



COVID-19 hits home

WPRA postpones 2020 annual membership meeting

The City of Pasadena declared on March 4 a Local Public Health Emergency to empower the city to more effectively respond to COVID-19, a new strain of coronavirus. A week later, after the Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) confirmed the first case of the virus in a Pasadena resident, the city went further by announcing cancellation of all “non-essential” city-sponsored events and activities until further notice. On March 16, Pasadena Unified School District announced all of its schools would be closed at least through Friday, April 3, while the City of Pasadena proclaimed a “Local State of Emergency” to empower the city to more effectively respond to the virus.

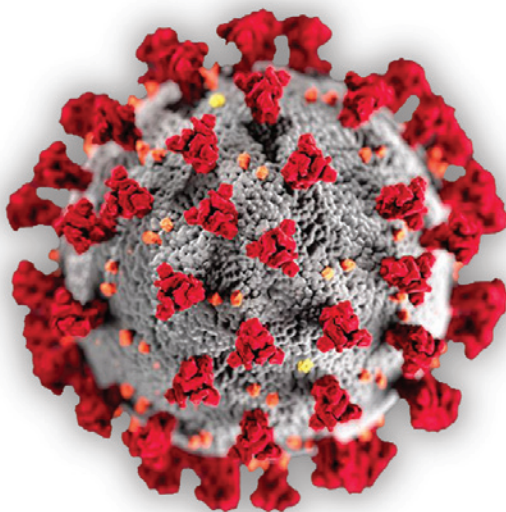
Additionally, the city has ordered all bars, gyms and fitness centers, private social clubs and sit-down restaurant service in the city to close to the public, immediately, with the exception of take-out and delivery services.

As the state continues to take aggressive action to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, the city seeks to maximize social distancing and limiting group activity that might allow spread of COVID-19, and maintain continuity of essential governmental services while keeping city employees working, in as safe an environment as possible.

In the meantime

Everyday precautionary measures to prevent the spread of viruses of this nature have proven effective in prior pandemics, so the PPHD suggests that you protect yourself by:

Given the seriousness of this virus, the WPRA Board has decided to postpone its 2020 annual membership meeting, which had been scheduled for May 14. The board believes this action is prudent and reflects its deep concern for Pasadena citizens' and businesses' best interests. We will continue to monitor the situation and expect to reschedule the meeting once the crisis has passed.



Coronavirus under the microscope.

- Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Coughing or sneezing into a tissue or an elbow — not your hand.
- Not touching your mouth, eyes, or nose.
- Disinfecting frequently touched surfaces often. These surfaces would include cell phones, light switches, doorknobs and toilets.
- Avoiding contact with people who are ill.
- Getting a flu shot to protect yourself from influenza.

If you have recently returned from a country with ongoing COVID-19 infections, follow public-health guidance, monitor your health and, if you need care, inform your healthcare providers about your travel history.

Prepare for possibilities

The PPHD also encourages you to:

- Ensure you and your family have a supply of all essential medications.
- Devise a child-care plan in case you or a care-givers should become ill.
- Develop a plan for how you can care for an ill family member without becoming ill yourself.

The PPHD's Community Health Services Division is actively working to answer questions from the community and investigate possible cases of coronavirus within our jurisdiction, as they do with many communicable diseases.

Additionally, the PPHD is working in partnership with the state health department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other local public-health jurisdictions to provide accurate information to health-care providers and the public, to reduce the risk of spread, and to provide care to those who are ill.

For more information, visit:

- Pasadena Public Health Department: <https://bit.ly/2IikL08>
- LA County Public Health Department: <https://bit.ly/33eXQTB>
- Press release regarding first confirmed case in Pasadena: <https://bit.ly/2xz6Nv8>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://bit.ly/38LksvZ>

We're making some changes to improve communications, engagement

BY DAN BEAL
PRESIDENT, WPRA

One of WPRA's most important functions is to keep you better informed on issues that we believe are important to west Pasadena and to the rest of the city as well.

To better serve in this role, we've recently made two important changes to our communications vehicles: our weekly (Saturday morning) eNewsletter and our website. We believe these enhancements will provide you with more timely information, expand your knowledge base and, ultimately, persuade you to engage with us in the greater community discussion about key issues.

Birth of a new publication

As many of you know, *Neighborhood Update*, which has been published for the past 20 years by email on most Saturday mornings, provides information on upcoming city meetings and announcements, a partial listing of key

community events, and links to important media articles.

The WPRA board recently agreed to retire *Neighborhood Update* and, replace it with *Neighborhood Alert*, which will not be published on any fixed schedule. Rather, it will be published whenever current events dictate – for example, a few days ahead of an important public hearing or City Council vote on an important issue.

And don't worry, if you already receive *Neighborhood Update*, you'll receive *Neighborhood Alert* automatically.

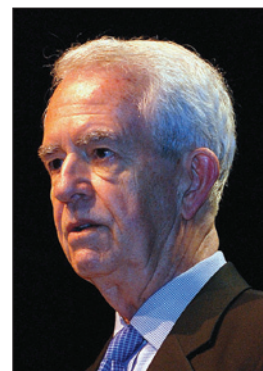
Launch of our revised website

As any casual visitor to our website will immediately see, we've redesigned and improved it. Now it's a treasure trove of WPRA and Pasadena information, including access to issues of our quarterly newsletter going back to Fall 1978, and details of WPRA's civic engagement over the years — all searchable by keywords. [A shout-out to WPRA Vice President Avram Gold, for whom the new website

was a labor of love consuming endless hours.] **See page 13 for more about the website.**

Our website will also provide certain information previously offered only in *Neighborhood Update*. This includes links to city and school district meeting agendas, staff reports, announcements and media sources. One click will take you to the meeting you're interested in, with agendas as they are available. There are also links to sources of information on community event, and to media covering Pasadena issues.

