



51 sightings since January City seeks ways to discourage coyotes from foraging in our neighborhoods

By Lee Wallace
Director, WPRA

Coyotes and humans have co-existed in the Southwest for centuries. The Tohono O'odham (indigenous people of the Sonoran Desert) tell the story of how Coyote helped the Montezuma survive a global deluge intended to destroy all humanity. After the great flood, the Creator made a new humanity, and Coyote and Montezuma then taught the new people how to live.

In the real world, however ...

Pasadena residents have reported 51 coyote sightings since Jan. 1. Curiously, this is 22% less than in the last year for the same period. Two of those reported incidents resulted in the loss of family pets.

Discourage encroachment

Coyotes are opportunistic omnivores, and once they identify a reliable source of food or water in a residential neighborhood, they can become less fearful of humans and

return. We can use the coyote's instinctive fear of humans to help discourage potentially dangerous interaction by, for example, shouting, spraying water or throwing objects (aka "hazing").

"Frequent coyote sightings where there is human activity is a strong sign that someone is intentionally or inadvertently feeding coyotes," says Manuel Carmona, acting director of Pasadena's Public Health Department. "We have to do everything we can to prevent coyotes from associating human activity with food. Community members should make sure their trash cans are closed, pick up fallen fruit from trees, keep pets indoors, and report to Pasadena Humane anyone who is seen feeding wildlife. These basic practices can reduce coyote sightings if they are consistently done throughout a neighborhood."

A delicate balance

In the wild, coyotes mostly live in packs. Those not in a pack are referred to as transients. This is important because

eliminating or relocating members of a pack prompts transient coyotes to fill in the gap between any losses in the pack coyotes. Further, if either the alpha male or alpha female in a pack is removed, it often triggers an evolutionary defense mechanism: off-cycle ovulation of breeding-age females, which can result in an increase in the number of litters and pups per litter. [See graphic at the bottom of the page]

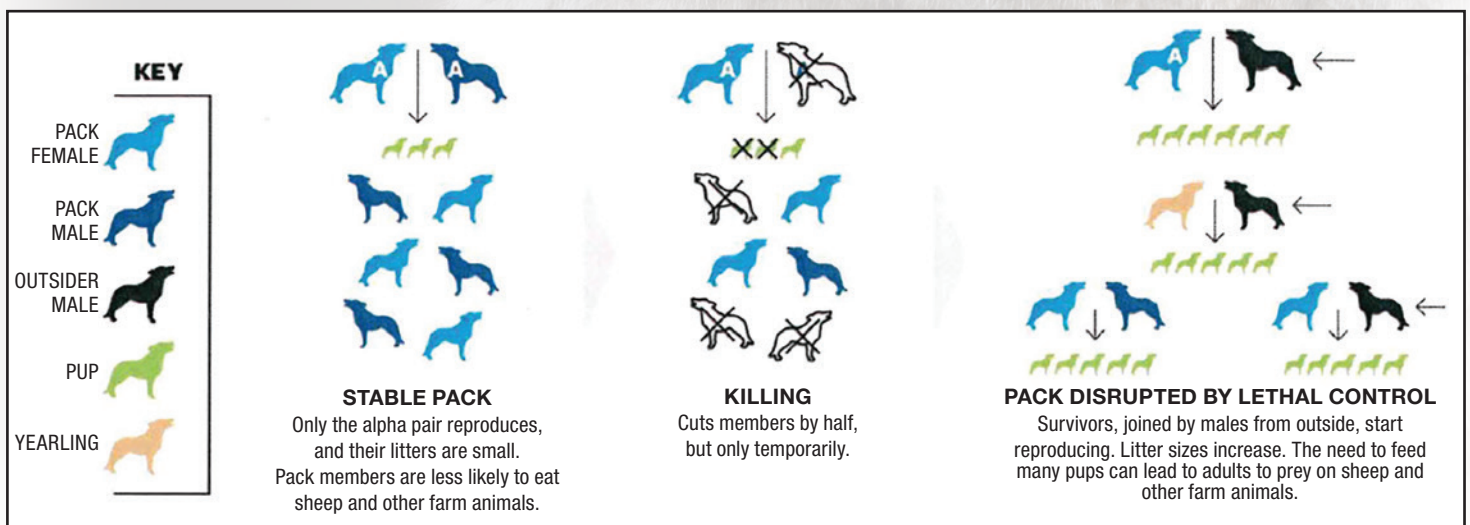
Tackling the problem

In early February the Pasadena Public Health Department, Pasadena Humane, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) brought the coyote discussion to residents for education and input. The Public Safety Committee continued that discussion in April and June.

Then, in July, the topic made its way to City Council. Public interest was high: 30 residents addressed City Council and 115 sent letters.

Based on City staff recommendations,

Continued on page 4



In praise of walking and community

The pandemic changed many things, some for the better. For example, because we could no longer exercise indoors at gyms and the like, many residents got out of their cars and started walking and jogging.

Neighbors whom I had never seen, other than perhaps in their cars, were strolling the neighborhood. There's nothing like being cooped up in the same place all day, every day, to reveal the importance of fresh air, human interaction and moving your body.

I've noticed that foot traffic has diminished substantially since the height of the pandemic, but I sense that it has not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

My pandemic-era walks left a lasting impression on me. I now view my walks

as an addition to regular exercise, not in lieu of it. That's because I feel like I'm getting a lot more than just extra steps for two important reasons.

