



# THE NEWS

Pasadena, California

Celebrating 63 years  
of community service

Winter 2025

WPRA IN MOTION

CITY IN MOTION

LAND USE/PLANNING

PUBLIC SAFETY

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY

OPEN SPACE/NATURAL RESOURCES

## CITY TURNS TO AI FOR EMERGENCY EVACUATION MANAGEMENT



This panel of local experts on Nov. 7 convened a meeting to discuss the City's emergency evacuation plans. They are (left to right): Emergency Manager Nallely Procopio, Deputy Fire Chief Tim Sell, Deputy Fire Chief Anthony James, Fire Chief Chad Augustin, Public Information Officer Lisa Derderian, Principal Engineer Nader Asmar (working with fire and police departments for traffic planning/control), Transportation Services Manager Valerie Gibson (coordinating transportation needs), and Police Commander Sean Dawkins. Present, but not in photo, were acting Access & Functional Needs Coordinator Marina Ovanessian, Recreation and Community Services Superintendent Darrell Walker (sheltering), and Recreation and Community Services Administrator Kenneth James (sheltering). Photo for The News by Eddie Rivera, Pasadena Now

**B**ridge, Mountain, Coffee Pot, Happy, Santa Lucia, Frenchman, Garden Lake, Horseshoe, Elk, Little Laya, Wye, Broom Canyon, Cracker Jack, Red, No Man, Clearwater, Halfway, Blue Front and Lucky Butte.

Though they may seem to come from a primary reader or represent vistas from a camper's guide, they are, in fact, names of California wildfires, which, the LA Times suggests, "can be evocative, even poetic ... or not."

Pasadena has been remarkably lucky to have been threatened by only two 10+ acre wildfires over the past 40 years, according to Cal Fire. More specifically, Cal Fire has identified more than 15,000

properties in Pasadena as having some risk of being impacted by wildfire over the next 30 years.

Many of Pasadena's high-risk properties can be found in areas such as Linda Vista, the Arroyo Seco, San Rafael Hills, Altadena, and, of course, the Angeles Forest ... areas otherwise known for their trees, vistas, and narrow winding roads -- a realtor's dream; an emergency planner's nightmare.

To continue the recent discussion of how the City can best manage and refine response to natural emergencies and evacuations, City emergency support teams and residents met on Nov. 7 at Brookside Golf Course. Many of those who attended the meeting

expected an opportunity to address how to reduce risk for residents in the highest risk areas. Instead, much of the meeting was dedicated to the City's turn toward artificial intelligence (AI), which will be put to the test this year.

As actual threats emerge or simulated threats are imagined, City responders will input data such as temperature, humidity and wind speed with the Genasys Protect platform, which is a management tool that helps communities and first responders more effectively plan, communicate and execute evacuations.

*Continued on page 10*

# Let's talk about roundabouts – in theory and practice

By Pete Ewing  
President, WPRA

**M**y first encounter with roundabouts was in Europe in the 70's. Initially, I confess to being a bit frightened, particularly in Italy, but I've grown to appreciate them.

The first roundabout in the U.S. was built in 1790 at Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C. It took more than a century for the second roundabout, this one in New York at what has since been known as Columbus Circle. Since then, the number of roundabouts in the U.S. has grown to more than 13,000.

Pasadena's early attempts at roundabouts were at Glenarm and Los Robles, and another at El Molino. These roundabouts are simply fancy four-way stops. Hardly a success.

Just recently I received a thoughtful note from a local resident who found fault with two of the recent roundabouts in the Avenue 64 area. "The south-bound

lane, which is supposed to slow traffic at Burleigh [Drive], is a joke; it only jogs a couple of feet. It fails in its mission to slow speeders. The work at Cheviotdale [Drive] and Avenue 64 is even worse," he wrote.

"The City made the turn so sharp from Avenue 64 onto Cheviotdale that a normal car cannot make the turn without going into the other lane or running over the curb. Also," he added, "a truck and a car can no longer pass each other on the Cheviotdale entrance."

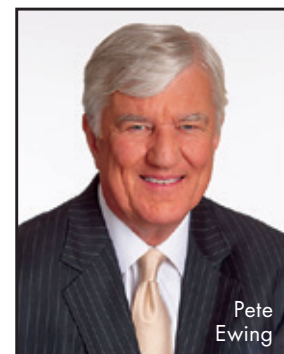
I ran these comments past a friend who is well-versed in this engineering topic and lives off Avenue 64. He agrees – in part – with the writer: He thinks the roundabout at Burleigh is OK, but concedes that the Cheviotdale design doesn't work.

As for our thoughts on roundabouts, I refer you to the article on page 6, but quickly add that as with many things in life, there is no single cure for all situations.

However, the road safety stats are hard to ignore. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), roundabouts typically reduce:

- overall collisions by 37%
- injury collisions by 75%
- fatal collisions by 90%
- pedestrian collisions by 40%

With luck and ever evolving engineering experience and expertise, Pasadena will be able to fine-tune our roundabouts to the point that they tame challenging and dangerous intersections and help ensure that more of our residents and visitors get to their respective destinations safely.



Pete Ewing

## 2024 - 2025

### Officers

**President: Pete Ewing**  
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|----------------|----------------------|
| • Vince Farhat | • Catherine Stringer |
| • Tom Seifert  | • Fred Zepeda        |

**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.

## 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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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.

## 2024 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

LA County reports that of the nearly 90,000 registered voters in Pasadena, 75% of them voted in the 2024 General Election. Compare this to the 66% in LA County.

