

Oh, the wonders you'll see!* Let's dream them together.

WPRA sets date, theme for annual meeting – in person!

The West Pasadena Residents' Association invites you to join us — in person — for our 2022 annual meeting on Thursday, June 2, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., in the Maranatha High School Student Center, 169 S. St. John Ave.

5:30 p.m.: Meet and greet

The evening starts with a reception, during which you can enjoy light refreshments while visiting with many community organizations exhibiting their services and programs. We've also invited the following local, elected/appointed luminaries:

- Victor Gordo, Pasadena Mayor
- Cynthia Kurtz, interim Pasadena City Manager
- Steve Madison, Pasadena District 6 Councilmember
- Kathryn Barger, LA County District 5 Supervisor
- Chris Holden, State Assemblymember (D-41)

6:30 p.m.: Business program

Our community is home to an extensive scientific/medical network that includes Caltech, ArtCenter College of Design,

Pasadena City College, NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, General Motors's design and technology center, Carnegie Science Astronomy, and a rich profusion of private tech companies and start-ups. With this concentration of brain power and innovation, Pasadena will certainly evolve in astonishing ways over the next 10, 20 or 30 years.

Accordingly, this year's annual meeting will feature a panel-discussion to explore what wonders and leaps forward in technology, medical research and design are likely to occur in Pasadena. That is, we'll explore how our yesterdays and todays could lead to stunning tomorrows for Pasadena and, dare we say it, the world.

The WPRA has reached out to the following Pasadena visionaries who've agreed to share their insights: Aaron Fyke, founder and managing director of Thin Line Capital; Minnie Ingersoll, partner of TenOneTen Ventures; Robbie Nock, director of Entrepreneurship and Professional Practice at ArtCenter; and Julie Schoenfeld, Entrepreneur in Residence, Physical Sciences at Caltech.

Potential topics include:

- What tech and bioengineering companies are currently doing business in Pasadena? And what are they working on?
- What exciting innovations, inventions and products will be coming from Caltech?
- What kinds of biological and medical research is going on in Pasadena?
- How is ArtCenter adapting its design creations for industry and commercial products?
- Which current technological

Save the date

What:

WPRA 2022 annual meeting

When:

Thursday, June 2, 2022
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where:

Maranatha High School
Student Center
169 S St. John Ave.

advancements could change — positively or negatively — our local culture?

- How could virtual and augmented reality platforms impact city planning, education and families?

Last, but certainly not least

WPRA members will also elect WPRA directors for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

** You may have noticed that this article's headline is a take on Dr. Seuss's children's book, "Oh, the places you'll go." To take it a bit further, we've paraphrased the close of that book to fit this occasion:*

"We have brains in our head.

"We have feet in our shoes.

"We can steer ourselves in any direction we choose.

"And will we succeed?

"Yes! We will, indeed!"

West Pasadena Residents' Association



What have we done for you lately?

By Dan Beal
President, WPRA

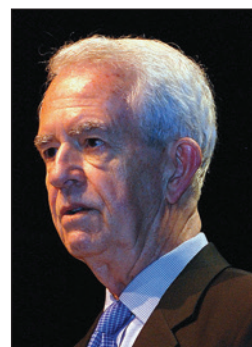
Your hard-working, all-volunteer WPRA Board, with the help of our Advisory Council, strives to advance and protect the interests of west Pasadena. Here's some examples of our advocacy over the last year or so:

- Recommended adjustments to the S. Fair Oaks Specific Plan to guarantee tree maintenance, density and height reductions of residential units, widening paseos, and design compatibility
- Worked with Huntington Hospital and other groups to improve access, tree planting and other features of the hospital's planned medical office building
- Opposed proposed suicide barriers on the iconic Colorado St. Bridge and sent the effort back to the drawing boards for a more sensitive and compatible design
- Worked closely on several key issues with our sister neighborhood associations — Linda Vista-Annandale Association

and Madison Heights Neighborhood Association — for a stronger, unified voice

- Worked with the Department of Transportation, Transportation Advisory Commission, and several community groups to develop a Local Mobility Analysis program, which will provide much improved analysis of the impacts of development
- Participated for decades in the anticipated return of the "710 Ditch" to Pasadena, and will continue our intensive involvement in its future design and development
- Attended and provided input at local commission, committee and City Council meetings affecting the WPRA service area, as well as monitored for awareness and action the multiple state legislation and mandates affecting our neighborhoods and quality of life
- Engaged in several Arroyo Seco issues, including trail repair and improvement, fire prevention and emergency response, wildfire evacuation, and maintenance of trees and brush

- Opposed state laws that would result in drastic housing density increases, and supported City efforts to reduce their impact



Dan Beal

- Participated in revisions to the state-required Housing Element of the General Plan
- Participated in Council district redistricting and supported the "community of interest" of southwest Pasadena
- Supported the conversion of 513 much-needed moderate- and workforce-income rental units, without requiring new construction

For examples of our advocacy please visit wpra.net/letters.

About us

2021 – 2022 officers

President: Dan Beal
president@wpra.net

Vice President/Administration: Evan Davis
adminvp@wpra.net

Vice President/Communications: Avram Gold
commvp@wpra.net

Treasurer: Blaine Cavena
treasurer@wpra.net

Secretary: Kenyon Harbison
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.

Service 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.

2021 – 2022 board of directors

- Geoffrey Baum, *Rose Bowl & Central Arroyo Seco*
- Dave Bise, *Public services*
- Pete Ewing, *Land use & transportation*
- Mic Hansen
- Joan Hearst
- Susan Kinney
- Mark Mastromatteo
- Nancy Walker, *Public safety & traffic*
- Linda Zinn (membership@wpra.net)
Membership, Open Space & Conservation

2021 – 2022 WPRA Advisory Board

- 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 at facebook.com/westpasadena

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

BRIEFLY

IN NOVEMBER PASADENA HERITAGE AND THE LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL ART AND ARCHITECTURE (ICAA) conducted a design charrette to develop some potential concepts and sketches for the Colorado Street Bridge vertical suicide barriers that may not have been considered by the previous architect. Since then, the City has met with the group twice to discuss the potential concepts and steps forward. The goal is to present new, viable options to the community in late spring. *Source: Hayden Melbourn, P.E., principal engineer, City of Pasadena*

INTERIM CITY MANAGER CYNTHIA KURTZ HAS APPOINTED CHERYL MOODY AND JASON CLAWSON to serve, consecutively, as interim police chief for the Pasadena Police Department (PPD). They succeed retired Chief **John Perez**. Moody took the reins on Jan. 6 and will remain in the role until May 2, when Clawson will take over and remain in place until a new city manager makes a permanent appointment. Moody previously served as deputy chief and is the first woman in the history of the department to serve in that role. Clawson joined the city in 1991 and was most recently a PPD commander. *Source: Pasadena Now and the City of Pasadena*