Give *Neighborhood Alerts* and our new website a try. Let us know what you think. Send an email to me at president@wpra.net.



Dan Beal

About us

2019 – 2020 officers

- Dan Beal
(president@wpra.net)
- Avram Gold
(vp@wpra.net)
- Blaine Cavena
(treasurer@wpra.net)
- Evan Davis
(secretary@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.

2019 – 2020 board of directors

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Land use, Planning
- Kenyon Harbison
- Joan Hearst
- Susan Kinney
- Priscilla Taylor
- Nancy Walker
- Linda Zinn (membership@wpra.net)
Membership, Open Space & Conservation

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- Vince Farhat
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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.

Editor: Chuck Hudson
(editor@wpra.net)

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

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The WPRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation. Contributions and donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law.



Panel of candidates

Mayoral, District 6 council candidates debate the issues

On January 23, each of the Pasadena mayoral and District 6 City Councilmember candidates laid out their views on issues facing west Pasadena (and beyond) during a forum co-hosted by three neighborhood associations: West Pasadena Residents' Association (WPRA), Linda Vista-Annandale Association (LVAA) and Madison Heights Neighborhood Association (MHNA).

About 200 people attended the forum, convened at Maranatha High School Student Center, and moderated by WPRA treasurer Blaine Cavena and WPRA Advisory

Council members Vince Farhat and Justin Chapman.

In the photo above are (left to right) incumbent District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, mayoral candidate Major Williams, incumbent mayor Terry Tornek, District 6 council candidate Tamerlin Godley, mayoral candidate Jason Hardin, District 6 council candidate Ryan Bell, and mayoral candidate and current District 5 councilmember Victor Gordo. *(Photos by Avram Gold)*

[See page 6 for election results.]



Audience

Q&A | with David Reyes:

Director, City of Pasadena Planning & Community Development

Pasadena has been a leader in sound community planning for decades. However, recent state legislative mandates intended to override local planning and zoning have made the work of our city planning staff far more challenging and complex. To gain insight into these and other planning-related issues and concerns, the WPRA asked the following questions of David Reyes, Pasadena's director of Planning & Community Development. We appreciate his willingness to share his well-informed thoughts. – *Mic Hansen, WPRA chair, Planning and Land Use*

Q: What do you think of the state's recent mandates that clearly are intended to usurp local oversight and planning?

A: California is facing a very real housing crisis, and we see that here, locally, with the rising cost of housing and increased homelessness throughout the Los Angeles region. There is ongoing debate about the causes of this crisis, but most experts agree that a significant contributor is a lack of adequate housing supply across all income levels. A number of communities have not always done a good job of planning for adequate housing production, including affordable housing, and in some cases have used local zoning regulations to prevent new housing development from occurring. In places like these, local control has led to a failure of planning, and that's what these state mandates are a reaction to. Unfortunately, cities like Pasadena, where we have been a leader in planning for growth and producing affordable housing, have been caught up in these mandates and are now subject to some of the same state regulations meant to address more of the bad actors.

Q: Do you believe that cities should be able to control their own growth and styles?

A: I believe that local cities should absolutely play a central role in shaping the character and feel of their communities. At the same time, we also



David Reyes

need to exercise this power responsibly by taking into account our role in the broader regional community. For example, here in Pasadena, we have six Metro light-rail stations, major educational institutions, job centers and entertainment districts that draw people from all over Los Angeles, the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. As a place with so many desirable assets, we need to make sure we maintain a balanced rate of growth to ensure housing can remain accessible and affordable to a diverse population. This approach should also be aligned with our sustainability and mobility goals to encourage people to live closer to their places of work and entertainment, and have easy access to mass transit and other mobility options.

Q: How difficult is it for city planners to deal with pressure from City Council on one side, and pressure from citizens on the other side ... often pulling in different directions?

A: As planning professionals, our duty is to follow the law, whether it's our local zoning regulations or state laws, and implement the public policy decisions made by City Council, who are, in turn, accountable to citizens. When disagreement arises on a particular issue, our role, as planners, is to provide

our best thinking and expertise, and ensure that our decision-makers and stakeholders have access to all the relevant facts, as well as analyses of various alternatives, so they can decide what's in the best interest of the city, as a whole.

Q: How difficult is it for planners to deal with our very vocal and determined residents, some of whom are quite well-informed?

A: A well-informed and involved community is a major asset to the Planning department. We love to engage with residents and businesses in meaningful ways, and I believe that the input we receive makes our work better. It's always important for us, as planners, to listen to and consider what we hear from the community. At the same time, we are also cognizant that there are many residents who don't have the same level of engagement or access to city officials because of a variety of factors, including socioeconomic status, language barriers, or simply having to manage numerous other priorities in their lives. We look for ways to engage with as many different stakeholders as possible so we have a complete picture of the community's issues and expectations.

Q: Can you anticipate the effect on our city of the huge number of state housing/planning/transportation bills that appear to contradict and undermine our General Plan and zoning ordinances?

A: The two pieces of state legislation that appear to cause the most concern for residents are (1) the density bonus laws and (2) the recently adopted accessory dwelling unit (ADU) regulations. The combination of increasing property values and growing demand for housing has resulted in more frequent requests for density bonus incentives and concessions, which allow developers to build more units and stories in exchange for including a number of affordable units in their projects. Some

residents have expressed significant concern that these requests result in denser and more massive projects than we'd otherwise approve for a given neighborhood. The most recent ADU provisions grant more flexibility to single-family property owners to add up to two additional units to their properties and limits the city's ability to impose certain fees and regulations. While we have seen an increase in the number of ADU permit applications, the effect of these latest changes will become clearer as time goes on and projects are actually built.

