watershed management and habitat restoration for the ecosystem around the Arroyo Seco.



28 years on the Metropolitan Water District board

Leading the way to new perspectives, greater resource stewardship

By Tim Brick
Former MWD executive board member
(representing Pasadena)
Current Managing Director,
Arroyo Seco Foundation

hen I arrived at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) in June 1985, MWD was in crisis. Three years before, voters had rejected the expansion of the State Water Project that MWD so zealously sought. It was clear that a new direction was needed.

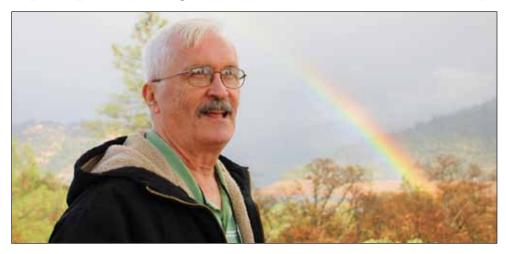
I had opposed the project and the peripheral canal plan, and even sued MWD as part of the statewide campaign, so it was a bold move when Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard appointed me to bring new perspectives and a commitment to environmental stewardship to the MWD board.

Twenty-eight years later, as I look back on my tenure, I find I'm proud of the role that I was able to play in transforming MWD into a more accountable public agency and a better steward of our natural resources.

Now there is a new comprehensive approach to meeting Southern California's future water needs that goes beyond importing water from afar, MWD's initial charge. It includes a renewed reliance on enhancing local water sources, including groundwater and storm water, prioritizing conservation and efficiency and environmental stewardship to ensure the sustainability of both local and imported supplies.

The Bay Delta Conservation Package, now at the top of Gov. Jerry Brown's agenda, is a much better plan than the peripheral canal of the early '80's, emphasizing both water reliability and environmental protection of California's precious inland estuary.

Pasadena participates in several regional agencies but none have been as important or as successful as MWD in shaping Southern California. From the 1920s, when Pasadena Mayor Hiram Wadsworth, Caltech Professor Franklin Thomas and City Attorney James Howard were instrumental in establishing MWD, until today, Pasadena has played a pivotal role, far out of proportion to our relative size among Southern California communities.



Tim Brick, in a colorful moment late last year on the Feather River in Northern California during a Metropolitan Water District inspection tour. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)

I am pleased to say that I was able to continue that proud tradition of leadership during my tenure on the MWD board and especially during my two terms as chairman.

I leave MWD with deep concerns for Southern California's water future:

- MWD's considerable success over the last 85 years has been built on cooperation among Southern California cities and water agencies, but a war has broken out with San Diego County. The situation is very destructive to all parties, including Southern California, and, worse, I see no peacemakers on the current scene.
- MWD and the water industry have failed to convey to the public the gravity of the water-related challenges that face Southern California. Although this industry cannot succeed without broad public support of its programs, it continues only to talk to itself.
- The renewed emphasis throughout
 Southern California on conservation
 and local resources is the right path, but
 it leaves MWD with a broken business
 plan. The skyrocketing rate increases
 of recent years are pricing MWD out
 of the market, and when a Blue Ribbon
 Committee of business and environmental
 leaders, which I appointed, came forward
 with recommendations on how to deal
 with financial restructuring, MWD
 management and the board ignored those
 recommendations. It would be a great
 tragedy if we lose our water insurance
 policy.

■ While the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, crafted by Gov. Brown and the water agencies, is a superior approach to past failed efforts, it's not clear that the \$24 billion plumbing and environmental restoration program is the best or most cost-effective approach to meet Southern California's future water needs, or that it will clear the political hurdles that have tripped up past plans.

On the local front, my biggest disappointment is that Pasadena has not been able to develop a groundwater replenishment and storage program to shore up local supplies and recharge the Raymond Basin aquifer beneath Pasadena. This type of joint partnership between MWD and Pasadena has been discussed and negotiated without success since 1987, but today the Raymond Basin is in worse shape than ever, with declining levels that must be replaced by expensive imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River Basin.

It has been a great honor to serve the residents of Pasadena and Southern California by shaping water policy and programs for these many years on the MWD board. But don't expect me to fade away! I promise to keep fighting for conservation, environmental stewardship, accountability, integrated planning water quality and sustainability.

Thanks to all of my Pasadena friends for your counsel and support.

710 Tunnel Impact

Continued from page 1

vehicles will generate adjacent to our neighborhoods.

