



## Getting to know our new City leaders

- For more coverage of the WPRA 2023 annual meeting see pages 7-9, 14-15.
- Watch annual meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/yem6bt2t>

The West Pasadena Residents' Association convened its 61st annual meeting on Wednesday, May 31 at Maranatha High School. The theme of this year's annual meeting was "**Pasadena 101: Meet our new City leaders.**"

### In the beginning

The meeting kicked off with a casual meet-and-greet session. Old friends and new acquaintances enjoyed sweet treats and a rare opportunity to chat with each other and representatives of the following 16 Pasadena not-for-profit organizations and City departments: Arlington Garden, Arroyo & Foothills Conservancy, Complete Streets Coalition, Friends In Deed, Friends of the Pasadena Library, Jericho Road Pasadena, Pasadena Beautiful, Pasadena Fire Dept, Pasadena Heritage, Pasadena Housing Department, Pasadena Public Works, Pasadena Senior Center, Pasadena Sister Cities, Pasadena Water and Power, Aquatic Center, and Union Station.

### The flag and a pledge

With WPRA Treasurer Blaine Cavena at the helm, as the meeting emcee, the business portion of the meeting opened with the Blair High School Junior ROTC Color Guard's presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Celebrated guests and enablers

Cavena welcomed the following special guests to the meeting: Mayor Victor Gordo; District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison; Vice Mayor and District 2 Councilmember Felicia Williams; Pasadena Unified School District Board of



WPRA President Evan Davis presents a Community Service Award to Taka Suzuki. [See page 15 for more on Taka.] [Photo by Bob Reiter]

Education member, who represents District 7 (west Pasadena), Dr. Yarma Velázquez; and aides representing LA County District 5 Supervisor Katherine Barger, State Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-41), and U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, (D-30).

Other distinguished guests included City Manager Miguel Márquez; Pasadena Water and Power General Manager Sidney Jackson; Fire Chief Chad Augustine; Pasadena's Department of Libraries & Information Services Director Tim McDonald; City Housing Department Director Bill Huang; State Board of Juvenile Hearings Commissioner Dr. Phlunté Riddle, who was also 30-year veteran of the Pasadena Police Department; and former Mayor Bill Bogaard, who continues to serve the City in a number of capacities, and his spouse Claire, a much decorated community activist and co-founder of Pasadena Heritage.

### Distinguished guests shine light on events and vision

**Mayor Gordo** led off the trio of commentators by declaring that he feels "good about where Pasadena is, as we emerge from the pandemic. I don't think many realize, what the City has had to grapple with since 2020: three city managers, four police chiefs, two fire chiefs, two planning directors, three Water & Power general managers, and 16 in the executive branch." The pandemic period could have been — but wasn't — a very "unstable moment in time," Gordo said. Proof of our fiscal recovery, he added, was that "although the City felt obligated to draw \$30 million from its rainy-day account to meet revenue shortfalls during the pandemic, that account has been

# City passes weather tests with flying colors

By Evan Davis  
President, WPRA

I write this column while looking in the rearview mirror at a remarkably wet winter and spring. Pasadena was hit by one atmospheric river after another that busted our drought here and throughout much of the state. [See page 12 for related story.] This year has tested local governments, including ours, to deal with exceptional amounts of water, wind and debris. How has Pasadena done?

From what I've seen, Pasadena has made these events look tame. And that's exactly what we want. Notwithstanding the relentless accumulation of debris from these storms, often with palm fronds and tree limbs blanketing streets and sidewalks, I have been impressed – and I'll admit, somewhat surprised – that within hours or a couple of days, the debris is neatly piled up by the side of the road for collection.

The storm drain system has also worked pretty well, recognizing that even the best system can be temporarily overwhelmed. Other utilities also generally operated seamlessly, and when we lost power, it was quickly restored by hardworking crews. I'd say the City passed the test with flying colors.

City Manager Miguel Márquez, Water and Power General Manager Sidney Jackson, and Department of Libraries and Information Services Director Tim MacDonald appeared at our May 31 annual meeting and were met with probing questions from both



Evan Davis

the moderator, Geoffrey Baum, and the audience.

Considering how Pasadena has performed in this difficult year, it should be no surprise that all three men impressed the audience with their thoughtfulness, expertise and skills. During and after the meeting, members of the public expressed nothing but positive comments about the panel of Pasadena's newest leaders.

The meeting was envisioned as an opportunity to meet these three men, who were relatively new to their positions, but it also turned into an opportunity to thank those who serve Pasadena and who have acquitted themselves so well.

It's often easier to notice when things are going wrong than when they are going right. On May 31 [during our annual meeting] at least, that wasn't the case.

## About us

### 2023 – 2024 officers

**President: Evan Davis**  
president@wpra.net

**Vice President: Pete Ewing**  
vp@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.

### 2023 – 2024 board of directors

- Dan Beal
- Dave Bise, Public services
- Mic Hansen
- Joan Hearst
- Carlos Javelera
- Susan Kinney
- Rick Madden
- Mark Mastromatteo
- Lee Wallace
- Linda Zinn (membership@wpra.net)  
*Membership, Open Space & Conservation*

### 2023 – 2024 WPRA Advisory Board

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



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

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Visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/westpasadena](https://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

**PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN McDONALD**, who has served in that position for nine years, left his post on June 30. The Board of Education accepted his. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA WATER AND POWER HAS RESUMED COLLECTION OF LATE FEES** and service interruptions for non-payment on July 1. Late fees and non-pay service shutoffs were suspended in March of 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. Past due bills for customers with debt over 120 days is now at \$8.8 million, compared to less than \$100,000 pre-pandemic. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A \$1.2 BILLION OPERATING BUDGET** for the City's 2023-2024 fiscal year. The new budget includes two new full-time Pasadena Police Department Park Safety specialists, three new full-time Fire Department employees, increased funding for weather-activated shelter services for the homeless, and five new full-time City employees. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**CITY COUNCIL HAS REDUCED TO 12%** (from 16%) the maximum annual fund transfer from the Pasadena Light and Power Fund to the City's General Fund. Every year money is transferred from the Light & Power Fund to the City's General Fund. The transfer reduction was prompted by a voter-approved measure in November. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S RESERVE LEVEL IS CURRENTLY AT A HISTORIC HIGH OF \$68 MILLION**, Most of the reserve funds are based on one-time savings from closure of schools during the pandemic, one-time COVID funds from the State and Federal government, the average daily attendance (ADA) Adjustment, and Hold Harmless provision of the state. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA WATER AND POWER IS REPLACING 2,400 FEET OF 90-YEAR-OLD WATER MAINS** along Arroyo Parkway. To minimize the impact of this project on residents and businesses in the area, construction will be contained to approximately one block at a time. *Source: Pasadena Water and Power*

## Declining PUSD enrollment puts San Rafael Elementary School at risk

By Mark Mastromatteo  
Director, WPRA

Lower birthrates. Rising real-estate prices. Expansion of educational options.

