



# THE NEWS

Pasadena, California

Celebrating 62 years  
of community service

Spring 2024

WPRA IN MOTION

CITY IN MOTION

LAND USE/PLANNING

OPEN SPACE/NATURAL RESOURCES

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY

WPRA MEMBERS IN MOTION

## WPRA sets date for 62nd annual meeting

# Reconnecting Pasadena: Mobility, transportation, opportunity in 710 corridor

The West Pasadena Residents' Association invites you to attend its 2024 annual meeting on **Thursday, June 6, 5-8:30 p.m.**, in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge #672, 400 W. Colorado Blvd.

This year's meeting is especially notable for at least three reasons:

1. The meeting comes at a most propitious time. The City has begun to draft a comprehensive plan to reclaim the 50+ acres Caltrans appropriated by eminent domain 60 years ago for its now-defunct plan to expand the 710 freeway between Pasadena and El Sereno.
2. It marks the WPRA's 62<sup>nd</sup> year of continuous service to the residents of west Pasadena.
3. The lodge, which was built in 1911, has just recently completed a major interior renovation that includes a new entrance, ballroom, ballroom bar and fireside room.

### 5-5:30: Lodge tours

Lodge members will be on hand to conduct tours of the recently renovated interior. Each tour will take about 15 minutes.

### 5:30-6:15 p.m.: Meet and greet

The evening will start with an information fair (and sweet treats) featuring representatives from multiple City agencies, and community groups and organizations. We've invited them to use this time to exhibit their services, programs and initiatives.

Additionally, you can learn from and share your thoughts and ideas with a number of our local, county and state elected and appointed figures we've invited to join us.

### 6:15-6:30 p.m.: Election and recognition

The main program begins, as is customary, with the Presentation of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance as well as recognition of special guests.

WPRA members will then elect WPRA directors for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and hear remarks from the WPRA president and other announcements.

### 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Main program:

"Reconnecting Pasadena: Mobility, transportation and opportunity in the 710 Corridor"

Sixty years after Caltrans began the effort to connect the 710 freeway, the project was terminated and the 50 acres

## Save the date

### What:

WPRA 2024 annual meeting

### When:

Thursday, June 6, 2024

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### Where:

Elks Lodge #672  
400 W. Colorado Blvd.

Free parking is available in the parking lot to the west of the lodge.

of land occupied by the "710 stub" were returned to the City. We are now entering a decades-long process to reconnect Pasadena by creating a vision and development plan for the stub, one that meets the needs of west Pasadena Stub corridor constituents, as well as those of the entire City.

The 710 corridor IS west Pasadena. Because of what was done, for over six decades west Pasadena has had to contend with high traffic volumes and cut-through traffic, closed streets, gridlock, unsafe sidewalks, disrupted and blighted neighborhoods, and decades of subsequent neglect of this area — all resulting from the building of the stub.

### Now comes the hard part

We have a once-in-a-lifetime, difficult and complex opportunity to reconnect the west Pasadena 710 corridor. Creative thinking and forward vision to, among other roles, address mobility and

Continued on page 6

## West Pasadena Residents' Association



# Thanks for two great years

By Evan Davis  
President, WPRA

As my second year as president comes to an end, it seems appropriate to take this opportunity to share with you some of the important work we've focused on over the past couple of years.

**SCOPING AND DEVELOPING PLANS TO RECLAIM, RECONNECT AND REDEVELOP THE 710 CORRIDOR.** We are actively engaged with the citizens' commission and the City's various consultants regarding reconnecting the neighborhoods scarred by Caltrans' ill-conceived 710 stub project.

**RECOGNIZING OUR AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTAGE AND HELPING TO MITIGATE THIS COMMUNITY CHALLENGE.** WPRA scrutinized various proposals and endorsed those that made sense for us and Pasadena as a whole.

**HELPING TO SUPPORT THE LAST REMAINING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN OUR SERVICE AREA.** The WPRA often donates funds to specific San Rafael Elementary School projects and advocates to ensure the school's continued success.

**EDUCATING OUR MEMBERS ABOUT STATE LEGISLATION THAT ADVERSELY IMPACTS OUR ABILITY TO MANAGE OUR OWN GROWTH.** Unfortunately, the State has stripped away from its cities much local control over growth, but areas of advocacy remain, and we'll never give up the fight for more local control.

**MONITORING ROSE BOWL STADIUM ACTIVITIES.** We called out the Rose Bowl's handling of dangerous fireworks at a professional soccer game and its "approve first and plan later" approach to a new mini golf course and expanded driving range at Brookside Golf Course.

**ENSURING THAT DEVELOPMENT IN HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS FITS INTO THE EXISTING DESIGN CONTEXT.** The WPRA made our voices heard on projects that were inconsistent with their surroundings,

as context matters in design.

**URGING CITY COUNCIL TO FIND WAYS TO REDUCE NOISE AND TRAFFIC POLLUTION.**

We received an increasing stream of complaints about noise and traffic, and have made appropriate City and police officials aware of our concerns and proposed solutions.

**PARTICIPATING IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE COLORADO STREET BRIDGE OPTIONS TO REDUCE SUICIDES.** Based in part on our concerns, the City has sent consultants back to the drawing board to propose changes that are both effective at reducing suicides, yet harmonious with the original design.

Thanks for supporting the WPRA. It has been my great honor to lead the WPRA over the past two years.



Evan Davis

## About us

### 2023 – 2024 officers

**President: Evan Davis**  
[president@wpra.net](mailto:president@wpra.net)

**Vice President: Pete Ewing,** Land Use and Planning  
[vp@wpra.net](mailto:vp@wpra.net)

**Treasurer: Blaine Cavena**  
[treasurer@wpra.net](mailto:treasurer@wpra.net)

**Secretary: Kenyon Harbison**  
[secretary@wpra.net](mailto:secretary@wpra.net)

### 2023 – 2024 board of directors

- Dan Beal
- Dave Bise, Public Services
- Mic Hansen
- Joan Hearst
- Carlos Javelera, Public Safety
- Susan Kinney
- Rick Madden
- Mark Mastromatteo

- Lee Wallace
- Linda Zinn ([membership@wpra.net](mailto:membership@wpra.net))  
Membership, Open Space & Conservation

### 2023 – 2024 WPRA Advisory Board

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

## THE NEWS

The News is mailed each quarter to more than 9,000 homes and businesses in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes and beyond.