- Cars and trucks not wanting to go through the tunnel will use Pasadena's surface streets, but there will be more of them three times more. Orange Grove Boulevard will be the last exit on the 134 Freeway before the tunnel. Motorists wanting to by-pass the tunnel, as well as those wanting to connect with the 110 Freeway, will naturally seek South Orange Grove or Avenue 64 as connection routes.
- St. John Avenue, running parallel to the tunnel, will be connected through and widened from Del Mar to its southern portion at California. Metro has designated St. John as the direct route to Huntington Hospital, since the California/ Del Mar stub will have been subsumed into the "cut and cover" portion of the tunnel. Likely, this will become another by-pass route.
- The only pollution control for the tunnel will be at each end, through giant "scrubbing stations." These stations, potentially the size of one of the Huntington Hospital medical towers, will push pollutants the scrubbers cannot clean out into the heart of Pasadena.
- As Dr. McConnell from the USC School of Medicine and Dr. Seinfeld from Cal Tech indicated during last year's public forum convened at the Convention Center by District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, pollution is a proven health hazard. A UCLA study has found that tunnels concentrate air pollution by almost 1,000 times. We must insist that Metro conduct pollution studies locally and not use diffuse regional readings and estimates.
- A Metro official, quoted in the June 4, 2009 issue of the San Marino Tribute said "… that cancer and emphysema rates are higher near tunnels is absolutely a true statement."



■ To date, we have no credible information demonstrating that the technology exists to filter or clean toxic gases and small particulates from the tunnel. Nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, acid vapors and ozone are not cleansed from vented vehicle emissions, nor are particulates smaller than 2.5 microns, which are the most harmful. Exposure to these is a major health hazard, linking them to autism, cancer, heart attacks, asthma, emphysema and other diseases.

These are but a few of the concerns regarding this project, which is a 20th Century solution to 21st Century transportation and goods movement issues. That is, recent studies indicate that today's younger generations are less inclined to drive, and that auto ownership and fossil fuel consumption is declining among them.

It is incumbent upon each of us to learn as much as possible about Metro's plans and understand thoroughly what the proposed tunnel could mean to our neighborhoods, city, quality of life and future.

Please visit the No710 Action Committee website to learn more and to engage.

Pillars...

Continued from page 6

recommendation, which led to the current negotiations. An Environment Impact Report (EIR) will be required for the project if a final development agreement is reached.

La Loma Bridge design continuing

Detailed plans for the La Loma Bridge project are being developed by Dokken Engineering and will be presented to the Design Advisory Group later this summer. The group comprises City staff members Roubik Mardirosian, Robert Barsam, Steve Walker and Dan Rix; and community members Ann Scheid (at large, appointed by District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison), Taka Suzuki (field representative for Councilmember Madison), Andrea Rawlings (Historic Preservation Commission), Robert Carpenter (Design Commission) and Sue Mossman, Michael Krakower, and Chris Peck (Pasadena Heritage). When the group next meets, it will compare the detailed plans to the original drawings for the La Loma Bridge. The City reports that construction could still begin this fall. The bridge will be completely closed during construction, as will the well-used walking trail from the west end of the bridge down into the Arroyo.

Paseo Colorado...

Continued from page 6

to the Paseo Colorado including realigning existing tenant spaces and relocating existing stairways, escalators and bridges. The total net increase in building square footage for the project is less than 2,000 square feet. Other changes are also proposed for the cinema entrance area and the Garfield promenade. No changes are proposed for the residential portion of the Paseo Colorado.

LOOKING BACK: 1895

Arroyo Drive: "This street or roadway was laid out by the original colonists, and so named because it followed the meander line of the Arroyo's east bank; and also because it was the road they must follow to get down to their wood lots – these being narrow strips or allotments of timbered land which stretched from the Arroyo Drive on the east down the steep, high bank, thence across the wash, thence up the wooded hill slopes west of the Arroyo." — History of Pasadena, by Hiram Reid in 1895

A letter from San Rafael Elementary

Editor's note: The WPRA has "adopted" San Rafael Elementary School, 1090 Nithsdale Rd., which is the last public elementary school in our service area, through the WPRA Student Enrichment Program.



San Rafael Elementary School

Dear Friends:

The 2012-2013 school year has officially ended for the students of San Rafael Elementary School. During the year, we provided our students with varied and fun experiences to make the school year as memorable s possible for all.