Each of these factors has contributed to a significant decline in attendance for Pasadena Unified School District schools. In fact, over the past 20 years, the enrollment at PUSD has fallen from about 24,000 students to about 15,000 today. Over this period, several District schools have closed their doors, including Linda Vista Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary in the west Pasadena area.

San Rafael Elementary, once the model of an excellent neighborhood school, has seen ups and downs over the decades. SRES was nearly slated for closure once due to low enrollment and concern that it lies above an active fault line. But SRES overcame these close calls, and, since becoming a dual-language emersion school in 2009, enrollment and reputation for excellence have soared.

Fast forward to 2023. The current issues, both demographic- and market-based, have put PUSD in a familiar spot. It is pretty much a given that additional district schools will be closed in the near future because the overall population of school-aged children just won't support all 23 campuses.

The current topic of debate among the Board of Education has to do with whether far fewer, but larger schools with redesigned structures and modernized facilities would be a better option than the current model, which consists of more geographically diverse and smaller campuses that can be remodeled or repaired to maintain their current look and neighborhood feel.

The pro-modernization position may call for up to seven campuses to be closed, which puts San Rafael at risk again, despite its status as a California Distinguished School. This same thinking



calls for more resources going to schools in the areas where most students currently attend PUSD schools. While San Rafael Elementary excels as a learning center, lately it has not enjoyed particularly strong attendance from the immediate area, which largely reflects an aging neighborhood population. Only 50 of its 350 students are from the immediate neighborhood.

WPRA supports a strong and vibrant San Rafael Elementary School and will lobby to keep our local school open. While some demographic data shows declining enrollment in PUSD schools overall, enrollment for SRES has been on a slow, but steady incline over the past decade. This trend reflects a high level of community support for the school from residents with school-aged children.

After last fall's elections, the makeup of our Board of Education has changed. Longtime Board member Scott Phelps retired from the Board and was succeeded by Dr. Yarma Velázquez. Phelps was a consistent champion of San Rafael. Velázquez, who is a San Rafael parent, appears to be a supporter of the school as well. But with a school bond of over \$500 million sitting on PUSD's books, the board must decide, possibly this summer, where to spend these one-time funds and which schools should be shuttered.

While the WPRA Board continues to monitor this situation as it develops, we urge you to make your interests known to both Dr. Velázquez and the entire PUSD Board of Education and management.

## BRIEFLY

**THE PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS THAT THE FOLLOWING PASADENA INTERSECTIONS** experienced the highest number of vehicle collisions in March: four at N. Fair Oaks and Corson; four at N. Fair Oaks and N. Orange Grove; and four at N. Lake and E. Boylston. The top three crash factors were unsafe speed (29.9%), improper turning (24.1%), and disregarding traffic signals and signs (14.9%). *Source: Pasadena Now*

**CITY COUNCIL AGREED TO EXTEND FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS** the operating agreement with the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC). The current agreement, which empowers the RBOC to manage the Rose Bowl Stadium and Brookside Golf Course, will expire this July 1. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**THE LONG-AWAITED METRO REGIONAL CONNECTOR HAS OPENED.** It connects the A, E and L lines for the first time. With the opening, there will no longer be an L (Gold) Line in the Metro system. That line's stretch from Union Station to Pasadena and beyond will simply be part of the A (Blue) Line, while the portion from Union Station to East Los Angeles will be added to the E (Expo) Line. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**CALTRANS IS DEMOLISHING AND RECONSTRUCTING** along both sides of the bridge barrier on SR 134 over the Arroyo Seco. The project is expected to run through September and will require intermittent closures of segments of the freeway. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA'S DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IS ROLLING OUT A NEW PROGRAM** to provide motorists a better parking experience. The Text Before Tow program notifies enrolled participants via text and email of an impending tow due to blocked driveway, temporary no parking and 72-hour parking violations. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY PASSED** an ordinance that extends land-use related deadlines by 24 months due to "uncertain economic conditions." Under the ordinance, if a developer's or builder's application has been approved and is active, it would receive a one-time automatic 24-month extension. *Source: Pasadena Now*

## Opinion:

## Noise pollution is deafening, unhealthy



Also on the rise are dangerous and noisy road activities such as "donuts" in intersections, this one at Grand Avenue and California Boulevard.

By Blair Westlake

**P**ollution is a fact of life, and some — particularly noise — are increasing. Fortunately, the use of noisy and disturbing gasoline leaf-blowers became illegal on May 1. It's a start, but we have long way to go to eradicate noise pollution.

On June 9, 2023, *The New York Times* posted an article, "Noise Could Take Years Off Your Life," that does a deep-dive into the topic of the adverse impact noise has on both quality of life and overall health. Consider that:

- If you lived in the Los Angeles area during the 50's, 60's and 70's, you'll recall the smog alerts that were common during the summer.
- In 2016 astronomers reported that the Milky Way was no longer visible to a third of humanity, and light pollution has worsened considerably since then.
- We are inundated with motorcycles, cars and trucks that have modified (or missing) exhaust mufflers.
- Emergency vehicle sirens, police helicopters and the continual drone from the 134 freeway are all part of life, and thus not open for debate or change.

Excessively noisy private vehicles, however, are in another category. Our community needs to take charge and compel our elected officials and police officers to step up, adopt new regulations and, most important, cite violators.

Many communities have enacted rules to reduce noise pollution, including Rancho

Palos Verdes. Also, Kirkland, Washington, cites motorists who travel at excessive speed and exceed specified decibel levels, as measured by sound-monitoring equipment.

One of the noise laws approved in California in 2022 — AB 2496 — will require owners of vehicles that have been ticketed for noise to fix the issue before they can re-register them through the DMV. Currently, however, drivers can pay a fine to keep their modified cars as they are; an unsatisfying compromise. Also, the law does not take effect until 2027.

The other law — SB 1097 — directs the California Highway Patrol to recommend to the Legislature by 2025 a brand of noise-detecting cameras.

These cameras, already in use in Paris, New York City and Knoxville (TN), would automatically issue tickets if they detect a too-loud car rumbling down the street.

Also on the rise are dangerous and noisy road activity such as "donuts" in intersections. [See accompanying photo] The problem is particularly acute and annoying at night, when sound travels furthest and while we are attempting to sleep.

Why should the residents of Pasadena wait four years for improvement through the new noise laws?

Interrupted sleep and the risk of adverse impact on property values are reason enough. Improvement is needed today.