MICHELLE PERERA, THE DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION RESIGNED, effective Feb. 16. Perera, who has taken a position with the City of Sunnyvale, became director of the Pasadena Public Library in December 2016. *Source: City of Pasadena*

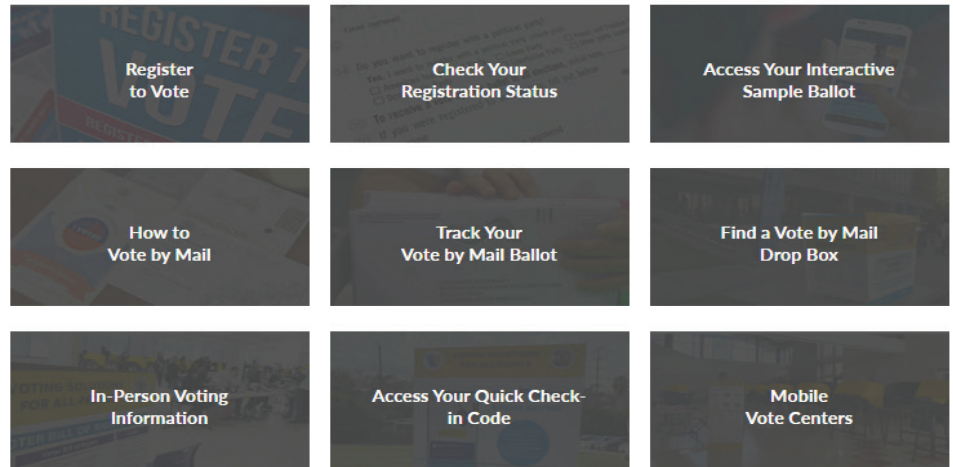
CITY COUNCIL HAS BANNED THE USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS over a two-phase implementation timeline: one year for landscape professionals on private property, and 10 months for city operations. Violations of the ban could result in fines. This ban anticipates a recent state law that bans the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers by 2024. *Source: Pasadena Now*

IN RESPONSE TO THE 2019 PREVENTABLE DROWNING of 6-year-old Roxie Forbes, Assemblymember Chris Holden introduced AB-1737 to clarify that (D-41) day and overnight camps attended by children are subject to California Department of Public Health (CDPH) regulations, and to outline their obligations. *Source: Meow Meow Foundation*

Pasadena City Council elections are set for June 7

Pasadena: <https://bit.ly/3tfiDET>

Los Angeles County: <https://bit.ly/36oC1qj>

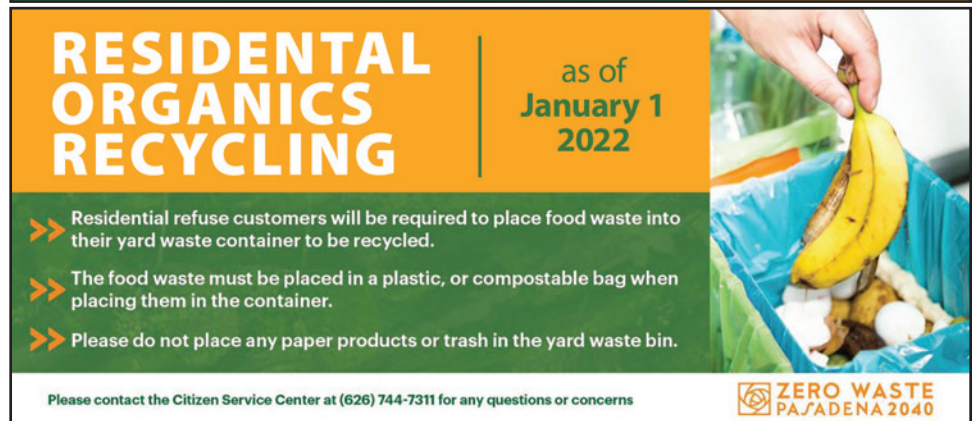


The 2022 Pasadena primary municipal election for City Council districts 3, 5, and 7, will be conducted on June 7. If, in a particular race, a candidate fails to receive a majority of the votes, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will compete in a runoff in the general municipal election on Nov. 8.

Rivas, District 5, will run for re-election. Vice Mayor Andy Wilson, who currently represents District 7, will not seek re-election. The winners (assuming at least 51% of the vote) will serve for four years, beginning Dec. 12, 2022. In the WPRA service area, District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison is not up for re-election this year.

City council. Incumbent councilmembers John Kennedy, District 3, and Jessica

Source: Pasadena Now and City of Pasadena



BRIEFLY

CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVED PROPOSED CHANGES to the Historic Preservation Ordinance. The changes address issues that arose after last year's revision of the ordinance.

One of the most significant changes is a return to the rule that establishment of landmark districts is a neighborhood-driven process. The amendments also limit historic resource evaluations for individual eligibility only, and not for landmark or historic district eligibility. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE DESIGN COMMISSION APPROVED

THE FINAL DESIGN for the Heritage Square South project, a mixed-use development that would provide 70 affordable housing units for seniors to be built at 710-738 N. Fair Oaks Ave. and 19-25 E. Orange Grove Blvd. The project involves demolition of the Church's Chicken outlet and construction of a new 71,600 square foot, three-story building with 2,200 square feet of ground-floor commercial space. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE LA CITY COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT

DESIGNATION for the 30-year home of master architect Paul Revere Williams, who designed more than 3,000 buildings, including homes in Pasadena, during his nearly six-decade career. Williams was the first African-American architect to be a member and fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He designed Spanish Colonial and French Country homes in the Linda Vista area of west Pasadena. *Source: LA Times*

CITY HEARING OFFICER ALEX GARCIA

AUTHORIZED SEQUOYAH SCHOOL HIGH-SCHOOL, 320 N. Orange Grove Blvd., to increase student enrollment up to a maximum of 195 students. *Source: Pasadena Now*

AS METRO FACES STAFFING SHORTAGES, MOSTLY DUE TO THE PANDEMIC,

the LA County transport authority has made make temporary service adjustments, including reduced operating hours and longer waiting times for bus line 267 and the Gold Line rail service. Bus line 267 now runs on average five to 10 minutes less frequently than normal. The Gold Line trains now run every 10 minutes during peak hour weekday. *Source: LA Metro*

WPRA comments on land use and planning issues

[Editor's Note: For details of each letter, visit our website at wp.ra.net/letters.]

February 22:**WPRA, LVAA glad to see wildfire protection plan, but disappointed community organizations not included**

The WPRA and Linda Vista-Annandale Association appreciated this long-awaited and -requested attention to planning for extreme wildfire events, including planning for evacuations. While we understand it to be a work in progress, we found this proposed plan somewhat lacking and incomplete at this stage.

Specifically, we are disappointed that the planning process did not engage neighborhood associations. It is vital and customary in Pasadena in important planning processes to collaborate with residents and their representative neighborhood associations. Planning in Pasadena is typically and most productively from the neighborhoods up, not from the top down.

