



## The resilience of Pasadena

### *Creating a brighter future together*

BY GEOFFREY BAUM

**“W**e create our own destiny, our own future, and our own dreams.”

Those are the words of Paloma Torres, a senior class president who this past spring delivered the commencement address at Mayfield Senior School.

For Paloma and her classmates, and students, teachers and families across our community, the 2019-2020 school year ended with profound disappointment, disrupted by the pandemic and the other crises that followed.

Yet Paloma remained undaunted. She reflected on the wisdom gained by adversity from another crisis that shook the confidence of our nation. She noted

in her address that the high school class of 2020 was born in the months following the September 11 (2001) attacks, and as a group, they renewed hope for a better future.

“We are the children that were brought into this world already with a predetermined destiny: to bring light and goodness, in order to counteract the evil that had usurped our world,” she told her classmates in a speech shared on YouTube.

As Pasadena enters another season of social distancing, mask-wearing, remote school and work, economic disruption, wildfires and political polarization, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and discouraged. However, one does not have to look far to see a new, innovative, and revitalized community emerging in west Pasadena.

The Rose Bowl, for example, has pivoted from a major sports and entertainment venue to becoming an essential community resource center. Over the last few months, it has been the site for coronavirus testing and food distribution for those in need. It opened its parking lots for drive-in movies, providing needed entertainment options when isolation is so challenging. Its fields, trails, and “loop” help keep Pasadena fit and active. The number of rounds being played at Brookside Golf Course is at an all-time high.

Importantly, the groundbreaking Rose Bowl Institute was launched in August, putting Pasadena at the forefront of dialogue focusing on the intersection of sports and society. With a dynamic

*Continued on page 6*



**Takin' it to the streets.** Pasadena faced the challenges brought by the pandemic and responded with ... fresh air! Although it's still tough for restaurants and other businesses to survive, patrons flocked to the expanded sidewalk/street retail culture along Colorado Boulevard and elsewhere. For more pandemic era photos, turn to pages 6, 12-13. Photo by Avram Gold.

# Working on your behalf in a time of pandemic

BY DAN BEAL  
PRESIDENT, WPRA

**W**e can fairly compliment city leaders and staff for doing their best to run a complicated organization under difficult circumstances – even before COVID-19 upped the ante exponentially. Perhaps one of the reasons for that is diligent scrutiny by a number of dedicated individuals and groups, and, yes, neighborhood associations like WPRA. Some of the issues we've been representing you on include:

**Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).** This mind-numbingly complicated state requirement formulaically assigns new housing quotas to cities, which are then required to adjust their zoning to reach these impossible goals. Pasadena's RHNA numbers went up from 1,332 units in the last round of allocations (2,589 total units were actually built) to an estimated 9,409 in the next round. We support affordable housing, one of RHNA's goals, but we believe that's an unrealistic and unachievable number, and joined with other neighborhood associations

to urge the city to appeal it. Council voted to appeal, but there are additional approvals needed. We'll stay on it.

**Mansionization.** As explained by Mic Hansen on page 7, the city has been considering regulating oversize, out-of-character, intrusive, and sometimes downright ugly residential construction, known as "mansionization," which can be destructive to the character of neighborhoods. We recognize the need for architectural innovation, but without some control, get ready to welcome an architectural nightmare to your block. You think I'm exaggerating? Take a look at the "concrete battleship" on South Los Robles. While we have a few reservations, the city Planning and Development Department's draft regulations are heading in the right way.

**Lower Arroyo Habitat Restoration** – As Bill Christian notes on page 10, the city Public

*Continued on page 10*

Pre-COVID photo of Cooper ("Best Dog in the World") and, right, Dan. *Photo by John Livzey*



## About us

### 2019 – 2020 officers

- Dan Beal  
(president@wpra.net)
- Avram Gold  
(veep@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

- Dave Bise
- Bill Christian
- Mic Hansen (planning@wpra.net)  
*Land use, Planning*
- Kenyon Harbison
- Joan Hearst
- Susan Kinney
- Nancy Walker
- Linda Zinn (membership@wpra.net)  
*Membership, Open Space & Conservation*

### 2019 – 2020 WPRA Advisory Board

- Geoffrey Baum
- Justin Chapman
- Vince Farhat
- Tom Seifert
- Catherine Stringer
- Fred Zepeda



*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

Visit our website at **wpra.net**  
Visit our Facebook page



# It's your right and responsibility. Vote!

**O**n Tuesday, Nov. 3 (or earlier, if you vote by mail), Pasadena (including Pasadena) will go to the polls to determine the winners of national, state and local contests and to vote up or down a variety of measures and propositions.

## The local races we'll be voting on include:

**Pasadena mayor.** Voters will decide whether incumbent Pasadena Mayor **Terry Tornek** or current District 5 Councilmember **Victor Gordo** will lead the city for the next four years. Since neither received a majority of votes in the March 3 primary nominating election (Tornek received just over 41%, while Gordo received just over 46%), they must face off again.

**PUSD board members.** Voters in three Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education subdistricts – 2, 4 and 6 – will determine who represents them on the board. PUSD board representation is divided into seven geographic sub-district areas, which cover Pasadena, Altadena, Sierra Madre and various unincorporated county pockets outside the Pasadena city limits. *The three seats up for grabs in this election are outside the WPRA service area in west Pasadena.*

Among the 68 state, county and local jurisdiction measures on the ballot are two specifically for local residents:

## Measure P: Pasadena City Services Protection Measure

"Shall the measure maintaining 911 response, fire, paramedic, public health, senior and homeless services, street repairs, and other services by amending the City Charter to continue collecting in electric rates and maintain the longstanding transfer, limited to 12% gross revenue, providing \$18 million annually to Pasadena's General Fund that does not increase taxes or utility rates until ended by voters, requiring financial audits with all funds locally controlled benefitting Pasadena residents be adopted?"

## Measure O: Pasadena Unified School District Repair, Technology, Student Achievement

"To upgrade schools, improve equitable access to technology, attract/retain quality teachers by repairing deteriorating classrooms, bathrooms, roofs, science

labs; remove hazardous materials; provide safe drinking water; acquire, construct, repair sites, facilities, equipment, shall Pasadena Unified School District's measure authorizing \$516.3 million in bonds at legal rates, levying \$45/\$100,000 assessed value (averaging \$28.5 million annually) while bonds are outstanding, be adopted, requiring annual independent audits/citizens' oversight, all funds only for local schools?"