**BRIEFLY**

**CITY COUNCIL VOTED TO REVISE THE PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITY NAMING POLICY** to allow for more public input when naming public spaces in Pasadena. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**HOURS AFTER GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM URGED THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS 10 BILLS** intended to reform the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a key Senate budget committee said “no.” The committee found the package too complex to be considered in such a short time. *Source: CalMatters*

**THE CITY’S PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORTS** that 98 new Code Compliance cases were opened, 455 inspections were completed, and 90 cases were closed. The average response time for an initial inspection was approximately two days. *Source: City of Pasadena*

**THE BURBANK-GLENDALE-PASADENA AIRPORT AUTHORITY (BGPA) COMMISSIONERS VOTED TO MOVE FORWARD** with the design concept known as “The Icon” for the replacement passenger terminal. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**AT ITS FIRST MEETING, MEMBERS OF THE CITY’S RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES ADVISORY GROUP** named Danny Parker as chair and Rémy De La Peza as vice chair. The group’s objective is to provide guidance and advice to City Council regarding the redevelopment of the nearly 50-acre 710 stub. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**HOMELESSNESS IN PASADENA HAS INCREASED BY 9%** since last year, according to results from this year’s point-in-time count. The count, conducted on the night of Jan. 24 and ending the following day, found that 556 people were experiencing homelessness, a spike upward from the 512 counted last year. This increase was driven by a rise in the number of those experiencing homelessness for the first time. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PHOENIX HAS DETERMINED THAT SINCE THERE’S NOT ENOUGH GROUNDWATER** for all of the housing construction that has already been approved, it will not approve new construction requiring private wells. *Source: The New York Times*

# City traffic congestion will only increase from new waves of commercial growth

By Pete Ewing  
Vice President and Chair  
Land Use and Planning, WPRA

Our readers may recall that City Council has already approved plans that will bring an additional 820,000 square feet (SF) from five new office and medical buildings in west Pasadena and adjacent areas. These mammoth projects alone will result in considerably more traffic and congestion in the area.

Only one of those projects used the “cumulative” method (Local Mobility Analysis) of projecting new traffic, which considers the cumulative traffic from all adjacent existing and new construction. The other four projects used the old method, which only considered the new traffic created by that one building.

Fortunately, however, going forward the Pasadena Department of Transportation (PDOT) will analyze traffic anticipated from new projects under the “cumulative” method.

Generally, when it comes to mitigation of traffic congestion, PDOT’s plan is to increase capacity and reduce demand. That is:

- To increase capacity, PDOT (1) is now using a real-time system to regulate traffic signals in congested areas, and (2) encouraging commuters to avoid traffic congestion by using multi-modal forms of transportation, such as bikes and light rail, or smart-phone applications, such as Waze, to find alternate routes.
- To reduce demand, PDOT will evaluate

“... while we may have enjoyed the reduced traffic during the pandemic, in the post-pandemic world traffic may grow geometrically from more commercial development.”

the projected traffic impact for all new projects in Pasadena, and require developers to take mitigation measures, as necessary.

PDOT estimates that the real-time traffic signal approach should provide the greatest impact – increasing roadway capacity by approximately 10% for older systems or areas that have become grid-locked in all directions.

However, it is doubtful that these mitigation measures will be as impactful as the City might hope. The increasing traffic levels on Pasadena streets are a result of years of commercial development and expansion. In other words, there are no magic solutions to this problem. And while we may have enjoyed the reduced traffic during the pandemic, in the post-pandemic world traffic may grow geometrically from more commercial development.

It may be time to consider how much more development our streets and lifestyles can accept.



The City of Pasadena Department of Transportation operates over 340 traffic signals in its Transportation Management Center via a highly sophisticated Traffic Control System that automates and adapts to all motorized and none-motorized moving traffic occurring within city streets to maintain the traffic signal network.

# The Colorado Street Bridge Party's back!

By Sue Mossman  
Executive Director  
Pasadena Heritage

**W**e hope everyone will join us on Saturday, July 15, when Pasadena Heritage's signature community event returns! After five years, we are so pleased to again be inviting everyone to come out for an evening of music, dancing, children's activities, vintage cars, no-host foods from local eateries, craft beers, wine, cocktails and more on Pasadena's iconic bridge.

Pasadena Heritage has been involved in efforts to save the bridge, see it retrofitted and restored, and now with the challenge of constructing a new fence along the curvilinear span. Funds raised at the event will support the historic preservation organization's mission, its educational programs and advocacy efforts. Come enjoy a memorable summer evening on the Bridge! We are very grateful to WPRA for being among the sponsors for this community event. *For tickets and more information, please visit our website. (Volunteers are also needed to lend a hand during the event and admission for volunteers is free!)*

## Get involved; provide your input!

There are several important City projects in the works that need ideas, thoughts and wishes from the community so that the outcomes are as thoughtful, appropriate and inclusive as possible. If any of these efforts are of special interest to you, take part in the outreach opportunities coming up this summer!

## Colorado Street Bridge fence design

A new architectural team has been hired to start again on designing a fence for the Colorado Street Bridge. There will be opportunities for the public to express their thoughts and views and, ultimately, to chime in on design alternatives once they are developed. To find current information, check with the City of Pasadena's Public Works Department or sign up for Pasadena Heritage's e-news for the latest news.

## The 710 stub – reconnecting the Pasadena community

A task force has been appointed and has begun its work to explore what will become of the land where the 710 freeway stub was carved out of our local landscape 50 years ago.

Now that the land has been transferred back to the City, it is up to all of us to decide its future. What should happen there? What should be built? How can we reweave the city? What current and future needs can be met? Public outreach will be an important part of this process, which will take several years. Watch for opportunities to be engaged in the discussion!

## Central Library seismic upgrade

Work is underway to determine how best to add seismic strengthening to the Central Library, designed by Myron Hunt in 1925 and part of Pasadena's remarkable Civic Center, a National Register Historic District.

Also under discussion are the ways in which the library can better serve the community

in the future. If you love the library and want to see the best solutions emerge, take part in the public outreach sessions that have now begun. We will keep members and contacts informed of public meetings, or check the City's website under Pasadena Public Library.

## City-wide historic resources survey

Historic Resources Group (HRG), the locally based and highly regarded consulting firm, has been hired by the City to conduct the long-awaited city-wide survey of historic buildings and places.

If you want to be sure that historic buildings you care about are included in the survey, or places where important historic events occurred or notable Pasadenans lived, please share your thoughts with the survey team! The Design and Historic Preservation section of the Planning Department is in charge of this project. Reach out to them, or you can contact us at Pasadena Heritage if you'd like to provide suggestions for the survey.