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Visit our website at [wpra.net](http://wpra.net)  
Visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/westpasadena](https://facebook.com/westpasadena)

**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.

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.

**W**ITH ONE EXCEPTION (**COUNCIL DISTRICT 2**), mayoral and City Council incumbents easily won reelection in the 2024 Pasadena Primary Election on March 15. Also, three City Charter amendments measures won by considerable margins. The following are the unofficial results of local Pasadena races as of March 11, 2024. A red asterisk [\*] signifies winner/approval. For more current results, visit [LA County Election Results website](#).

| Mayor   | Votes          | %     |
|---|----------------|-------|
| Victor Gordo (incumb.)  | <b>*26,568</b> | 82    |
| Allen Shay  | 5,999          | 18    |
| Council District 1  | Votes          | %     |
| Tyron Hampton (incumb.)   | <b>*3,480</b>  | 100   |
| Council District 2  | Votes          | %     |
| Rick Cole   | <b>*3,168</b>  | 60    |
| Felicia Williams (incumb.)  | 2,131          | 40    |
| Council District 3  | Votes          | %     |
| Two-year term ending Dec. 7, 2026   |                |       |
| Justin Jones (incumb.)  | <b>*1,672</b>  | 55    |
| Brandon D. Lamar  | 1,360          | 45    |
| Council District 4  | Votes          | %     |
| Gene Masuda (incumb.)   | <b>*3,947</b>  | 66    |
| Jonathan Horton   | 1,461          | 25    |
| John Doyle  | 534            | 9     |
| Council District 6  | Votes          | %     |
| Steve Madison (Incumb.)   | <b>*5,566</b>  | 100   |
|   | Yes            | No    |
| <b>Measure R</b>  | <b>*28,517</b> | 3,666 |
| Requires City's accounting method to align with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for greater financial transparency, public accountability          |                |       |
|   | Yes            | No    |
| <b>Measure S</b>  | <b>*27,206</b> | 4,268 |
| Requires City Council to set limits by ordinance for contracts, purchases and claims approvals  |                |       |
|   | Yes            | No    |
| <b>Measure T</b>  | <b>*28,317</b> | 3,361 |
| Enables the City to create alternative contract selection methods for bids and capital improvements for greater efficiency, transparency and accountability |                |       |

#### CITY MANAGER MIGUEL MÁRQUEZ HAS APPOINTED

Joaquin Siques as director of the City's Department of Transportation. Siques began his career with the City almost 20-years ago and has advanced through engineering classifications to the position of deputy director of Transportation in 2020.

During this time, he played a critical role in implementing many key projects and programs. Siques earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California and a master's degree in transportation engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. *Source: City of Pasadena*

**WITH THE RECENT DEPARTURE** of Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) General Manager Sidney Jackson, City Manager Miguel Márquez has appointed Assistant City Manager David Reyes to serve as acting general manager of PWP while the search continues to find a permanent general manager. Márquez also appointed Finance Director Matthew Hawkesworth to temporarily replace Reyes as acting assistant city manager. *Source: City of Pasadena*

#### PASADENA WATER AND POWER

**ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT** of Jack Miyamoto as its new water quality manager. Miyamoto will oversee the utility's water quality laboratory and ensure Pasadena's water supply continues to meet all regulatory standards. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PHILLIP LECLAIR HAS BEEN NAMED** interim executive director of the City's Rent Stabilization Department. He has served the City for 12 years in the Department of Information Technology. *Source: Pasadena Now*



Joaquin Siques

**THE ROSE BOWL OPERATING COMPANY** RECEIVED A **\$9,000 REBATE** from Pasadena Water and Power for installing hydration stations at the Brookside Golf Club. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS IN 2023** walked more than 5,000 blocks and made more than 25,000 contacts as part of the department's community engagement effort. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*

**PASADENA CENTER OPERATING COMPANY** in the 2023 fiscal year exceeded revenue goals, achieving 118% and generating \$12.9 million in revenue. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA'S PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WISHES** to increase refuse collection fees effective July 1. The new rates would increase by 7% each fiscal year from 2026 through 2029. Currently, residential customers with a 32-gallon refuse cart pay \$16.29 per month. By 2029 the monthly rate will have risen to \$32.46. City Council is expected to consider the request in April. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**CITY COUNCIL'S MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE** has proposed an increase of the current sewer use fee for single-family residences. The average monthly residential sewer user fee would rise from \$4.55 to \$11.37. Rates have not been increased since 2007. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA'S PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM** has launched a year-long 140th anniversary celebration. Each branch will host a month-long celebration. The spotlight turns on San Rafael Branch Library in July and the Linda Vista Branch Library in September. A culminating party is scheduled for November. *Source: Pasadena Now*



# WPRA to City: Stop kicking the car can down the road

By Rick Madden  
WPRA director

**A**t 4:55 a.m. on Feb. 2, a crash awoke the residents of S. Pasadena Avenue and Columbia Street. An SUV had run the south-bound traffic light at the corner, crashed through the bollards (placed there due to prior incidents), took out trees and stopped just 10 feet shy of the wall of a historic property.

Sadly, this event at this location is not unusual. About six-months earlier another car had run into the neighboring property to the west. These are just the most visible of the issues regarding the traffic on S. Pasadena and S. St. John avenues.

Almost exactly 48-years before the latest crash, CalTrans hastily built

the “Wishbone” connector for the convergence of S. Pasadena (one-way north) and S. St. John (one-way south) avenues. The state had won a reprieve from the injunction stopping work on what we now refer to as SR-710, to create an “interim highway” to funnel traffic coming to and from the I-210 freeway.

This approach was not selected because it was the best or fastest route from one end to the other. Rather, it was selected because it matched the route CalTrans and the City had chosen for the now-abandoned plan for a surface or tunnel highway connecting the I-210 freeway in Pasadena to the I-710 in El Sereno.

Even at the time, local newspapers acknowledged that routing the traffic onto S. Fair Oaks Avenue was more appropriate. However, in the words of

one Pasadena official quoted at the time “When the roadway is finished, the problem will be dumped right in the lap of South Pasadena.”