Q: Given all the pressure to house the homeless and provide a surplus inventory of affordable housing, what do you think Pasadena of the future will look like?

A: I'm optimistic about the future of Pasadena. I think in the best-case scenario, we will be able to accommodate the necessary growth to meet our state-mandated housing targets in a way that is aligned with our General Plan's guiding principles. We can do this by focusing new growth near transit hubs and along commercial corridors, which will, in turn, can create vibrant, mixed-use and accessible districts throughout the city. We will also be poised to substantially increase the amount of affordable housing in newer projects through our recently increased inclusionary housing ordinance. Finally, as we complete the updates to our Specific Plans, we will have standards and guidelines in place that thoughtfully regulate the scale of new development in a context-sensitive way.

Q: Which current trends in city planning do you view favorably? Unfavorably?

A: The increasing emphasis on social equity in planning and the evolution of sustainability to a much broader definition, including a growing focus on resilience, are some very positive trends. The emerging trend of smaller format housing units, called "micro-units", is also an interesting opportunity for us to add a high number of housing units in a smaller footprint that can cater to specific populations, such as students, seniors, or smaller families. This is not so much an "unfavorable"



David Reyes: "I'm optimistic about the future of Pasadena. [And] I think ... we will be able to accommodate the necessary growth to meet our state-mandated housing targets in a way that is aligned with our General Plan's guiding principles."

trend, but one significant challenge we will be grappling with more and more is the convergence of various generations, including Baby Boomers, Generations X and Y, Millennials and Generation Z. As Baby Boomers look for opportunities to age in place and access services while younger generations look for places to start families and seek educational or economic opportunities, we will need to find ways to accommodate all these needs. This may involve shifting our perspectives on what our neighborhoods should look like and how we get around. It will also require more flexibility to adapt to rapidly changing technology, habits and norms.

Q: Speculative development often hurts – rather than helps – a city. Besides the obvious financial benefit, what are your thoughts on speculative development – both for multi-family and single-family housing?

A: The effects of speculative development have been somewhat different between single-family housing and multi-family housing. When it comes to single-family housing, speculators sometimes build larger scale homes that do not always fit within the context of the surrounding neighborhood to maximize square

footage and sale prices. We have adopted ordinances in recent years to address "mansionization" projects like these in some parts of the city, and continue to work on other parts of the city as well. As for multi-family housing, it's difficult to conclude whether developments are speculative or simply reacting to the market forces. The rising cost of land often forces developers of new projects to cater to potential tenants that can pay higher rents to make construction financially feasible.

Q: Do you feel empowered to challenge various constituents' opinions that, in your view, would lead to less than desirable results?

A: When it comes to dealing with developers, staff is absolutely empowered to protect the best interests of the city to the extent allowed by law. There are instances, however, when local regulations – but more often state laws – come into play and there is less room for intervention. When working with the public and City Council, it is my duty and obligation to offer whatever insight, knowledge, facts or data I have available that would be helpful in addressing the issue at hand.

Voters go to the polls to select candidates in party primaries, local races

Well, that was fun! On March 3, LA County voters, including those in Pasadena, went to the polls to decide primary, partisan and non-partisan political races.

From Pasadena's point of view, the key races were for mayor and four council seats.

As of this writing, it appears clear that incumbent councilmembers **Tyron Hampton** (District 1), **Gene Masuda** (District 4) and **Steve Madison** (District 6) have won their respective races. In District 2, newcomer **Felicia Williams** will replace **Margaret McAustin**, who declined to run again. It also appears that for mayor, incumbent **Terry Tornek** and

current District 5 Councilmember **Victor Gordo** will face each other in a November runoff election. Although Gordo technically won, based on votes, neither he nor Tornek managed to reach the "50% plus 1" bar for victory.

For these and other important contest results, as of March 10, see below.

For more current results as they final counts trickle in, visit the LAVote website at <https://bit.ly/2IG3O6s>.

Winners are highlighted in yellow; candidates destined for runoffs are highlighted in blue. Key to party affiliation: (D) Democratic, (R) Republican and (N) Non-partisan.

U.S REPRESENTATIVE, 27th DISTRICT - PRIMARY

<u>Candidate(s)</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Judy Chu (D)	86,775	71.55%
Johnny J. Nalbandian (R)	15,302	12.62%
Beatrice Cardenas (R)	14,388	11.86%
Christian Daly (N)	4,818	3.97%

U.S REPRESENTATIVE, 28th DISTRICT - PRIMARY

<u>Candidate(s)</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Adam B. Schiff (D)	84,120	58.63%
Eric Early (R)	18,565	12.94%
G. "Maebe A. Girl" Pudlo (D)	16,608	11.58%
Jennifer Barbosa (N)	8,358	5.83%
William Bodell (R)	6,136	4.28%
Sal Genovese (D)	5,191	3.62%
Ara Khachig Manoogian (D)	2,588	1.80%
Chad D. Anderson (D)	1,908	1.33%

STATE SENATOR, 25th DISTRICT - PRIMARY

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Anthony J. Portantino (D)	137,499	100.00%

STATE ASSEMBLY, 41st DISTRICT- PRIMARY

<u>Candidate(s)</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Chris Holden (D)	63,054	72.50%
Robin A. Hvidston (R)	23,915	27.50%

LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR 5TH DISTRICT

<u>Candidate(s)</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Kathryn Barger (N)	192,266	59.38%
John C. Hababedian (N)	66,651	20.59%
Darrell Park (N)	64,859	20.03%