Pasadena's Central Library, designed by Myron Hunt in 1925 and part of Pasadena's remarkable Civic Center, a National Register Historic District

# Getting to know our new City leaders

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replenished to pre-COVID levels.” Councilmember Madison expressed his appreciation of Pasadena’s 96 active neighborhood associations. “We’re a community that cares deeply about civic involvement,” he said. He is especially grateful that Pasadena appears to be emerging from the pandemic, and applauded the vital role the City Public Health Department served during the pandemic. Related to the mayor’s comments about the comings and goings of City leaders and staff over the past couple of years, Madison added that, to paraphrase an adage, “with change comes great opportunities ... from dynamic, creative and dedicated new city leaders.”

Dr. Yarma Velázquez noted that among the school board’s proudest accomplishments this past year was giving teachers a 10% salary increase, “the largest in district history.” She also highlighted the district’s completion of a strategic five-year plan, which, she said, “signals a new era for PUSD,” during which the district will be focusing on “consolidating our successes and evaluating practices that no longer work. I hope you will be a part of this transition and growth,” Velázquez said. “We depend on you to be engaged, even if,” she quipped, “it’s solely to tell me that our grass needs to be cut.”

## Electing the 2023-2024 WPRB Board of Directors

Members present elected those who will serve as WPRB board members during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Also, the following will serve as 2023-2024 officers: Evan Davis, president; Pete Ewing, vice president; Blaine Cavena, treasurer; and Kenyon Harbison, secretary. *[For a complete listing of officers and directors, see page 2.]*

## Credit where it’s due

WPRB President Evan Davis presented Community Service Awards to **Taka Suzuki**, former field representative for Councilmember Madison *[See page 15 for more on Taka.]*, and former WPRB President **Dan Beal**.

While introducing the Community Service Award for Suzuki, Davis said “Taka has been a fantastic field representative for Steve and our community” since 1999. “She has delivered outstanding service, expert advice and advocacy, and tireless dedication to residents and businesses of Pasadena of District 6.”

Davis also presented a Community Service Award to former president Dan Beal. “Dan,” he said, “served as president for four years

*[twice as long as other presidents]* and brought this organization through an incredibly difficult time.” Beal continues to serve on the Board.

Dan Beal



THE COLORADO STREET

# BRIDGE PARTY IS BACK!

COLORADO STREET BRIDGE 2023 | MARY-AUSTIN KLEIN © 2023

**SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023 | 6:00–11:30 PM**

STROLL ALONG THE HISTORIC COLORADO STREET BRIDGE OVER THE ARROYO SECO, WHILE ENJOYING AN EVENING OF CONTINUOUS LIVE MUSIC, DANCING, RARE CAR DISPLAY, CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES, AND FESTIVE FOODS & BEVERAGES.

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Brenda Lynch, Union Station [Photo by Bob Reiter]



Director of Housing Bill Wong and former WPRA President Vince Farhat [Photo by Bob Reiter]



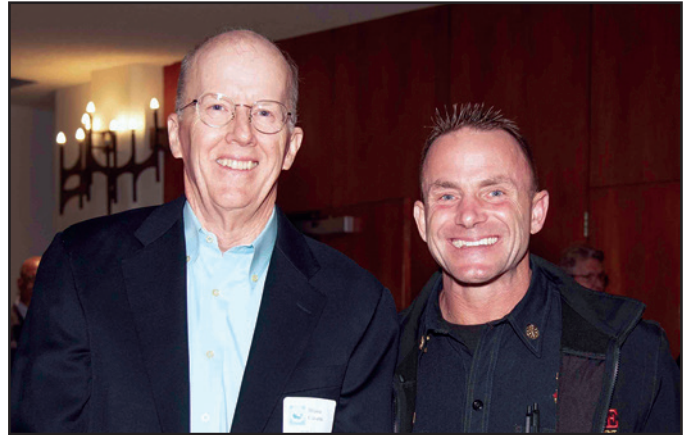
Members of the Pasadena Fire Department [Photo by Bob Reiter]



Amanda Reed, volunteer, and Elyse Reed, Development Associate, Friends in Deed [Photo by Bob Reiter]



Andrew Salimian and Michael Lichtman, Pasadena Heritage [Photo by Bob Reiter]



Meeting emcee Blaine Cavena and Pasadena Fire Department Chief Chad Augustine [Photo by Bob Reiter]



City Manager Miguel Márquez, Dr. Yarma Velázquez, WPRA Vice President Pete Ewing, and Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo [Photo by Bob Reiter]



Former Mayor Bill Bogaard and District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison [Photo by Bob Reiter]





Panel moderator Geoffrey Baum; City Manager Miguel Márquez; Pasadena Water and Power General Manager Sidney Jackson; and Pasadena’s Department of Libraries & Information Services Director Tim McDonald. [Photo by Bob Reiter]

## Meeting features insights from City, PWP, Library leaders

**“T**he thought behind the WPRA’s 2023 annual meeting” said program moderator Geoffrey Baum, “is that this is a pivotal moment in the history of Pasadena. Fortunately, we’ve been blessed with “extraordinary leadership for many years. Bill Bogaard and others since have recruited an amazing City staff.” To get to know three of Pasadena’s “remarkable newest leaders,” Baum led a conversation with City Manager **Miguel Márquez**, Pasadena Water and Power General Manager **Sidney Jackson**, and newly promoted Department of Libraries & Information Services Director **Tim McDonald**.

**>Geoffrey Baum:** What drew you to Pasadena? And can you share some first impressions of Pasadena?

**Miguel Márquez:** What makes him tick, he said “is service to the public.” Márquez wound up in Pasadena because he sought “the best public sector job in Southern California.” When the Pasadena opportunity arose, he looked “first and foremost to the mayor, the vice mayor and the council. “I thought our values aligned.” After his interview, he had the rest of the afternoon to look around Pasadena. “That’s all you have to do to realize how special Pasadena is. That’s when I realized “what a privilege it would be to be city manager here, a place in which I can make a difference.”

**Sidney Jackson:** After his interview with the city manager and some of the City staff, Jackson became convinced that, based on

his experience in the industry, he “could contribute and lead a team here.” After his interviews he “spent time walking through neighborhoods and discovered Pasadena’s rich traditions.” He grew up and now lives just a few miles from Pasadena, but he “never thought, in my wildest dreams, that I would be responsible for the water quality that I, my family and the community drinks.”