February 7:**WPRA supports modifications to the proposed 758-766 S. Fair Oaks medical office building**

The WPRA supported the modifications to the 758-766 S. Fair Oaks medical office building project as presented at the December 16, 2021 meeting with Pasadena Heritage, Livable Pasadena, the Madison Heights Neighborhood Association, and the WPRA.

The WPRA appreciates Huntington Hospital's willingness to engage with these community organizations and make appropriate modifications. We still have concerns about the overall design of the building and take no position on the project itself. WPRA also urges earlier engagement with concerned organizations in the future.

December 8, 2021:**WPRA applauds progress on the Central District specific plan**

The WPRA noted the progress made to date on developing the Central District Specific

Plan (CDSP) and commends those who have contributed to it.

Density caps in the Central District must take state density bonus allowances into consideration, to account for as much as a 35% increase in residential units.

We are concerned with the proposed high-density mixed-use zoning proposed for the Shopper's Lane area east of Lake Avenue, including the loss of retail-related surface parking and the adjacency to the less dense residential area east of Mentor. Also, Planned Developments have changed the character and context of the Central District (and other areas). As a result, the impacts and usefulness of PD's should be revisited, and green open-space areas should be specified and formally included in the CDSP.

December 6, 2021:**WPRA backs interim urgency SB-9 ordinance**

The WPRA strongly urged City Council to approve the Dec. 6 recommendations of the Planning and Community Development Department report to enact an Interim Urgency Ordinance in response to Senate Bill 9 (SB-9), which requires certain ministerial approvals of lot splits and housing construction, and imposes other intrusive requirements on local zoning and building codes.

However, it also permits local adoption of objective zoning, subdivision and design review standards under certain conditions, which is the objective of the interim and eventual permanent ordinances.

WPRA appreciates the efforts of the involved commissions and staff to balance SB-9 mandates with local flexibility and to recognize Pasadena's prior efforts in producing affordable and market rate housing. In a matter closely related, WPRA urges City Council to support the "Our Neighborhood Voices" initiative, which would provide that local planning and zoning provisions would prevail over contradictory state dictates.

What's on the WPRA land-use watch list

By Pete Ewing, chair,
WPRA Land Use / Planning

Commercial projects in west Pasadena that have received entitlement from the City (or are close to entitlement) are outlined below. These projects comprise approximately 380,000 SF of new medical office space (if the Affinity project chooses that option) and bring with it significant new traffic to the Fair Oaks/Arroyo Parkway corridor.

A. 650 S. Raymond, medical office building (the former Silver Birches site)

— Four story, 36,340 sf medical office building with 2,934 sf of ground floor retail, and five levels of basement parking

Owned by Pasadena Physicians 650 LLC, and managed by John F. Anderson, the project is designed by eStudio Architects + Design as a “boxy low rise” structure. **Current status:** The Design Commission has recommended approval of project concept. The project was submitted for Plan Check, but is incomplete as of this writing.

B. 590 S. Fair Oaks (the former Monty's restaurant lot)

— Four story, 100,000 sf medical office building, “spot zoned,” or entitlement given by the City Council some time ago.

It was designed by Smith Group of contemporary metallic “ribbon design” that wraps the building. The applicant is 590 Fair Oaks Development, and Mohammed J. Islam will be the manager. **Current status:** Entitled

C. 759-766 S. Fair Oaks (the Huntington Collection site)

— Four story, 100,000 sf medical Office building, with 4,450 sf of ground floor retail,



three levels of underground parking.

Designed by Mascari Warner Dinh Architects, the project will have a curved façade, set back from Fair Oaks. The Planning Commission denied the CUP in November 2021. **Current status:** City Council reversed the Planning Commission's decision to decline the CUP request in January.

D. Affinity, 465-577 S. Arroyo Parkway

— Seven story, 154,000 sf medical offices, and 184,372 assisted living units, with five levels of underground parking over 3.1 acres.

The developer, Edgewood Realty Partners, has asked for the right to switch the medical office space use to residential, should market conditions change. The Draft Environmental Impact Report was recently released for review by the community. The WPRA and other groups are examining a number of issues including that the DEIR lists two different uses for the project: medical or residential, which could be chosen at the option of the developer. This appears to be in conflict with CEQA requirements. Also of concern is the methodology used in determining traffic credits, which impact traffic counts, the substantial difference in traffic impact between the medical office and the residential options, and the cumulative effects of traffic to west and



central Pasadena. **Current status:** DEIR comments from the community were due by March 3.

E. Central Park Apartments, 86 S. Fair Oaks (on the northeast corner of Fair Oaks and Dayton and next to Castle Green)

— Six-stories, 84 units comprising studios, one- and two- bedroom apartments, including 16 affordable units and 6,200 sf of ground floor retail, on 0.74 of an acre

The project has undergone several redesigns to accommodate public concerns of initial design, a courtyard, open space, trees, and traffic issues. It is designed by Architectural Resource, LLC, to be compatible with Castle Green, and is managed by Emily Taylor of Goldrich Kest. **Current status:** Council sent the project to the Design Commission for approval of SECA (Sustainable Communities Environment Assessment), and MMRP (Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program). Both SECA and MMRP are designed to attract housing close to transit centers. If approved, it will go back to Council for approval.

BRIEFLY

CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA has notified the City of Pasadena that its urgency ordinance restricting implementation of Senate Bill 9 (SB-9) violates state law. SB-9 is critical to combat California's statewide housing crisis by promoting supply and affordability. The law, which went into effect on January 1, 2022, allows homeowners to build up to four residential units on a single-family lot. On December 6, 2021, Pasadena adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 7384, which among other things, would allow the City to broadly exempt existing areas from SB 9 requirements by declaring the areas "landmark districts." Pasadena extended the ordinance on January 10, 2022. In today's letter, Attorney General Bonta warns the City that the ordinance is invalid and must be repealed. Source: California Attorney General. Source: *State of California Department of Justice*

ALTHOUGH TRAVEL INDUSTRY EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT FULL ECONOMIC RECOVERY WILL NOT OCCUR UNTIL 2024, the Pasadena Economic Development is more optimistic. The department reported that Pasadena's hospitality sector is gaining jobs, but labor shortages have slowed the recovery. In spite of the new Covid variants, restaurants remained open for in-person dining pushing 2021 sales-tax receipts closer to pre-pandemic levels. Source: *Pasadena Now*

CITY COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AN AMENDMENT to allow Rusnak/Pasadena to lease 171 parking spaces in the Del Mar Station garage to store excess retail vehicle inventory. The City would receive a \$122,094 payment for the initial one-year term. The Del Mar Station garage consistently operates at less than maximum capacity and the expected revenue from leasing these spaces helps to balance the cost of the garage's operation. Source: *City of Pasadena*

ONE YEAR AFTER STARTING WORK, THE SECOND PHASE OF PASADENA'S 388 CONDOMINIUMS is fully-framed just south of the Paseo mall. The project, which is being built by Octane Development, is transforming a concrete parking structure at the intersection of Euclid Avenue and Cordova Street into 48 residential units. That total includes 16 townhouse-style dwellings seated above the garage and 32 homes built along the perimeter of the now five-story building. Source: *Urbanize LA*

Huntington Hospital project improves with consultation

By Sue Mossman
Executive Director

Neighborhood leaders and Pasadena Heritage met with Huntington Hospital to discuss its upcoming project on S. Fair Oaks at Fillmore. After a good exchange of ideas and concerns, the project design was changed to be more in keeping with the pending S. Fair Oaks Specific Plan's vision and provisions. Wider sidewalks, more trees, an at-grade plaza (instead of a sunken one) and fewer curb cuts along Fillmore were improvements embraced by all by the time the project went to City Council for review. Pasadena Heritage, WPRA, Madison Heights Neighborhood Association, Livable Pasadena, and a representative from Linda Vista were united in their efforts to work for an improved project and appreciate the hospital's development team taking our concerns seriously. Pasadena Heritage would like to see the building design changed to better reflect Pasadena's architectural traditions and will continue to advocate through the design review process.