PASADENA: MAYOR

<u>Candidate(s)</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Victor M. Gordo (N)	14,176	46.09%
Terry Tornek (N)	12,915	41.99%
Major Williams (N)	2,547	8.28%
Jason Hardin (N)	1,121	3.64%

PASADENA: CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 1

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Tyron Hampton (N)	3,550	100.00%

PASADENA: CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 2

<u>Candidate(s)</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Felicia Williams (N)	2,202	52.02%
Tricia Keane (N)	1,129	26.67%
Bo Patatian (N)	553	13.06%
Kevin Litwin (N)	349	8.24%

PASADENA: CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 4

<u>Candidate(s)</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Gene Masuda (N)	3,271	59.34%
Charlotte "Char" Bland (N)	1,032	18.72%
Joe Baghdadian (N)	859	15.58%
Kevin Wheeler (N)	350	6.35%

PASADENA: CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 6

<u>Candidate(s)</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Steve Madison (N)	3,117	52.49%
Tamerlin Godley (N)	2,332	39.27%
Ryan Bell (N)	489	8.24%

Trying times, difficult decisions



BY ANDREW SALIMIAN, PRESERVATION DIRECTOR, PASADENA HERITAGE

As we move into trying times, it seems that many of the upcoming events we were looking forward to must be put on hold for the time being.

Events now on hold are:

- Our spring home tour, featuring works of Wallace Neff
- A key spring effort to lend expertise to the now-postponed Specific Plan updates process. However, this temporary hold allows us time to do further research and thinking.
- A public workshop to present the remaining YWCA proposals.

Even as some events and social activities slow down, the following continue to move on:

- Our biennial Bridge Party will be back this summer, assuming Covid-19 cooperates.
- Hosting a Mills Act and Tax Credit workshop this April. If that becomes imprudent, we'll consider offering the workshop as a limited-capacity presentation or webinar.
- Work on a nomination of the Pasadena Avenue Historic District to the National Register.
- Advocacy efforts remain in place, as the need for new housing remains. In the past week before writing this, we saw two major projects move forward in the planning process. Both projects, one on N. Madison Avenue and the other on Fair Oaks Avenue, saw major redesigns that will make them more contextually compatible with Pasadena, without any reduction in the number of housing units to be created. We believe that community-led design can vastly improve projects. We will continue to monitor and provide direction on those projects as they make their way through the pipeline, even if it must be done remotely.



A preliminary rendering of the proposed project viewed from Arroyo Parkway looking southwest. The proposed medical building is on the corner, with the assisted-living portion facing Arroyo Boulevard.

Major project proposed at Arroyo/California

BY MIC HANSEN
CHAIR, LAND USE AND PLANNING, WPRA

A new preliminary project review was presented to City Council on December 16, for the development of properties at 491-577 S. Arroyo Pkwy.

The project site consists of five lots between Bellevue Street and California Boulevard, north-to-south, and between Arroyo Parkway and the Gold line tracks on the west side of Arroyo Parkway.

The 3.3 acre site is currently occupied by five commercial buildings, two of which are historic.

The plan calls for preservation of three of the existing buildings.

A new planned development (PD) district will be established that would include the 91,145 square-foot Whole Foods store. The plan proposes to construct a 150,000 square foot, seven-story medical office building at the corner of California Boulevard and Arroyo Parkway, and a 180,000 square-foot eight-story assisted-living facility that will be between the light-rail right-of-way and the boulevard. Just over 600 subterranean parking stalls are planned.

The project is within the Central District (CD-6) zoning area. As proposed, the project is not consistent with the development standards for the base zoning district, which calls for a floor area ratio (FAR) of 1.5, and a height limit of 50 feet. However, the PD plan is for an FAR of 2.98 — nearly double the underlying density, and a height that exceeds the established height standard for the district by 40 feet. It is likely that the applicant will file for a historic resources variance to validate its request for additional project height.

Arroyo Parkway, LLC, is the developer of record. The development team has indicated that it will be incorporating the two historic structures on the site into the plans, and expect that the buildings will be rehabilitated for adaptive re-use.

The WPRA hopes that the granting of PD status and the zoning flexibility it provides will incentivize the developer to strive for a project that maximizes design excellence, better contextual integration, and a coherent and aesthetically superior project. WPRA also recognizes the importance of a full EIR for the project.

A thank-you to our members!

The WPRA appreciates the financial support we receive from our members. Since it is our only source of funding, we depend on it to achieve our organizational objectives. The member-donors listed below have contributed \$100 or more between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. If your name is not listed or is incorrectly listed, please contact me. As always, we thank you for your generous support.

- Linda Zinn, Membership chair, membership@wpra.net

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

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Dennis and Susi Gertmenian	Daivd Farah and Stuart Landau	Ingrid Pena	Wendeline Tohidi
Tom Gertmenian and Sally	Ms. Linda M. Lasley	Rick Phegley and Carol Pfaffmann	Jim Ukropina
Barngrove	Josh and Nancy Leichter	Lajos Piko	Pete and Joan Ulyatt
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Kiley and Sean Hanish	Jane Mallary	Rose Bowl Operating Company	Brad and Joan West
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Thomas Huteson	John and Juli Miller	Dorothy M. Scully	
Josey Iannotti and Reno Yu	David Minning and Diane	Joe and Gigi Scully	