**Tim McDonald:** His first extended experience with Pasadena was when his “partner’s mother, at the end of her life, needed to move to an assisted living facility in Southern California. Pasadena was the obvious choice.” And since he wanted to be close to her, McDonald “was fortunate that former Pasadena Library Director Jan Sanders had an opening in Library Services Management.” He was also drawn to Pasadena “for its *starchitects [acclaimed architects with professional and public recognition].*” Because he grew up in a historic home, “historic buildings have always been important to me. And now I work in a Myron Hunt-designed building [the Central Library] and live in a modern, but more modest, home designed by John Pugsley.” Also, “my first career was as a fifth-grade teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, which taught me about the importance of inclusion, diversity and equity — values that are very important to me and Pasadena”

**>Geoffrey Baum:** What are the key roles of a city manager?

**Miguel Márquez:** “I think the most

important role is hiring the executive staff” — fire and police chiefs and general manager of Pasadena Water and Power, for example. “I also have administrative responsibilities for our 2,300 City employees and the City’s budget, “our financial plan for the next fiscal year,” which for fiscal year 2023-2024 is in excess of \$1.2 billion. “Ultimately, my goal is to put a team together that strives to deliver the community’s needs and supports City Council policies.”

**>Geoffrey Baum:** Can you give us some insight into Pasadena Water and Power (PWP)?

**Sidney Jackson:** On the **water** side, 65% of Pasadena’s water is imported from the Metropolitan Water District. Pasadena also has water resources from the Raymond Basin, from which the city draws groundwater. “It may surprise you,” he said, “to learn that although “Pasadena is a high-growth community, we use less water now than we did in 1950,” when the city population was nearly half of what it is now. Technological innovations have certainly made a difference, “but they also point to our sense of environmental stewardship,” said Jackson. As for **power**, “we’re increasingly emphasizing renewable sources of energy. We’ve pledged to be 100% green by 2030,” Jackson said, “and will have ceased generation of power by coal as of 2025-2027.” Proof of PWP’s commitment to green energy, he said, is that “even now more of Pasadena’s power

*Continued on page 14*

## BRIEFLY

**CITY COUNCIL AGREED TO PURCHASE 15 PUBLIC TRANSIT VEHICLES** and the first zero-emission vehicle for Pasadena Transit. Council secured a \$65 million grant for a zero-emission transit station to charge the vehicles and a \$14.2 million grant for hydrogen vehicles and infrastructure. The City will break ground for the station in a year, which is expected to be operational in 2025. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO CONTINUE ITS STRICTER WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES UNDER LEVEL 2** of its water-supply shortage plan. For nearly two years, Pasadena has kept outdoor watering to two days per week from April to October and one day per week from November to March. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**THE PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS BEGUN BRUSH CLEARANCE INSPECTIONS**, which will continue through July 31 and is a part of its annual Hazardous Vegetation Management Program. The program is intended to minimize fire danger by controlling the density and location of flammable vegetation. The Fire Department will inspect approximately 4,000 residential properties located within the very high fire hazard severity zones. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**A BILL THAT WOULD ADD MORE THAN 100,000 ACRES OF FEDERAL FOREST LAND** to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, while also expanding wilderness zones to further protect threatened species, was introduced in U.S. Congress. The San Gabriel Mountains Protection Act, authored by Rep. Judy Chu, D-Pasadena, adds new layers of protection by including 109,167 acres of Angeles National Forest land left out of the 346,177-acre monument nine years ago. It also marks 31,000 acres of forest land as newly protected wilderness areas, while adding about 46 miles of rivers, including the Arroyo Seco, to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. *Source: San Gabriel Valley Tribune*

**AFTER NEARLY A YEAR OF INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS**, California, Nevada and Arizona reached a historic agreement to use less water over the next three years from the overdrafted Colorado River. The states agreed to give up 3 million acre-feet of river water through 2026 — about 13% of the amount it receives. These cuts should not affect Southern Californians this year because rains have greatly boosted supplies from the State Water Project. *Source: Pasadena Now*



A row of jacarandas on Del Mar Boulevard

## Tree of the quarter: jacaranda

By Emina Darakjy  
President, California Urban Forests Council

**T**his tree belongs to the Bignoniaceae family and is native to Brazil and Argentina. It grows to a height of 25-50 feet with a spread of 50 feet or more, and is considered partially deciduous.

The leaves are light green and up to 2 feet long. They are very delicate and fernlike. Each leaf is composed of dozens of ¼ inch leaflets, and the trunk bark is grayish brown, smooth at first, turning rough as the tree matures.

In late spring to early summer, the jacaranda tree is covered by clusters of fragrant, rich violet-blue trumpet shaped flowers that are 2 inches long.

The flowers appear on leafless branches with the tree continuing to bloom sporadically throughout the summer. Following the blooms, brown disk-shaped seed pods appear. The pods split open to release winged seeds that fall to the ground.

There is also a rare variety with a white flower: jacaranda mimosifolia alba. You can find a small one growing in Pasadena at the corner of south Lake Avenue and

Del Mar Boulevard.

The jacaranda prefers a soil with good drainage, is drought tolerant when mature, does better in a sunny area but tolerates partial shade, and requires a minimum parkway width of 5 feet. Damage to sidewalks from its roots is moderate.

The tree is susceptible to aphids and Phytophthora root disease.

In his 1988 book, “Exceptional Trees of Los Angeles,” Donald R. Hodel describes a jacaranda tree at 1870 south Los Robles in San Marino as “The largest and most outstanding specimen in the area” with a 50 feet height and a spread of over 50 feet.

You can find these stunning trees growing all over the world. It is said that more than 50,000 jacaranda trees line almost every corner of Pretoria South Africa, giving it the title of “Jacaranda City.”

*Emina Darakjy is also chair of the Pasadena Beautiful Tree Program and engaged with other tree organizations, including California Re-Leaf, the Arbor Day Foundation and American Forests. She is also a past president of Pasadena Beautiful and Street Tree Seminar, Inc.*

## BRIEFLY

**STATE AUDITOR GRANT PARKS SCOLDED THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES** for failing to sufficiently factor changing climate conditions into its water supply forecasting methods, ultimately affecting reservoir management and leading to reduced supplies. *Source: CalMatters*

**THE HUGE SNOWPACK THAT HAS BLANKETED THE SIERRA NEVADA THIS WINTER** has done more than end California's drought and extend ski season. With reservoirs full across the state, hydroelectricity generation from dams is expected to expand dramatically this summer. In 2017, a wet year similar to 2023, hydropower made up 21% of all the electricity generated in California. But by 2021 it provided just 7%. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*

**WITH RESERVOIRS FILLING UP AND THE SIERRA'S NEAR-RECORD SNOWPACK STARTING TO MELT**, the State reported that it will deliver 100% of requested allocations from the State Water Project — the highest level since 2006 — to 29 public water agencies serving 27 million Californians, including Pasadenans, and irrigating 750,000 acres of farmland. *Source: CalMatters*