So today, we, in west Pasadena, are faced with a seemingly unending stream of traffic at all hours of the day that runs directly through a residential neighborhood on roads not designed for this level of traffic.

In addition to the frequent accidents at the corner — from vehicles both running into houses and attempting to avoid waiting at the light by making illegal U-turns on Columbia Street — negative impacts have arisen up and down the corridor. Worse, some digital navigation apps suggest that drivers can turn left from W. State Street onto S. Pasadena Avenue. Many drivers blindly follow this advice, which, not surprisingly, often results in accidents.

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# Changes coming soon to the S. Pasadena Avenue corridor

By Rick Madden  
WPRA director

**W**hile the City determines what will become of the SR-710 freeway off-ramps at Del Mar and California boulevards, work is about to begin on a series of multi-modal transportation improvements. The \$85 million project will be funded by the Metro 2022 Measure R program.

In the case of the corridor south of the ditch, plans call for improved sidewalks, bicycle lanes and signal lights to better direct traffic flow.

On S. Pasadena Avenue, between California Boulevard and Columbia

Street, the plan is to build or improve sidewalks and create “Type IV” protected bicycle lanes and concrete sidewalks along the east side of Pasadena Avenue.

In addition, the pace of traffic will be reduced through curb extensions at the Bellefontaine Street and S. Pasadena Avenue intersection, eliminating the right turn onto W. Bellefontaine Avenue just before the intersection. Raised crosswalks will be installed between Huntington Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House and on to Singer Park.

Columbia Street will get painted bicycle lanes, and a median at the intersection of S. Pasadena Avenue and Columbia Street will be added to help the flow of

traffic going into South Pasadena.

## Traffic calming

Clearly these multi-modal improvements will reduce roadway space and traffic speed along this corridor. Experts refer to these changes as “traffic calming.” However, it may seem counter-intuitive that slowing the flow of traffic would calm traffic.

Many are familiar with the concept of “induced demand,” which posits that increasing the number of lanes on a freeway doesn’t reduce traffic since the expanded capacity induces more drivers to take the route. Traffic calming is the inverse of this concept.

If you slow the speed of traffic, you induce drivers to stop taking that route and you reduce the absolute number of vehicles along the roadway.

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# City awards contract for 710 corridor master plan

By Lee Wallace  
WPRA director

For almost 60 years Pasadena has not had access to the 50+ acre parcel that comprises the SR-710 northern stub. For this reason the City had not developed plans for its use. However, since the State recently relinquished the land to the City, the time to develop a comprehensive master plan and specific plan, among others, has come.

After conducting a competitive selection process for firms to help develop a master plan, City Council in January approved a \$2.8 million (including a 20% contingency) bid from the urban design firm of Perkins Eastman.

The primary deliverables of this contract include:

1. Community engagement strategy
2. Restorative justice framework/policy
3. Data collection and existing physical conditions; 3-D modeling survey
4. Economic study/market demand

analysis/development & income opportunities

5. Mobility and circulation analysis
6. Land-use options
7. Climate resilient infrastructure development and services plan

Interim mobility and circulation issues related to the project are already being addressed in the stub transitional project, which was started in 2019 when the Pasadena and Caltrans working group started to examine the transition from “freeway-to-freeway connections” to “freeway-to-local connections” in the area. [For more information, see the related articles by Rick Madden on page 4 in this newsletter.]

Pasadena residents, of course, will have an opportunity to participate in the development of this master plan. Community engagement will get underway this year and will likely include:

- community-wide surveys
- stakeholder focus groups
- community events

- pop-up sites,
- social media
- school outreach

The City is now preparing an internet home page for community engagement on this topic. Also, the WPRA will help keep you informed and alert you to participation opportunities.



Illustration of co-existing multi-modal transportation media on W. Del Mar from the Perkins-Eastman technical proposal

## Briefly

**OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS 1,709 OF THE 1,986 HOUSING UNITS** built in the City have been for affordable housing for low-to-moderate income residents. About 10% of all Pasadena households now live in affordable housing or receive rental assistance. Source: Pasadena Now

**THE AVENUE 64 COMPLETE STREET PROJECT**, focusing on the intersections of Avenue 64 and Burleigh Drive, and Avenue 64 and Cheviotdale Drive, is expected to be completed this summer. The plan calls for construction of a traffic roundabout at the Burleigh Drive and curb extensions at the Cheviotdale Drive intersection. Source: City of Pasadena

**THE PASADENA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**, in conjunction with Pasadena Heritage, unveiled two new

plaques, one at 33 W. Green St. and the other on N. Fair Oaks Avenue near W. Colorado Boulevard, to recognize the contributions of Yuen Kee, Pasadena's first Chinese businessman. Welcomed at first, he faced discrimination as anti-Asian fervor gripped Pasadena. On November 6, 1885, a crowd started a fire that burned down his laundry and two other buildings. The next day, an ordinance banished the Chinese from the city center. Source: Colorado Boulevard

**Homeowners in Los Angeles County can benefit** from a \$7,000 reduction to their home's taxable value. Since 1974, the state's Constitution has given homeowners financial relief from the high cost of housing through a homeowner's exemption. Homeowners who are granted an exemption can see a property tax savings of \$70 annually, and they only need to apply once to receive these savings each

year. Source: Pasadena Now

**THE CITY SERVICE CENTER** (formerly known as the Citizen Service Center) helps Pasadena residents get answers to questions about City programs, services and events. Next time you hit a pothole on your way to work, or notice an abandoned shopping cart on your street, report it in the app [See the QR code on the back page of this publication.] or visit the City's website. Source: City of Pasadena

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ADDED 21,700 REAL ESTATE WORKERS** in the past year, a hiring pace faster than the overall job market. As of November 2023, real estate employees in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties was 803,700. Source: Orange County Register

# Central Library project comes into focus

By Sue Mossman  
Executive Director



**M**uch progress has been made in designing improvements for the Central Library, including critically needed seismic strengthening, improved ADA access and other health and safety improvements. At the same time, the future needs of the library have been studied so that it can better serve Pasadenans for the next 100 years.