First, walking is a social event. You see the same people repeatedly. Even if you don't know their names, they become familiar. Even though I'm not the world's most gregarious person, I've stopped and chatted with some regulars, learning about kids and jobs while commiserating about quarantines and not being able to visit family. Those awful topics slowly gave way to happier discussions. You



Evan Davis

don't have to stop to feel connected: even the simple act of smiling and nodding, or an upgrade to a wave or audible "hello," binds us in ways that are simply impossible while driving by each other in cars.

Second, walking makes the rest of us safer. At a walking pace, people notice things. Odd scenes, sounds and smells don't register when we are driving by them at 25+ miles per hour, but if there's a gas leak or strange sound a walker would certainly know about it. Even just being outside is helpful — the more foot traffic, the less likely that a bad actor will choose to stop in a well-trafficked location.

So, I encourage walkers to keep at it, the rest of you to give it another try. It's good for you and your neighbors.

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vp@wpra.net

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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.

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PASADENA COUNCILMEMBER FELICIA WILLIAMS, who represents Council District 2 and serves as vice mayor, was elected president of the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority, a joint-powers agency that owns and operates Hollywood Burbank Airport. *Source: Pasadena Now*

KOKO PANOSSIAN has been named the next director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services (PRCS). Panossian began his service in Pasadena in October 2022. Prior to that he served as the deputy director of Glendale Community Services & Parks. *Source: City of Pasadena*

DR. PARVEEN KAUR HAS BEEN CONTRACTED to serve as backup health officer and tuberculosis physician for the City of Pasadena. She now serves as interim health officer while Pasadena Public Health Director and Health Officer Dr. Ying-Ying Goh extends through January 2024 her participation in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows Program. *Source: City of Pasadena*

LYNNE CHAIMOWITZ is the new assistant general manager of finance and administration for Pasadena Water and Power. She oversees budgeting and financial planning, rates, risk management and utility accounting and settlements related to energy and fuel activities. Chaimowitz was most recently serving as the chief financial officer for the Mojave Water Agency (Apple Valley, CA). *Source: City of Pasadena*

THE PUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION appointed Deputy Superintendent **Elizabeth Blanco**, Ed.D., as interim superintendent. She succeeds Dr. Brian McDonald. Dr. Blanco has been with PUSD for nine years. Among her first acts, she released a 100-day plan to serve as a guide for the new school year and foster diversity and equity. *Source: Pasadena Star-News and Pasadena Now*

PASADENA MEDIA HAS APPOINTED Jasiri Jenkins-Glenn as the newly established position of director of Community Engagement, a role that fosters partnerships and enhances public programs. Previously she served as parent ambassador at Westridge School for Girls. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE PASADENA CITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS NAMED educator and administrator **Jose A. Gomez** as interim superintendent and president, replacing former superintendent/president Erika Endrijonas, who has assumed the same role at Santa Barbara City College. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*

SANDRA V. RIZZO, WHO HAS SERVED FOR 13 YEARS as assistant principal at Marshall Fundamental Secondary School, has been named interim principal at San Rafael Elementary, replacing Rudy Ramirez. Rizzo has been with PUSD for 24 years and began her career at Marshall as a Spanish language and literature teacher. *Source: Pasadena Unified School District.*

THE PUSD Board of Education will conduct a survey in October to determine how much support exists for a parcel tax and a general obligation bond measure for the November 2024 ballot. Parcel taxes can be used to help support district operations and staff salaries. General obligation bonds are intended to fund facility improvements. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE PASADENA FINANCE DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLISHED the City's budget for fiscal year 2024. The 316-page budget document outlines details of an operating budget of approximately \$1.2 billion. For a 28-page summary, visit the City's website at tinyurl.com/5f2wyuk4. *Source: City of Pasadena*

CITY COUNCIL APPROVED A PLAN TO RETROFIT AND REPAIR the Pasadena Central Library. The library was closed on May 3, 2021, after seismic evaluation revealed it did not meet minimum structural performance standards. Construction should begin in 2025 and be completed in 2028. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT will add a sixth full-time rescue ambulance; three new paramedic positions, bringing the total to nine; and three new paramedics positions, bringing the total to nine. *Source: City of Pasadena*

THE PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT Station 31, at 135 S. Fair Oaks Ave., reopened after completing a \$2 million



Koko Panossian



Dr. Parveen Kaur



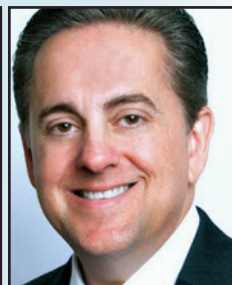
Lynne Chaimowitz



Dr. Elizabeth J. Blanco



Jasiri Jenkins-Glenn



Jose A. Gomez

seismic retrofitting and tenant-area improvement. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT

has formed a Street Crime Unit (SCU) to combat gang-related activities and reduce the sale of narcotics on city streets. *Source: City of Pasadena*



Sandra V. Rizzo

ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN ON USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS has increased the Code Compliance Department's caseload. Since April, when the new ordinance became effective, the department issued 80 notices, but few actual citations. The new ordinance will expand on Jan. 1, 2024, to ban the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers in the city. *Source: Pasadena Now.*

BRIEFLY

IN AUGUST THE CITY'S RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES 710 ADVISORY GROUP and other interested citizens visited three locations in Pasadena that the State and Metro had claimed by eminent domain as part of the now-abandoned plan to connect the SR 710 freeway in El Sereno with I-210 freeway in Pasadena. City Council formed an advisory group to develop a comprehensive planning document and vision for the 50-acre plot bounded by Union Street on the north, Columbia Street on the south, St. John Avenue on the west, and Pasadena Avenue on the east. *Source: Pasadena Now*