## Key dates and deadlines:

**Monday, Oct. 5 — Tuesday, Nov. 3:** Vote-by-mail balloting period. Ballots will be mailed by Los Angeles County Registrar's Office starting Oct. 5. Vote-by-mail drop boxes will be located throughout LA County. These drop boxes serve as an alternative to mailing ballots through the U.S. Postal Service. The LA County Registrar's staff will collect ballots deposited in the drop boxes. For WPRA-area residents, one of the eight drop boxes will be installed on Seco Street across from the Rose Bowl Stadium.

**Monday, Oct. 19:** Postmark deadline for registering by mail to vote. LA County will mail a vote-by-mail ballot to all those voters who register by this date.

**Saturday, Oct. 24 — Tuesday, Nov. 3:** In-person early voting period at designated vote-center locations in LA County. Dates and hours of operation vary based on the vote-center location, with a select number of 11-day vote-center sites opening on October 24 (including Rosemont Pavilion in the Arroyo Seco). The number of five-day vote-center locations opening will be increasing on Friday, October 30. On election day, all vote centers will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., as is normal, but local election officials are urging voters not to wait until the last minute to vote. In-person voter registration is available to anyone who has not registered to vote by the Oct. 19 deadline (known as conditional voter registration. (See below).

**Tuesday, Nov. 3:** In-person voting and conditional voter registration election day. Vote centers will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. This is also the postmark deadline for vote-by-mail voting (return-postage prepaid), as well as the last day to deposit vote-by-mail ballots in drop boxes or at any

vote-center location (before 8 p.m.) to be counted.

**Monday, Dec. 7:** Date on which the Pasadena City Council will certify results for mayor and Measure P and install newly elected and re-elected members of the City Council.

**Conditional voters:** Conditional voter registration is a safety net for Californians who miss the deadline to register to vote or need to update their voter registration information. Voters can use the conditional voter registration process at any vote-center location through election day. Eligible citizens can go to their county election office or vote center to register and vote conditionally. These ballots will be processed once the county election office has completed the voter registration verification process.

## Want to be sure your ballot is counted?

The state of California has launched a tool, "Where's My Ballot," that lets you see exactly when your ballot was mailed (postmarked), received and counted. Visit: <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>

## For more information:

- **About voter registration:** <https://covr.sos.ca.gov/?language=en-US>
- **About how to find your voting district:** <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/find-my-district/>
- **About Pasadena-specific election information:** <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/city-clerk/general-election-2020/>
- **About PUSD-specific election information:** <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/city-clerk/general-election-2020/pusd-board-of-education/>
- **About the voting experience:** <https://lavote.net/home/voting-elections>
- **About measures on the ballot:** [https://www.lavote.net/docs/rccc/election-info/11032020\\_measures-appearing-on-the-ballot.pdf?v=6](https://www.lavote.net/docs/rccc/election-info/11032020_measures-appearing-on-the-ballot.pdf?v=6)

# Q&A | with Dr. Robert Miller

## President, Tournament of Roses Association

*In normal times more than 500,000 people typically kicked off the new year by attending, in person, the Rose Parade, while many, many more around the world viewed it on television. On Jan. 1, 2021, however, we'll see no sea of cheering spectators, majestic floats will not roll, beribboned equestrians will not canter, and rhythmic marching bands will not strut along the 5.5-mile Colorado Boulevard parade route. Moreover, thousands of area hotel rooms and restaurant tables will be empty, and organizations that typically support the parade will*

*be idle on that day. After much consultation with area leaders and public-health experts, the association board became convinced that the parade, if held in 2021, could have become a virus superspreader within the local community and, as attendees returned home, across the nation and world. And because the only thing bigger in Pasadena than hosting the parade is **not** hosting the parade, the WPRA put a series of questions to Tournament of Roses President Dr. Robert Miller about that decision and the association's path forward.*

### What were the most important factors in your decision not to host the 2021 parade?

Our number one priority is the health and well-being of our parade participants and guests, as well as that of our volunteer members, staff and partners. Obviously, this is not what any of us wanted, and we held off on announcing the cancellation until we were absolutely sure that state and local safety restrictions would prevent us from hosting the Rose Parade in 2021.

We consulted regularly with Pasadena City Manager Steve Mermell and Public Health Director Dr. Ying-Ying Goh as we sought advice and direction regarding public health and safety. Given the evolving and highly fluid nature of the pandemic and public health crisis, their input was greatly appreciated and helpful. We also sought direction from the LA County Department of Public Health, the Governor's office, and the California Department of Public Health.

Finally, and perhaps most definitive and important, the Tournament of Roses commissioned public health experts from the Keck School of Medicine of USC. We asked them to provide a feasibility and safety report for hosting the parade during the COVID-19 Pandemic. That report showed that it is likely that Rose Parade activities would inevitably lead to large numbers



of people close to each other and create a high-risk environment for viral spread, including superspreader events. Also, thousands of people travel to Pasadena from across the nation and even the world. All that travel is a risk to the travelers, but also may bring the virus to Pasadena from other parts of the country and world. We are extremely disappointed that there will not be a parade, but we believe that not doing so will prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as protect the legacy of the Rose Parade for generations to come.

### Do you anticipate that the resulting revenue shortfall will require a reduction of 2020 and/or 2021 grants or scholarships?

While the cancellation of the 2021 Rose Parade and the significant revenue loss this represents has required us to reduce our community investments, we are committed to supporting the community

as much as possible. This June the Tournament of Roses Foundation awarded over \$140,000 in grants to 16 organizations in the San Gabriel Valley. These grants support new and ongoing programs benefiting children, teens, adults and seniors. Due to COVID-19, many of the grant recipients have been able to adjust their service approach to comply with physical distancing, while others pivoted their programming to meet community needs related to the pandemic. In the months ahead, the Foundation will determine the budget for the 2021 grant program. The Tournament of Roses will also continue to support scholarships in partnership with the San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation, Gamma Zeta Boule Foundation, Cal Poly Pomona and Pasadena City College.

### Can you envision hosting either the annual Rose Bowl game or a semi-final college playoff game next year?

At time of publication, we are still working with our partners at the College Football Playoff to host a 2021 College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Rose Bowl Game on January 1.

### If a game is possible, would it be feasible to host a parade before that game?

If the 2021 Rose Bowl game goes forward as planned, there will not be a Rose Parade before the game. The preparation



for the parade typically begins in February. To host an event of that size, we wouldn't be able to provide the grand event that has been in Pasadena for over 130 years in just a few weeks. The construction of our floats takes months and advance planning with many public and private entities to support the bands, equestrian units and all participants must be in place. Instead, the association is planning a new kind of New Year celebration for those across the country and around the world.

**Will the 2021 theme and its prospective 2021 participants be re-invited to participate in the 2022 parade?**

Yes. The 2022 Rose Parade will feature elements that were planned for the 2021 parade. I will continue as president of the association and "Dream. Believe. Achieve." will remain the theme. Bands that were selected to march in 2021 have been invited to participate in the 2022 Rose Parade and Floats have also been welcomed to join us in 2022.