Designed by noted local architect Myron Hunt, the Central Library was the first of the three Civic Center buildings to be completed in 1925. Hunt's original design and construction have held up remarkably well for 100 years, but the building is vulnerable to significant damage in a major seismic event, so it is past time to provide reinforcement to keep it and its patrons safe.

It will be a costly project, but the bulk of the money will be used for the seismic work, including new sheer walls to replace unreinforced masonry walls throughout the structure. Pasadena Heritage supports this project and has a representative serving on the Technical Oversight Committee that has reviewed the project every step

of the way. Multiple public outreach sessions have been held to keep the public informed, and we anticipate that the project will go to the Design Commission and City Council for final approvals soon. Funding will be generated through a bond issue on the November ballot.

## FOWLER GARDEN IS NOW PART OF

**MARANATHA.** Maranatha High School purchased the historic Fowler Garden property some time ago and is revising its Campus Master Plan to incorporate the garden. For many years the garden was public open space, but it is now under private control of the school. Its plans for using the garden and proposed changes to the space have raised questions from neighbors living close to the school and from Pasadena Heritage. As an eligible historic resource, the garden needs to be treated with respect and care, and its character-defining features protected. Changes are possible as long as they don't impact the original design. Those living next door to the garden have expressed concerns about the number of activities and events proposed. We hope that Maranatha and its neighborhoods can work out a satisfactory schedule that provides for new uses while respecting the privacy and quality of life for the residents.

## PCC PLANS MULTIPLE DEMOLITIONS.

Pasadena City College is updating its

Facilities Master Plan and projects the demolition of a number of buildings on campus. Pasadena Heritage has raised questions about at least two of the buildings slated for demolition because we believe that the L Building and Harbeson Hall are eligible historic resources and their retention and reuse should be considered instead. We are currently investigating the proposed plans and visiting the buildings in question and are interested in encouraging alternatives. Retention and adaptive reuse are certainly more ecologically beneficial and may be less costly. We look forward to having more information and plan to be involved as this planning continues.

## RETIREMENT DINNER SET FOR SUE MOSSMAN.

Pasadena Heritage's Executive Director Sue Mossman will retire this Spring after 30 years as executive director and 45 years on staff. Sue's leadership has been essential to the organization's growth and effectiveness, and she has many preservation success stories to her credit. A retirement dinner will be held in her honor on Saturday, May 4, at the historic Athenaeum on the Caltech campus, one of Pasadena's most beautiful and well-preserved historic buildings. Sponsorship opportunities are now available for this special tribute event, and invitations will be mailed in early April.

*Continued from page 1*

## Reconnecting Pasadena

connections between neighborhood and communities.

### Starting the process

The WPRA Board of Directors recognized the importance of this opportunity and in 2015 envisioned a plan to accomplish these goals: the Connecting Pasadena Project, or CPP. The CPP was developed by over 300 citizens from throughout Pasadena, supported by internationally acclaimed consultants for traffic, land

use and economics. This is where the City and the lead planners should start. The CPP, of course, needs updating, but the fundamentals remain sound. [To review the CPP final report, visit [wptra.net/connecting-pasadena-project-cpp](http://wptra.net/connecting-pasadena-project-cpp).]

Many competing interests will attempt to guide the decision-making and planning process in ways that will benefit a specific group. We must stay focused, without delay, on the key planning areas that will benefit the neighborhoods and residents of the 710 stub corridor and beyond. The WPRA has ramped up its efforts.

### Let your voice be heard

At this year's annual meeting, we will bring in experts to offer new, creative ideas to correct the 710 stub corridor issues we have lived with for far too long.

They will discuss traffic solutions, land-use ideas and affordable housing possibilities, all to give us an idea as to what can be done.

Please bring your ideas to add to the discussion.



# San Rafael gets high marks for morning 'valets'

By Mark Mastromatteo  
WPRA Director

In the years since PUSD's San Rafael Elementary School has seen its popularity and student population boom, families and neighbors alike have noticed that the traffic around the school has increased significantly. And sometimes that creates problems, particularly at morning drop-off between 7:30 and 8 a.m. on school days.

In the school's long history, it has evolved from a neighborhood school to a successful award-winning dual immersion school. As such, nearly 500 students attend the pre-K through fifth grade classes. And with that success can come some growing pains.

Schools in residential neighborhoods such as San Rafael can struggle with the combination of narrow streets, limited parking, and parents and neighbors clashing in their hurry to get to whatever is next on their agendas.

"We hear complaints from the neighbors every once in a while, and that's typical with a school setting like this" remarked Yarma Velázquez, PUSD Board of Education trustee and San Rafael parent. In fact, the school and its neighbors have

not always been on the best of terms since the days when attendance declined and driving drop-offs became the norm.

To address this situation San Rafael Elementary has developed a morning "valet" program. As many as five members of the school staff stand at the ready on Nihsdale Road to open car doors and usher students of all ages out of cars and into the school. "We are here every morning and sometimes the PTA parents help out" said one of the valets. "We have a rough morning here and there, but all in all things run smoothly."

Also, the school sends emails to parents regularly reminding them not to U-turn after drop off and to respect the parking signs.

Also, since traffic can create a bottleneck at the busiest intersections, the school has limited the number of parking spots available in the immediate area. One side of a portion of Nihsdale, San Miguel and Hermosa roads (behind the school) are designated as no-parking or stopping zones between 7 and 9 a.m., and again between 2 and 4 p.m.

While some area residents who don't have children attending San Rafael may still see traffic and parking as a source of

some irritation, the reality that unless they are in a rush between 7 and 7:55 a.m., school parents and neighbors should be able to get in and out of the without a hitch.