*Election results, rounded, of races with local relevance to Pasadena as of 12/2/2024. See page 8 for results for the Pasadena Unified School District ballot measures. Red asterisk (\*) indicates winners. Source: LA County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk*

### UNITED STATES: SENATOR

\*Democrat Adam B. Schiff: 66%  
[replacing Dianne Feinstein]  
Republican Steve Garvey: 34%

### REPRESENTATIVE, 28th District

\*Incumbent Democrat Judy Chu: 68%  
Republican April A. Verlato: 32%

### REPRESENTATIVE, 30th District

\*Democrat Laura Friedman: 68%  
[replacing Adam Schiff]  
Republican Alex Balekian: 32%

## CALIFORNIA

### SENATOR, 25th District

\*Democrat Sasha Renée Pérez: 61%  
[replacing Anthony Portantino, who was term-limited]  
Republican Elizabeth Wong Ahlers: 39%

### ASSEMBLY, 41st District

\*Democrat John Harabedian: 66%  
[replacing Chris Holden, who was term-limited]  
Republican Michelle Del Rosario Martinez: 34%

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY

LA County District 5 Supervisor Kathryn Barger was officially sworn in for her third and final term after defeating Assemblymember Chris Holden (and others) in the March 2024 primary election. In addition, Barger began serving as 2024-2025 chair of the LA County Board of Supervisors.

## BALLOT MEASURE

A majority of LA County residents approved ballot Measure G, which proposes to study and, ultimately, introduce major structural changes to the county government.

	Yes*	No
<b>Measure G</b>	52%	48%
Create an independent ethics commission, expand the LA County Board of Supervisors, and add an elected countywide executive office		

## CITY OF PASADENA

During the Dec. 9 City Council reorganizational meeting, Rick Cole was sworn in as District 2 councilmember after defeating incumbent Councilmember Felicia Williams in the March 2024 primary election. Incumbent councilmembers Tyron Hampton (District 1), Justin Jones (District 3), Gene Masuda (District 4), and Steve Madison (District 6) were also sworn in again after winning re-election in the March 2024 primary election. Additionally, District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison passed the mantle of Vice Mayor to District 5 Councilmember Jessica Rivas.

## BALLOT MEASURES

Pasadena voters approved all six City ballot measures.

	Yes*	No
<b>Measure PA</b>	86%	14%
Require special elections to fill council district vacancies with more than two years remaining on the unexpired term, implement residency requirements for council district appointments, and make administrative changes including limiting the frequency City Council can make changes to campaign contribution limits		

	Yes*	No
<b>Measure PB</b>	86%	14%
Change the role, length of term, and timing of selection for the vice mayor position, and create an acting mayor position for mayoral vacancies		

	Yes*	No
<b>Measure PC</b>	82%	18%
Limit councilmembers and mayor to three consecutive terms, effective 2026, with a four-year hiatus required before serving additional terms. Current Councilmembers can run for three additional four-year terms before the mandated pause starting in 2026.		

	Yes*	No
<b>Measure PF</b>	86%	14%
Update selection procedures for the positions of Fire and Police trustees to the Pasadena Fire and Police Retirement System		

	Yes*	No
<b>Measure PL</b>	72%	28%
Provide \$6 million for environmental and design contracts and \$3 million for supplemental contracts and project administration to make the necessary earthquake repairs (retrofit) necessary to reopen the historic Pasadena Central Library by 2028		

	Yes*	No
<b>Measure PR</b>	64%	36%
Provide landlords and tenants with greater clarity about rights and responsibilities, and streamline operations to reduce administrative burdens and financial costs.		

## PASADENA'S HOUSING DIRECTOR BILL HUANG

has retired, wrapping up 15 years of service to the City. During his tenure, Pasadena has witnessed significant progress in addressing affordable housing needs. Around 10% of all households in our city now live by some form of affordable housing, while the homeless population has dropped by more than 50% since 2011. Vice Mayor/District 6 Councilman Steve Madison called Huang "... the best housing director in the country. Above all," said Madison, "Bill is a compassionate advocate for affordable housing and those who so urgently need it." Sources: Pasadena Now and Pasadena Star-News



Bill Huang

**THE CITY OF PASADENA HAS CHOSEN GREG DE VINCK** as its next Public Works director. He oversees a department with 273 full-time employees and an annual budget of \$ 93.5 million. de Vinck has 28 years of experience in public works and was most recently the Public Works Director for San Gabriel for six years. Prior to that, he worked 22 years in the engineering division for Santa Monica.

Screened Water Color Painting by Joseph Stoddard

# A new vision for the SR 710's northern stub

By Scott Johnson, AICP

Senior Planner

Pasadena Department of Transportation

The City of Pasadena is developing several significant projects to enhance transportation mobility and safety in the west side of the City. These near-term projects will support the future area vision being developed through the Reconnecting Pasadena 710 Master Plan guided by the City Council established Reconnecting Communities 710 Advisory Group.

## "Complete Street" projects

Four Complete Street projects were funded through the Measure R Mobility Improvement Program:

- Pasadena/St. John avenues roadway network
- Columbia Street improvements
- Greenways
- Metro A Line at-grade crossing enhancements

The largest of these four projects -- the Pasadena/St. John avenues project -- has been allocated \$75 million to improve transportation mobility conditions on Pasadena and St. John avenues between Walnut and Columbia streets, initial concepts were developed in 2022 through public and targeted stakeholder meetings.

Key themes from the 2022 engagement work include interest in reducing speeding, improving safety and accessibility for walking and biking, improving transit connectivity, and streetscape enhancements. The 2022 Transitional Project Development summary documented this engagement feedback and provided refined improvement concepts. This community engagement and concept development work was critical to enable the City to secure funding for area improvements from Los Angeles Metro.

**Drivers** should benefit from optimization and upgrades of traffic signal timing to smooth traffic flow by moderating speeds. Also, these improvements will integrate with the in-process project at California Boulevard between St. John and Pasadena avenues that will facilitate shifting of traffic from Pasadena and St. John avenues to Fair Oaks Avenue and Arroyo Parkway. **Walkers** should benefit from new higher visibility crosswalks, enhanced safety crossings, significant sidewalk upgrades, new lighting, and landscaping improvements. **Cyclists** should benefit from addition of physical separation between vehicles and bikes.

The project will maintain existing travel lanes for both St. John and Pasadena avenues, with safety enhancements to slow motorist speed and encourage traffic to use other arterial corridors, such as Fair Oaks Avenue and Arroyo

Parkway, instead of the residential Pasadena Avenue corridor. This project will be coordinated with the other three Los Angeles Metro funded Complete Street projects to create a safer and more efficient transportation network for people walking, biking and driving in Pasadena.