**How will the Rose Queen and Royal Court program change over the short-term?**

The Rose Queen® and Royal Court are treasured traditions in Pasadena, and we now deciding how to best move forward. The Rose Queen has been a fixture in the Rose Parade for more than 100 years, and we want to honor the legacy while providing safe experiences for the queen and court as well as our volunteers, staff and the community at-large.

**Can you provide some details about the association's coronavirus-related community support programs?**

Among several efforts to support food insecurity, the association has donated \$100,000 to the LA Regional Food Bank (LARFB). That donation will be used to support the nine Pasadena food providers affiliated with the food bank, including Foothill Unity Center, Friends In Deed, The Salvation Army and others. The \$100,000 contribution was a combination of funds from the Tournament of Roses Association,



Robert and Barbara Miller on parade day in 2019

the Tournament of Roses Foundation, individual members of the Tournament of Roses, Foundation board members and the organization's staff.

The Tournament of Roses also provided lunches to nurses staffing the drive-through COVID-19 testing site at the Rose Bowl Stadium for more than four weeks. I went to the stadium and surprised the nurses with bouquets of roses and a message that we're all in this together. I'd like to give a big thanks to our partners — Vons, The University Club of Pasadena and Passion Roses — who jumped right in to support the project.

Finally of significant note, working in support of the Pasadena Unified School District this summer, association volunteers and staff delivered more than 50,000 breakfast and lunch meals to students and their families. This was

a major effort requiring thousands of volunteer hours.

**Can you describe the virtual Rosebud Parade and how it came to be?**

At the beginning of the pandemic, we were looking for something to bring people together in the spirit of the Rose Parade, but also adhering to the stay-at-home orders. This idea led to the first-ever virtual Rosebud Parade with over 200 homemade float entries from Pasadena and around the country, as well as a few from other countries, too. Families and friends came together to create small floats made out of materials in their house and out in the yard. The event was very successful with more than 19,000 views. There is a strong possibility that the Rosebud Parade will become an annual event. You can see the parade on the Tournament of Roses YouTube page.

# The resilience of Pasadena

Continued from page 1

leader in Charlie Firestone, the Rose Bowl Institute has announced new programs and an all-star advisory board of global leaders to promote leadership, sportsmanship, and unity.

Businesses across town have found ways to adapt to these new conditions while maintaining a safe environment for their employees and customers. Take Gale Kohl, the community leader, philanthropist and owner of Gale's Restaurant on Fair Oaks. During the lockdown at the beginning of the pandemic, she got the restaurant ready for outdoor dining and is now doing a brisk business under a canopy in the parking lot. She also continues to donate pizzas to firefighters and to support others.

She's not alone. A drive down Colorado Boulevard and across town shows many retailers, salons and restaurants are finding ways to adapt and improve. From the Tournament of Roses (*see related article on pages 4-5*) to Huntington Hospital — which during the initial virus surge had effectively managed one of the highest volumes of COVID-19 cases in California — institutions and organizations in our neighborhood are

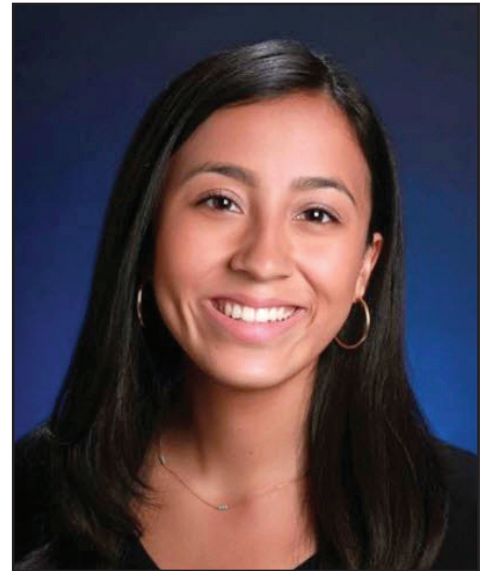
adjusting to and inventing a powerful new future that recognizes how interconnected and interdependent we are.

If any more reassurance is needed, a look back shows how we made it through tough times before and will thrive again.

In the years following the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-20, Pasadena experienced a renaissance like no other period in its history.

Rather than retreat from the disease and the trauma caused by World War I and subsequent postwar economic downturn, Pasadena boldly embarked on a campaign to seal its reputation as the “Athens of the West.”

- Nearby Huntington Library opened in 1919.
- The Rose Bowl was designed in 1921, and construction was completed in 1922.
- Pasadena residents overwhelmingly passed a bond measure in 1923 to create our vibrant civic center comprising City Hall, the Central Library, and the Civic Auditorium.



Paloma Torres

- Pasadena City College was founded in 1924.

In a word, the people of this community, our neighbors, family and friends are resilient.

Just like Paloma. She is now a student at UC Berkeley, embarking on her next chapter of study and service, and taking with her the lessons learned from her family, friends and teachers.

“It is the very people that surround us that allow us to thrive, to love, and to live,” she observed, closing her speech with an exhortation to her classmates: “Unharmd by the polarization and tribulations of this country, we go forth to lead and to create.”

Indeed, as we draw inspiration from Paloma's wisdom and our city's history, together we will make west Pasadena's next chapter even better.

*Geoffrey Baum served as WPR president from 2014-16 and is a member of the WPR advisory board.*



Rose Bowl leadership, for example, pivoted from a major sports and entertainment venue to becoming an essential community resource center. *Photo courtesy of Rose Bowl Stadium*



## Mansionization zoning amendments are on way to City Council

BY MIC HANSEN  
CHAIR, LAND USE AND PLANNING, WPRA

At its meeting September 9, Pasadena's Planning Commission recommended to City Council the amendment of the zoning code to include anti-mansionization provisions for those single-family residential areas not covered by the previously completed Hillside ordinance or the Lower Hastings overlay.

This effort has been in process since 2015. In the meantime, numerous out-of-scale and out-of-context houses have been constructed "at an aggressive pace," as Pasadena Heritage phrased it, within established and harmonious neighborhoods, degrading their character and coherence.

The commission approved staff recommendations that include requiring consistency for building materials, height, as well as second-story privacy and setback limitations. Accessory structures visible from the public right-of-way will be required to have compatible styling and finishes with the main house. Neighborhood compatibility standards will need to be applied, and any new construction or remodels will not be able to exceed 35% more than the median size of homes in the immediate vicinity, or be subject to discretionary review.