City-wide historic resources survey will happen

City Council and the City Manager embraced the need for a city-wide survey of historic buildings and sites in March, upon the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and Pasadena Heritage. We have long decried the lack of a complete list of potential and designated historic resources, but this large, complex and undoubtedly costly project has never been approved. While Pasadena has a number of National Register Historic Districts and Landmark Districts, large areas of the city have never been surveyed. Time and again, conflicts arise when an owner or developer wants to change or demolish a building that is then found to have historic significance, thus changing the game and causing controversy. Pasadena Heritage is often the agency to bring potential historic status to the table, but we, too, have to scramble when a project is proposed and no information is noted in city inventories about the building's history.



We are thrilled that this significant effort will be undertaken and know a baseline survey will be helpful to everyone — preservationists, city staff, property owners and developers alike. Work could begin later this year.

Maranatha acquires historic Fowler Garden

The classically-designed formal garden in the middle of the Ambassador West area was recently purchased by Maranatha High School and is now part of its campus. The garden is eligible for National Register listing. We recently learned that the school has plans to restore the garden, but also add a major new element (a 10-foot tall cross) and wants to rename it "God's Garden." It also plans to hold considerably more events, including school activities and donor functions. Neighbors whose homes are adjacent to the Garden have expressed concerns about the intensified use of the space. Pasadena Heritage is learning more about Maranatha's plans and specifically questions the construction of a large new structure as well as the name change.

Pasadena Heritage's move and celebration coming soon

After a year of work on the historic Blinn House at 160 N. Oakland, and all the projects and fundraising that it has taken to get the house ready, Pasadena Heritage is finally planning to move to the property in late April. The organization's offices will be on the second and third floors, with the downstairs being open again for programs, events and gatherings. A garden party to celebrate the acquisition and restoration of the National Register property, postponed from last October, is scheduled for May 22. Sponsorship opportunities are still available, but the window is closing soon. *For more information or to purchase tickets to the celebration, visit the Pasadena Heritage website at pasadenaheritage.org*

BRIEFLY

AS THE CLIMATE CONTINUES TO WARM, an increasing amount of the snow falling on California's mountains will be replaced by rain. Already in recent decades, the snow season has shrunk by a month, while snow levels have moved upward by 1,200 feet. A 2021 study projects that by the late 2040s, half of the area historically covered by snow in the Sierra will likely have "low or no" snow for five straight years, given current warming trends. By the late 2050s, it could be 10 straight years. *Source: Nature Reviews Earth and Environment*

THE LAST 22 YEARS WERE THE DRIEST PERIOD FOR THE SOUTHWEST U.S. SINCE AT LEAST 800 A.D. About 42% of the drought's severity can be blamed on human emissions of greenhouse gases. Human-caused climate change is increasing drought severity by increasing evaporation from the soils, vegetation and inland waterways. The ongoing drought "would not be on a megadrought trajectory in terms of severity or duration without [human-caused] climate change," says a study in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. Also, California is suffering a rare mid-winter melt due to unusually mild temperatures and little to no precipitation. Statewide average snowpack declined from 160% in December to 73% as of Feb. 14. *Source: Axios*

FOLLOWING THE DECEMBER STORMS, ON JAN. 20, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) increased the State Water Project (SWP) allocation to 15% of requested supplies in 2021. Prior to the late-2021 winter bounty, DWR had no water to allocate and had planned to restrict supplies to cover only critical health and safety needs of the agencies that contract to receive SWP supplies. "Our water supplies from the SWP remain exceptionally limited," said Metropolitan Water District General Manager Adel Hagekhalil. "Even with this modest allocation, we'll need to continue drawing down our storage reserves to meet demands. To make those reserves last if the dry conditions prevail into next year, we all need to keep using water as efficiently as possible." *Source: Metropolitan Water District*

Update: One Arroyo trail demonstration projects

By Rick Gould
Executive Director, One Arroyo Foundation

One Arroyo Foundation, founded in 2019 to assist the City in maintaining, enhancing and preserving the Arroyo Seco, is actively pursuing its initial project to restore and complete the more than 20 miles of trails located on the banks of the Arroyo. Field work began on its trail project in the Spring of 2021, under the direction of RJM Design Group. Details of RJM's extensive trail experience can be found at onearroyo.org.

Early last year, One Arroyo posted maps of the two demonstration projects — one located just south of Devil's Gate Dam and the other beneath the Colorado Street Bridge — that identify and describe proposed trail improvements, and invite public comment. The projects can be viewed on the One Arroyo website. (*Typically, the website is updated monthly.*)

The design work was completed in the summer, and One Arroyo presented the project to the City for review. The environmental review process has begun and City approval for the projects are anticipated this spring, following final staff review and public outreach. One Arroyo intends to proceed with construction following approval.

Preserving the natural environment is a chief concern of the design team, with Improvements that reflect naturalness and a sense of quality. They will be consistent with the character of the area and the City's previous planning efforts, including the master plans adopted for the Arroyo in the early 2000s. The final design will meet city codes, current planning guidelines, and county trail standards.

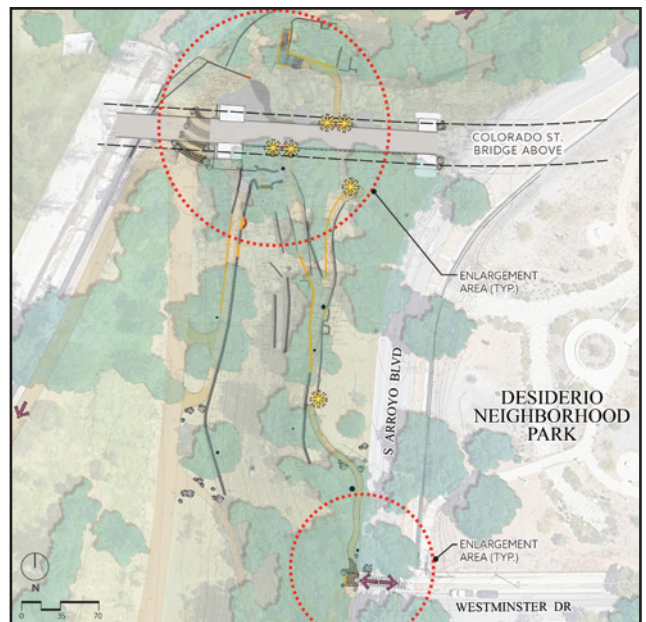
The Parker Mayberry bridge, a historic structure that crosses the Arroyo from east to west beneath the

Colorado Street Bridge, has been added to the trail project. These design changes were completed in December 2021 and have been added to the website for public viewing.