**ONLY REMNANTS OF CALIFORNIA'S THREE-YEAR DROUGHT REMAIN** after winter's epic storms. The U.S. Drought Monitor reports that as of May 28, areas of drought cover less than 5% of the state, down from more than 99% at the Oct. 1 start of the water year. Those areas, in the far north and southeast, are surrounded by areas of abnormal dryness. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*

**FIVE WEEKS AFTER THE LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE CITY COUNCIL DOUBLED DOWN** on its denial of a builder's remedy application — a decision that deepened a years-long saga in the wealthy city and set up a likely standoff with state authorities — the California Department of Housing and Community Development has issued the city a formal notice that it's violating California housing laws. *Source: The Real Deal*

**TREE SERVICE EXPERTS PASADENA HAS LAUNCHED AN URBAN FORESTRY RESEARCH CENTER**, which will focus on four key areas: understanding how trees interact with their urban environment; identifying and developing best management practices; increasing public awareness of tree health and maintenance; and advocating for healthy and resilient urban forests. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*



MOTHER OF LIONS  
Photo Credit: Robert Martinez/Living in a Wildlife Corridor

The exhibit features large-scale photographs and original artwork.

## New exhibit: where art meets nature

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

Curious to know what it feels like to have a kaleidoscope of monarch butterflies above your head? Come experience it! On June 3, Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy (AFC) opened the doors to a brand-new interactive and multisensory exhibition, *Living in a Wildlife Corridor*, which will run until October 1 at the Boddy House at Descanso Gardens.

This exhibition is a true collaboration among AFC and our partner organizations, as well as artists, educators, conservationists, and Tongva culture bearers.

The show includes large-scale photographs taken by remote camera trappers and wildlife photographers, original artwork by local and renowned artists, interactive installations that share insight into wildlife corridors, and panels highlighting traditional wisdom of the Tongva people who have stewarded this land for millennia.

What's more, you'll learn specific and impactful actions you can take to protect the natural world: whether it's something small, like choosing coffee more intentionally or planting native milkweed, to more involved, like taking responsibility for a remote wildlife camera, or changing your yard to native plants and capturing rainwater off your roof.

We know that art is one of the best ways to encourage connection between people and nature, and this exhibition blends science and conservation education with artistic expressions of all kinds (including storytelling and sound) to create an immersive experience.

When you visit, you'll experience a new perspective on the wildlife corridors that crisscross our urban region, and you'll learn more about efforts, both large and small, that help preserve and protect native habitat for wildlife.

The exhibit unfolds at a spot in Descanso Gardens that is situated squarely within the Hahamongna to Tujunga Wildlife Corridor, a series of passageways AFC is working to establish. The exhibit explores this setting and lays out the paths of travel for wildlife of all sizes (from mountain lions to bees!) between the San Gabriel Mountains and the isolated open space of the San Rafael Hills, Verdugo Mountains and Griffith Park.

*Living in a Wildlife Corridor* runs from June 3 to Oct. 1, 2023, and is open daily from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Boddy House at Descanso Gardens. Educational talks and panels, and gallery talks from artists, photographers, wildlife experts, and conservationists will take place throughout the summer. *To learn more about the exhibit and to purchase tickets, visit [livinginawildlifecorridor.org](http://livinginawildlifecorridor.org).*

## BRIEFLY

**PASADENA MAYOR VICTOR GORDO WAS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED** as the chair of the newly formed Burbank Glendale Pasadena Regional Housing Trust. The joint powers agency will provide new funding sources for affordable housing in the tri-city area and can fund affordable housing for the homeless population and for extremely low-, very low-, low-, and moderate-income households. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**THE PASADENA TOURNAMENT OF ROSES FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED ITS 2023 GRANT AWARDS**, totaling more than \$240,000, to 24 organizations in the San Gabriel Valley. The grants will support new and ongoing programs benefiting children, teens, adults and seniors. Also, the Foundation's 2022 Golf Classic was a success, raising more than \$40,000. As a result, five more organizations received grant support. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA SHOWCASE HOUSE FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCED IT HAS AWARDED \$900,000** in gifts and grants to 75 nonprofit organizations and schools throughout the San Gabriel Valley and greater Los Angeles area. The grants help support music education and arts enrichment in schools, youth orchestras, and music therapy programs, as well as underwriting concerts by the LA Phil and other local cultural institutions. This is the largest amount ever distributed in the organization's 75-year history, bringing the total investment in music and the arts to over \$25 million. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**HILLSIDES, PASADENA'S 110-YEAR-OLD AGENCY TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUTH HEALTH SERVICES, RAISED NEARLY \$500,000** at its annual gala held Feb. 25, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*

**PASADENA ART ALLIANCE (PAA) HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS OF ArtCenter College of Design** with a recent grant that brings a nearly 50-year record of giving to more than \$1 million. The PA- ArtCenter partnership began in 1976, the same year the college opened the campus in the hills above the Rose Bowl. *Source: Pasadena Now*

# Water outlook improves, but conservation still vital

By *Stacie N. Takeguchi*,  
*Pasadena Water and Power*  
*Assistant general manager, Water*

Following three years of record dry conditions, winter storms brought record precipitation to California this year, helping to dramatically boost water supplies. While this helped significantly relieve drought impacts, many groundwater basins throughout the state have been severely depleted and the Colorado River — another major source of water supply for the region — remains challenged with reservoir levels at historic lows.

Pasadena's water supply consists of local groundwater from the Raymond Basin aquifer, along with imported water from The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD supplies 26 member agencies with water from storage facilities, the State Water Project (Northern California), and the Colorado River System.

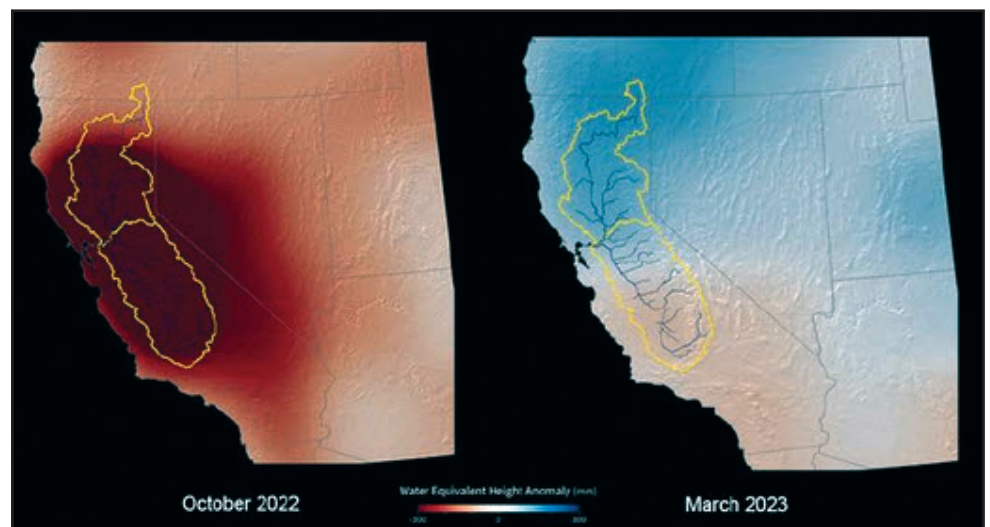
This portfolio of resources allows Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) to continue to adapt to extreme variability in weather and water supplies. For example, this year, record-breaking wet conditions in the State Water Project system led to full reservoirs and the most recent boost in the State Water Project allocation to 100% — an amount not seen since 2006. To capture this