## Robust community engagement

Now that funding is secured for these four Complete Street projects, the City will be scheduling additional community engagement in early 2025 to refine the concepts and inform the final construction designs.

Following the additional community engagement and completion of the final designs, construction is anticipated to start in 2028 and should result in a sustainable, inclusive solution guided by the area's pre-freeway history.

## THE PLANNING COMMISSION ...

... **EXPRESSED** its wish to play a more active role in shaping the future of the 710 Freeway stub. Commissioners voiced frustration about their limited involvement in the project and called for greater clarity on their role in collaboration with the 16-member Reconnecting Communities 710 Advisory Group. Commissioner Mic Hansen emphasized the importance of "gradually knitting the broken pieces back together and preserving the integrity of the (adjacent) neighborhoods. This is not about creating a new and different architectural statement," said Hansen, "but about healing our city." Source: Pasadena Now

... **APPROVED** a motion directing staff to build upon the City's 1989 "City of Gardens" ordinance model, while adapting it for higher density projects. The ordinance model was crafted to address design flaws in multi-family condo and apartment developments. The new standards would affect approximately 60 projects currently in the development

pipeline. Source: Pasadena Now  
... **RECOMMENDED** sweeping changes as to how the City plans and funds infrastructure projects. Commissioners advocated for setting clearer priorities for projects especially for the growing list of unfunded projects. The Commission also supported creating a new Capital Improvement Program to update the City's Master Street Tree Plan, and establishing a five-year strategic funding plan. Source: Pasadena Now

... **APPROVED** a "Games Agreement" with the LA Organizing Committee for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic games, which formally designated the Rose Bowl Stadium as a venue city to host the men's and women's soccer semifinals and finals. Source: Pasadena Now

... **ENDORSED** a \$130 million bond refinancing plan that will restructure the Rose Bowl Stadium's debt payments through 2048 to provide critical financial stability for the stadium. Source: Pasadena Now

## A preservation perspective

# Civic Center growth augments affordable senior housing

By Sue Mossman  
Former executive director,  
Pasadena Heritage

**A**s many of you know, I retired recently after 45 years at Pasadena Heritage ... 45 years dedicated to preserving the best of Pasadena's past and present. Now my near-term focus is to define my next 45 years ... otherwise known as "retirement."

One thing I'm still sure of is that I will always care deeply about our city's historic and cultural places and spaces, stories and traditions. So, as I work on learning how to retire, I'm happily spending time supporting various issues as a volunteer.

I must add, however, that with so much change on the near and distant horizon, I also spend time worrying. I worry about the challenges such change will drop at our collective doorstep. But I'm also encouraged by new trends and projects in progress.

**Civic Center evolves.** Major projects are underway in Pasadena's National-Register Civic Center. I look forward to the revitalization they can bring to the heart of our city as long as they turn out right.

City Council chose to provide more affordable housing in the Civic Center and, after a lengthy review process, the Design Commission approved an appropriate design for a new project across from City Hall. It now awaits final funding. In addition, the adjacent former YMCA (Centennial Place) will get \$23 million to improve livability for its residents, and will transition to very low-income housing for seniors. This means

that all housing in our Civic Center will be focused on seniors.

The other new addition is the proposed HRI hotel on the south side of Holly Street. It will incorporate the former YWCA, which was designed by legendary architect Julia Morgan. I feel passionately that this landmark must be preserved; its gradual deterioration from neglect has caused much community angst for years. It urgently needs a new use and major investment!

So, the Civic Center will be dramatically changed by two new buildings facing Centennial Plaza. Believe it or not, they both were anticipated by the historic Bennett Plan, approved in the 1920s and driven by Pasadena's first Planning Commission, led by George Ellery Hale. We will have to stay vigilant to be sure these projects are well executed and worthy additions to our world-class Civic Center.

**Cheers for the Central Library!** I'm so encouraged that voters so strongly supported the Central Library's seismic strengthening and upgrades in the recent election. As a result, the project's funding is secure, and there is a clear path to its eventual reopening. Having long been involved in the Library project, I truly believe it is the right path. Our amazing public library system supports our willingness, as a city, to choose order, personal growth and community conversation as top priorities. It provides a cultural foundation and a treasure trove of resources for our neighborhoods and all our residents.



Sue Mossman

**Finally, compliments are due ...** to our hard-working Planning Commission for its recent proactive policies and initiatives. These include approving objective design standards to ensure new development still reflects community character, expanding Specific Plans to include the public realm, and asking to take a more active role in the future of the 710 Freeway stub.

I can only add that I plan to stay involved in all these endeavors and hope that WPRA members and others will do the same.

For the moment though, I think I'll take a nap.

**PASADENA HERITAGE HAS NAMED ZOOT VELASCO** as interim executive director.

Over the years, Velasco has raised more than \$42 million for different institutions and has played a key role in the restoration and development of numerous historic and cultural sites. Velasco earned a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College of California and an MBA from Hope International University. *Source: Pasadena Heritage*



Zoot Velasco

**THE PASADENA CITY COUNCIL ...**

**... APPROVED** purchase from Caltrans 17 of the surplus properties along the 710 right of way. The City must resell the properties within two years or use them for affordable housing. *Sources: Pasadena Now*

**... AMENDED** the zoning code to help streamline the process of converting vacant retail or office buildings into multifamily or mixed-use housing. *Source: Pasadena Star-News*

**... APPROVED** conversion of Centennial Place, at 235 E. Holly St., from permanent supportive housing for the homeless to affordable senior housing. The 142-unit single-room occupancy building, originally constructed in 1910 as a YMCA, has operated as affordable housing since 1989. *Source: Pasadena Now*

## Focus on 710

# Making the case for road roundabouts

By Ian Lockwood, PE

*[Editor's Note: Starting with this issue we'll be answering questions raised during our most recent annual meeting ("Reconnecting Pasadena: mobility, transportation, opportunity in 710 corridor"). Ian Lockwood addressed transportation and mobility considerations during that meeting and was also one of several subject matter experts and leaders for the 2015 Connecting Pasadena Project.]*

### "Do traffic roundabouts reduce traffic delays and shorten trip times?"

**Y**ears ago, at a typical set of traffic signals, at any point in time two approaches to that intersection were stopped, and two were moving. However, with the advent of protected phasing for left turns, all-red phases, pedestrian phases, and increasingly, bike phases, motorists spend a lot more waiting at traffic signals.