Access to Parker Mayberry has long been closed. Given the existing access to the bridge from the west entrance, and the project's repair of trails, steps and stone walls on the eastern entry, One Arroyo intends to open the bridge to regular access and to provide linkage to Desiderio Park. Opening the bridge to Arroyo visitors will be a major trail enhancement.

The preliminary construction budget for the trail demonstration projects is in the range of \$2.5 million. One Arroyo is working directly with the City of Pasadena to refine the project in the upcoming capital improvement budget. The City has set aside some funds and, with support from State Sen. Anthony Portantino, One Arroyo has recently received funding in the amount of \$1 million from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy under state Prop 68.

One Arroyo has other grant requests pending through Prop 68 and the County's Measure A for construction funding, as well as requests for donations from private donors who support the preservation of the Arroyo Seco.



A thank-you and reminder 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 during 2021. 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

We need your continuing support

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 online using a credit card by visiting wpra.net and clicking on "Donate," at the top of our home page.

Platinum [\$500+]

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Roxanne Christ-DeWitt	Curt and Christine Hessler	Teresa B. Nally	Carl and Peggy West
Bill Christian and Barbara	Carolyn Cece V. Horne	Brian O'Neil	Carl D. Winberg, M.D.
Zimmermann	Carlos and Joan Javelera	Pasadena Awning Co	Frances and Amnon Yariv
Knox and Mary Cologne	Peter Jensen and Mary Ann	Gordon J. Pashgian	Linda Zinn
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Janet Doud	Andrew and Mari Hsu	Claudine Muller	Storrier-Stearns Japanese Garden
Anne M. Dougherty and David Dobrikin	Ralph and Linda Hubbard	Douglas Nason and Christine Cadena	Stephanie Strout
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Edward and Molly Fehrenbacher	Richard and Marie Knowles	Pasadena Heritage	Renee Veale
John and Aileen Finch	Patricia Korbel	Pasadena Museum of History	Jim and Gail Vernon
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John and Ruth Fleck	Terry and Teresa Krupczak	Rick Phegley and Carol Pfaffmann	Carole Walker
Ralph and Francine Flewelling	Bill and Alison Kuehn	Elena Phleger	Nancy T. Walker
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Susan Frank	Kai and Wendy Kuwata	Mary Prickett	Barbara Way
Howden and Joan Fraser	James and Laura LaBarge	Thomas Priestley	Ivory and Marilyn Webster
Anita Freeman	David Farah and Stuart Landau	Janice and Robert Raney	James and Mary Weidner
Carl and Shirin Friedlander	William and Nancy Larr	David and Bonnie Reed	Alex Wernberg
Katherine Gabel and Eunice Shatz	James and Grace Lee	Gale's Restaurant	Blair and Kate Westlake
Lynn Caffrey Gabriel, OD	Josh and Nancy Leichter	Peter Riddall	J. Patrick and Lynda Jenner Whaley
Judy Gain	Ted Levin and Jennifer Crolius	Brent and Carla Riggs	Polly Wheaton
Jim and Priscilla Gamb	Mary Lewis	Paul Rogers and Jill Von Hartmann	Ian and Barbara White-Thomson
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Esme Gibson	Camille Lombardo	Kyle Rosenberg	Robert Willett
Brian and Suzanne Gilman	Robert and Else Lord	Terry and Ron Ross	Warren and Kathy Wimmer
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James Griesgraber and Patricia Grant	Cyndia and Karl Maier	Loring Rutt and Ronna Dishnica	Mrs. Anita Yagjian
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Marijke Grotz	Jane Mallary	Michael and Mary Schneider	Joseph and Alice Yuen
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Kathleen Grzegorek	Larry and Kristen Mantle	Teri Schwartz	Lee and Sue Zanteson
Jose Gutierrez	Baird Marble	Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius C. Scott	Leslie Smith Zasa
Hank and Heather Haldeman	Tom Marble and Pae White	Sharon Scull	Jim Zeutzius
Hale Hester Properties	Marguerite Marsh	Thomas Seifert and Dianne Philibosian	Eileen Zimmerman
Larry Hall	Sharon Marsh	John and Linda Seiter	
Michael and Megan Hamilton	Howard and Ilene Marshall	Marc T. Serrio	
Mr and Mrs Paul Hardy	Ray W Martinelli	Han J. Shih	
Peter Harris	Rodney Mason	James R Shoch III	
	Michelle Matthews	Valeri Siegel	

BRIEFLY

STATE SEN. ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO (D – Pasadena) **TESTIFIED** during the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) in strong support of a \$1 million grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) to the One Arroyo Foundation. The \$1 million grant will be used to restore and reunify the Arroyo Seco trail network in Pasadena, focusing on the Lower Arroyo Trail Loop. The project will restore and enhance about 3.5 miles of trail, making it safer and more accessible by including features for people with disabilities, new signage, erosion control, and slope stabilization. [Editor's note: See related article on page 7.] Source: California State Senate

THE CITY HAS AWARDED A CONTRACT for maintenance, monitoring, and reporting services for the Berkshire Creek, Oak Grove, and Lower Arroyo Seco Habitat Restoration projects for an amount not to exceed \$628,000 over five years. Source: City of Pasadena

THE \$1.2-TRILLION FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE BILL SIGNED LAST YEAR BY PRESIDENT BIDEN is starting to pay dividends for the Los Angeles area. Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that the bill would provide \$28 million in funding L.A. River Ecosystem Restoration project, with the earmarked money going toward habitat restoration near the Arroyo Seco confluence and at the Taylor Yard. In 2017, Los Angeles paid \$60 million to acquire the 42-acre G2 parcel of the Taylor Yard site, a former rail maintenance facility which is expected to serve as a linchpin of the river restoration. Planning to convert the space into a park is already underway, complementing other projects that involve the construction of a new greenway along the river bank and a new pedestrian bridge connecting the Taylor Yard with Frogtown. The full L.A. River Ecosystem Restoration project, estimated to cost \$1 billion when approved in 2014, will restore 11 miles of habitat between Griffith Park and Downtown Los Angeles. The city expects the project to generate 14,200 construction jobs and 2,670 permanent jobs. Source: Urbanize Los Angeles

Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden A historic jewel in the heart of Pasadena



A tea ceremony is performed in the Niko-an Teahouse at the Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden.