extraordinary opportunity, MWD shifted deliveries from Colorado River to State Water Project supplies, and PWP quickly shifted operations to maximize acceptance of these surplus State Water Project supplies to replenish Pasadena's local groundwater basin. PWP, in partnership with MWD and Raymond Basin groundwater producers, is maximizing groundwater recharge with imported supplies via "in-lieu" deliveries, which includes leaving more water in the aquifer by significantly reducing groundwater pumping and increasing MWD deliveries.

Through rain or shine, it's critical to continue to use water wisely. As part of the State's priority to make "Conservation a California Way of Life," Pasadena joins the State, MWD, and other water agencies in encouraging communities to continue to use water as efficiently as possible.

PWP actively supports the community in building drought resilience through robust incentive programs and resources for residents and businesses, and encourages residential and commercial customers to take proactive steps by preparing landscapes for hotter and drier weather and by optimizing water use.

To learn more, visit [PWPweb.com/SaveWater](https://www.pwpweb.com/SaveWater).



Thanks to a wet winter, California from October 2022 to March 2023 saw tremendous water gains in the San Joaquin, Sacramento and Tulare rivers basins (outlined in yellow). [NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio]

## BRIEFLY

**CITY MANAGER MIGUEL MÁRQUEZ HAS ANNOUNCED THE PROMOTIONS** of Jennifer Paige to deputy director of Planning & Community Development; Tiffany Jacobs-Quinn to director of Human Resources; and Alex Souto to deputy manager. He also appointed Lola Osborne as acting director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services to replace Brenda Harvey-Williams, who was promoted to assistant city manager. *Source: City of Pasadena*

**THE CITY HAS APPOINTED TIM McDONALD** as the new Director of Pasadena's Department of Libraries and Information Services. McDonald has been with the City of Pasadena since 2016 and has served as acting director since February 2022. He oversees 10 branch locations and 99 full-time employees. *Source: City of Pasadena*

**AS SEVERAL PEOPLE CONTINUE TO RECOVER FROM INJURIES CAUSED BY A LARGE BEE SWARM** in Encino, Pasadena is taking precautions against future attacks. City Council approved a three-year contract for a bee removal expert to be on call to help firefighters and police officers in the event of bee or wasp swarms. *Source: ABC 7*

**PASADENA IS SET TO RECEIVE \$4.65 MILLION GRANT** from a \$2.8 billion to address homelessness. The Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition Awards provides funding for thousands of local homeless service and housing programs across the nation. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA HAS RECEIVED A \$900,000 FEDERAL GRANT** through Congressional Directive Spending allocated by Rep. Judy Chu (D-Pasadena) to support operations and resources for its substance abuse, housing, and mental health street outreach team. The Pasadena Outreach Response Team was created in 2018, combining members of Pasadena Public Health, Union Station Homeless Services, Pasadena Fire Department and Huntington Health to go out in the field to connect people with resources. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*



Hiking or simply taking a walk can do wonders for your physical health and mood.

## #AgeWell Day at senior center is Sept. 30

By Ann Erdman  
Public Relations Consultant

**S**taying active as you age can work wonders for your physical and mental health and lead to a longer, more fulfilling life with greater independence. There is no magic pill that can take the place of life-sustaining activities for older adults. If you're not as active as you'd like to be, it's never too late to begin, and if you're already active and want to add some additional variety, now is the time!

The Pasadena Senior Center will be hopping with activities Saturday, Sept. 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. when adults 50 and older attend the free, fun and informative #AgeWell Day.

There will be something for everyone, including the latest about medical marijuana and CBD oil, arts and culture activities, blood pressure and glucose screenings, wellness information and resources, how to make the most of your smartphone, movement activities such as line dancing and yoga, fitness center orientation, keynote presentation "How to Age Well" by Dr. Laura Mosqueda, professor of family medicine and geriatrics at USC's Keck School of Medicine, live entertainment, complimentary buffet lunch and more.

To register or for more information, visit [pasadenaseniorcenter.org](https://pasadenaseniorcenter.org) and click on



Activities & Events, then Special Events or call (626) 795-4331.

Why should you care about #AgeWell Day? Studies by the National Institutes of Health have shown that taking it easy in retirement can be quite risky. Often, inactivity of the brain and body is more to blame than age when older adults lose the ability to perform normal activities of daily living and can lead to more doctor visits, more hospitalizations and more use of medications.

For older adults, this should be a time of life when new doors open and new experiences beckon. So, what are you waiting for? *Visit the website today and register for #AgeWell Day!*



Exercise equipment can be found at many Pasadena parks at no cost.

## Meeting features insights from City, PWP, Library leaders

Continued from page 9

comes from renewable sources than from coal.” The bottom line, however, “is that our vision statement is to be an exceptional partner and contribute to the quality of life in Pasadena.”

**>Resident:** *There’s been a lot of talk about vulnerability of our power grid and water supplies. Is PWP putting measures in place to protect them?*

**Sidney Jackson:** “This possibility has perpetually been a problem. The answer to your question is yes, we are pursuing and enhancing security measures. We’ll soon come before City Council to discuss incremental infrastructure spending, not just on monitoring and motion-detector cameras. However, given our past and future efforts to secure our systems, we don’t believe our reliability is at risk.”

**>Resident:** *During the recent big rains, I saw a lot of water going down the Arroyo Seco channel. What are we doing to collect more of that water to recharge our aquifers?*

**Sidney Jackson:** “We are increasing our spreading base to help recharge our aquifers in the Raymond basin. The State is also focusing on stormwater retention, but were looking to do more locally.”