When intersection spacing works out and with better detection technologies, some synchronization can reduce time spent waiting at signals. Roundabouts, on the other hand, are self-regulating and designed to reduce stopping time. Instead, drivers typically yield.

Yielding is made simple by only having to yield on your way into the roundabout. Every turn is a right turn, (i.e., you turn right to go into a roundabout, and you turn right to leave it). Consequently, there are fewer "conflict points," at roundabouts, compared to signalized intersections.

Drivers must yield to pedestrians and cyclists who are using the crossings at roundabouts. However, the crossings are

typically located one or two car lengths back from the yield line, which minimizes the operational effects on the motorists using the roundabout.

The cumulative effects of these ideas mean that, on a street with roundabouts, the top speeds will be lower, the speed profile will be steadier, and there will be less stopping. On an equivalent street with four-way traffic signals, the top speeds will be higher, the speed profile will have a larger range, and there will be more stopping.

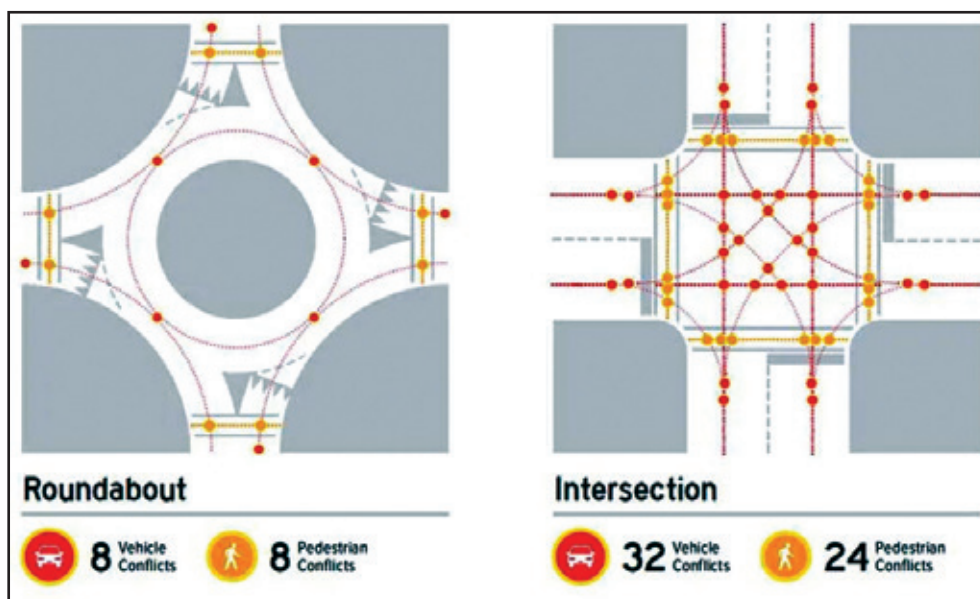
From a travel-time perspective, the street with the roundabouts will have the edge. Furthermore, the energy consumed on the streets with roundabouts will be lower due to less accelerating and decelerating. They will be less noisy for the same reasons, and collisions will be less frequent and less serious.

Comparison of typical roundabout design with typical four-way intersection. In contrast to a four-way intersection, roundabouts have far fewer potential points of conflict between different users. There is no "beating" the yellow light – or outright running a red light – in a roundabout. This eliminates dangerous driving habits that can result in serious and fatal broadside collisions. Source: City of Pasadena, Colorado Boulevard and U.S. Federal Highway Administration



Ian Lockwood during the 2024 annual WPRA meeting. Photo for The News/Bob Reiter

**Ian Lockwood, P.E.**, is a livable transportation engineer with Toole Design Group. Over the course of his career, he has helped to define for the nation the term "complete streets," and led the Federal Highway Administration initiative to develop new technical language regarding highway removals to facilitate communications. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering, and is a Harvard University Loeb Fellow, where he studied the effects of transportation infrastructure choices on cities.



**THE CITY OF PASADENA**, including the Pasadena Police Department, and the Pasadena Unified School District released a joint statement in November reaffirming a policy the City adopted in 2017. That original policy statement prohibited employees from assisting immigration enforcement unless legally required. The reissuance of those principles is to remind residents of this continuing commitment to maintain safe and welcoming spaces for everyone, regardless of race, immigration status, identity or circumstance. *Sources: City of Pasadena, Pasadena Police Department and Pasadena Unified School District.*

**CITY COUNCIL VOTED TO RESTORE ITS MOUNTED POLICE UNIT**, which was discontinued in 2005. The mounted officers will again assist with natural disaster responses while maintaining a visible presence at special events, demonstrations and parades. The program will cost the City approximately \$65,000 for the remainder of 2024-2025 fiscal year, and up to \$130,000 annually starting in fiscal year 2025-2026. *Source: Pasadena Now*



**The Pasadena Police Foundation in October hosted** its 2024 Annual Breakfast with Pasadena's Chief of Police. Current Chief Gene Harris, center, was joined by two former chiefs of police: John Perez (2018-2022), left, and Bernard Melekian (1996-2009). The annual fundraising event is intended to provide updates about the current goals and accomplishments, and demonstrate how the foundation supports the planning, development and implementation of programs and activities of the department and vital programs such as, the Kids Safety Academy, the Junior Public Safety Academy, the Explorer Program. *Photo for The News by Bob Reiter*

**HUNTINGTON HEALTH BROKE GROUND** on a four-story medical pavilion at 786 S. Fair Oaks across from Huntington Hospital's main campus. The 100,285-square-foot Terri and Jerry

Kohl Medical Pavilion, will significantly enhance cancer care capabilities, housing consultation, exam and treatment rooms. *Source: Huntington Health and Pasadena Public Works.*



**PASADENA FIRE STATION 38 HOSTED AN OPEN HOUSE** and ribbon-cutting ceremony in November and December following extensive fire station seismic retrofitting and structural repairs. The station, at 1150 Linda Vista Ave., also celebrated the reopening by restoring round-the-clock emergency service. *Photo for The News by Bob Reiter*

## PUSD Board reorganizes; voters green-light ballot measure

**P**asadena Unified School District Board of Education incumbents **Jennifer Hall Lee** (District 2) and **Tina Wu Fredericks** (District 6) won re-election in the 2024 general election. Also, **Scott Harden** (District 4), unopposed, won the seat vacated by **Patrick Cahalan**, who did not seek re-election.