PASADENA HAS SELECTED WENDY MACIAS as senior project manager to help guide the redevelopment plan for the roughly 50-acre 710 freeway stub site. A Pasadena resident, Macias has more than 20 years of planning and public works experience. The City also approved a three-year, \$540,000 contract with PointC for related consulting services. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*

GOV. NEWSOM SIGNED INTO LAW TWO NEW BILLS that can further expedite affordable housing construction in many parts of the state. SB-423 makes permanent a 2017 state law that requires developers to pay union-level wages. SB-4 makes it easier for churches and other religious and faith institutions to build housing projects on their land. *Source: CalMatters*

MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF AMERICANS recognize that highway expansion won't reduce congestion and want to stop spending money on highway projects that endanger their families, cause delays, and cost billions of dollars. The same percentage agreed that "widening highways induces more people to drive." *Source: Streetsblog LA*

LOS ANGELES WILL CREATE A "PARK BLOCK" PILOT PROGRAM patterned after Spain's acclaimed "superblocks." The idea has helped Barcelona transform neighborhoods by redirecting automobile traffic and creating new open space for pedestrians and cyclists, while reducing noise and air pollution without a significant increase in traffic congestion. *Source: Urbanize Los Angeles*



Artist's rendering of the proposed 106-unit affordable, senior-citizen housing project at 208 Ramona St.

Opinion: Let's get Ramona project right

The WPRA Board of Directors typically confines its land-use and planning oversight to projects within its immediate service area. However, the board feels compelled to comment on plans for a new 106-unit affordable, senior-citizen housing project at 208 Ramona St.

"The latest project design," the board wrote in a letter to City Manager Miguel Márquez, "is incompatible with the classic architecture of City Hall and the carefully envisioned and designed Civic Center."

The Design Commission is also concerned

about design context. Several months ago, the commission referred the design to a sub-committee to resolve concerns, which include overall composition, design treatment, architectural transition, relationship, and integration between individual features and their relationships to the rest of the building.

The WPRA continues to support additional affordable housing in Pasadena. Moreover, the board would welcome the Ramona Street project if its final design complements the City's signature Civic Center architecture. It's critical to get it right.

Continued from page 1

Discourage coyotes from foraging ...

Councilmembers unanimously agreed to make the following revisions to the Urban Wildlife Management Plan, as it relates to coyotes:

- Increase public outreach
- Improve reporting of sightings
- Convene a panel of experts
- Hire a consultant to conduct a field study
- Encourage residents to remove foods or other things that attract coyotes

Some residents favored Torrance's approach to the problem: capture coyotes to reduce the population. However, neither Pasadena's City Council nor staff considered adopting that policy for the reasons described in the accompanying graphic. However, Pasadena Humane and the City's Public Health Department do consider lethal control in response to confirmed reports of unprovoked attacks on humans.

On the other hand

Let's not forget that coyotes have an

important role in the urban ecosystem. They are predators of goose eggs, squirrels, mice, rabbits, rats, gophers, and other small animals.

Take action

- To learn more about Pasadena's Urban Wildlife Management Plan, which includes a yard-audit checklist, visit tinyurl.com/47z4nbnh.
- To report a coyote sighting, visit tinyurl.com/4r3xn9r7. Click on "Animals," and select "Coyote Sighting/Nuisance Report"; or call (626) 744-7311.
- To report sick or injured wildlife, call or text (preferred) the Pasadena Humane wildlife helpline at (626) 344-1129 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. *Note: Although Pasadena Humane does not typically respond to calls about normal wildlife behavior, all calls are recorded and documented.*



City seeks feedback on new bridge-barrier options

By Dave Bise
Director, WPRA

The City Department of Public Works hosted a community engagement webinar on August 29 to share new vertical barrier concepts in development for the Colorado Street Bridge barrier enhancement project.

This is the second round of bridge barrier designs for the public to consider. The City had previously hired Donald MacDonald Architects to develop barrier design concepts.

In the spring of 2021, the City installed full-scale mockup panels at two locations along the Colorado Street Bridge for public viewing. The three designs were later taken down after a consensus could not be reached on a final design and public feedback supported additional design alternatives. Also, many members of the community were concerned that any vertical barrier would detract from the Bridge's historic character-defining features.

Last year, City staff engaged Pasadena Heritage, who partnered with the Southern California chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art (ICAA), to form a working group to develop new design solutions and concepts, which were presented to the Public Safety Committee in September 2022.

After a request for proposals, the City contracted in April with Apexx Architecture for the conceptual design of enhanced vertical barriers. The design team also includes Chattel, a historic-preservation consulting firm, and PacRim Engineering. A working group was also formed consisting of first responders, members of the historic-preservation community, public- and mental-health experts, architects, and engineers to provide input throughout the design process.

At the August 29 webinar, Apexx presented four new preliminary design options:

- Option 1: canted webmesh
- Option 2: vertical cables
- Option 3: metal pickets
- Option 4: vertical webmesh

During the webinar, the Public Works' staff stressed that the concepts presented were preliminary and subject to change. After getting feedback from the public, the design team will further develop the preliminary concepts and return this fall to the community with an update.

Public Works reported that in addition to the barriers,

complimentary measures such as bridge patrols, additional signage, call boxes and motion sensors are also being considered.

It has been six years since the idea of a bridge barrier was first proposed. In June of 2017, the City installed 10-foot-high metal fencing around the benched alcoves on both sides of the bridge as a temporary deterrent. This temporary fencing, although unattractive, has been an effective deterrent in the number of suicides.