In the ancient tradition of Japanese garden design, the guiding principle is consideration and care given to the environment. Connie Haddad, founder of the Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden, with her husband, Jim Haddad, wrote recently: “We must grapple with the reality that our seemingly insignificant actions have global implications. Is it ethical to maintain a Japanese garden in a drought-ridden state? How do we balance the solace offered to the human spirit by a beautiful and serene garden, against the use of resources to maintain that garden?”

As the garden approaches its tenth year of being open to the public, it is interesting to reflect on the words of the late Takeo Uesugi, a renowned landscape architect who was key to the restoration of this historic jewel in the heart of Pasadena. He summarized how the original design was sensitive to environmental concerns, even in the late ‘30s when it was created.

“Mr. Kinzuchi Fujii and his talented craftsmanship were respected throughout the restoration process of the garden,” he wrote.

The original garden marked one of the most historic Japanese gardens made in the early 20th century outside of Japan, and provided the foundation for the present Storrier Stearns

garden, which was restored in 2010. The layout included a balanced movement of earth through the creation of earth mounds as the ponds were excavated. This creates harmony, not only aesthetically, but for site sustainability as well. Natural elements such as the sun, wind and water are used to maximize energy flow and minimize long-term maintenance by working with natural characteristics.

“The prevailing winds flow throughout the garden, contributing to its good health and beauty. The present water flow from northeast to southwest is ideal for Japanese garden layout. It follows the sun pattern to comply with the flow of Ki (Chi, in Chinese) and represents longevity and good luck.”

In the restoration, Mr. Uesugi built upon this foundation using current methods of sustainability such as the installation of a water reclamation system and the increased use of indigenous plants nourished by moisture-rich compost.

The Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden is located at 270 Arlington Drive, Pasadena. Open most Friday and Saturday evenings and every Sunday during the day, admission is \$10 to \$15. Visit the website for open hours at: japanesegardenpasadena.com.

BRIEFLY

CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) to assist with non-native vegetation removal in the Arroyo Seco. The approval was based on City staff's findings that "the project is consistent with the Arroyo Seco Master Plan to reduce fire hazards in critical areas, and is compatible with the City's Climate Action Plan to protect essential habitat corridors and key habitat characteristics." The CCC is mandated to provide meaningful work and educational opportunities to assist young men and women in becoming more employable, while protecting and enhancing California's environment, human resources and communities. Under the proposed agreement between the City and CCC, the agency's volunteers, called Corpsmembers, will work on fire-hazard mitigation maintenance projects in the Lower and Central Arroyo Seco and the Hahamonga Watershed Park between February and June 2022. The agreement provides that the Corpsmembers' work will include roadside clearing to reduce fire intensity and firebrand impact to the Arroyo Seco, removal of annual grasses and undesirable non-native plants, trimming of non-native grasses to three inches in length or less and leaving in place, and dispersing large tree branches when chipping is not possible. Per the terms of the agreement, the City, as a sponsoring agency, will not incur any direct costs; Corpsmembers will be compensated directly by CCC. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS has acquired from the Gamble House Conservancy the archives of legendary Arts and Crafts architects Greene & Greene. The trove of approximately 6,000 items includes design drawings and photographs, business correspondence, family papers, notebooks, scrapbooks, artifacts, and reference books from the libraries of brothers Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene. Institutional documents pertaining to the Gamble House as a museum will be retained by the Conservancy. *Source: Pasadena Now*

Living with our wild neighbors

by John Howell
Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel,
Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy

Communities along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains share a special relationship with the wildlife who live here too. Sometimes these animals wander into our yards or just can't resist getting into our trash.

As temperatures warm and days lengthen, you may see more birds, raccoons, deer, fox, bobcats, and even larger species like mountain lions and black bears move through your neighborhood. Living safely alongside our wild neighbors is critical in the urban-wildlife interface we share, and helps ensure the conservation of these species in the long run.

Here are some ideas you can use to keep you, your family and our wildlife safe:

- Don't feed wildlife: their life and your safety depend on them remaining wild and naturally wary of people;
- Secure your trash with bear proof cans (available free from many trash removal services);
- Don't let your pet become part of the food chain — always bring them inside before dark;
- Keep cats inside as much as possible — they kill millions of birds each year;
- If deer are dining on your garden, consider using native plants that they don't like (the California Native Plant Society website has a list);
- Garden with native plants, especially pollinators (for a great supply, check out

Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley);

- Don't use herbicides — build healthy soil with compost and mulch;
- Don't use rat poison — it was banned in 2020. Instead, consider installing an owl box: a family of five owls can consume up to 3000 rodents in breeding season!

Rodenticides are one of the biggest dangers to our local ecosystems, because they don't just kill mice and rats. They enter the food chain and work their way up, causing the death of larger predators like birds, coyotes and mountain lions. In fact, mountain lion P-41 likely succumbed to rodenticides.

The National Park Service routinely tests animals for rodenticide exposure and has found deeply troubling results. Their research shows that 93 of 105 bobcats in the Santa Monica Mountains tested positive for exposure, and 70+ died from secondary diseases after their systems were weakened by rodenticides.

The best way to ensure that our wild neighbors continue to thrive in our urban-wildlife interface is to ensure sufficient open and wild habitat connected by safe passageways. That's why we're working hard to establish a system of wildlife corridors throughout the region that tie together isolated islands of habitat throughout our arroyos and foothills. These passageways and the habitat they connect are essential to keeping the rich biodiversity of our ecosystems in balance and ensuring that we have wild neighbors for generations to come.



Photo by Denis Callet (AFC advisor and wildlife photographer)

100: America's stadium begins historic centennial celebration

The Rose Bowl Stadium is in a unique, yet crucial, position entering the second decade of the millennia. On October 28, 2022 the iconic stadium turns 100 years old, marking not only the vitality of the venue but the significance of sports and entertainment history in the United States. The Rose Bowl Stadium's Centennial Celebration revels in the stadium's journey through time and the impact it has made over the last 100 years.

What does it mean to be a stadium that is a century old? The answer is in the rich history of Pasadena and the millions who have strode through the stadium's tunnels over the years. A stadium, originating as the home of the Tournament of Roses' Rose Bowl

Game®, has since transformed into a vessel for community members to relish in live entertainment, monthly flea markets, international sporting events and everything in between. It is the backyard to many and the source of recreational activity for residents of the San Gabriel Valley. The Rose Bowl Stadium is dignified as America's Stadium for a reason: it has catered to all walks of life and serviced those fortunate enough to walk through its historic gates.

In the beginning

Architect Myron Hunt designed the Rose Bowl Stadium in 1922 when it was in the shape of a horseshoe and had a seating capacity of 57,000. The modest \$270,000 project would lay the foundation for what was to come over the next 100 years. As cities developed and societies evolved, so did the stadium, expanding into the iconic bowl shape we know today. By 1949, the stadium is enlarged to accompany over 100,000 guests and by 1961 the press box was built.