Deputy fire marshal urges residents to be vigilant

"It is vital that Pasadena residents and property owners be vigilant against dry and poorly maintained vegetation, which can create an extreme fire danger. I encourage you to help protect your home by joining in a partnership with neighbors and the city to ensure compliance with the city's Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance. In March, letters outlining the city's vegetation management ordinances were mailed to over 4,000 properties in the 'Very High Hazard Severity Zones.' Firefighters will begin conducting compliance inspections in the first week of April with an anticipated completion date of June 30. The goal is to maintain trees and vegetation that beautify and benefit a property, while removing hazardous vegetation that provides a volatile fuel supply for wildfire. These preventive measures are very important since the fire season is now a continuous threat throughout the year." — Wendell L. Eaton, CFI, CFEL, Battalion Chief/Deputy Fire Marshal, Pasadena Fire Department

Huntington, Cedars-Sinai sign letter of intent

Huntington Hospital and Cedars-Sinai Health System announced the signing of a Letter of Intent for Huntington to affiliate with Cedars-Sinai Health System. Cedars-Sinai Health System, established in 2017 to provide a platform for high-quality healthcare institutions to collaborate and share resources and expertise, currently comprises Cedars-Sinai, which includes Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Cedars-Sinai Marina del Rey Hospital, and Torrance Memorial, which includes Torrance Memorial Medical Center. The Letter of Intent includes commitments for continued investment in Huntington Hospital in enterprise information technology, ambulatory services and physician development, and acknowledges Huntington's 128-year legacy. Huntington will remain locally controlled.

Will city's new vision for parks raise or raze the bar?

BY TOM SEIFERT,
FORMER WPRA PRESIDENT
AND ANN SCHEID,
AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN

On Monday, February 10, the Pasadena City Council unanimously voted to:

- Reorganize the existing Human Services and Recreation Department and rename it Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCS)
- Move park maintenance operations from the Public Works Department into the PRCS Department
- Create a new position of Parks Administrator to oversee park operations and report directly to the PRCS department director
- Appoint Brenda Harvey-Williams as director of the new PRCS Department. Ms. Harvey-Williams has served the city since 1987.

In the past, the city has not always been successful at resolving the inevitable conflict between park maintenance and recreational activities. Dividing the scheduling function between the two departments, Public Works and Human Services and Recreation, has not worked so well in the past. Centralizing responsibility for such scheduling under one entity certainly seems to make sense, and the city appears ready for such a change. But the devil is always in the details.

From this vantage point in time, we seek the answers to the following key questions:

Selection and hiring of Parks Administrator

- Will that individual's responsibilities involve maintenance of developed park areas only or include all-natural park areas as well?
- Will the individual's credentials include botany as well as dendrology (study of trees)?
- Will the new department be able to manage a balance between programming (active use) and stewardship (passive use)?

Forestry's move to new Public Works division

- What happens to the Forestry division when, as has been announced, it moves to the Street Maintenance and Integrated Waste Management Division of Public Works?
- Will the care of our trees and urban forest, one of our highest priorities according to citizen surveys and a pressing need in this era of climate change, continue as is or be increased? In the past, a well-trained forestry staff pruned all street trees and park

trees on a strict schedule. Now most pruning is contracted out, and our trees have suffered for it.

- Will the forestry operation also care for the trees within parks, as well as in the natural areas, including the Arroyo Seco? A

total of approximately 45 full-time employee positions will move from Public Works to the new PRCS Department. Of those, approximately 85% will be assigned to maintain all of the developed city parks; all of the Arroyo Seco will be maintained by the other 15%.

Funding for park maintenance has long been a major citizen concern. As the One Arroyo Foundation develops and takes on broader Arroyo oversight and managerial responsibilities, as was recently announced, its leadership has repeatedly proclaimed a strong commitment to a higher level of maintenance throughout the Arroyo Seco.

There are many more questions than answers at this juncture, and much will depend on the level of employee acceptance of these changes. Equally important is how committed department management will be to implementing these new responsibilities. It's reassuring to us that, like City Council, the Recreation and Parks Commission unanimously approved and recommended the recent changes. Moreover, the changes appear to be strongly supported by the City Manager and staff as well. But as is usually the case, only time will tell if these green shoots will be permitted to thrive.

At its peak, Pasadena's public park system comprised more than 1,000 acres for a population of some 50,000, and Pasadena maintained a full-fledged Parks Department. Today, Pasadena has only approximately 800 acres of parkland for a population of nearly 150,000. We'd like to believe that this recent reorganization may over time strengthen the voice for parks in the city bureaucracy and reverse this downward trend in Pasadena's available parkland.



Brenda Harvey-Williams

Recycling briefs

- Pasadena used to receive \$35/ton for recyclables, but now must pay \$70/ton.
- Even given this expense, Pasadena isn't focusing on waste reduction.
- Pasadena no longer accepts plastics #3-7, but few residents know that or understand the different levels of plastics.
- Pasadena is planning outreach activities using print and social media, but it doesn't realize these channels are ineffective. Pasadena will also put stickers on all residential recycling containers.
- Pasadena does not have a communications/outreach budget for recycling.
- Currently Pasadena recyclables are being taken to the Puente Hills' material recovery facility.
- Pasadena won't consider banning use or sales of plastics on city property and at the Rose Bowl, as a first step. It buckled following pushback from the Convention Visitors Bureau and City leadership.

— Cheryl Auger



Berkeley Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance

- Reduce single use foodware, e.g. cups, lids, utensils, straws, clamshells, etc
- Reduce street litter, marine pollution, harm to wildlife, GHGE, and landfill waste
- Help businesses shift toward reusable foodware to meet City's [Zero Waste Goal](#).

Applies to Prepared Food Vendors e.g. bakeries, cafeterias, drive-ins, food products stores, food service establishments, drugstores, theaters, bars etc that sell Prepared Food to be consumed on or off premises and foodware purchased by the City.