“Call for new projects” meeting on Oct. 25

Commission recommends ‘holistic’ approach for CIP

By Luis Rocha,
planning manager
City of Pasadena

Every October Pasadena’s Department of Public Works prepares a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for adoption as part of the City’s budget for each fiscal year. The program is intended to improve the City’s public infrastructure, which could include:

- City buildings and facilities
- Streets and streetscapes
- Street lighting
- Undergrounding electrical systems
- Transportation (roadway, intersections, pedestrian access, bicycling and local transit improvements)
- City parking facilities
- Sewers and storm drains
- Rose Bowl and Arroyo Seco improvements

- Parks and landscaping
- Water and electrical systems

CIP funding

Most projects are funded by State and Federal grants, impact fees and special funds. Receiving public input on the CIP is a crucial piece of the process, to make sure the projects selected align with the community’s needs.

Sources of CIP projects

Project ideas are reviewed against qualifying criteria such as the need to address a safety issue, keep a facility in good repair, or construct new facilities. Proposed projects are sent to the appropriate City department for review and forwarded to the City Manager for possible approval and inclusion in the recommended CIP budget. Those recommendations are sent to a variety of commissions and committees for review.

Commission urges “holistic” approach

The Planning Commission recently discussed the need to take a more holistic approach when reviewing the CIP and making recommendations to Public Works. This includes hosting a public meeting as part of the “Call for New Projects” to help identify projects that should be added to next year’s CIP.

The public meeting for the 2024 fiscal year CIP will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wed., Oct. 25, at Pasadena City Hall in the Council Chambers, Room S249, 100 N. Garfield. Ideas may also be submitted directly through the City’s website.

To submit ideas to the City directly or learn more about the CIP process, criteria and “Call for New Projects”: tinyurl.com/mr2t37a9

City continues to develop ‘objective’ planning standards

By Martin Potter,
Senior Planner
City of Pasadena

In 2019, Senate Bill 330 (the Housing Crisis Act) became law. It specified that local jurisdictions shall not impose or enforce new design standards established after Jan. 1, 2020 for multi-family residential and mixed-use projects, unless the standards are objective.

The State defines objective as “involving no personal or subjective judgement by a public official and being uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion available and knowable by both the development applicant or proponent and the public official.”

In response, the City is developing citywide objective design standards applicable to high-density residential and mixed-use projects, specifically projects with a density greater than 48 dwelling

units per acre. The City has partnered with Moule and Polyzoides, an internationally acclaimed and locally-based architecture and urban planning firm with significant experience in the design and development of residential and mixed-use projects as well as researching and preparing design guidelines.

Currently the City applies objective design standards for a variety of development types, including “City of Gardens” multifamily housing, mixed-use projects, and urban housing development. These standards include massing, frontage, façade, and open-space requirements intended to encourage multi-family building forms that serve as contextually sensitive transitions between low-density single-family structures and higher-density residential and commercial development.

More recently, the City has adopted the updated Lincoln Avenue, East Colorado, and South Fair Oaks specific plans, all of which include new and revised objective

design standards such as building modulation requirements, open-space and context-sensitive standards for projects that are adjacent to a designated historic resource.

The Planning Commission convened a series of workshops throughout the first half of 2023, including two study sessions and a walking tour, all of which were open to the public. The most recent study session occurred in September, during which Moule and Polyzoides staff presented information and sought additional feedback from the Planning Commission and public.

The next steps in the process include the preparation of objective citywide design standards to be presented to the Design and Planning commissions in the future.

For more information about objective design standards, call Senior Planner Martin Potter at (626) 744-6710 or send him an email at mpotter@cityofpasadena.net.

The bridge party came roaring back



Pasadena Heritage's Colorado Street Bridge party returned on July 15 after a five-year hiatus. By all accounts this year's party was a huge success. *Photo by Camille Stemmons*

*By Sue Mossman
Executive Director
Pasadena Heritage*

Pasadena Heritage's signature event on the Colorado Street Bridge returned on July 15 after a five-year hiatus. By all accounts it was a huge success. A crowd of nearly 4,000 occupied the bridge and Defenders Park for live music, activities for kids, drinks, festive foods, and a display of rare and vintage cars. Many thanks to WPRA for being a sponsor of the event, and to all who sponsored and attended as well as our dedicated staff and volunteers who made it all happen! The event will return in July 2025 and resume its traditional every-other-year schedule.

Preservation Pasadena III will focus on Craftsman style

On October 21 and 22, Pasadena Heritage will host its third Preservation Pasadena weekend this year. This time it will focus on the Craftsman movement. Featuring a series of lectures, walking tours, a bus tour and evening events, the weekend will explore different aspects of this popular style from the early 20th century. *For a complete schedule of events and tickets, visit the Pasadena Heritage website: pasadenaheritage.org.*

Historic furniture factory now has a future

The Swanson & Peterson Furniture factory building on Sunnyslope Avenue at Walnut Street in east Pasadena has been the subject of concern for months as a new Porsche dealership was planned for the site. In September, Rusnak, Pasadena's long-standing luxury car dealer, announced that after taking community concerns into account, it had found a way to save the historic brick daylight factory and incorporate it into their plans. Pasadena Heritage is very grateful for Rusnak's consideration, and believes that this early industrial building — the best local example of its type we have found in Pasadena — will add character and interest to the new project and keep history alive. Swanson & Peterson were master carpenters who worked on Greene & Greene homes and then created their own furniture design and manufacturing business which flourished on this site for decades.