During the Board's reorganization meeting on Dec. 10, Jennifer Hall Lee was chosen as Board President, Tina Fredericks as Vice President, and Yarma Velázquez (serving District 7, which covers the WPRA service area) as Clerk.

Additionally, voters approved both PUSD ballot measures.

Vote totals, rounded, as of 12/2/2024. **Red asterisk** indicates winners. Source: LA County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

	*Yes	No
<b>Measure EE</b>	69%	31%
\$40 million parcel tax (\$90 per parcel for eight years) to provide additional fiscal support for staffing, instruction, and education programs		

	*Yes	No
<b>Measure R</b>	65%	35%
\$900 million bond (\$60 per \$100,000 of assessed property value over 24-30 years) to provide funds for remodeling campuses, replacing/upgrading infrastructure, adding/enhancing safety and security systems, and creating affordable housing at the former Roosevelt Elementary site		



The Roosevelt Elementary project, as this rough design indicates, proposes 20-22 units per acre on the site, and would require at least 10 units with 55-year deed restrictions for affordability. Voters approved the project defined by Measure R.

## PUSD school registration period opens

**P**asadena Unified School District has opened its neighborhood school registration period for the 2025-26 academic year. Applications are being accepted through [pusd.schoolmint.com](https://pusd.schoolmint.com) during specific lottery periods.

- First lottery period: **Jan. 8 at 9 a.m. to Jan. 24, 2025, at 4 p.m.**, serving transitional kindergarten students residing in the district, families seeking dual language immersion programs, continuing PUSD students transferring to neighborhood schools, children of PUSD and City of Pasadena employees, and families

who missed the sibling/program priority application period.

- Second lottery period: **Jan. 25 at 9 a.m. to Feb. 26 at 4 p.m.**, accommodating district residents who haven't yet applied and out-of-district students requiring interdistrict permits.
- Post-lottery period through **Aug. 1, 2025**.

Transitional kindergarten is available for children turning four years old by **Sept. 1, 2025**. Applications are required for all transitional kindergarten students and must be completed through the PUSD open enrollment process.

**A BILL SUBMITTED BY FORMER STATE SEN. ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO** and signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom sets in motion a study of *enrollment-based* funding for K-12 schools. California is one of only six states that bases school funding on an *attendance-based* model, which, critics maintain, puts school districts with higher absentee rates at a disadvantage. Source: Pasadena Now

**PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT IS** confronting a steep rise in special education costs, with expenditures reaching \$87.9 million for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a striking increase from the \$78.7 million initially budgeted. The surge in costs has prompted District officials to point to the need for greater financial support from state and federal sources. Source: Pasadena Now

**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE** announced that students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals cannot be charged processing fees beginning in 2027. By law, students who are eligible for reduced price meals cannot be charged more than 30 cents for breakfast and 40 cents for lunch, but families can end up paying 10 times those amount for processing fees. Source: Pasadena Star-News

**CALIFORNIA GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM SIGNED INTO LAW** a bill that requires every California school district, charter school and county office of education to adopt a policy limiting or prohibiting the use of smartphones by July 1, 2026. Source: Pasadena Now

# Pasadena Village offers the best of both worlds

**O**n any given Friday morning you might encounter an energetic group of active agers striding through your neighborhood. These spirited seniors are on a mission: catching up with each other, while getting their steps in during their 2- to 3-mile **Urban Walk**. Each week they explore a different neighborhood in and around Pasadena.

A group of men meet on the patio at Brookside Restaurant for brunch on the first Tuesday of every month. They call it **Men's Time**. It gives them an opportunity to enjoy food and camaraderie.

Urban Walks and Men's Time are just two of the many activities and programs offered by Pasadena Village.

With an office and gathering space at the Flintridge Center, Pasadena Village is not a senior center *per se*, though it overlaps with some activities senior centers may offer. It's also not a senior living residence, though it offers many



Pasadena Villagers engage in discussion groups, seminars, cultural activities, social events, educational programs and support groups for a "mountain" of interests and needs.

benefits of communal living. In a Venn diagram of senior life, Pasadena Village is the sweet spot where the two overlap: the best of both worlds.

Just ask Villager Dan Guerrero. "In addition to participating in Village activities, I met a fellow Villager who has become a regular walking partner, and also helps me solve the world's problem at coffee after our walk. I am able to call an expert gardener for advice in my new gardening remodel.... I now meet six times a year for lunch with a small group whose spouses have also passed away. I am a volunteer driver who provides rides for villagers. The sum of all these things have filled a gap in my life and made my life enjoyable."

This nonprofit organization was founded more than a dozen years ago by a group of Pasadena residents who were committed to support each other as they navigate the joys and challenges of aging. It is run by Villagers, for Villagers, which makes it unique.

Today it boasts more than 220 members ranging in age from age 57 to 100. Throughout its expansion, the organization continues to stay true to its vision of inviting older adults to thrive by making new friends, sharing meaningful experiences and encouraging involvement in our wider community.

For more information, visit [pasadenavillage.org](http://pasadenavillage.org).