Phase 1: Effective March 27, 2019.

Enforcement commences March 27, 2020

- Accessory Items (straws, stirrers, napkins, utensils, condiment cups/packets, cup sleeves, tops, lids, spill plugs) shall only be provided upon request.
- Prepared Food Vendors must provide receptacles to separate recyclables, compostables, and landfill waste.
- Foodware purchased by the City of Berkeley must be reusable or certified compostable.

Phase 2: Effective January 1, 2020. Enforcement

commences January 1, 2021

- Disposable foodware and accessory items must be certified compostable
- Prepared Food Vendors must charge twenty five cents (\$0.25) for every disposable cup provided.

Phase 3 - Effective July 1, 2020. Enforcement

commences July 1, 2021

- Prepared Food Vendors offering onsite dining may only use reusable (durable/washable) foodware to serve customers eating on the premises.

Details of Berkeley's single-use foodware and litter reduction ordinance

LA, local cities changing single-use plastic recycling rules

By CHERYL AUGER

Did you know that Pasadena residents generate nearly 3 pounds of waste each day. That's about 4 tons of waste per year, and up almost 50% from 2013?

And while 10% of our waste is plastic, 40% of our plastic waste can never be recycled. The remaining 60% is difficult to recycle because of food or waste contamination. This has a significant impact on the world's environment, as our toxic trash finds its way to undeveloped land, streams, oceans and, sadly, fish and animals. And now it can be also found in our air and food. The situation is so alarming that many countries are now banning single-use plastics (SUP).

LA County asked UCLA Luskin School to assess the impact a plastic ban might have for restaurants. It concluded that restaurants would not lose customers because of bans. In fact, restaurants actually would save money, since prices for substitute material are becoming competitive and because customers may now, by law, bring their own containers. As a result, LA County is expected to implement an SUP ban this summer. Also, LA's City Council in April of 2019 unanimously approved a ban on single-use food and beverage packaging.

The following California cities have also

approved and implemented bans:

- **San Diego:** polystyrene food/drink containers, egg cartons, ice chest coolers, aquatic toys for pools, mooring buoys and navigation markers
- **Palo Alto:** plastic straws, utensils, stirrer sticks, drink plugs, produce bags and other disposable plastic items
- **San Francisco:** plastic bottle sales, SUP, and single-use food and beverage accessories only upon request at city parks and venues
- **Santa Monica:** SUP for prepared foods
- **Malibu:** plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery in retail stores and restaurants
- **Berkeley:** SUP at restaurants. \$.25 per disposable cup
- **South Pasadena:** SUP, estimated to be enacted by April 2020

And although Pasadena's residents and businesses will generate more than 57 tons of plastic waste this year, City Council appears to lack the will to implement its own ban. Rather, Council continues to tout exports to third-world countries as part of its waste management strategy, a notion itself that begs recycling.

[Editor's note: Like most residents, the WPRA is interested in reducing waste. The board has not yet adopted a formal position.]

State proposes new \$5B bond to offset climate change

BILL CHRISTIAN
DIRECTOR, WPRA

The “Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020” — otherwise known as SB-45 — is a new \$5 billion California bond proposal. Assuming the bill is passed during this legislative session, it would then be on the November general election ballot for voter approval.

On February 28, State Sen. Anthony Portantino, a co-sponsor of SB 45, organized a well-attended community meeting at Descanso Gardens in La Cañada Flintridge to explain the bond and present arguments in its favor.

Bond funds would be made available for a wide range of purposes to combat state-wide climate change impacts, including averting fire, drought and flood risks, and improving wildlife habitat and groundwater resources. A significant fraction of the bond funds would be earmarked for projects and studies in Southern California that could augment Pasadena’s funds and activities.

Significant bond resources would also be made available for Pasadena and Los Angeles County to improve fire safety, emergency response and sustainable water supplies in our region. For example, the following grants could be made available:

- \$85 million to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and \$85 million to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for climate resilience and wildfire prevention
- \$40 million for urban greening
- \$70 million to the Upper L.A River and Tributaries Revitalization Plan, which aims to restore the Arroyo Seco to its natural state.

Additionally, many other funding categories could be possible if Pasadena chooses to compete for programs that would be set up by the bond.

Summary of Arroyo Seco news

BY BILL CHRISTIAN
DIRECTOR, WPRA

One Arroyo The WPRA board is currently discussing its position on implementation of the One Arroyo Foundation (OAF) agenda. The foundation’s agenda currently focuses on two pilot trail projects, recommended as first priority by consultants for the Arroyo Advisory Group and approved in concept by City Council.

As conceived, the two trail segments would include bathrooms, parking and other amenities that do not now fit into what’s considered a “rustic trail system.” The WPRA queries to the OAF probes the extent to which the OAF will advocate retention and restoration of the natural values of the upper and lower Arroyo Seco, the role of citizen participation in the arroyo proposals, and the need for a review of the role of the many arroyo user groups.

Former Mayor and current OAF director Bill Bogaard and OAF executive director Rick Gould appeared at the March 4 WPRA board meeting to discuss OAF’s plans and respond to board questions. The WPRA has requested additional meetings with the OAF to help ensure that WPRA concerns are fully aired.