For example, our fifth grade students were treated to an all-day field trip to Knott's Berry Farm — their last hoorah as students at San Rafael. If you ever want to test your



Rudy Ramirez

physical endurance and ability to overcome your fear of heights, try chaperoning a group of 10 year-olds at an amusement park. I think I'm still recovering!

The last month of the school also brought our academic community together to celebrate our Wellness Field Day. Scattered around our upper and lower playground areas were different activity stations coordinated by more than 40 parent and community volunteers and several community partners. Students completed a variety of physical activities and sampled healthy snacks. Seeing all the smiles on so many faces confirmed that our students, teachers, and volunteers had a great time. We owe an enormous thanks to the West Pasadena Residents' Association for its generous funding of custom-designed, reusable water bottles for all our students.

Our Field Day event was followed by an equally successful Career Day, organized by WPRA Board Member Marilyn Randolph. Parents and community members from a broad range of professions talked to students about their jobs in fun, informative and engaging presentations. The students asked a lot of questions and were inspired to think about possibilities for their own future careers.

As we prepare for the 2013-2014 school year, I'm excited to announce that our Dual Language Immersion Program (DLIP) in Spanish is still creating quite a buzz. Demand for DLIP was so overwhelming that more than 50 students were placed on a waiting list. As a response, we'll open a fourth DLIP kindergarten classroom next year.

What this means is that San Rafael Elementary will have the luxury of hiring three new teachers for the 2013-2014 school year. This is a testament to the great work that students, staff members, parents, and community volunteers are doing at San Rafael, and speaks to continued success of our school.

Gracias!

Rudy Ramirez

Principal San Rafael Elementary School



(Left) Several San Rafael students and principal Rudy Ramirez pose with U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff who paid a visit to the school in June. The students also were paid a visit on the same day by former Assemblymember Anthony Portantino.

(Right) San Rafael students "go green" with reusable water bottles sponsored by the WPRA.



Tournament foundation gives \$100,000 to local non-profit organizations

Pasadena Tournament of Roses® Foundation distributed grant checks totaling \$100,000 to 28 civic, educational and cultural organizations in the San Gabriel Valley at the Tournament of Roses Foundation Grant Award Reception. Seven of the 28 organizations funded are first-time grant recipients. — *Pasadena Now*

Kidspace meets \$2 million matching challenge

In just over one year, Kidspace Children's Museum has met a \$2 million matching challenge put forward by Chicago-based Galvin Family Foundations. The funds from the challenge move the Museum past the \$8.9 million mark in their \$13 million capital campaign. — *Pasadena Now*

Bob Hope Airport becomes official RB airport

The Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority has agreed to spend about \$325,000 over the next three years to promote Bob Hope Airport in Burbank as the "official airport of the Rose Bowl Stadium" and to be a sponsor of UCLA's intercollegiate athletic teams. — *Pasadena Star-News*

City Council approves EIR for Glenarm "repowering" project

City Council has approved the environmental impact report (EIR) for the Glenarm Power Plant Repowering Project. The project plans to replace an antiquated, steam-generating power plant with a new, state-of-the-art, 71-megawatt natural gas powered generator and the best available air pollution control systems. The new plant will generate power about 30% more efficiently and will augment the reliability of the City's electrical system when conditions are unfavorable for wind and solar energy production.

La Casita renovation fund-raising update

Renovation plans advance to bid phase

By Thomas Seifert President, La Casita Foundation

he La Casita Foundation has made great strides in its fund raising efforts, and we're in the home stretch toward achieving our goal of \$125,000. Progress continues on all aspects of the campaign.

The City of Pasadena Department of Public Works and the La Casita Foundation have forged a meaningful and productive partnership toward the successful renovation of La Casita's interior space. The construction documents are complete and now in plan check. The bidding and award phase, including City Council review, will run through October. We expect construction will begin later this year.

We're most grateful and extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to those who've contributed to this successful campaign. A special "tip of the



hat" goes to the WPRA, for its contribution of \$10,000. And there's still time for those of you not yet involved. Contributions of any size are welcome and can be sent to:

Capital Campaign c/o La Casita Foundation 436 South Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91105-2460

Information about our November ground breaking celebration will follow as we get closer to the date.

City erects way-finding signs

series of color-coordinated "way finding" signs are now popping up in Pasadena to help guide visitors, workers, bicyclists and residents to key destinations, attractions and other points of interest around town.