Fourth grader Anaya Rossman, daughter of PUSD District 7 Trustee Yarma Velázquez, receives the now-standard curb-to-classroom service from Ann O'Mara at San Rafael Elementary School. (Photo by Mark Mastromatteo)



## Briefly

**SANDRA V. RIZZO HAS BEEN NAMED PERMANENT PRINCIPAL** of San Rafael Elementary School. She has served the Nihsdale Road elementary school as interim principal since opening day last fall. Rizzo most recently served for 13 years as assistant principal at Marshall Fundamental Secondary School. Overall, she has served Pasadena Unified

School District for 24 years, beginning her PUSD career as a Spanish language and literature teacher. *Source: Pasadena Unified School District*

**THE PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED A FISCAL STABILIZATION PLAN** and second interim budget that includes eliminating nearly 200 positions as the district looks to "rightsize" amid enrollment

declines and financial constraints. The district faces the loss of one-time COVID funding, declining enrollment and a \$38 billion state budget shortfall. Only around 50 employees will be receiving notices that their positions may be cut due to vacancies and reassignments, with the final decision coming in May. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*

**THE PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF**

**EDUCATION** has unanimously approved the drafting of two ballot measures for the November 2024 election: a \$900 million bond and a \$90 annual parcel tax. The bond measure aims to fund upgrades to aging school facilities over a period of 25 to 35 years, while the parcel tax is expected to generate \$5.5 million yearly for eight years to retain staff and expand student services. *Source: Pasadena Now*

# A thank-you and reminder to our members

**T**he WPRA appreciates the financial support we receive from our members. Since it is our only source of funding, we depend on it to achieve our organizational objectives. **The members listed below have contributed \$100 or more during 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](mailto:membership@wpra.net)

## Platinum [\$500+]

|   |                                       |                           |                                     |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Anonymous (1)   | Joe and Dottie Clougherty             | Bob and Kathy Gillespie   | Steve and Kay Onderdonk             |
| Bruce and Judy Bailey   | Paul and Sherrill Colony              | Anneke and Chris Greco    | Terry Perucca and Annette Serrurier |
| Bert and Darrell Banta, given in honor of Mic Hansen and in memory of Len Evans | Jordan Corngold and Susannah Blinkoff | Donald Hall               | Katherine B. Schwarzenbach          |
| Bill Barney   | Richard and Jinny Dalbeck             | Beth Fishbein Hansen      | Joe and Emily Viola                 |
| Mrs. Louise Bhang   | Andre de Salis and Sarah Gavitt       | Carolyn "Cece" V. Horne   | Carl and Peggy West                 |
| David and Nicole Bise   | Robert and Kira DeBlasis              | Sam and Darla Longo       | Brian and Erin Wilson               |
| Bill and Claire Bogaard   | Karl and Stephanie Dencik             | Dick and Mary Mader       | Randy and Judy Wilson               |
| Tom and Karen Capehart  | Barney and Courtney Evans             | Howard and Ilene Marshall |                                     |
|   | Martha Fitzpatrick                    | Teresa B. Nally           |                                     |
|   |                                       | George Newell             |                                     |

## Benefactor [\$250-\$499]

|                                    |                         |                                 |                           |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tom Marble and Pae White           | Wittenberg              | Katherine Solaini               | Nancy and Les Waite       |
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| Don and Suzanne McConnell          | Alfred and Jeanne Paiz  | Roger and Priscilla Stephens    | Susan Wilson              |
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You may also donate securely online using a credit card by visiting [wpra.net](http://wpra.net) and clicking on "Donate," at the top of our home page.

# Can PWP be 100% carbon-free by 2030?

By Tim Brick  
Executive director  
Stewards of the Arroyo Seco

**P**asadena has set an ambitious goal to eliminate 100% of its greenhouse gas emissions from electric generation by 2030. City Council declared a Climate Emergency in January 2023 and ordered Pasadena Water and Power Department (PWP) to end the use of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and gas, by that date. This goal is more aggressive than the state mandate and positions PWP as a leader in clean energy and carbon reduction among utilities in the United States.

Citizen involvement spurred City Council to declare the Climate Emergency and the fossil fuel prohibition. Pasadena 100, a remarkable coalition of determined citizens and community-based organizations, conducted a sustained campaign of advocacy, postcards, petitions, and rallies on the steps of City Hall to promote the 2030 goal until the members of City Council voted unanimously to adopt it. The coalition includes members from JPL scientists and engineers to high school and college students motivated by the urgency of climate action.

In the era of climate change, many utilities across the United States are reducing their use of fossil fuels for electric generation, but only a few have been so ambitious as Pasadena.

In 2021 President Biden issued an executive order that includes a goal for 100% carbon-free electricity by 2030 for federal operations.

In California, the statewide goal is 2045, but Sacramento Municipal Utility District has pledged to achieve zero carbon emissions in electric generation by 2030.

Edison is aiming for 2045, while in Los Angeles the target is 2035.

PWP's strategy includes a mix of renewable energy sources, such as solar, geothermal, and wind as well as battery storage and other clean technologies. The transition to renewables will be costly, but PWP has committed to maintaining reliable power and affordable rates while doing so.

PWP's reliance on coal, its chief source for several decades, will end in 2027. In December City Council ordered PWP staff to complete an optimized reliability plan to finalize the renewable schedule. By going carbonless, PWP will improve local air quality, overall health, and create jobs, contributing to a cleaner and healthier region for all.

We are fortunate to have our own municipal utility, arguably the city's greatest tool to deal with climate change. Since 1905 it has provided impressive benefits to the city, including reliable

service, financing for the Rose Bowl and other city facilities, and revenue for the general fund.

The Pasadena 100 advocates continue to monitor PWP's planning and implementation steps since the Climate Crisis mandate, often frustrated by a perception that their input was not valued.

That's not the way it should be for a municipal utility motivated by Public Power. Public Power utilities are distinguished by local control, not-for-profit status, focus on customers, and the commitment to environmental responsibility.

PWP clearly has an openness and accountability problem that has been aggravated by management turnover, with four PWP general managers in the last three years. Now that the policy goal has been set by the community and City Council, PWP's determination and skill will be critical to meeting the 2030 goal. Si, se puede.

*Continued from page 4*

## WPRA to City

Although the City had in the past often posted police in the area to monitor traffic that assignment seems to have fallen by the wayside. As a result, vehicular speeds have increased, sometimes as much as double the 30 mph posted limit. And let's not forget about the air and noise pollution from a decision made almost 50 years ago.

While many may welcome the upcoming traffic calming measures and the news that the SR-710 plan is officially dead, it's time for CalTrans and the City to rethink the flow of traffic based upon what is most efficient, rather than using it as a weapon by kicking the proverbial can into South Pasadena.