Caltrans houses to be sold to City

A batch of homes in the 710 corridor will likely be sold at market value to the City of Pasadena by Caltrans by the end of this year. Through special legislation, the City will acquire the houses and work with Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate several of them as affordable housing. The rest will be sold at market value and

be used to support additional affordable housing within the city. Some are in decent condition, but many will need substantial rehabilitation. Most of the homes in the corridor are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, nominated in recent years by Pasadena Heritage to provide at least some protections for them as they return to private ownership. The area south of California Boulevard, along St. John and Pasadena avenues, is also designated as the Gov. Markham Landmark District, an effort spearheaded by WPRA board member Mic Hansen, which offers them additional protections.

Bridge barrier fence design moving forward

The new design team hired by the City to again tackle the challenge of designing a new barrier along the Colorado Street Bridge is making progress. Working with the Public Works Department and a task force including Pasadena Heritage, Apex Architects have developed four new options to consider. A public outreach meeting was held virtually in August, and another session is planned for this fall to show the community what is being considered and gather input on the options developed so far. *For more information and to see conceptual drawings, visit website at: tinyurl.com/ymhajmwz*

A thank-you and reminder!

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 made contributions of \$100 or more that were received between **July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023**. 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 in this issue an envelope. Just insert (1) the completed form on the envelope flap and (2) a check (made out to the 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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Ben and Carrie Harr	Joyce McGilvray	Penny Schopflin	

Tree of the quarter

Callistemon citrinus – lemon bottlebrush



The bottle brush is a small evergreen tree with a rounded canopy.

By Emina Darakjy
President, California Urban Forests Council

The bottle brush is native to eastern Australia and belongs to the Myrtaceae family. The name *callistemon* is derived from the Greek word meaning “beautiful stamen,” and its common name, bottle brush, is attributed to its flowers that resemble bottle cleaners.

It is a small evergreen tree with a rounded canopy and grows to a maximum height of 25 feet with an equal spread making it a good choice for planting underneath

powerlines. The leaves are narrow, light green, simple, alternate and emit a lemon scent when crushed.

In the spring to early summer and scattered times throughout the year, the tree’s explosion of clusters of brush-like bright red flowers with a nectar attracts all kinds of birds and bees.

The fruit comes in the form of dark woody capsules that follow the flowers and tend to stay on the tree for a long time. These capsules contain small seeds that are irresistible to wildlife.

The bottle brush is a tough tree with no known pests or diseases. It tolerates many soil conditions, but does better in well-drained soil. It prefers a direct sun, but can also do well in partial shade. It grows easily and only requires an occasional light pruning, when needed.

There are many species and cultivars in the bottle-brush family. The two most commonly planted ones in our area are the *Callistemon viminalis*, which has is very

distinctive look due to its weeping form, and the *Callistemon citrinus*, which is described in this article. The bark of the bottle brush is light gray, furrowed and tends to peel off.

For all these reasons, the bottle brush tree is well suited for planting in a parkways and medians. Damage to sidewalks from its roots is minimal. This tree is also deer-resistant, if this is a concern in your area.

Due to its stunning display of vivid red flowers that last for a very long period of time, the *Callistemon citrinus* is a very popular tree to plant as a single trunk or as a shrub. Some people may object to the litter caused by its flowers when they drop, but I view this as a sign of a “living tree” doing what it’s supposed to do.

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.



The tree is covered with an explosion of clusters of brush-like bright red flowers.

BRIEFLY

THE FEBRUARY 2023 RAINSTORMS

DAMAGED two areas in the Arroyo Seco stream. The first is at the intake structure that captures stormwater to be infiltrated at the Arroyo Seco spreading basins. The second is about 1,500 feet further north in the canyon near the City's headworks structure, where the Gabrielino Trail and the dirt road were washed out. Source: *Pasadena Water and Power*

PASADENA WATER AND POWER

RELEASED its 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on Water Quality. Pasadena's water supply meets all drinking water quality standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board. *For answers to questions or to request a hard copy of the report, call (626) 744-7954. Source: City of Pasadena*

ARLINGTON GARDEN CELEBRATED ITS 18TH ANNIVERSARY

on Oct. 8. The garden party honored former City Manager Cynthia Kurtz and Arlington's founding board member George Brumder. Arlington Garden was created in 2005 on a staging ground for the 710 freeway by the late Betty and Charles "Kicker" McKenney. Source: *Pasadena now*

A JUDGE IN MONTANA HAS RULED

that young people in the state have a constitutional right to a healthful environment, finding in a landmark case that the state's failure to consider climate change when evaluating new projects was causing harm. Source: *The New York Times*

THE CALIFORNIA FOREST PEST

COUNCIL REPORTED elevated levels of tree mortality on more than 2.6 million acres, totaling an estimated 36.3 million dead trees. The majority of trees killed were firs, followed by ponderosa pines and Douglas firs. Mortality was particularly severe and widespread in the central Sierra Nevada range. Most of the tree mortality can be attributed to drought or bark beetle attacks that have resulted in more than 200 million trees killed since 2010. Source: *Pasadena Star-News*



Fountain Grass is an invasive species that spreads prodigiously with seeds that can remain viable in soil for seven years. It can outcompete native plants, and it dries up in the summer creating fuel for fires and contributing to a fire's growth and spread.

Growing resilience

How native plants protect our communities from fire

by John Howell

Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel,
Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy

With the fire season upon us in Southern California and wildfires becoming more unpredictable and threatening every year, looking to native plants can illuminate paths forward and enhance our capacity to withstand and recover from fires.