The signs, which have been met with mixed reviews by area residents, have been installed in the Old Pasadena, Civic Center, Playhouse, East Pasadena, Hastings Ranch, North Pasadena, Arroyo Seco and South Lake areas. About 150 of the signs are being placed for easy pedestrian viewing within the various districts while the rest of the 228 signs are being strategically located to help motorists navigate.

Assistant City Manager Steve Mermell informed the WPRA earlier this year that once the new way-finding signs are in place, City staff will remove older, redundant signs and open discussions with residents who may object to signage placements.

The first phase of Pasadena's new comprehensive signage project is helping to

brand and market the best of what Pasadena has to offer. The second and third phases will include additional signs with changeable data to inform motorists of parking availability at various garages plus monument signs marking main entry points into Pasadena.

The \$2.2 million project includes about \$1.68 million in Proposition C funds from the LA Metro and about \$512,000 in matching funds provided by the City. Total funding for the first phase was about \$1 million, including the 378 signs, steel poles, footings, brackets, labor and administrative costs.

Way-finding signs have been used throughout history, dating back to ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptian times when sign boards were used to note merchant groups plying a certain trade and the location of taverns or other services. More elaborate carved and painted signs promoting guilds were used extensively in the Middle Ages. In modern times, a resurgence of way finding signs have been installed in many major metropolitan areas to market distinct neighborhoods.

Gone, but not forgotten

Orange Grove Avenue: "A splendid park"

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

By Kirk Myers Assistant Archivist Pasadena Museum of History

century ago, South Orange Grove
Avenue made Pasadena famous as the site of Millionaires' Row — a street lined with mansions belonging to some of the wealthiest people in the nation. It also enjoyed another distinction.

In 1915, one author wrote "Orange Grove avenue ... may be said to be the most beautiful street in the West." In 1916, the *Los Angeles Times* observed that "Orange Grove avenue ... is today the most beautiful residence street in the world."

The magnificence of Orange Grove Avenue went beyond architecture. In 1908, Charles Frederick Holder wrote in The Arrowhead magazine that "Orange Grove avenue has taken on the appearance of a splendid park."

John Dame, writing in Sunset magazine in 1906, noted that "Orange Grove avenue is beautiful, but of an indefinable beauty. The location of its residences, the wealth of flowers and foliage, making a continuous panorama enhanced by the harmony of coloring, are more responsible for the fame of the street



rather than architecture or any display of wealth."

Another article in Sunset concurred. "Orange Grove avenue in Pasadena ... is not noted so much for the magnificence of its mansions as for an almost reckless prodigality of ground and the wealth of verdure — whole acres of lawn, driveways hedged with roses, and walls hanging heavy with the ivies and flowering vines of a perpetual summer." Elbert Hubbard said it well: "Pasadena possesses the most beautiful residential thoroughfares I have ever seen. South Orange Grove and Grand Avenue, with other streets of the neighborhood, are broad, well constructed, well lighted. ... Pasadena is the

city of beautiful homes. And this beauty is not simply that of architectural conception and construction. ... Pasadena's dwellings are magnificently staged; noble scenery, a climate that is vivifying but unobtrusive; and the feeling of space, light, freedom – elbowroom."

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





LOOKING BACK: 1895

Orange Grove Avenue: "Laid out and named by Calvin Fletcher, who superintended the platting and subdivision of the original colony lands of the San Gabriel Orange Grove Association, in December and January, 1873-74. He took pains to bring two large live-oak trees into the middle of the street so that they might be preserved, and not destroyed by private cupidity or stupidity, as many other such trees were afterward. And those two trees still remain – 1895." — History of Pasadena, by Hiram Reid



WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 50252 Pasadena, CA 91115-0252 Visit our website @ wpra.net NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** PASADENA, CA PERMIT #1105



Pasadena: city on call

Police Department

Traffic signal timing problems (626) 744-4191

Emergency......9-1-1

Frequently called numbers

Frequently called num	bers
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	s (626) 744-6440
Parking tickets	(626) 744-4360
Street tree maintenance	(626) 744-4321
Trash pick-up	(626) 744-4087
Water/power billing inquirie	es (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 Bill Bogaard

bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net

City Manager Michael J. Beck

mbeck@cityofpasadena.net

Jacque Robinson, District 1 (vice mayor)

jacque robins on @city of pasadena.net

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Steve Madison, District 6

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Terry Tornek, District 7

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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