The commission also recommended a more robust notification process, including clearly visible on-site notice boards that provide explicit project descriptions as well as contact information for the owner/builder. It also supported more consistent and stringent inspections.

Several additional provisions were included in the recommendations, including the application of the above provisions to historic districts (city landmark and National Register). It also recommended that design guidelines be employed to provide references for clarity, context and compatibility.

This ordinance's more explicit and rigorous provisions should help minimize the proliferation of out-of-character and out-of-scale residential remodels and new construction that have been encroaching into the integrity and beauty of the remaining somewhat intact neighborhoods that have been the hallmark of Pasadena for the last century.

## Caltrans home-sale bill fails, but that may not be all that bad

BY LINUS GREEN

A bill that would have changed the order of sale for houses owned by Caltrans in the 710 corridor and eliminated Caltrans' higher, inflation-adjusted sales price for low- and moderate-income tenants, but not higher earners, simply ran out of time. While SB-9 was approved unanimously by the Assembly, it wasn't taken up for consideration by the Senate before midnight on August 31, essentially rendering the bill moot until next year.

Authored by state Sen. Maria Elena Durazo (D-El Sereno), Senate Bill 9 would have given present tenants of five or more years the opportunity to buy the property before it is offered to a housing-related entity (HRE), rather than the other way around.

According to Senator Durazo, SB-9 would have focused on "expanding and preserving affordability for all these properties while protecting the rights of tenants. This bill would have moved ownership away from Caltrans, secured long-term affordability, and created more affordable options in the corridor, while ensuring that current Caltrans tenants are protected by rules of affordable housing and by increasing the number of affordable housing units."

But Pasadena attorney Christopher Sutton and several tenants argued that the bill would have done more harm than good. Sutton said the bill would have resulted in the displacement of about 100 existing tenant families in Caltrans residential properties in Pasadena, South Pasadena and El Sereno who earn more than 120% of area median income.

This was welcome news to the United Caltrans Tenants (UCT) advocacy group and the tenants it represents. UCT recently launched a public relations campaign to rally opposition to the legislation.

Sutton is calling for a permanent guarantee that no existing Caltrans tenants will be

displaced. The automatic legislative designation of "tenant in good standing" would apply to any family in occupancy in a 710 Corridor Caltrans property as of July 1, 2020, and sets a fixed deadline to sell all the Caltrans properties in the 710 corridor in all three cities.



The 710 tunnel has been dead for almost two years, if not longer, and yet there still has been no progress from Caltrans on the sale of the houses. The COVID-19 pandemic will likely delay the process even longer.

The UCT is encouraging tenants to write to Caltrans' leadership and the Gov. Newsom to demand that they declare the houses as surplus (because they are no longer needed to be torn down to make way for tunnel construction) and thus, offer the houses for sale as required by state law.

Last November, Caltrans District 7 Director John Bulinski publicly blamed the delay on the ongoing lawsuit against the agency by Sutton on behalf of three tenants. That suit is an effort by the tenants to force Caltrans to sell the houses to them at the original purchase price as guaranteed by state law.

After Caltrans tried to implement an "inflation-adjusted price" higher than the affordable price required by state law, a judge in 2019 ordered Caltrans to follow the law and sell the houses at the original purchase price. Caltrans skirted that order by creating "emergency regulations," which were approved by the state Office of Administrative Law, which prompted Sutton to file the suit.

While those emergency regulations regarding the inflation-adjusted price have since expired, tenants still have not been offered the opportunity to purchase their homes, let alone at the price guaranteed by state law. The trial for Sutton's lawsuit is scheduled to begin Oct. 20.

# A thank-you to our members and a reminder!

**T**he 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 July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. 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](mailto: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 securely using your credit card by visiting [wpra.net](http://wpra.net) and clicking on "Donate" at the top of our home page.

## Platinum

Anonymous (1)	Sarah Gavit and Andre de	Donald and Taylor Hall	Samuel Losh
Joe and Dottie Clougherty	Salis	Mrs. Joseph Herron	Steve and Kay Onderdonk
Paul and Sherrill Colony	Bob and Kathy Gillespie	Mark and Phaedra Ledbetter	Terry Perucca

## Benefactor

Anonymous (1)	Tom and Karen Capehart	Martha Fitzpatrick	Leslie Prussia
Dr. and Mrs. David Antion	Roxanne Christ-DeWitt	Avram and Christina Gold	Chuck and Sarah Steidel
Patricia Aoun	Jim and Sandy Dal Pozzo	Rob and Beth Hansen	John D. Taylor
William M. and Susan Bauman	Richard and Jinny Dalbeck	Carlos and Joan Javelera	Frank Uchalik
John C. and Martha Bell	Robert and Kira DeBlasis	Jim and Jean Keatley	Carl and Peggy West
Annaly J. Bennett	John and Elena DeMarco	Sandy and Maria Mallace	James and Dominique Wyatt
David and Keiki Bianchi	Jon Dudley and Colleen	Walter and Heather Mix	Fred Zepeda
Scott and Barbara Bice	Williams	Alfred and Jeanne Paiz	Linda Zinn
Bill and Claire Bogaard	Len Evans and Mic Hansen	Bill and Christy Rakow	Sanford Zisman and Janis
Sheldon and Annette Bull	Frank Falzetta	Fred Schwarzenbach and	Frame

## Patron

Anonymous (5)	Joan Bergman	Michael and Susan Connell	Kathryn W. Ferguson
W. Reid and Katherine Allen	Michael and Mary Ann	Carl W. and Lynn Cooper	Michael and Barbara
Norman and Anna Arnheim	Bernath	Wendy Currier	Finkenbinder
Bruce and Judy Bailey	Jim and Joan Bolton	David Davis	Kathleen Fitzpatrick
John Baldeschwieler and	Bryon and Mary Ann Boyer	Tim and Gay Degani	Chris Folz
Marlene Konnar	Michael Boytim	Deping DeQuattro	Louise Fox
Mark Baratta and Janet Moore	Max Brennan	Gene and Deanna	Anita Freeman
Michael Barish	Brad and Claire Brian	Detchemendy	George and Cleola Gavalas
Michael and Janice Barker	John and Louise Brinsley	Steve and Christina Doerfler	David and Dianne Germany
Olin and Ann Barrett	Bruce and Belinda Broughton	Anne M. Dougherty and David	Dennis and Susi Gertmenian
Geoffrey Baum and Lisa	George and Marilyn Brumder	Dobrikin	Tom Gertmenian and Sally
Gallaway	J.S. Cahill	Rick Drumm and Keidrun	Barngrove
W.J. Baxter	Dr. and Mrs. Howard D	Mumper-Drumm	Nelson and Priscilla Gibbs
Mark Beck	Cantwell	David and Rebecca Ebershoff	Jim and Priscilla Gilliam
Edmund and Aida Bedrosian	Blaine and Virginia Cavena	Tim Everett and Jeannette Liu	Paul and Janet Gordon
Bob and Louise Beggs	Niels and Christiane	George and Jami Falardeau	Joseph Gorman
Martyn Belmont	Christiansen	Carmen Farmer	Ted and Marcia Grace
Chris Benter	Allan and Terri Comstock	Pat and Kathy Feely	Carole Greene