Fire has been a natural component of Southern California's ecology forever and is an important element that restores and supports the health of the land and its many species. However, wildfires have increased in frequency and intensity due to climate change, the loss of traditional ecological knowledge-based land management, and land development that has almost exclusively favored non-native plants over those more accustomed to fire.

Practices that begin right in our backyards can reduce the devastation to property and lives and to our adjoining natural habitat and wildlife communities. One real opportunity is planting natives. The diverse species of Southern California's native flora have evolved over centuries to thrive in this specific environment and have invaluable qualities for fire protection.

Many invasive species such as acacias and eucalyptus; and grasses like bromes, wild oats, ryegrass, ornamental pampas grass and fountain grass act almost as arsonists. They can spread fire prodigiously, often escaping from residential plantings and seeding themselves into wild habitat. They

outcompete and burn hotter and faster than native plants.

Though there is no fireproof plant, native plants stay hydrated, shed minimal litter, and are able to intercept flying embers en route to homes. Many have deep roots that protect against landslides — even if the above-ground foliage is lost to fire. Planting lush, leafy native plant landscapes can protect human health, expand wildlife habitat, and save and clean our water.

In addition to the species you plant, how and where you plant them can be crucial. While invasive and arsonist species should be removed everywhere. Replace them by planting with native species, such as California buckwheat, lemonade berry, monkey flower, and manzanita.

Having native trees, like coast live oaks, with dense canopies on outer peripheries of properties can prevent embers from landing on homes. Fire-proof your home by clearing flammable debris within five feet of your house.

Although where wildfires start is out of our control, we can collectively protect our environment by making these landscaping choices and encouraging our neighbors to do the same.

Native plants offer a hopeful and accessible solution to mitigate the threat of wildfires, and when the fire season ends, provide invaluable benefits in supporting wildlife populations and preserving the natural balance of our beautiful ecosystem.

Opinion:

Support expansion of San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to include the Arroyo Seco

By Tim Brick
Executive director
Stewards of the Arroyo Seco

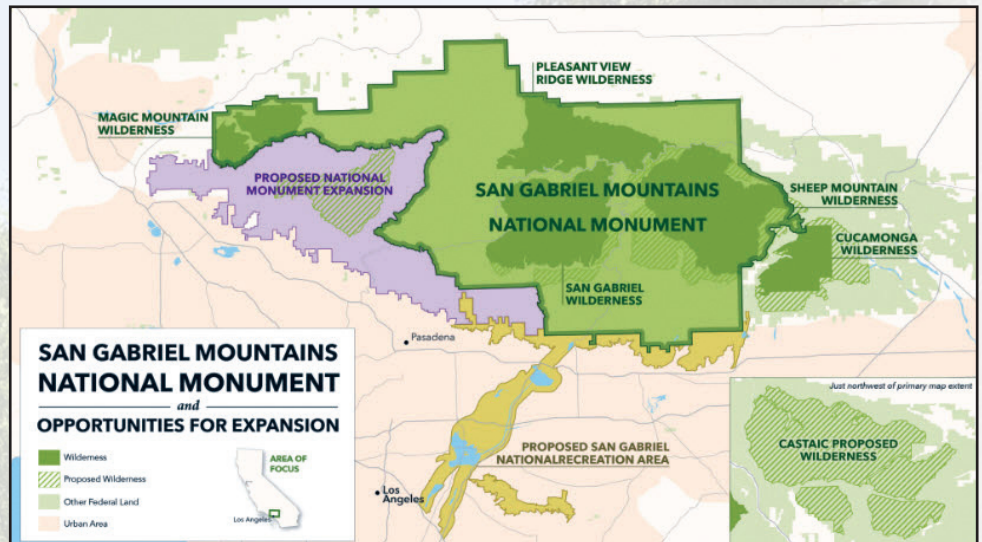
When the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (SGMNM) was established nine years ago, most supporters thought that the Arroyo Seco and other treasures of the San Gabriel Mountains and the Angeles National Forest would be included in the monument territory.

Imagine my surprise when I discovered that the Arroyo Seco had been left out of the monument at the last minute, along with more than 100,000 acres on the west side and front range of the San Gabriel Mountains. Many of the most treasured gems of the range were excluded, including Tujunga Canyon and the upper watershed of the Los Angeles River.

After the monument was established, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) asked me to serve on the Community Collaborative established to support the monument. Why would I want to be on the collaborative for a monument that does not include the Arroyo Seco? Only to ensure that the areas of the national forest outside of the monument territory would not be given short shrift.

That collaborative, which I have served since 2015 has provided an important forum for communities to improve the management and appreciation of the mountains and the Angeles National Forest. The monument has developed a comprehensive management plan and some additional public support for the mountains. As a result, the monument and collaborative now work together with the U.S. Forest Service and the other communities and stakeholders who share a concern for the health of the forest.

I encourage local residents and communities to support the expansion of the monument to include the Arroyo Seco and the other neglected areas. Assuming



Members of Congress and others have proposed expanding the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by 109,167 acres including the Arroyo Seco. *Map by the Wilderness Society*

U.S. Rep Judy Chu's bill to expand the monument will again fail to pass, I encourage you to ask President Biden to use his authority under the Antiquities Act.

The San Gabriel Mountains are faced with unprecedented challenges and inadequate resources. Fires, such as the Bobcat and Station fires, have ravaged the mountains and destroyed stream and wildlife conditions. There are numerous artificial barriers to fish and wildlife, most notably Brown Mountain Dam in the Arroyo Seco. More than 4.5 million people visit the mountains each year, putting an enormous strain on the forest.