Since OAF appears to be preparing to hire a consulting firm to redesign the two pilot trail projects, the inquiry has current relevance. Also, the city’s role in the arroyo may change as a result of the formation of a new department combining parks, recreation and human services. *[See related article on page 10]*

Devil’s Gate Dam ‘Big dig’

Negotiations to settle litigation over the Devil’s Gate sediment removal program continue between the LA County Flood Control District (FCD) and plaintiffs, Arroyo Seco Foundation and Pasadena Audubon. Principle issues include truck emissions, mitigation and restoration of natural areas. The FCD has been amenable to discussing some alterations in the

program, but the parties have not yet agreed on alterations. If negotiations fail, the court has scheduled a trial date in April. The project is currently on winter hold, with the sediment removal scheduled to resume in late spring.

Fire risks

The WPRA board has consulted with the city fire department and solicited assistance to assess and seek reduction of fire risks, especially in the lower Arroyo caused by brush and dead trees. *[See related article on page 10]*

JPL parking lot lease

The City of Pasadena has agreed to an 18-month, renewable lease to JPL for use of the area east of JPL for a parking lot. The area, which is now mostly unpaved, is designated as a natural area, intended to also improve recharge to the Arroyo stream aquifer. The city is planning to add extensive spreading basins and replace the intake structure of the Arroyo Seco stream to increase its intake of the stream flow.

2019 ‘State of the Urban Forest’ report

The City of Pasadena has completed the 2019 state of the Urban Forest report. The report provides a snap-shot of commonly asked tree-related questions, such as: the number of trees planted, removed, and services performed.

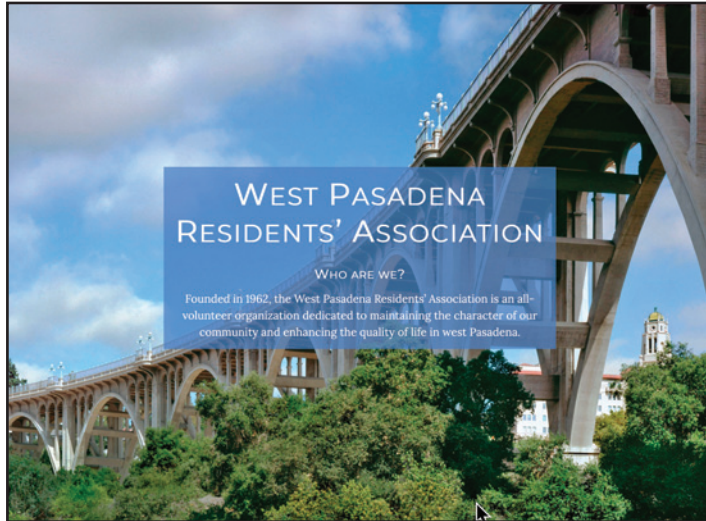
The program-achievements section of the report highlights the city’s recent efforts to enhance the urban forest. This includes updating tree protection guidelines and completing a ficus tree study along Green Street and the habitat restoration project in the Hahamongna Watershed Park area.

The report is available on the Parks and Natural Resources Division webpage: <https://bit.ly/2TXJDHE>

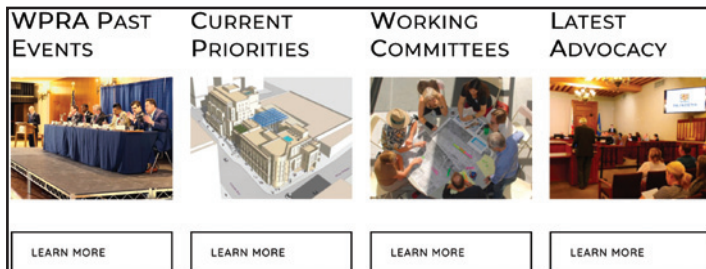
More than just a pretty face

WPRA rethinks, redesigns association website

By AVRAM GOLD
VICE PRESIDENT, WPRA



▲ The new WPRA 4.0 website is more than a new look. It's your tool for finding current listings of developments affecting the city, as a whole, and our west-side community.



▲ It's a presentation of our public advocacy, featuring WPRA's policy statements through the years — all available for reference and downloading.

It's also about how you've been helping us help YOU and our neighbors. It's our history of working together.

So explore! Click on the buttons in our interactive platform and read our story, peruse our achievements through the years or link to WPRA publications.



▲ It's a conduit to our community services and neighborhood safety information.



▲ But most importantly, it presents comprehensive Pasadena data and news with word-search capabilities to access our publications, advocacy letters and the history of our civic involvement on your behalf. In short, it's an archive of how things have changed and how they've stayed the same since the WPRA came to life in 1962.



▲ It's a display of Pasadena's history with historical photos that are expandable for detailed viewing.



Little-known facts about America's first Busch Gardens

BY MICHAEL LOGAN
AUTHOR AND DOCENT

In 1904 Adolphus Busch, of Anheuser Busch Brewing Company (now AB InBev) fame, visited Pasadena with the purpose of buying a winter retirement home. A year later he and wife, Lilly, moved into the former Cravens mansion known as *Ivy Wall* at 1021 S. Orange Grove Blvd, the general area known as *Millionaires' Row*. They selected the property because of all the undeveloped acreage behind it, for which Busch had plans build beautiful private gardens. By 1906 the upper gardens, stretching from the backyards of the Orange Grove Boulevard mansions down to Arroyo Boulevard were complete. There was such a demand for the public to see them that Mr. Busch opened them to all for free.

Credited for designing and building the Busch Gardens was local landscaper Robert Gordon Fraser. The Buschs provided the Frasers a bungalow to live in at the gardens across from the Grecian Pergola on Arroyo Boulevard. Fraser built Williams Park earlier on the current grounds of the Court of Appeals under the Colorado Street Bridge, and was creating a garden for Busch while building Hewes Park (now gone) in Orange, California.