Kiley and Sean Hanish	Sarah MacDowall and Jim Levin	Kathleen O'Kane and Cheryl Groves	William D. Snyder
Russell and Norma Hanlin	Cyndia and Karl Maier	Randy and Lee Parks	Jim and Sandy Stadtler
Katharine Harrington	Jane Mallary	Diana Peterson-More	The Steiman Family
Mark and Cherie Harris	Bob and Marvine Malouf	Lajos Piko	Roger W. Stephens
Jim and Tina Hart	Mr. and Mrs. Philip Mann	John and Barbara Poer	Robin Stever and Ricardo Barrantes
Charles Hilliard and Laila Munderspach	Tom Marble and Pae White	Dick and Jill Polsby	John and Cynthia Stipanov
Sue Holliday	Sharon Marsh	Jane Quinn	Walt Summer
Barbara and John House	John and Dorothy Matthiessen	David and Bonnie Reed	Edmund Sutro
Andrew and Mariko Hsu	Paul and Linda Maurin	Peter Riddall	Soo and Patricia Tan
Chuck and Jody Hudson	Patricia May	Marsha V. Rood	Joan Thompson
Thomas Huteson	Delford McGee	Janet Rose	Robert Thorell
Josey Iannotti and Reno Yu	Judy McLaughlin	Virginia Rose	Rudy and Sherry Tjiong
Erik and Jessie Ivins	David Minning and Diane Wittenberg	George R. Rossman	Pete and Joan Ulyatt
Mary Lou Judson	Chris and Laurie Mitchell	Glenn and Magdalena Rothner	Nancy Van den Hout
Nobu and Jeffrey Junge	Ross and Muriel Mitchell	John and Thelma Rotonde	Nancy Van Tuyle
Bill and Priscilla Kennedy	Phil and Melina Montoya	John Rouse	Nancy and Les Waite
Richard Kirtland	Charles G. Morse	Loring Rutt and Ronna Dishnica	Nancy T. Walker
Lynn Krieger	Therese Mothershead	John and Olga Salisbury	Paul and Elizabeth Walker
Terry and Teresa Krupczak	Phyllis Mueller	KB Schwarzenbach	Jim and Robin Walther
Hiroko and Sidney Kunitake	John and Gail Nackel	Dorothy M. Scully	Lily L. Wang
Ted Levin and Jennifer Crolius	Teresa B. Nally	Thomas Seifert and Dianne Philibosian	Michael Webb
M. Lewis	Martin Nicholson and Laja Holland	Michael and Karen Sharp	Brad and Joan West
Chris and Kristen Link	Robert and Gail Nishinaka	Joel and Jill Sheldon	J. Patrick and Lynda Jenner Whaley
Yvonne Llewellyn		Terry and Ginger Smith	Warren and Kathy Wimmer
Frank and Claude Logan			Dianna Wong
Margo Louis			

## Can we count on you?

Earlier this year, during the initial weeks of the pandemic, the WPRA board decided to defer its annual spring appeal for membership renewal and donations. While that spring mailing is a major source of funding and our only appeal to all of west Pasadena, the board concluded that the level of uncertainty and concern made it appropriate to wait. Additionally, the board chose to make significant contributions to two local non-profit organizations dedicated to providing support to the neediest among us during this challenging time.

However, a consequence of these decisions is that renewal and new memberships have fallen off

dramatically, as evidenced by the number of names in these facing pages, a listing that normally fills two pages and in fine print. And this, in turn, prompts us to remind you that your support is essential for us to continue our mission.

You are our only source of support. That is, we depend entirely on the generosity of our members and donors.

Your WPRA board is committed to doing everything possible to maintain the character of our community, enhance the quality of life in west Pasadena, and keep you informed about current issues — but we can't do all that without your support.

## New plan for arroyo restoration is half-good

### Opinion

BY BILL CHRISTIAN  
DIRECTOR, WPRA

Pasadena's Lower Arroyo Seco segment has seen its share of projects and uses. This stretch, which hosts the casting pond, archers and walkers along its historic trails, also features a now-virtually defunct stream diversion restoration (the Browning Ferris mitigation project).

Recently, the city proposed a new native vegetation restoration program from east of the casting pond to just below the John K. Van de Camp Bridge (formerly the La Loma Bridge), requiring the removal of all non-native plants — including numbers of quite large trees — and then planting and irrigating native species. The city plans to use about \$800,000 in short-tenure state grant funds to complete the project, but would reserve little or no money for long term maintenance of the native vegetation.

The city provided scant and late notice of the project to affected neighborhoods. A number of west Pasadena residents reacted strongly to the absence of any community participation in the project and to the removal of all non-native trees, especially without any assurance that the native vegetation would continue to thrive.

As a result of community opposition (*including a critical letter from the WPRA*), District 6 Councilman Steve Madison intervened to require the city to slow down the project process and include a community meeting on the project. The WPRA hopes a compromise can be reached so the plan goes forward, but without removing all of the older, non-native trees, while greatly expanding the number of new native trees to be planted.

A question that pervades the city's role in the Arroyo arises again in the context of this project: Does the city have a long-term plan to manage the Arroyo Seco in ways that preserve this incredible resource and maintain it for the prudent use of current and future generations?

## How 'Big Dig' settlement improved plan

BY BILL CHRISTIAN  
DIRECTOR, WPRA

Occasionally, citizen action *can* produce positive change in how governmental agencies manage their affairs. The chronology and outcome of the "Big Dig" dispute illustrates just that.

The 2009 Station Fire burned a significant portion of the Upper Arroyo Seco watershed. Rains that winter conveyed large quantities of sediment eroded from the burned areas downstream into the Devil's Gate Dam reservoir.

In 2010, the L.A. County Flood Control District (FCD) proposed a massive sediment removal program exempted from environmental review and with little or no opportunity for public involvement. Two local organizations: Arroyo Seco Foundation (ASF) and Pasadena Audubon intervened, pressing the county to conduct an environmental assessment. They prevailed. The county completed the assessment in 2014, but failed to reduce the impacts of the project. ASF and Pasadena Audubon sued, twice, to

reduce the size and severity of the project impacts.