## THE ROSE BOWL OPERATING COMPANY AND ROSE BOWL LEGACY FOUNDATION

announced a multi-project, multi-year \$80 million renovation and enhancement initiative to modernize and upgrade the stadium through privately raised funds. Six of the eight proposed projects are already fully funded or completed. Source: Pasadena Now

**ORGANIZERS OF THE ANNUAL BIZARRO-WORLD DOO DAH PARADE**, held in late November, crowned Sparrow Dena as 2024 queen of the annual parade. Also, for the first time the organizers selected Romo the Robo as a Royal Night and

Helen Roper as a Royal Light. Source: Pasadena Star-News

**THE PASADENA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** (PCF) has released the list of recipients of its annual capital grants program, awarding \$600,000 to 25 local nonprofit organizations. Source: Pasadena Now

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH COMMEMORATES 100 YEARS** in its historic Gothic Revival church campus during this past September, by blending historical reflection with forward-looking initiatives. The church was designed by the architectural firm Marston, Van Pelt & Maybury and constructed in the

1920's. Source: Pasadena Now

**ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1972 FOOTHILL FREEWAY TRAGEDY**, former Assemblymember Chris Holden led a memorial and freeway sign unveiling ceremony in Pasadena. The "Arroyo Seco Victims Memorial Overpass" sign at the N. Arroyo Boulevard Overcrossing, just south of Devil's Gate dam, commemorates six workers who were buried when faulty scaffolding collapsed during concrete pouring operations on a 60-foot stretch of the freeway. Source: Pasadena Now



**Movies and more at the Fényes Mansion.** D. W. Griffith, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford and Tom Mix created on-screen magic right here at the Fényes estate, which has been a popular filming location for well over 100 years. Given her wide-ranging artistic vision, it is hardly surprising that Eva Fényes would embrace the fledgling motion picture industry even though it had not yet attained art-form status or social acceptance. In 1912, she welcomed legendary director D. W. Griffith, who featured her estate in the film "When Kings were the Law." Pasadena Museum of History's exhibition, "Lights, Camera, Action! Hollywood Magic in Pasadena" is on view through Feb. 9 and features objects relating to movies, television, music videos, and more. For more information, visit [pasadenahistory.org](http://pasadenahistory.org). The accompanying photo is a still shot of a rehearsal for "Western Blood," a film starring Tom Mix, 1918; Fényes Mansion; Pasadena Museum of History, MPC, PHS5-16

**THE ROSE BOWL STADIUM AND JMI SPORTS HAVE ANNOUNCED** a multi-year multimedia rights partnership. The long-term agreement with a leading media rights and venue development company comes as the Rose Bowl Stadium welcomes the College Football Playoff quarterfinal game and prepares to host its third Olympic Games in 2028. Through this partnership, JMI Sports will leverage its expertise in attracting and securing high-value sponsorships, developing innovative marketing strategies, and building upon purpose-driven partnerships to elevate the Rose Bowl Stadium's global profile. *Source: Rose Bowl Stadium*

**A PASADENA WATER AND POWER (PWP) Home Improvement Program** offers residential customers no-cost

evaluations of household water and energy use. Customers can also qualify for efficiency products like smart thermostats, low-flow showerheads and LED light bulbs. *Source: Pasadena Water and Power*

**PWP REINTRODUCES ITS E-BIKE REBATE PROGRAM** to its electric customers that offers a \$500 rebate when purchasing a new, qualifying electric bicycle from a Pasadena bicycle shop. Additionally, customers currently enrolled in PWP's income-qualified bill payment assistance program may qualify for an extra \$500, bringing the total rebate to up \$1,000.

**THE SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT'S** residential electric lawn & garden equipment rebate program has been expanded

to go beyond offsetting costs for lawn mowers. Now it will help residents replace other gasoline-powered tools with electric models. *Source: Pasadena Now*

*Continued from page 1*

The platform should also enable residents to find tailored guidance, based on their address.

Boiled down, the City hopes Genasys will help protect residents and increase the probability of their survival during a major emergency and evacuation. While this approach may well generate significant benefits, the WPRA looks forward to more collaborative meetings to focus on the special needs of residents in high-risk areas.

# Pasadena Senior Center celebrates 65 years



Remember “The Little Old Lady from Pasadena”? It was an oldie-but-goodie charts-topper in 1964 for the surf singing duo Jan and Dean. The song, produced by the Beach Boys’ Brian Wilson, tells the tale of a hot-rodding granny who speeds down Colorado Boulevard in her “brand new shiny red Super-Stock Dodge.”

Just think if that song were written in 2025.



The original “Little Old Lady from Pasadena,” Kathryn Elizabeth Minner, was ready for new experiences and fun.

First of all, there is no doubt that our “little old lady” would be a member of the Pasadena Senior Center (PSC) — and a far cry from the stereotype of what people thought of as “old,” even back then. In fact, we’re not even going to refer to her as a “little old lady” or a “granny,” because as a PSC member, she is far from it — more like a strong older woman.

Our strong older woman — let’s call her Susan — is 65, born in 1960, the same year that the PSC was created as the first nonprofit senior center in Southern California and one of the first in the nation. She joined PSC back in her 50s to find a safe and friendly place to grow, learn and make new friends.

And just like the PSC, Susan is getting better with age! Whether she joins her friends for a pickleball game, attends a lecture, or enjoys a music or dance concert, Susan has found a community of like-minded older men and women.

Maybe the only thing that Susan has in common with the “little old lady” meme is that she goes, goes and goes — and takes advantage of all the PSC has to offer. For example, in January and February, the PSC will offer fitness and art

The Center’s first members knew how to have a good time, make new friends, celebrate special moments, and score a piece (or two) of cake.

classes, pickleball, softball and women’s basketball teams (all levels welcome), and a member favorite: regular Friday movie matinees with film screenings that run the classics like *Casablanca* to more recent films such as *Oppenheimer* and *Nyad*.

For the past 65 years, the PSC has been a touchstone for older adults who are exploring their senior years and seeking new adventures and connections. PSC membership benefits include access to the fitness center, membership to the Amory Center for the Arts, educational, social and fitness opportunities, lectures, classes, cultural events, and much more.

It’s safe to say that if that little old lady was racing down Colorado Boulevard today, she’d take a detour at Raymond Avenue and, at Union Street, park her four-speed and shiny red Dodge right at the PSC.

There, she’d join Susan and the hundreds of other active, engaged adults, aged 50+, as they embrace this time of their lives with friendship, camaraderie and fun.



This trio, engaged in fitness dancing, are among the many Pasadena seniors who’ve joined the Pasadena Senior Center to continue exploring their senior years and seek new adventures and connections.