In the years following the Rose Bowl saw a myriad of capital improvements but continued to honor the past by bringing it into the present. The stadium is decorated with commemorative plaques that feature Rose Bowl Game® matchups through the years and its tunnels are dedicated to those who have impacted the development and future of the venue.

Super Bowls, Olympics, concerts

In 1977, the first NFL Super Bowl was played in Pasadena and within the next

played host to both men and women's FIFA World Cups where the latter saw the National Women's Soccer Team defeat China in an extraordinary penalty kick final and hosted its 85th Rose Bowl Game®. At the turn of the century the Rose Bowl Stadium transformed yet again, but this time into a makeshift movie theatre when it premiered the award-winning sports classic, *Remember the Titans*. The stadium continued to host international soccer matches and artists from a variety of genres including power couple Jay-Z and Beyonce,



decade the Rose Bowl Stadium hosted two more Super Bowls, a summer Olympic Games, and became the official home for the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) football team. During this time, it also became dignified as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service of the United States.

By the end of the 1990's, the Rose Bowl Stadium saw rock bands Pink Floyd and the Rolling Stones perform inside the venue;

British-Irish boyband One Direction, and country star Kenny Chesney. As the Rose Bowl neared its centennial year, a global health pandemic threatened the livelihood of the stadium. But through the support of donors and the bestowment of federal grants, the stadium endured through arduous times. Now, with just months away from the momentous feat, the Rose Bowl Stadium can remain as a staple in today's society.

'Party of the Century'

The Rose Bowl Stadium, in coordination with the Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation, has scheduled its 100th birthday celebration on Saturday, July 30, 2022. The "Party of the Century" will be the first fundraising event of its kind for the iconic America's Stadium. The event will

raise funds towards the on-going Legacy Foundation Centennial Campaign that has a goal of generating \$40 million in new philanthropic support to spark the continued preservation, protection and enhancement of the National Historic Landmark's future.

BRIEFLY

LAURIE LESHIN, PRESIDENT OF WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE IN MASSACHUSETTS, has been named director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and vice president of Caltech — becoming the JPL's first woman director. Leshin, a geochemist and space scientist, succeeds Michael Watkins, who stepped down in August. Air Force Lt. Gen. Larry D. James (ret.) has been serving as JPL interim director. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*

CITY VETERAN DAVID KLUG HAS BEEN APPOINTED acting Economic Development manager by interim City Manager Cynthia Kurtz. He replaces longtime Economic Development Division Manager Eric Duyshart, who retired in early November after more than 31 years of working for the city. *Source: City of Pasadena*

JEFFREY KIGHTLINGER HAS BEEN APPOINTED acting general manager of Pasadena Water and Power by interim City Manager Cynthia Kurtz. The former general manager, Gurcharan Bawa, retired after serving the city for nearly 30-years. Kightlinger was the chief executive officer for The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California from 2006 to 2021. *Source: City of Pasadena*

TWO EMPLOYEES IN THE CITY'S HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT will lead the department in rotating stints according to a city statement. Alex Souto and Tiffany Jacobs-Quinn will each serve three months as Interim Human Resources Director. Souto assumed the role on December 20. He was hired in 2015 as a principal human resources analyst assigned to labor relations and human resources administration. Jacobs-Quinn will serve in the role on March 28 for the three months. Jacobs-Quinn has been with the city since 2009 as a management analyst in employee relations, becoming a team lead/management analyst V in employment services in 2013 and a human resources manager in 2014. *Source: City of Pasadena*

THE PASADENA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION announced the recipients of its 2021 Capital Grants Program, which totaled \$659,000 for 29 local nonprofit organizations. This year the program included three larger grants of \$50,000 each to Door of Hope, Pasadena Heritage and Villa Esperanza Services. *Source: Pasadena Now*

The White House is catching up to the Pasadena Senior Center (Wink)

During President Biden's State of the Union address, he pointed to great progress against the Covid pandemic. Since its first major surge, there has been a dramatic reduction in cases, along with readily accessible vaccines and the likelihood of new tests and therapeutics soon to become more available.

He explained how America's response to Covid since the pandemic began has been mostly to put out fires and remain in constant emergency mode. His new plan, he announced, is a roadmap to help fight Covid in the future as we move from crisis mode to a more measured plan for prevention and treatment of, and protection against, the deadly virus that has claimed nearly 1 million American lives. In other words, a "new normal."

The Pasadena Senior Center is glad to see the Biden administration making the transition from jumping from constant crisis mode to putting new knowledge about Covid to work in a more methodical way. PSC staff and volunteers have been working in a reasoned, methodical mode since Covid began.

For example, PSC traditionally offered dozens of activities onsite every month. When the pandemic hit in 2020, many senior centers across the country canceled activities altogether. At PSC, however, we sprang into action, learned about Zoom and began offering most of these same activities virtually.

For more than 60 years the Pasadena Senior Center has answered the call to meet challenges head-on. Ensuring the success of our "new normal" in 2020 was a matter of encouraging instructors and other activity hosts to embrace this change from tradition to technology and provide activities in a whole new way; and reaching out to our members and other older adults who had never experienced live video communications to help them understand how simple Zoom is to use.



Most learned to adapt to Zoom and once they did, they were hooked. In the past two years, they have been able to stay connected to PSC and their regular activity mates, make new friends and transition comfortably from Boomers to Zoomers.

We have begun gradually bringing back some onsite activities, and participants now have options: attend activities in person at PSC while adhering to Covid protocols, joining the Zoom audiences or, in some cases, both.

"I want to continue to use Zoom for Senior Center classes and events even if the pandemic ever comes to an end," said Connie O., 81 and a PSC member. "It's a wonderful thing."

In the meantime, the Pasadena Senior Center will continue to deliver services as we have done for two years now in our "new normal."

City approves, appoints to ECD/EL task force

City Council has approved an Early Childhood Development and Early Learning task force to work with staff to review the status of the implementation of the early child development policy adopted by the City Council 2015.

Members of the task force are: Efran Aguilar, Geoff Albert, Toni Boucher, Lila Guirgus, Ree Harris-Hudson, Peggy Nguyen, Dr. Dianne Philiposian, Marie Kanne Poulsen, Ernesto Saldana, Tony Santilena, Blanca Siebels, Melani Smith, Susan Wood and Dr. Vera Vignes. The task force will meet twice a month and report back to City Council on the current status.

Pasadena's pioneers 'made a few mistakes'

By Kirk Myers
Assistant Archivist

On Sunday morning, February 20, 1916, the *Los Angeles Times* printed an article about a source of inspiration for city planners. Multiple headlines summarized the story – “Past’s Relics Mold Future,” “Mementoes of Early Pasadena Inspire City Planners,” “Maps, Documents and Pictures in Great Collection,” and “Wonderful Record of Pioneer Days is Opened Wide.”