*Continued from page 4*

## Changes coming soon

### How will these changes fit into the SR-710 stub plans?

We don't yet know these changes will fit into the greater project of reconnecting the SR-710 stub corridor, since the City, various contractors and advisory committees have just begun to work on that topic.

It's possible, however, that those decisions may make the work being done south of the ditch unnecessary or inappropriate. Unfortunately, the process for seeking Measure R funding did not align with the timeline of determining the future of the ditch. As a result, the City has taken a "ready, shoot, aim" approach.



## Tree of the quarter Ginkgo tree is one of the oldest living trees

By Emina Darakjy  
President, California Urban Forests  
Council

### Ginkgo biloba

Origin: Southeastern China  
Family: Ginkgoaceae

**T**he Ginkgo biloba is a tall deciduous tree (sheds leaves annually). It grows slowly, but can be as tall as 80 feet and as wide as 40 feet in diameter.

When the tree is young the trunk bark is light gray. As it matures, it becomes darker with irregular furrows. The leaves are flat and fan shaped. They start as bright green in the summer and turn to yellow in the fall before dropping like brilliant golden snowflakes carpeting the ground underneath. It's a beautiful sight to see.

And while Ginkgo flowers are unnoticeable and fragrant, the female

variety produces fruit that looks like small plums, which, when ripe, drop from the tree. Its fruit releases a foul smell when walked on and can be a hazard for slipping. To avoid this nuisance, make sure you plant only male grafted cultivars. Note, however, Asian cultures consider the roasted seed of the fruit a delicacy.

The Ginkgo adapts to any soil conditions; withstands air pollution; is drought tolerant; grows in partial shade, but does better in full sun; and is not recommended underneath power lines.

The Ginkgo can be found here as a street tree, in medians and in parks. When given ample room to grow the tree exhibits wide spreading branches. If space is tight, try and plant something called "Fairmont," which grows in a conical form, or the "Princeton Sentry," which has an even narrower column like shape.

Although it does not require a lot of

maintenance, the Ginkgo can benefit from some light spring pruning, when young, but hardly needs any when mature. Also, it does not have any significant known pest problems and is resistant to oak root fungus.

It's worth noting that the Ginkgo is considered one of the oldest living trees. Research and fossil records show that the Ginkgo trees existed during the Jurassic period nearly 200 million of years ago.

Ginkgo leaf extract is commonly used as a dietary supplement, but no scientific evidence supports human health or is effective against any disease.

*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.*



# Embrace biodiversity by planting native species

by John Howell

CEO Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy

The indigenous plants of California not only contribute to the natural beauty of our region, but are also vital to preserving biodiversity and the health of our ecosystems. It is great that landscaping in Southern California is now focusing on less water, but not all drought tolerant plants are created equal. Native plants' abilities to support native bees, birds, butterflies, and other pollinators far surpass that of plants foreign to this region.

When you bring native plants into your garden you help create sanctuaries for biodiversity. They are uniquely adapted to our region's climate and soil, requiring dramatically less irrigation and maintenance, little if any soil amending, and virtually no chemical interventions.

Here are some natives we see in our Millard Canyon preserve in Altadena.

1. **Black sage** (*Salvia mellifera*), Tongva: Kashiiy. Blooms in the spring and summer with white to pale blue clusters of flowers. The pollen provides an important food source for honeybees. It's drought tolerant, aromatic in spring and summer, and incredibly resilient.
2. **Toyon** (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Tongva: Ashuwet. Often called California Holly, an iconic plant of L.A.: the district of Hollywood was named after it! Toyon has beautiful red berries that attract songbirds in winter.
3. **Bush monkey flower** (*Mimulus longiflorus*), Tongva: Valseku. Has horn shaped flowers with colors ranging from yellow to dark-orange - a favorite of hummingbirds!
4. **Flat-topped buckwheat** (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), Tongva: Wilakal. Pink and white flower heads emerge in spring, then dry to a rust-brown color as the warm season progresses. It adapts to heat

by shedding dry floral material and leaves, which creates a natural mulch for the soil. A great plant for watching bees and butterflies!

5. **White sage** (*Salvia apiana*), Tongva: Paa'or. Only grows naturally between Santa Barbara and northern Baja California. It has been, for millennia, incredibly important in Native American culture. It's green with flowers on spikes, and very aromatic. Bees and hummingbirds

love it, and deer browse on the flowers.

They are wonderful options for your garden. With these plants you'll have a beautiful garden to enjoy, not only for its variety and color, but also for all the butterflies, bees and birds who discover it.



## Briefly

**CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS PASADENA WATER AND POWER'S** request to enter into a \$512 million, 20-year power contract with Southern California Public Power Authority for solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage. PWP has set as a goal sourcing 100% of Pasadena's electricity from carbon-free sources by the end of 2030. [See related article on page 10] Source: Pasadena Now

**LA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS HAS COMPLETED** the second annual maintenance program for Devil's Gate Dam Reservoir. This year's efforts resulted in removal of 90,000 cubic yards of sediment. Source: LA County

**AFTER TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF INCREASES**, the population of Western monarch butterflies wintering along the California coast dropped by

30% over three weeks in November and December. This is 5% of their population numbers from the 1980s, when counts found several million monarchs. Source: LA Daily News

**ABOUT 90% TO 95% OF RAINWATER IN LA COUNTY** is captured behind 14 dams and then slowly released into the Los Angeles and San Gabriel rivers. The captured water pools in 27 permeable "spreading grounds" and percolates into aquifers that serve 200 local water agencies across L.A. County. Source: Pasadena Star-News

**METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT** has a record 3.4 million acre-feet of water in storage, which is enough to meet the future demand of its customers regardless of the weather. The MWD provides Pasadena with about 60% of its water supply. Source: Pasadena Now

# Pasadena 2024 Senior Games set for May–July

Calling all athletes, or even would-be athletes! It's time for the 2024 Pasadena Senior Games, that rollicking event from the Pasadena Senior Center that encourages older adults of all abilities, skills and speeds to participate and get their game on!

This year's games, taking place May–July 2024, have an event or sport for everyone. Sixteen events, including including archery, bowling, cycling, disc golf, pickleball, softball and track and field are planned. Registration for the

Pasadena Senior Games opened on March 21, 2024.