Busch also owned the north side of Arlington Drive from Pasadena Avenue to Fair Oaks Avenue. That's where he placed the pump house, which was used for watering the gardens. And in 1910 this land became the home for the former Cravens thoroughbred horse stables. The ground level became an automobile garage for chauffeurs dropping off guests to Ivy Wall. The upper level became living quarters for the park superintendent. The building is still there, separated from Fair Oaks Avenue by a building and a parking lot. Also, in 1910 the most famous feature, the Old Mill, was built. It was advertised as a perfect copy of a historic mill in Banbury, England. The only problem was that no such mill existed in Banbury, and the design is distinctly Bavarian.

Huge events took place in the gardens like the 1911 American Medical Association annual convention and the 1912 Shriners'



The "Carefree" (1938) cyclists are Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers on what is now 1150 Busch Garden Ct. The concrete path and 36' long stone bench remain, only the bike riders have changed. In the film Astaire performs an amazing dance while golfing. The police were called when his powerful golf drives cleared the gardens with balls landing on a tea party at a house on Arroyo Drive some 258 yards away!

convention. Busch Gardens rivalled the Tournament of Roses in popularity, and in 1915 the gardens registered a peak annual attendance of 1.5 million. In 1918 the Red Cross fete was the largest with the highlight being opera star Madam Schumann-Heink accompanied by a chorus of 5,000 children.

Concerts, carnivals, fiestas, dog shows and flower shows ensued. Hundreds of motion pictures were filmed in the gardens including "The Adventures of Robin Hood," "Frankenstein" and "Gone with the Wind." With the deaths of Adolphus Busch (in Germany 1913) and Lilly (at Ivy Wall 1928), plus the Great Depression, the Busch heirs wanted to unload the property. It was offered twice to the City of Pasadena at reasonable rates. The city declined, citing no need for additional parkland. In 1938 the gardens manager Edmund Krug worked closely with developers to ensure many of the original features and trees remained mostly untouched and can be seen today.



Note: The author has led many walking tours and given many "Before and After" lectures with Pasadena Heritage. In 2005, Logan co-curated the Busch Gardens Centennial exhibit at the Pasadena Museum of History. He has just released a self-published hard-cover pictorial book "The Original Busch Gardens: Adolphus Busch's Gift to Pasadena, California." To purchase a book, please send your request to mmlogan2@hotmail.com.

Former Fenyes home destroyed by fire! Was it arson?



The original Fenyes home at 251 S. Orange Grove was noted for its distinctive Moorish architecture. Built in 1897, it was sold in 1905 to Henry M. Thompson, and later to Frank H. Hamilton. The second Fenyes home was constructed in 1906 at 170 N. Orange Grove, and is currently on the grounds of the Pasadena Museum of History. When the original home burned in 1915, the charred remains were not removed until the lot was purchased in November 1919 and a new home was built by S. L. Bird.

BY KIRK MYERS
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST
PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

In the early morning hours of August 4, 1915, the former Fenyes home at 251 S. Orange Grove was destroyed by a fire of mysterious origin — “under circumstances which aroused the suspicion of the local police.”

Fire insurance companies were suspicious, too, and within days they had secured enough evidence so that warrants for the arrest of the owner were issued by a Pasadena judge.

On August 13, Frank H. Hamilton, a millionaire known for his mining and real estate interests, was charged with “burning his property to obtain insurance by fraud.”

Detectives began searching for him, but Hamilton had disappeared, and was believed to have gone to Arizona. He failed to appear when the grand jury began its probe on

September 2. An indictment against him was returned on September 14.

He finally surrendered to a detective in Los Angeles on February 25, 1916, after consulting with his attorney. “He told detectives he planned to surrender anyway, as soon as he made arrangements for bond. ...He explained that he spent the time at his mines in Arizona, not wanting to submit to arrest until he had completed financial arrangements for his defense.” *Los Angeles Herald, February 26, 1916*

For reasons of health, the trial was postponed several times, until March 1917. Prosecutors introduced evidence that Hamilton had brought 40 gallons of gasoline to the home two days before the fire. They further alleged that he had hired a man to remove a number of boxes and packing cases a few nights before the fire and cautioned the man to turn off his truck lights while he removed the items.

“Bit by bit Prosecutors Keitch and Clark are

weaving a network of damaging evidence around Hamilton in an effort to show that he planned for days ahead to burn his fashionable dwelling in order to defraud the insurance companies.” *Los Angeles Herald, March 21, 1917*

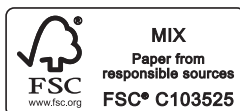
But on March 29, after “one of the hardest fought trials in the local courts,” the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty. An Ocean Park hotel register supported the alibi that Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton were away from the home on the night of August 4, 1915.

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.



**WEST PASADENA
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**
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Pasadena Crime Stoppers(800) 222-8477
Non-Emergency(626) 744-4241

City services

Full listing of City phone numbers:
cityofpasadena.net/directory



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626.744.7311

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Mayor Terry Tornek
ttornek@cityofpasadena.net
Steve Mermell, City Manager
smermell@cityofpasadena.net
Police Chief John E. Perez
jperez@cityofpasadena.net
Acting Fire Chief Bryan Frieders
bfrieders@cityofpasadena.net
City Clerk Mark Jomsky
mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net
Tyron Hampton, Council District 1
thampton@cityofpasadena.net
Margaret McAustin, Council District 2
mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net
John Kennedy, Council District 3
johnkennedy@cityofpasadena.net
Gene Masuda, Council District 4 (vice mayor)
gmassuda@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

Los Angeles

LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger
(District 5): (213) 974-5555

California

Governor Gavin Newsom
(916) 445-2841

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Assemblymember: Chris Holden (D-41):
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United States

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