The result? The county:

- Significantly reduced the area of excavation and the total amount of sediment to be removed
- Reduced truck diesel and dust emissions
- Improved the restoration of habitat
- Made other positive alterations to the original plan

More importantly, it appears as if the county has begun to listen to local voices that have an interest in minimizing community harm.

Unfortunately, the city of Pasadena has been somewhat passive in opposing the worst features of the Big Dig. While City Council initially sponsored and approved a proposal for minimizing the size and impacts of the county sediment removal program, which the county failed to adopt, it failed to follow up and press its views. Rather, it took persistent action and significant expenditures by non-profit groups through the courts to make a difference.

## Priscilla Taylor caps 26 years with WPRA

It is with gratitude for her 26 years of service that the West Pasadena Residents' Association recently and reluctantly accepted Priscilla Taylor's resignation from the board.

Priscilla, a Pasadenan since 1984, was elected to the WPRA board in 1994. During those 26 years on the board, she served as board treasurer twice (each time for two-year stints) and wrote several articles for the WPRA's quarterly newsletter about the hillside zoning ordinance. She helped support the WPRA's efforts to enrich the educational experiences of San Rafael Elementary School students and participated on the city committee appointed to review the design of the city's new Permit Center.

Priscilla regularly worked at the hospitality/check-in desk for annual WPRA membership meetings

and helped support the annual WPRA community service award program. She also engaged in the effort to help save the Julia Morgan YWCA building and regularly helped serve meals each month at Robin Salzer's hot-meals program at the Jackie Robinson Community Center.



Priscilla Taylor

When asked why she stayed so long on board, her answer was simple: "I wanted to know what was going on in my city and to make a difference in the community."

## Working on your behalf ...

Continued from page 2

Works Department proposes to remove 106 non-native trees, as well as shrubs and weeds near the John K. Van de Kamp (La Loma) bridge and replace them with 42 native species trees and 2,000 seedling shrubs. The city gave only a handful of organizations a mere five days to comment. *[The WPRA was not one of them, but sharp-eyed board member Linda Zinn let us know.]* Reasonable people can differ on removing non-native trees, but the Arroyo Seco is near-sacred

to Pasadenans, and dropping a significant project into it with little or no public consultation almost guarantees dissent. Hopefully the sad lesson of the Desiderio Park restrooms will be internalized. Thanks to District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison for opening up the process.

Our letters to City Council on each of these subjects can be found on our website at: <https://wptra.net/letters-at-a-glance/>



# Arroyo Seco Canyon Project is more of same: a small-area plan with no long-term context

## Opinion

BY BILL CHRISTIAN  
DIRECTOR, WPRA

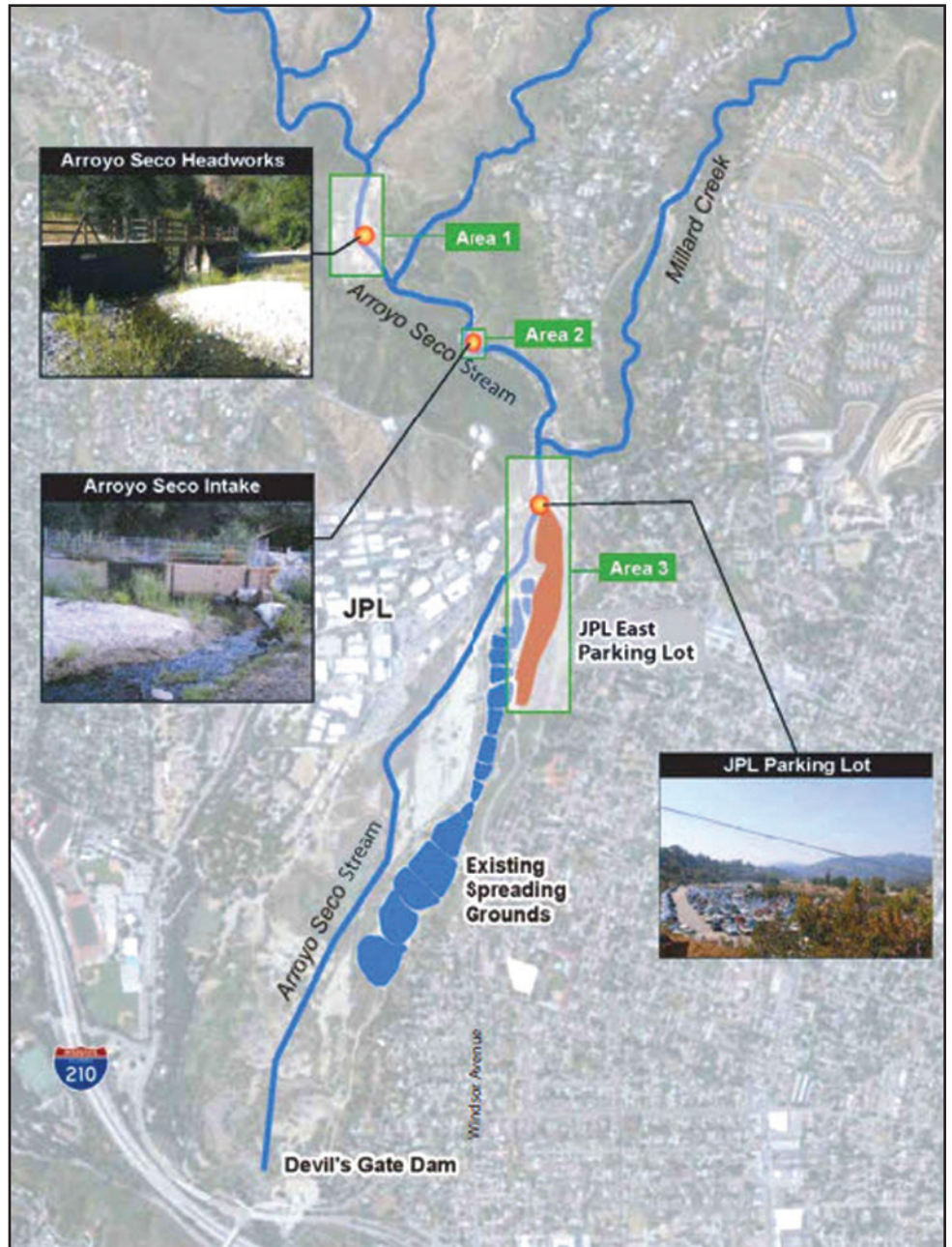
The city recently proposed modifications to use of the Arroyo Seco stream as it emerges from its canyon upstream of the JPL facilities. Those modifications, presented in the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project, would enable the city to capture virtually all of the stream flow and divert it to expansive, newly constructed spreading basins, primarily in the previous JPL-east parking area that was slated to be returned to native habitat.