Twenty years ago, the Arroyo Seco was one of five ranger districts in the Angeles National Forest. Today it is a neglected piece

of the Gateway District, the name for the Angeles National Forest territory that is not part of the monument. Pasadena and local communities have an important stake in the San Gabriel Mountains. The Arroyo Seco Watershed has suffered because of this neglect. Expanding the monument will be an important step to improve forest management.

The San Gabriel Mountains are a formidable reminder of how close we are to nature and how important is our responsibility as stewards. Let's take this opportunity to renew our support for better management of the Arroyo Seco and the entire Angeles National Forest for today and for future generations. *[Editor's note: This article originally posted on Aug. 1 on the Pasadena Now website.]*

Political muscle flexing for expansion of monument

Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo joined U.S. Senator Alex Padilla; U.S. representatives Judy Chu, Tony Cardenas and Adam Schiff; and L.A. County Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger; and Native

American leaders, to call on President Biden to add 109,000 acres of public lands, including the Arroyo Seco, to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*

BRIEFLY

REFLECTING ON THE RECENT DISASTER IN LAHAINA, MAUI, Fire Chief Chad Augustin suggested that the Hawaiian debacle should be a timely reminder to us of the risks, including rapidly spreading wildfires and no-notice events such as earthquakes, our community faces every day. *Source: City of Pasadena*

THE PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY HAS LAUNCHED a new adult digital service, Career Online High School. The online service can lead to a high school diploma and career certificates through the Pasadena Public Library website. Prospective students enroll in a two-week prerequisite course. Once this is completed, students follow a self-paced online course of study for 18 months. *Source: City of Pasadena*

THE CITY OF PASADENA HAS AWARDED \$187,999 in grants to 29 local arts and culture programs and projects for fiscal year 2024. The annual grants, approved by the City's Arts and Culture Commission, range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 and support a variety of artistic disciplines. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE PASADENA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (PCF) HAS AWARDED \$335,000 in grants to 18 local nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. The funding provides flexible support to help address ongoing challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. The foundation has more than 500 grants totaling more than \$3 million. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM reported that book circulation declined in June 2023 by 7.03%, as compared to the same month the previous year. Also, the system's year-to-date circulation declined by 3.58% decrease in 2022-2023, as compared to the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Among the nine branches listed in the report, Linda Vista witnessed the steepest decrease in monthly circulation with a decline of 74.04% from 3,278 to 851 items. *Source: Pasadena Now*



San Rafael Elementary School campus

PUSD board infrastructure vote clouds San Rafael's future

By Mark Mastromatteo
Director, WPRA

In a key Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education vote on Sept. 7, the board agreed 6-1 to fund major infrastructure projects at Muir High School, and Madison and Longfellow elementary schools, totaling roughly \$240 million.

While up to \$300 million may be available for future major PUSD school site projects from the recent bond measure, PUSD, according to sources, will not commit to additional projects of this scale for at least three years, until one or more of these current projects are completed.

So where does this leave San Rafael Elementary School?

The latest estimate of the cost to remodel San Rafael is between \$50-\$70 million. The Sept. 7 vote would tend suggest that west Pasadena's only remaining PUSD school will not be funded for infrastructure upgrades in the near future. With its campus in major disrepair, this decision could imperil the future of the elementary school, possibly even forcing its closure.

Parent groups at the school have been beating the drum in recent months at the board meetings that the electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling systems are deteriorating. While the board did vote to fund a relatively small amount toward safety

“The latest estimate of the cost to remodel San Rafael is between \$50-\$70 million. The Sept. 7 vote would tend suggest that west Pasadena's only remaining PUSD school will not be funded for infrastructure upgrades in the near future.”

fixes in all schools, that funding offers nothing of the scale needed at San Rafael, west Pasadena's last public school.

While some on the board contend that there are still scenarios under which remodeling at San Rafael could be funded, others— including District 7 PUSD Board of Education Trustee Dr. Yarma Velázquez— worry that this could signal the end of PUSD schools in west Pasadena. They cite the precedent of Linda Vista Elementary's 2006 closure and subsequent status as unused property in a state of disrepair, and fear that San Rafael Elementary may also be destined for abandonment.

Over the next several months, the projects at the three prioritized PUSD schools will come into clearer focus, which may help or hinder San Rafael's chances going forward.

BRIEFLY

THE ROSE BOWL LEGACY FOUNDATION HAS ANNOUNCED that Christopher Beltran, Denise Melone, Jodi Shoemake and Jim Plutchak will join the foundation's board of directors and advisory board. *Source: Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation*

THE ROSE BOWL LEGACY FOUNDATION HAS PROMOTED two members of its staff: Brian Brantley to vice president of advancement, and Kelli Gill to director of Advancement and Stewardship. Brantley has been with the foundation since 2018. Gill joined the foundation team in 2021. *Source: Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation*

THE PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS RECENTLY HONORED by the American Heart Association for excellence in cardiac care. *Source: City of Pasadena*

PASADENA CHILD HEALTH FOUNDATION, a Pasadena Community Foundation fund, awarded a \$75,000 grant over three years to the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center. The grant will help support the Center's water-safety program, which provides PUSD's 3rd-grade students with 15 swim lessons. *Source: Rose Bowl Aquatics Center and Pasadena Now*

PASADENA WATER AND POWER HAS LAUNCHED a new e-bike rebate pilot program. The \$500-\$1,000 rebates will apply to new Class 1, 2 and 3 e-bikes purchased at Pasadena retailers. Scooters, mopeds, Segways and e-bike conversion kits do not qualify. *Source: Pasadena Weekly*