# Meet the Southern magnolia, y'all

It is one of the most beautiful flowering native trees among the early flowering plants.

By Emina Darakjy  
President, California Urban Forests Council

## Southern magnolia

Origin: Southeastern U.S.  
Family: Magnoliaceae

**T**he Southern magnolia is native to the Southeastern United States, but adapts easily to other parts of the county and is also planted throughout the world. It belongs to the Magnoliaceae family and is considered one of the most beautiful flowering native trees among the early flowering plants. Imprints of its flowers were found on fossils dating back 100 million years ago.

The Southern magnolia is so well liked in the South that both Mississippi and Louisiana have made it their State tree.

It is an evergreen shade tree with a slow-to-moderate growing habit reaching a height of 50 to 70 feet tall and with a spread of 40 to 50 feet. If space is an issue, consider planting other varieties that grow much smaller such as "Little Gem" and "St. Mary."

Its leaves are oval, glossy green on top and bronze-colored and fuzzy underneath.

In the late spring and through the summer, large white fragrant flowers 6 to 10 inches wide appear. They start as a cup form and open up to resemble saucers. Fruit follows as cone-shaped seed pods split open to reveal small, bright and shiny red seeds that attract all sorts of songbirds and squirrels.

Magnolias perform better in full sun, with a well-drained soil. It doesn't require much care. If you need to prune it, wait until after the blooming cycle ends.

The tree tends to develop surface roots as it matures, and the cone pods can be a nuisance when they drop. You can find magnolias growing as street trees, in one's garden or in a park. This time of the year, they reward us with their beauty.

The leaves of the magnolia are very durable. Because of their shiny dark green color on top and bronze underneath, they have been used to make gorgeous boughs to decorate stairways, arches, doors, and fireplaces during the holidays.

In his book "America's Famous and Historic Trees," Jeffrey G. Meyer writes that before running for president, Andrew Jackson and his wife Rachel settled in what they called the "Hermitage" outside of Nashville, Tennessee. The grounds of their estate included several Southern magnolia trees.

In 1828, Andrew Jackson ran for President and won, but before he was sworn in his Rachel passed away. To keep her memory alive, he took a seedling of one of her favorite magnolia trees with him to the White House.

In 1829, President Jackson planted this seedling on the White House lawn, where it lived for more than 200 years. Regrettably, the tree was damaged and after decades of trying to save it, including cabling, before it was finally cut down in 2018.

However, this famous magnolia still lives on. You can find it on the back of \$20 bills with a picture of President Jackson on the front.

*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.*



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U.S. President Andrew Jackson in 1829 planted a magnolia seedling in his late wife's memory on the White House lawn. Though that tree was cut down in 1918, it still lives on \$20 bills. President Jackson is on the front; his famous magnolia still lives on the back



## City assessing coyote impact in four neighborhoods

Coyote caught on Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy camera

**P**asadena has begun to conduct neighborhood coyote assessments in four neighborhoods across the city to gain a better understanding of coyote behavior, including local coyote population and attractants. In 2023 Pasadena City Council approved staff recommendations to dedicate resources to enhance public outreach, learn more about local coyotes from experts, and

assist residents in protecting their pets and loved ones.

As part of this effort, the Pasadena Public Health Department has hired Humane Wildlife Control (HWC) to conduct the assessments. HWC plans to study coyote behavior through in-person canvassing and use of fixed cameras.

Prior to the start of each assessment, the City's Public Health Department will notify residents of the neighborhoods under study. In addition, signs informing residents about the purpose of cameras and their locations will be placed in those neighborhoods. Cameras may be mounted to light poles, trees, or street signs for up to four days.

Cameras will capture public rights of way such as streets, walkways, parks, or other public areas. Footage may show front lawns, but direct camera views of homes will be avoided. Cameras will not capture any areas where a resident would have an expectation of privacy, and audio recording functions will be disabled.

The City will only retain recordings that feature coyotes and upon issuance of the neighborhood assessment reports, will delete any gathered footage where coyotes are not present.

The result of each assessment will be a written report that will help the City understand coyote behavior in the selected neighborhoods, and include recommended actions to reduce the possibility of human-coyote conflicts.

### CALIFORNIA VOTERS ON NOV. 5

**APPROVED** a \$10-billion bond measure to finance water, clean energy and other environmental projects. Proposition 4 allocates \$3.8 billion for water projects, including those that provide safe drinking water, water recycling projects, groundwater storage and flood control. An additional \$1.5 billion would be spent on wildfire protection, and \$1.2 billion would go toward protecting the coast from rising ocean levels. *Source: LA Times*

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

has completed its annual maintenance at the Devil's Gate Reservoir. It began on July 1 and included the removal of

invasive plant species, excavation and hauling of excess sediment, and repairs to erosion on the reservoir's side slopes. These activities wrapped up on October 10, restoring the reservoir to its full flood protection capacity of 3 million cubic yards. *Source: LA County Public Works*