The city recently issued a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project. A number of environmental, community and other non-profit groups, including the West Pasadena Residents' Association, commented critically on the project.

Principal objections to the project, as proposed, include the almost assured desiccation of the Arroyo Seco stream and the lack of any support for the city's contention that adding new spreading basins would increase Pasadena's groundwater supply, even minimally, or indeed function any better than the currently mostly unused spreading basins. Also, the large acreage taken for the spreading basins would be essentially devoid of ecological function.

The Arroyo Seco Canyon Project is among several recent city projects that direct public resources to small areas of the arroyo without considering how those actions might fit into a long-term plan for the restoration and management of the entirety of Pasadena's arroyo.

The Arroyo Advisory Group (AAG), formed in 2017, was conceived as a way to plan, integrate and implement a



unified arroyo plan that reflected the best elements of many past plans and studies relating to the city's primary recreational and wild areas.

Sadly, the AAG has since adopted proposals, headed by a new quasi-public foundation (the One Arroyo Foundation), to raise money and create two expensive new, short trail segments.

Worse, the AAG has made no progress on other originally stated goals:

- To restore the natural arroyo and an end-to-end trail system
- To consider an oversight organization that had the institutional power to manage and, if necessary, limit the many and varied arroyo user-groups
- To follow the key provisions of previous Arroyo plans



# Creating a brighter future together

**"A**s Pasadena enters another season of social distancing, mask-wearing, remote school and work, economic disruption and political polarization, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and discouraged," writes Geoffrey Baum in our cover article. "However," he continues, "one does not have to look very far to see a new, innovative and revitalized community emerging in west

Pasadena. Businesses across town have found ways to adapt to these new conditions while maintaining a safe environment for their employees and customers. A drive down Colorado Boulevard and across town shows many retailers, salons and restaurants are finding ways to adapt and improve."

*All photos by Avram Gold*









# 'The most perfect climate in the world'

BY KIRK MYERS  
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST

**S**outhern California was lavishly praised in promotional literature and by word of mouth in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a land of wonders and an earthly paradise.

One of the greatest attractions hailed was the near perfect climate, and, in this category, Pasadena was said to excel all other areas in the Southland.

"In all Southern California there is no spot so well situated sanitarily as Pasadena. It lies between the extremes of dryness and humidity; it is well protected from the north wind and from the sea air to the west. It has good water, good soil, and picturesque and historic surroundings." (Abbot Kinney, *A Southern California Paradise*, 1883).

Charles Frederick Holder, a founder of the Tournament of Roses, wrote in 1892 that: "The colony grew by having its virtues sung by stray visitors. Among the settlers and those who came later were many invalids who had come to Pasadena as a last hope. Rumor reached

the East that these invalids had not only recovered, but were active business men and farmers. So Pasadena grew, its dwellers claiming for it the most perfect all-the-year-round climate in the world – a soil so productive that products of almost every zone met here on common ground." (*"The Crown of the San Gabriel Valley, Pasadena"* by Charles Frederick Holder, *The Californian*, August, 1892.)

Holder himself had come to Pasadena for health reasons. How many other early residents were health seekers was sometimes a matter of time and perspective. One of Pasadena's doctors, Israel S.P. Lord, wrote in 1883:

"More than half of the adults came here on account of ill health, and yet there is comparatively little sickness, and as far as the weather is concerned there ought to be but little."

But in 1892, Holder wrote in *The Californian* that:

"It should not be imagined that Pasadena has the appearance of a health resort. This feature is not apparent in the slightest degree, as pleasure seekers far outnumber the invalids, and during the winter the hotels are filled with throngs, that have

fled from snow and ice, and are taking their vacation among the flowers of California."

In the same article, Holder also noted that he believed "...the invalid has a better chance here than elsewhere – not the invalid who sits around the hotel office, but the one who will go out into the country and occupy himself with something, and live the outdoor life. This is the secret of Pasadena's cure."

Another Pasadena doctor, John M. Radebaugh, had earlier written an article emphasizing the outdoor life as part of the cure:

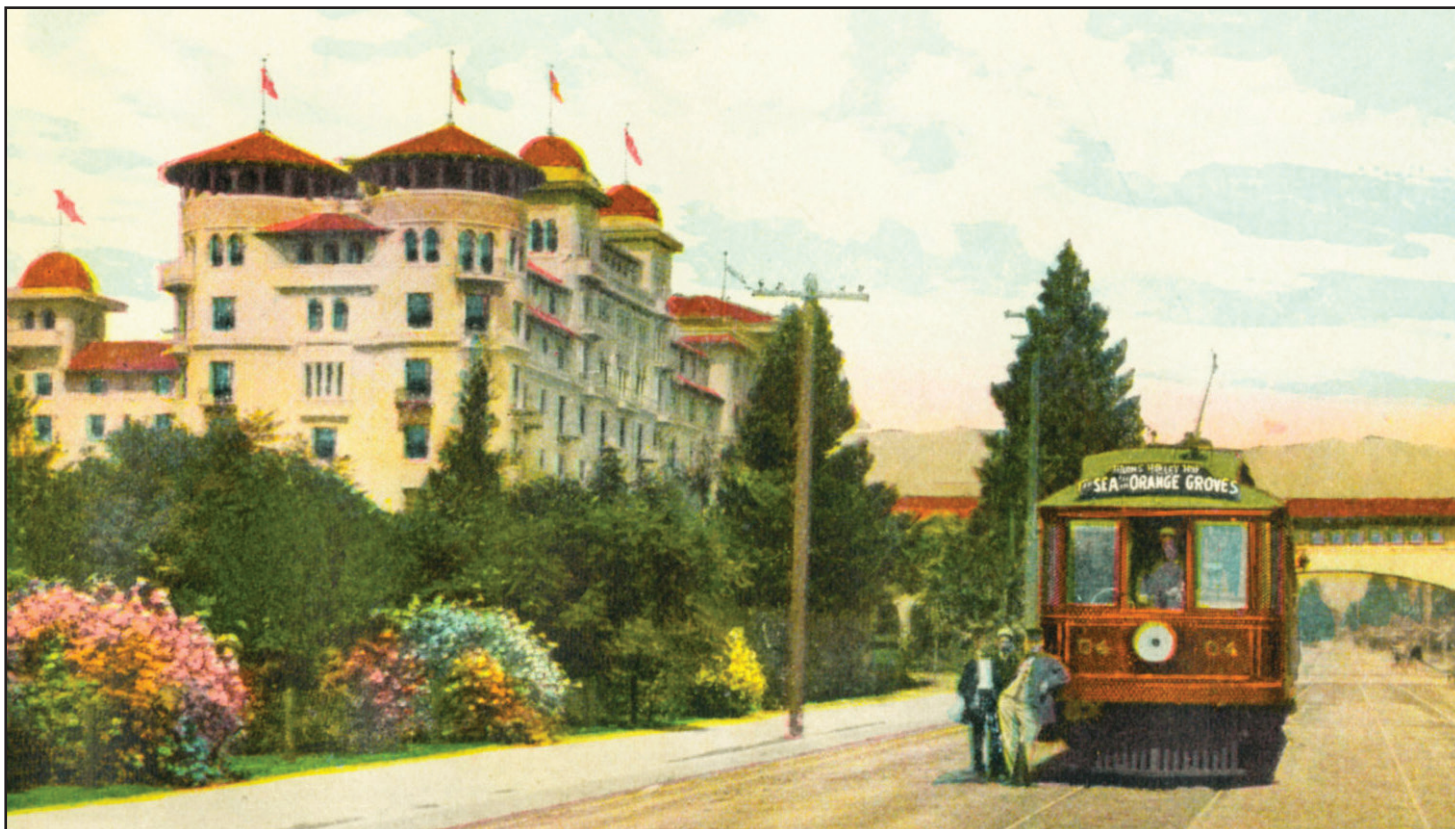
"The possibility of invalids being out of doors three hundred and forty, and perhaps more, days of the year, during part of the twenty-four hours, and that no mean portion of the daylight, is the great advantage which Pasadena offers. Atmospheric conditions that allow outdoor life is what should chiefly recommend a climate to an invalid. ...