Pasadena Senior Games are open to all adults 50+, and we love having first-time competitors.

You don't have to be an elite athlete to compete, but you may be competing alongside elite and experienced athletes. For the safety of all, and out of respect for your fellow athletes, every participant should be familiar with the rules of their chosen sport(s).

For more information, contact the Senior Games office at [sports@PasadenaSeniorCenter.org](mailto:sports@PasadenaSeniorCenter.org) or (626) 685-6755. And we always need volunteers to help the Games, both in the office and at each event. To volunteer contact Renee Uriarte at [ReneeU@PasadenaSeniorCenter.org](mailto:ReneeU@PasadenaSeniorCenter.org) or (626) 685-6724.

## Have a party. Make a difference.

Looking for a local wedding reception venue? A place to celebrate a life, a birthday, graduation, Quinceanera, or any occasion? The Scott Pavilion, managed by the Pasadena Senior Center, on Raymond, at 85 E. Holly St., can accommodate up to 250 people and includes a catering kitchen, gardens and stage. Scan the QR code to visit its website or call Peter Matus, rentals coordinator for the pavilion and the Pasadena Senior Center, at (626) 685–6754. The income from the pavilion helps fund the senior center, which serves older adults in our community.



We're excited to carry on this tradition of excellence, good sportsmanship and opportunity founded in 1993 by Cynthia Rosedale. Events take place primarily in the Pasadena area. Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals will be awarded in 5-year age categories for each event.

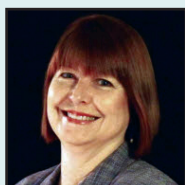
Also, this year Pasadena Senior Center will host qualifying competitions for the National Senior Games in archery, cycling, race walk, road race, swimming, table tennis, and track and field.

## Briefly

**ANDREA RAWLINGS** — architect, chef, artist and Pasadena City commissioner — passed away in December 2023. While working at several architecture firms

she developed a passion for preservation of historic buildings. Rawlings served on several City commissions over 23 years. She is survived by her husband, E.J. Remson.

"It was a great shock to learn of Andrea's sudden passing," said Mic Hansen, WPRA director and current Planning Commission chair. "She was an extraordinary woman:



capable, committed, creative and kind. For more than 20 years, she was a friend and colleague who unstintingly shared her expertise with her community. I had the privilege of serving with her on three different commissions. She valued Pasadena's historic legacy, and worked hard to ensure that it would be preserved for coming generations."

**A RECREATIONAL CITY-OWNED SWIMMING POOL** at which non-White visitors were once allowed to swim only once a week has been renamed after Edna Griffin. Griffin, who led the years-long struggle to desegregate the pool, which was at the site of today's Rose Bowl Aquatics Center, is remembered as a trailblazing voice for civil rights and the first

Black female president of the NAACP's Pasadena Branch, from 1938 to 1947. Rather than comply with the ruling, the City closed the pool entirely until the NAACP forced its reopening with a court injunction in 1947. Source: *Pasadena Star-News*

**THE PASADENA SENIOR CENTER JUST RECEIVED A HUGE HOLIDAY GIFT.** An anonymous donor has given the center \$1.25 million — the largest gift to the community hub in the past 40 years. Some of the funds will be invested in the center's endowment and the rest will support general operations for the next four years.



# 100 years of preserving Pasadena's past

By Jenny Goodwin  
Pasadena Museum of History  
research associate

**1924** was an exhilarating time in Pasadena, marking 50 years since the settlers of the Indiana Colony arrived in 1874, a period that witnessed dramatic transformations in the city's landscape.

Grand plans for the new Civic Center

were well underway, the Rose Bowl had begun hosting its soon-to-be-famous football games, and the Tournament of Roses celebration was already in its third decade. The growth of Pasadena from a little colony of fruit growers to a city with a population of more than 60,000 and a center of art and science, was nothing short of exceptional.

To commemorate the birth of the community, Pasadena embarked on a year-long golden jubilee celebration,

showcasing itself as a leader in every facet of civic development. The celebration committee even encouraged every household in Pasadena to adorn their gardens with blue and gold flowers, chosen as the official colors for the jubilee celebration.

The 1924 calendar was brimming with events, making it an exciting time to be in the city. With everything from evening concerts at The Huntington, Maryland, and Vista Del Arroyo hotels to political

## Pasadena Historical Society

All this year of 1924, the people of Pasadena have been celebrating her fiftieth birthday. Conventions have convened, exhibitions have exhibited, speechmakers have spoken, and a lot of folks have had a good time. But what about Pasadena herself? Has anybody given her a birthday present? Yet, whoever heard of a birthday without a birthday present?

Now, here is your chance to make your fair city a real birthday present—something that she can keep and enjoy for many long years, something that will grow bigger and better every year, something in which everyone can have a share.

This honest-to-goodness birthday present is to be a collection of all the things that you and I and the rest of us are keeping stored away because we think they are of some historical value. All the first settlers here have boxes and trunks and bureau drawers full of fascinating things that other people would like to see when they get to talking about the early history of the city. Think of the books and photographs, maps, scrapbooks, letters, documents, memorandum books, newspapers, old costumes and jewelry, and the like that have been kept because the owners appreciate their value from a historical standpoint. Other people who came here later have similar accumulations relating to more recent years.

Treasures like these are doomed to inevitable loss if no systematic effort is made to preserve them, and many towns and States have formed Historical Societies for that purpose. Not only do these societies collect and display these mementoes of the past, but they conduct researches into dusty archives to dig up interesting incidents, and publish monographs that make up a vast body of invaluable documents.

We now have the opportunity to fall into line with these other towns and State societies, and establish a Pasadena Historical Society. It will be a fitting birthday present for our splendid city.