**>Geoffrey Baum:** *Tell us more about our celebrated library system and your role?*

**Tim McDonald:** “More than 84% of voters agreed in 2022 – for the fourth time – to renew supplemental library funding through Measure I. This says a lot about how much residents value their library system, which has survived not only the pandemic,” he said, but also the devastating closure in 2021 of the Central Library for retrofitting. “During this closure,” McDonald said, “we promised that our 10 neighborhood branches would remain open at least five days a week; currently they’re open six days a week.” Generally, his role is to inspire staff to continue delivering outstanding library services. “We definitely see ourselves



Celebratory, commemorative, comforting, creative – Quilts’ rich history and traditions are the focus of Community Stitches: Quilt Designs & Stories on view at Pasadena Museum of History through September 10. Curators Arlene Stevens and Leah Zieber of the California Heritage Quilt Project note that the exhibition features more than 60 quilts made by and for the Pasadena community that represent over 180 years of quilt making in America. Highlights include treasures from the museum’s extensive textile collection along with select pieces on loan, including three community quilts marking historic occasions: the 2022 JPL welcome quilt for Dr Laurie Leshin; Pasadena City College’s 75th anniversary quilt (1999-2000); and a replica of the oldest known surviving quilt made in California (1850), courtesy of San Diego State Historical Park. The exhibition is open 12-5 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays. Visit [pasadenahistory.org](http://pasadenahistory.org) for additional details. [Photo by Joanne Wilborn/Marlyn Woo]

as partners with the entire city, not just a source of books, which is central to our mission. We also see ourselves as a community gathering place where we can share ideas, be entertained, and engage in civic life. It’s a wonderful institution,” McDonald said, “but it’s only made possible because of the support we get from the community.”

**>Geoffrey Baum:** *We’ve mentioned the \$1.2 billion budget, and we have amazing city services, but we’re only a city of 150,000 people. How can we continue to deliver a high level of service, and control costs?*

**Miguel Márquez:** “It all comes down to understanding that everything we do involves spending taxpayers’ dollars,” said Márquez. “We are very well aware of that and do it as efficiently and effectively as we can.”

**>Geoffrey Baum:** *What is the library doing to more effectively manage its budget?*

**Tim McDonald:** “Closure of the Central Library prompted us to reduce staffing slightly,” McDonald said, “largely through attrition.” Also, the library system is sharing costs with other City departments. For

example, he said “we’ve leased space and opened a children’s library at Jefferson Elementary School [on E. Villa Street], where our Fire Department has its training academy and the Police Department has an after-school program. Also, library staff is pursuing external funding, and offering a shared pool of e-books in cooperation with other library systems.

**>Resident:** *The Central Library’s roof appears to need repair. Can it be repaired as part of the retrofitting project?*

**Tim McDonald:** The Central Library will celebrate its centennial in 2027. With this in mind, “Public Works did a thorough assessment of the entire building from basement to roof,” said McDonald. “That’s how we discovered the presence of unreinforced masonry,” which is currently on a path to correction. The retrofit, however, is just part of the total renovation. “The roof, of course, definitely needs to be addressed, but in a sensitive way that preserves its character.”

**>Geoffrey Baum:** *Can you bring us up to date about the Colorado Street Bridge effort to discourage suicides?*

**Miguel Márquez:** “It’s a work in progress,”

said Márquez. We put funds for it in the budget; I think \$2 million. If it's going to cost more than that, we'll find a way to fund it. It's a priority, and I know it's a long time coming."

**>Rick Madden:** *With Sacramento and Washington mandating electric vehicles and elimination of gas stoves, can we generate enough power to meet all these additional needs?*

**Sidney Jackson:** "Traditionally, we only had electric appliances and gas-fueled autos and trucks. Now, that path is completely changing. It's called the electrification of all things, and it is a challenge for us."

**>Geoffrey Baum:** *Do you have any closing thoughts?*

**Tim McDonald:** "Only that I hope to see you all at the library this summer. Our summer reading program is underway. Go to any city library branch to sign up. There's something for everyone. And remember, many library services are available 24/7 through our website, and you can check out electronic resources online. Our libraries also offer a lot of support for school success online. You can send a reference question to us through the website, and a member of the library staff member will call you back or email the answer to you back."

**Sidney Jackson:** "I'd just like to just reaffirm there's a lot of moving parts in electric and water space. We would like to hear all of your thoughts as they come up today. We do appreciate diversity of thought. The more we from you, the better off we'll be."

**Miguel Márquez:** "Just look out into the audience. All most all of you are still here at 8:16 on a Wednesday night. I think it's amazing to see this level of community engagement."

"I thank you for this and invite you to participate in your government at all levels. That's what makes this city so special."



Cathy Morrison and Taka Suzuki celebrate during the 2012 ground-breaking of the Pasadena Community Garden. [Photo by Chuck Hudson]

## A tsunami of community service

By Justin Chapman  
District 6 Council field representative

Before her retirement at the end of 2022, Takako Suzuki had served in District 6 as field representative to Pasadena City Councilmember Steve Madison since he was first elected in 1999. That is nearly a quarter of a century of service to the residents, businesses and organizations of west Pasadena.

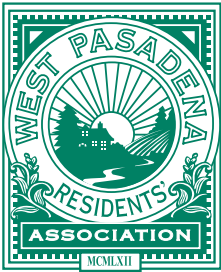
"We all owe Taka a huge debt of gratitude for her outstanding dedication and service over the past 23 years," said Councilmember Madison. The constituents of District 6 always knew they could rely on her to help find a solution to their unique challenge, issue or concern. At the West Pasadena Residents' Association's annual meeting on May 31, the WPRA presented Suzuki with its distinguished Community Service Award.

In addition to her duties as field representative, Suzuki also became a licensed family marriage therapist, a role she continues to practice. Before her time with the City of Pasadena, she served the LA Unified School District from 1972 to 1992 in a number of positions. She was selected by the State of California's

“At the West Pasadena Residents’ Association’s annual meeting on May 31, the WPRA presented Suzuki with its distinguished Community Service Award.”

Department of Education for the Language Arts Framework Committee, and was featured in an LA County Office of Education Television Network's program, and in *Ladies Home Journal* in 1990 for "Innovative Math Programs."

Suzuki received a bachelor's degree in education from UCLA and a master's degree from USC and Cal State LA. She has served as docent at the Gamble House and secretary of the San Gabriel Valley chapter of California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. She has also served as interim director of the Armory Center for the Arts and on its board, and on the City of Pasadena's Commission on the Status of Women. She currently serves as the District 6 commissioner on the City's Arts & Culture Commission.



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Non-emergency.....(626) 744-4241

### City services

Full listing of city phone numbers:  
[cityofpasadena.net/contact](http://cityofpasadena.net/contact)



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## Express yourself

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Senator Alex Padilla  
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Representative Judy Chu (D-27):  
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Representative Adam Schiff (D-28):  
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