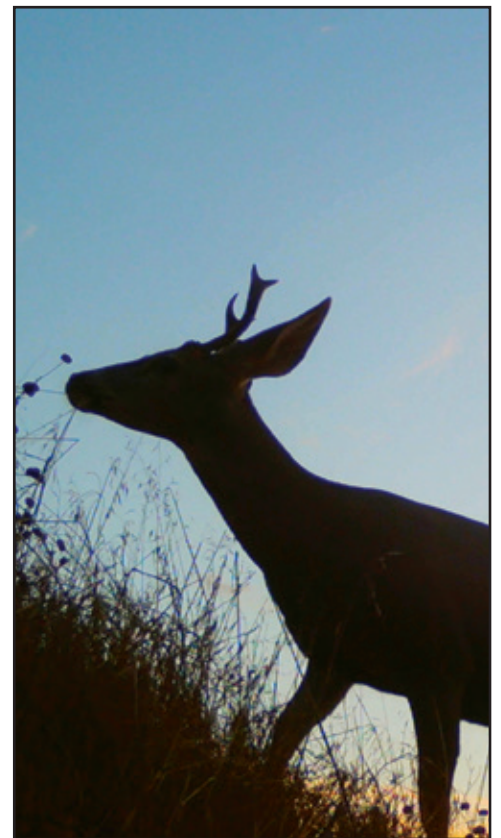
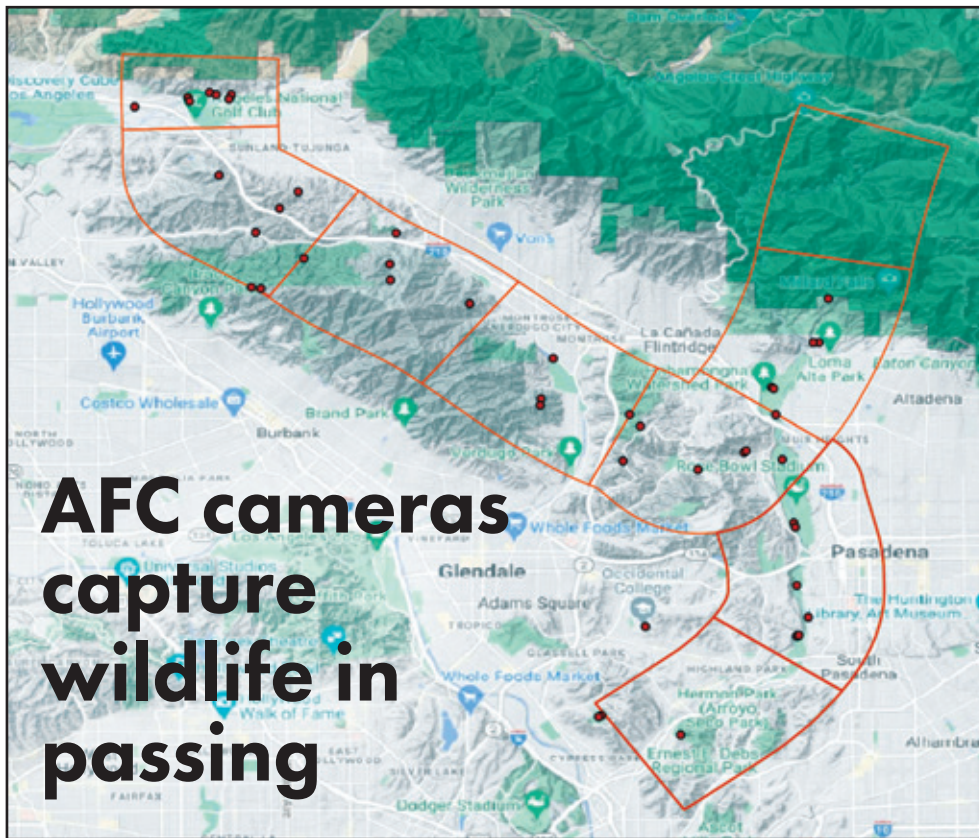
**PASADENA IS RAMPING UP ITS ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV)** charging infrastructure to add dozens of new chargers across the city in the coming years. The expansion includes fast-charging hubs capable of serving medium and heavy-duty vehicles. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA HAS EMERGED AS A NATIONAL LEADER** in zero-emission vehicle (ZEV)

adoption, with City officials reporting a 600-fold increase in registered ZEVs since 2012. The city had 12,632 registered zero-emission vehicles by 2023. *Source: Pasadena Now*

### CITY COUNCIL'S MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HAS UNANIMOUSLY

**APPROVED** two long-term energy contracts — a \$47.1 million contract for renewable wind energy and a \$55.3 million contract for battery energy storage. The 10-year wind energy contract with CalWind Resources, which begins on May 1, 2025, is for a 20-megawatt wind turbine facility in Tehachapi. *Source: Pasadena Now*



## AFC cameras capture wildlife in passing

AFC has been a part of the UWIN network since 2018 and, as you see in this map (red dots represent camera placements), its transect covers parts of the San Gabriel and Verdugo mountains, San Rafael Hills, and Debs Park. It tracks the Hahamongna to Tujunga wildlife corridor.

By John Howell  
CEO, Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy

**R**emote camera imagery is a key to how we conduct research on urban wildlife. The camera team, led by AFC staff and comprising more than 20 volunteers, manages 45 cameras in its long-term study area of the Hahamongna to Tujunga wildlife corridor.

The images AFC captures provide data on wildlife movement and behavior. This helps determine which parcels are most critical to conserve and identify impediments and ways to enhance wildlife movement.

January is an important month for AFC's camera team because it's one of four sampling periods to collect data for our Urban Wildlife Information Network (UWIN) research transect. UWIN is an international network of researchers

working together to better understand the broad patterns of urban wildlife in the urban-wildland interface. AFC's is one of over 50 active study areas.

Four times a year (in January, April, July, and October) AFC sets up 20 cameras across the Hahamongna to Tujunga wildlife corridor specifically for UWIN. The cameras stay up for about a month, and volunteers help manage the sites and collect the data. UWIN's strict seasonality protocols help standardize the data across all research groups and cities.

Through these long-term data collection efforts and collaborations, AFC can better understand the ecology of wildlife in and around cities and discover what patterns might emerge around the world. This knowledge helps build smarter, greener cities that can be part of the solution to the biodiversity crisis.

Caught on camera: A mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) at Sunshine Preserve in Glendale

### THE ARROYOS & FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY HAS PURCHASED

another property in Sycamore Canyon to help preserve the corridor that crosses Chevy Chase Drive. This new parcel — Sycamore East — is very small (0.169 acres) but strategically important. It's directly across the road from our Sycamore Canyon Preserve and borders Glendale's Murchison Open Space Preserve to the east. *Source: Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy.*

**BIG SANTA ANITA CANYON**, in the Angeles National Forest and a popular recreational destination that suffered extensive damage during the 2020 Bobcat Fire and subsequent winter storms, has reopened its trails after a four-year closure. *Source: Pasadena Now*



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## Pasadena: city on call

### Police Department

Emergency ..... 9-1-1  
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Non-emergency..... (626) 744-4241

### City services

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



One Call to City Hall  
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**Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

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## Express yourself

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