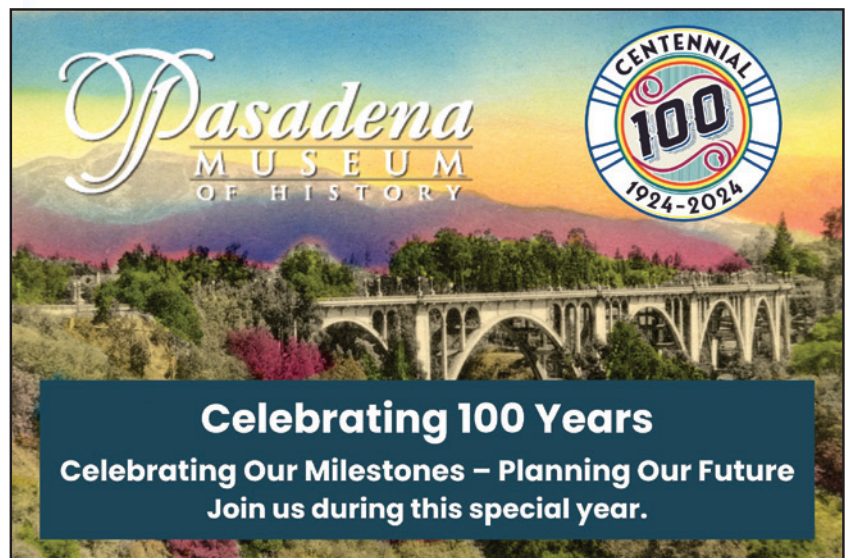
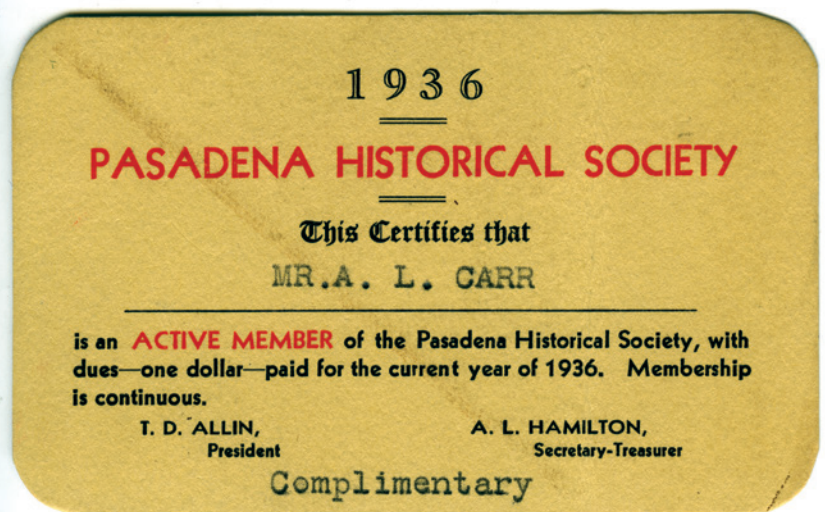
On September 9th there will be a meeting at Carmelita House to organize the Society, and it is thought that a large number of our citizens will be interested in establishing this additional feature of our city. The time to do it is now, while the memory of the early beginning is still in the minds of our founders, and their interesting mementoes of the past are still in a good state of preservation.

You are cordially invited to be a part of this civic enterprise, which is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association. The committee to formulate plans is composed of Thomas D. Allin, Chairman; Geo. A. Damon, Mrs. H. I. Stuart, Geo. P. Whittlesey and John W. Wood.

Organization Meeting, September 9, 1924, 2:30 p. m.  
Park House, Carmelita Gardens

Invitation to 1924 organizational meeting of the Pasadena Historical Society (PMH Archives)

1936 Pasadena Historical Society membership card (PHMD1F9)







Eva Scott Fényes' granddaughter, Leonora Frances Paloheimo, and her husband, Consul George Paloheimo, on the steps of the Fényes mansion during the 1970 dedication of the Pasadena Historical Museum. (PHS51-10)

Leonora Scott Curtin, granddaughter of Eva Scott Fényes, is all decked out for the June 10, 1970 dedication of the Pasadena Historical Museum (PHS 51-12a).



lectures, dog shows, author readings, and art exhibits, the year of the golden jubilee celebration offered something for everyone.

Among the most memorable events was an exhibition sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, featuring over 500 photographs and artifacts of Pasadena's earliest founders. The exhibition's popularity galvanized residents into action, leading to the formation of the Pasadena Historical Society on Sept. 9, 1924.

In a flyer advertising the inaugural meeting of the Historical Society, a bold declaration resonated: "Now, here is your chance to make your fair city a real birthday present... This honest-to-goodness birthday present is to be a collection of all the things that you and I and the rest of us are keeping stored away because we think they are of some historical value.... Treasures like these are doomed to inevitable loss if no systematic effort is made to preserve them."

Despite possessing a collection that merely filled a single filing cabinet at the time, the group embraced an ambitious

stance. They recognized that history is an integral part of our humanity, capable of enriching and deepening our connection with ourselves and our place in the world. Indeed, old places, photographs, and artifacts possess a unique power to stimulate the imagination in ways that reading alone cannot achieve. They serve as tangible links to the past, offering glimpses into bygone eras and fostering a profound sense of connection with the stories and struggles of those who came before us. In preserving and cherishing these relics of the past, the Historical Society, later renamed Pasadena Museum of History, embarked on a noble mission that essentially remains the same today: to collect, preserve, and exhibit materials that documented the founding and early history of the city.

The museum's collection found its initial permanent residence in 1932 within a dedicated room at the newly constructed Pasadena Civic Auditorium. Over time, the collection expanded beyond the confines of this space, prompting a relocation to the Pasadena Public Library. Here, the museum's volunteers also doubled as staff members.

Fast-forwarding to 2024, the museum embarks on its landmark centennial celebration. The current exhibit, titled "Cabinet of Curiosities," running through May 12th, showcases a diverse array of art, photographs, objects, and ephemera representing Pasadena's rich history. These items were meticulously selected by a team of staff volunteers, current staff members, and past curators for their personal significance and uniqueness, echoing the spirit of the historic jubilee exhibition held in 1924.

Mark your calendars for several more upcoming museum events to commemorate this exciting milestone, including "Lights, Camera, Action! Hollywood Magic in Pasadena" (running from June 9th, 2024, to February 9, 2025), the Happy Birthday Pasadena celebration on Sunday, June 9, and the Centennial Gala on Saturday, November 9.

As we look ahead, let us draw inspiration from Pasadena's rich history and continue to celebrate, preserve, and cherish the remarkable legacy of our city for generations to come.



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## Express yourself

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