“Pasadenans, just at the present, are living in the past and building for the future. From the garrets and the storerooms, from old trunks and dust-covered treasure boxes, relics of the days that have passed have been brought out and assembled where the men who are planning for a better and bigger city can dream of the future from the experiences of the past.”

Pioneers of the Crown City “dumped their treasures” at the headquarters of the City Beautiful Association. The maps, pamphlets, documents and newspaper clippings which were lent were “placed in steel receptacles at night, and closely guarded during the day.” The *Times* noted that “it is the most wonderful collection of historical value that Pasadena has ever brought together.”

The original plans of the pioneers who settled in 1874 were perceived to be in alignment with the goals of the City Beautiful Association, formed in 1914:

“Possibly one of the most interesting relics which has been unearthed is a map of the San Gabriel Orange Grove Association, made in 1874, showing how even in those early days plans were laid for the beautifying of the city that was to be.” On this map are shown parks and wide avenues with now-famous Orange Grove avenue running through the center from a park at the west end to another at the east end, with turnouts in the avenue to allow beautiful trees to remain.

“Even the pioneers who settled in the Crown City were imbued with the



A postcard view, looking east on Colorado Street circa 1905, before the era of the automobile. By 1916, traffic was a serious problem, and street widening became imperative. Heiss Brothers Clothing store at left center was where a stranger in 1883 offered advice about a building set back and a wider street, an issue that was not resolved until 1929.

city beautiful germ and laid their plans accordingly.”

Even though Orange Grove was beautifully designed in 1874, “no provision was made for a business center” according to Don Porter, son of A.O. Porter, one of the original charter members who founded Pasadena.

Fruit growing in a warm climate was the original intention of the founders. They did not set out to build a city.

Writing in “A Southern California Paradise” in 1883, Perry M. Green noted that in

January, 1874, “the country included within the geographical limits of Pasadena was, as a whole, anything but inviting in appearance.” He thought that perhaps none of the original shareholders “realized in full the possibility of converting this barren and unproductive scene into the one of productiveness and charming beauty which has replaced it.”

In 1955, early resident Alice Marston Hastings described her childhood in the Pasadena of the 1880s:

“But today one would have no conception of what Pasadena was like at that time. It

had a charm that has long since passed in the joy of simple things and a quiet way of living.

“Sloping southward from the poppyfields Pasadena spread out into a lovely country village. It appeared to be one vast orange grove divided by a few roads. Here and there a house appeared for most every home was surrounded by orange and lemon groves. When the oranges were ripe and the trees loaded with fruit it was a beautiful sight. The trees were lovely too, when in blossom.” (*Pasadena Community Book*)

Although the *L.A. Times* article hailed “the wise provision made by the pioneers who laid out the city,” it also admitted that the pioneers “made a few mistakes which it will now take millions to rectify.”

By 1916, a now glaring and potentially costly mistake was the failure in 1874 to design Colorado as a wider street. It was originally a narrow country lane.

Writing in her 1949 book “I Can Remember Early Pasadena,” Pasadena pioneer Jennie Hollingsworth Giddings recalled Pasadena in early 1876:

“When I arrived in the Indiana Colony, Colorado Street was just one block long. It reached from Orange Grove Avenue eastward to Fair Oaks Avenue. At that time there were no cross streets. ...No one then considered Colorado Street much. Most people faced their houses toward the avenues. The streets were just roads to the orange groves behind the homes. To our family Colorado Street was only a track to Marengo Avenue and father’s barn.”

By 1883, a business center was developing at the intersection of Colorado and Fair Oaks. When workmen were laying the foundation of a two-story building on the northeast corner, a stranger on horseback offered some wise advice in regard to the future of the area.

“He stopped and looked up and down the lane which is the main artery of the city today and remarked that it would be a wise plan to move the building back fifteen or twenty feet. ‘This is liable to be some town in later years,’ he said, ‘and you should have wide streets. Why don’t you set your

building back and give plenty of room for the thoroughfare?’” (*Los Angeles Times*, Feb. 20, 1916)

But the building went ahead as planned and the original width of Colorado remained unchanged. The *Times* observed that “today one of the biggest civic problems for the people of the city is the widening of Colorado street...”

“Had the advice of the horseman been taken away back in 1883, Pasadena would not today be confronted with an expenditure of a vast sum to relieve the traffic on the congested highway. The spot today is the business center of the city, with traffic police stationed at the corners and drastic traffic laws in effect to order that the stream of travel may go along uninterrupted.”

As early as May 22, 1900, a petition for widening west Colorado Street had been sent to City Council. In 1916, the *Times* reported that the project of street widening was planned, “and engineers have figured on the cost of such a proceeding, fixing \$750,000 as the probable cost of the improvement.”

But it was not until 1929 that the work got underway. The *Pasadena-Star News* described it as “one of the biggest undertakings ever attempted by any city,” which “involved not only a great amount of legal red tape to be overcome, but also many engineering feats that seemed nothing short

of amazing.”

From South Orange Grove to Arroyo Parkway, buildings were cut back 14 feet on each side of the street. The original Victorian facades were replaced with more modern styles.

In 1874, the pioneers of Pasadena had a plan laid out for Orange Grove Avenue as an elegant, broad thoroughfare. In 1916, some 42 years later, the *Los Angeles Times* assessed the heritage of the founders. “Some of these plans were realized, others went by the board, but Orange Grove avenue was preserved and is today the most beautiful residential street in the world, lined with the homes of some of the country’s wealthiest men and women.”

Over time, the original dreams of the founders of Pasadena changed. In 1903, the *Pasadena Evening Star* stated that “All in all, Pasadena is destined to be, and in large measure now is, the most desirable residence city in the world” while noting that the “fruit growing capabilities” of the “valley which constitutes the environs of Pasadena is exceptionally good.”

As Perry Green observed 20 years earlier, perhaps no one at the time fully realized the possibilities that lay ahead.

*Pasadena Museum of History |
pasadenahistory.org*



A postcard view of early Colorado Street looking west from Raymond Avenue.



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City services

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



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Pasadena

Mayor Victor Gordo
vgordo@cityofpasadena.net

Interim City Manager Cynthia Kurtz
ckurtz@cityofpasadena.net

Interim Police Chief Cheryl Moody
cmoody@cityofpasadena.net

Fire Chief Chad Augustin
caugustin@cityofpasadena.net

City Clerk Mark Jomsky
mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net

Tyron Hampton, Council District 1
thampton@cityofpasadena.net

Felicia Williams, Council District 2
fwilliams@cityofpasadena.net

John Kennedy, Council District 3
johnjkennedy@cityofpasadena.net

Gene Masuda, Council District 4
gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net

Jessica Rivas, Council District 5
jrivas@cityofpasadena.net

Steve Madison, Council District 6
smadison@cityofpasadena.net

Andy Wilson, Council District 7
Vice Mayor
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):
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United States

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
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Vice President Kamala Harris
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Senator Dianne Feinstein
(202) 224-3841

Senator Alex Padilla
(202) 224-3553

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

Representative Adam Schiff (D-28):
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