PASADENA'S GROWING HOMELESS COMMUNITY will soon have safer places to stay overnight thanks to recent zoning changes that permit overnight parking at religious institutions in nonresidential areas and at mass-transit stations and colleges located within a specific plan area or within a half-mile of a light-rail station platform. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*

THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (USPS) IS CURRENTLY HIRING full-time mail handling and carrier positions in Pasadena. More than 500 more positions are open in Los Angeles County. Hourly wages range from \$18.22 to \$21.17 and with varying shifts and days off. *Source: Pasadena Now*



ESL student volunteers from PCC at a monthly free food distribution program at Pasadena Senior Center. Photo by Renee Uriarte

PCC ESL students provide valuable services to Pasadena Senior Center

By Ann Erdman
Public Relations Consultant

Pasadena City College offers free English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at its Community Education Center where immigrants from many countries improve their English skills so they can pursue academic, vocational and personal goals.

They come from Asian and Hispanic/Latino countries and many others. ESL students, most of whom are in their 40s and 50s, have volunteered at the Pasadena Senior Center since 2018, assisting with the monthly food distribution program, annual Pasadena Senior Games and occasional holiday celebrations. Some share the rotating responsibility of serving as lead volunteer coordinator.

They experience new learning opportunities every time they come to the Pasadena Senior Center. According to Carolyn Corrie, faculty chair and assistant professor, the first student who volunteered in 2018 for the Thanksgiving celebration, which included a traditional meal, did not know the word "gravy" when an attendee asked for more.

This year's Thanksgiving celebration – \$15 for PSC members and \$20 for nonmembers of all ages – is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 23, at noon and features a traditional meal and live music.

China-born Echo Guo served as the lead student volunteer coordinator from April

2022 to August 2023. "Volunteering has helped me feel more confident using English in real-life situations," she says. "It has also been a good opportunity to learn more about seniors and American cultures, especially how to communicate with each other."

The feeling is mutual. Older adults at the Pasadena Senior Center say they appreciate the assistance of the ESL volunteers, enjoy interacting with people from other countries and help them with English words and phrases (such as "gravy").

For more information about PCC's noncredit ESL courses, visit curriculum.pasadena.edu and click on Noncredit Division, then English as a Second Language. For more information about the Pasadena Senior Center, visit pasadenaseniorcenter.org or call (626) 795-4331.

City Council identifies topics for charter amendment discussions

The City charter is a legal document that outlines the organization, powers, functions, and essential procedures of the city government.

Council has shown interest in amending the appointment process to fill a vacancy, the role of the vice mayor, the ability to call special elections to fill an unanticipated council vacancy, City Council term limits, and timing of mayoral and council election. *Source: Pasadena Now*

Carmelita: The legacy of Pasadena's horticultural haven

By Jenny Goodwin
Research assistant, Pasadena
Museum of History

Early Pasadena thrived as an agricultural community, where settlers often cultivated beautiful gardens alongside their citrus groves. One of the first and most famous Pasadena gardens was the creation of Mrs. Jeanne Carr, wife of Dr. Ezra Carr, a distinguished physician and professor at the University of Wisconsin.

The Carrs relocated from Wisconsin to Oakland in 1869, first visiting Pasadena in 1876. In 1877, they purchased a 42-acre plot along W. Colorado Boulevard, between S. Orange Grove Boulevard and S. Fair Oaks Avenue, for \$3,000.

Jeanne immediately began transforming the weedy terrain into what would become a remarkable garden, and in 1883 constructed a grand home for \$7,000. Instead of fences, she installed hedges around the perimeter of the property and named the garden Carmelita. "Carmel," she said, "means a grove, and I will make it thick here with trees." By the mid-1880s, Jeanne had cultivated more than 1,000 citrus trees, 200 nut trees, 50 varieties of grapes, and many other trees and exotic plants.

However, financial losses forced her to sell her unprofitable citrus groves and transform her grand home into a boarding house, which was frequented



Jeanne and Ezra Carr seated in the garden at Carmelita. Photo from Pasadena Public Library H9-1B Carr home.jpg

by intellectuals and luminaries. Notable among the Carrs' friends and boarders were naturalist John Muir, with whom Jeanne corresponded for a quarter-century, offering advice and encouragement for his writings; and Helen Hunt Jackson, who was said to have written a portion of "Ramona," an immensely popular historical-romantic novel, in a small log cabin on Carmelita's grounds. This claim, however, was later discredited.

In 1892, worsening finances ultimately forced the Carrs to sell the house and

remaining gardens to Simeon G. Reed, an Oregon millionaire, and his wife Amanda. Although Reed intended to preserve the gardens and build a new residence, he died in 1895 before construction could begin. Subsequently, Amanda oversaw the project and lived in the new home until her death in 1904.

Over the following years the property changed hands several times. By 1922, a movement emerged to acquire Carmelita and dedicate it to the City as a public park. An agreement was brokered, and the Reid Home was repurposed as a home base for the Pasadena Art Institute. In 1941, the land was formally bestowed to the City. Over the ensuing years, Carmelita Park served various roles, including housing a Red Cross office and a miniature golf course.

The Reid home and Carmelita Park were leveled in 1968, replaced by what would become the Norton Simon Museum. While the physical remnants have vanished, the spirit of the original Carmelita gardens lives on in the museum's sculpture garden.



Carmelita House, with guests on the lawn and on horseback.



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