"The comparative dryness of atmosphere is another marked advantage for several reasons. It favors healing of diseased structure, and tempers both heat and cold ....



George F. Kernaghan (above photo) and family at their home on 420 Olcott Place, circa 1888. Fifteen years later, in 1903, older homes on South Orange Grove were being replaced by mansions as Millionaires' Row transformed the area. Kernaghan thought that his lot "was too valuable as a fine residence site to be occupied by his comfortable but old-fashioned home, so he moved it off and will encourage some millionaire to build on the lot thus vacated." Three months later Hulett C. Merritt bought the land, and began building his home there in 1905.





Tilton's Trolley Trip - "From the Sea to the Orange Groves" - took riders "one hundred miles for one hundred cents." The Green Hotel was one of the sights. Pasadena was described as "that idyllic city which wealth and refinement have made a seeming paradise of verdure, lovely homes, embowered in charming grounds, with many tourist hotels that have a world-wide reputation."

"Good food is a necessary element in the cure of disease. Pasadena adds this last factor to the others; for her soil yields fruits and vegetables every month of the year – the staple vegetables each month alike, and the fruits in a constantly changing succession.

"The "Gateway of the Valley" can rest her claims as a health resort, on this trio, and through these gifts can offer healing to tens of thousands." (*"Pasadena as a Health Resort," A Southern California Paradise, 1883*)

How many health seekers actually recovered? One author claimed in the *Pasadena Daily News* Tournament of Roses edition in 1913 that "multitudes of individuals have found relief from bodily ills, and in many instances complete recovery of lost health." But many who came suffering from tuberculosis were too far advanced in illness, and died soon after arriving.

One remarkable recovery was that of the

first city auditor of Pasadena, George F. Kernaghan.

"Condemned by his physician more than 52 years ago to death within a year, he quitted New York for the orange groves of Pasadena and by sheer grit and interest in living overcame threatening death and long outlived those who had pronounced his speedy doom.

"In those 52 years of residence he was postmaster, editor of the old *Pasadena Star*, forerunner of the present-day *Star-News*, one of the framers of the present city charter, banking leader, subdivider and in the days of his activity a leading spirit in a dozen civic and fraternal organizations. No man ever forgot him who met him.

"In 1886, the ailing New Yorker selected and bought a small ranch on Orange Grove Avenue, south of Colorado Street." (*Pasadena Star-News*, July 7, 1937)

Kernaghan built a Victorian home on the

site, which he moved to Palmetto Drive in 1903 because he considered the lot too valuable to be occupied by his "old-fashioned home." He said that he would "encourage some millionaire to build on the lot thus vacated." He later sold the lot to Hulett C. Merritt, who built a home there in 1905.

When George Kernaghan died in July, 1937 at the age of ninety, the *Pasadena Star-News* proclaimed that he "was one of the greatest municipal powers in Pasadena at the turn of the century," and said that his monument was the city he helped to create – Pasadena itself.

No detailed records were kept of how many recovered their health in early Pasadena, but the lure of regaining lost health in an exotic semi-tropical land of sunshine and wonder led thousands to take the chance and move to Pasadena in hope of a better life.

*Pasadena Museum of History |  
pasadenahistory.org*



**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

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

### City services

Full listing of City phone numbers:  
[cityofpasadena.net/directory](http://cityofpasadena.net/directory)



One Call to City Hall

**626.744.7311**

**Submit Service Requests — Get Answers**  
**Call Center Hours of Operation:**  
**Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

### Download the CSC App!



**ANDROID**



**IPHONE**

## Make your own motion!

### Pasadena

Mayor Terry Tornek  
[ttornek@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ttornek@cityofpasadena.net)  
Steve Mermell, City Manager  
[smermell@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:smermell@cityofpasadena.net)  
Police Chief John E. Perez  
[jperez@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:jperez@cityofpasadena.net)  
Interim Fire Chief Bryan Frieders  
[bfrieders@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:bfrieders@cityofpasadena.net)  
City Clerk Mark Jomsky  
[mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net)  
Tyron Hampton, Council District 1  
[thampton@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:thampton@cityofpasadena.net)  
Margaret McAustin, Council District 2  
[mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net)  
John Kennedy, Council District 3  
[johnjkennedy@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:johnjkennedy@cityofpasadena.net)  
Gene Masuda, Council District 4  
(vice mayor)  
[gmazuda@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:gmazuda@cityofpasadena.net)  
Victor Gordo, Council District 5  
[vgordo@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:vgordo@cityofpasadena.net)  
Steve Madison, Council District 6  
[smadison@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:smadison@cityofpasadena.net)  
Andy Wilson, Council District 7  
[awilson@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:awilson@cityofpasadena.net)

### Los Angeles County

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

### California

Governor Gavin Newsom  
(916) 445-2841

Senator Anthony Portantino (D-25):  
(916) 651-4025

Assemblymember: Chris Holden (D-41):  
(916) 319-2041

### United States

President Donald J. Trump  
(202) 456-1111

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
(202) 224-3841

Senator Kamala Harris  
(202) 224-3553

Representative Judy Chu (D-27):  
(202) 225-5464

Representative Adam Schiff (D-28):  
(202) 225-4176

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