



**SAN RAFAEL**  
NEIGHBORHOODS ASSOCIATION

## December 2012 Newsletter

Vol 1, Issue 3

*The mission of the San Rafael Neighborhoods Association (SRNA) is to enhance and maintain the character and quality of all San Rafael neighborhoods through advocacy and an activated community.*

Contact: [info@srnapasadena.org](mailto:info@srnapasadena.org)

**SRNA**

**WISHES EVERYONE  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR  
THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR FIRST YEAR  
A HUGE SUCCESS!**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT 2013**

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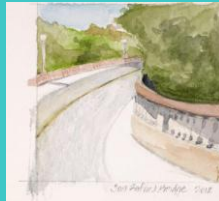
**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**SRNA General Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 2**  
**CANCELED**  
**DUE TO NEW YEARS HOLIDAY**

***SRNA GENERAL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC***

***WHEN: FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH***  
***7 PM***

***WHERE: CHURCH OF THE ANGELS***  
***CHURCH HALL***  
***1100 AVENUE 64***



**Rose Bowl/NFL UPDATE**

**By Ron Paler**

- On November 19, a Public Hearing concerning the Amendment of the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance that would allow the temporary of use of the Rose Bowl by the NFL was held at Pasadena City Hall.
- The Amendment of the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance would allow up to 25 major events per year at the Rose Bowl
- The San Rafael Neighborhoods Association (SRNA) joined with the Linda Vista Annandale Association (LVAA), the East Arroyo Preservation Committee, and the West Pasadena Residents association in either opposing the NFL entirely and/or the associated FEIR (Final Environmental Impact Report)
- SRNA President Ron Paler presented the opposition of SRNA to the

*Game Day Avenue 64/Colorado Blvd.*

## **proposed amendment and perceived fatal flaws in the FEIR to the City Council**

- **SRNA remains opposed to the use of the Rose Bowl by the NFL**
- **SRNA joins with our sister neighborhood association, the Linda Vista Annandale Association (LVAA), in opposing the use of the NFL.**
- **SRNA's position is congruent with the recommendation of the Urban Land Institute study (ULI) in recommending that the Rose Bowl NOT be used by the NFL**
- **The residents of Pasadena overwhelmingly voted against the NFL in the Rose Bowl previously**
- **SRNA filed a formal letter of concern with the City of Pasadena concerning the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR)**
- **Key points of concern expressed by SRNA included the following:**
  - **Inadequate Fire and EMS Protection with the NFL residing in the Rose Bowl for residents of West Pasadena.**
  - **Inadequate study of current Fire and EMS services in the FEIR and the impacts that 25 major events at the Rose Bowl will have on surrounding neighborhoods**
  - **Failure to study Avenue 64 in the FEIR despite its designation as a main arterial by other governmental agencies such as Metro**
  - **Failure to study the Avenue 64/Marmion Way exit from the Pasadena Fwy as key point of ingress into West Pasadena**
  - **Failure to study the effects of traffic exiting at Figueroa from the 134 Fwy and concurrent use of West Colorado Blvd as a point of ingress to the Rose Bowl**

The full letter sent by SRNA concerning errors of omission or inadequate examination in the FEIR can be seen on the City website. Please scroll to "Letter 10".

[http://www.cityofpasadena.net/Rose\\_Bowl\\_EIR/](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/Rose_Bowl_EIR/)

- **City Council voted 7-1 in favor of amending the Arroyo Seco Public Lands ordinance**
- **District 7 Councilman Terry Tornek voted against the proposed amendment**
- **District 6 Councilman Steve Madison voted to support the amendment.**
- **District 1 Councilperson Jacque Robinson voted to support the amendment.**
- **Mayor Bill Bogaard voted to support the amendment.**

## **NEXT STEPS:**

**SRNA is actively working with other neighborhood organizations to plan next steps in the battle to save the Rose Bowl and surrounding areas from the destructive imposition of the NFL and an increase of large public events of up to 25/year. Stay tuned for further announcements coming shortly.**

## 710 Fwy Update

By John and Monica Shaffer



- The SRNA continues to keep a close eye on Metro's ongoing study of the proposed extension of the SR-710 freeway into Pasadena.
- Last spring, Metro planners revealed two SR-710 alternatives that would have cut through the heart of our San Rafael neighborhood - an eight-lane freeway along Annandale and Glen Summer Roads, and a six-lane highway following Avenue 64 and Colorado Boulevard. Based upon the strong voices of concern from our neighborhood, the Pasadena City Council voted last August to oppose these routes. Metro appears to have heard our message too, as Metro staff has recommended no further consideration of routes through the San Rafael area. Metro has not yet officially adopted its staff's recommendation, but we expect the routes through our neighborhood to be more formally eliminated when Metro releases its final "Alternatives Analysis" (which is expected sometime before the New Year).
- Our neighborhood, however, still faces a significant threat from the remaining freeway alternative on the table - the eight-lane "F-7" tunnel that will surface next to Huntington Hospital. Metro's own projections show that the tunnel will dump tens of thousands of additional cars and trucks each day into the already congested 210/134 interchange and the freeways, ramps, and surface streets leading to it. This, in turn, will lead to increased pollution, noise, and cut-through traffic in our neighborhood and throughout much of Pasadena. We also have concerns about the staggering, multi-billion dollar cost and years of construction that the F-7 tunnel will require.
- On Monday, December 10, the Pasadena City Council again addressed SR-710 issues. Although every member of the City Council expressed serious concerns about the tunnel and its potential negative effects on Pasadena, only four of the required five Council members voted to oppose it (Bogaard, Gordo, Madison, and Masuda). The remaining Council members (McAustin, Tornek, and Robinson) were concerned that a ten-year old referendum ("Measure A") prevented the City from officially opposing the tunnel, and they also believed that the City had yet to receive sufficient information from Metro about the tunnel and possible alternatives, including transit and "low build" solutions. The Council then agreed: (1) to task the City staff (in particular, the Health and Transportation Departments) to do an independent study of the impacts of the proposed tunnel on the traffic, health, and businesses in Pasadena; and (2) to send a letter to Metro opposing any tunnel proposal that would allow trucks, opposing any tunnel proposal that would be paid for through tolls, and raising various other concerns about the tunnel and Metro's failure to provide answers regarding the details of the various alternatives still being considered.

***The San Rafael Neighborhoods Association (SRNA) will continue to actively participate in the 710 debate, and it remains committed in its opposition to ALL 710 Freeway and Highway routes through Pasadena.***

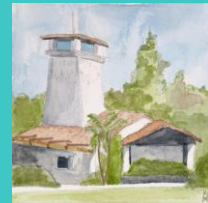
**San Rafael School UPDATE**

**By Mary Dee Romney**

- Plans for San Rafael Elementary School (SRES) are ongoing. Seismic faults found on the site have forced staff and the Board of Education to consider the relocation of the present student enrollment while growing the school's popular "signature" Spanish dual language immersion program and adjusting for budget shortfalls.
- School consolidation/closures became an issue for PUSD following a study of school capacity released in September 2003. That study reported 2002 district enrollment at 23,300 and district capacity at 28,962.
- Today, the District's first interim budget report (2012-13) shows ADA/student enrollment at 17,498 with \$12m in cuts needed for next year.
- PUSD began the first formal closure process in June of 2005. A second round of closures followed. SRES, having invested ten years in developing staff for inclusion special education programs, was not seriously considered at that time due to complications in moving special education staff and students throughout the district.
- In very recent years the school has built a strong PTA and signature language program popular with parents.
- Still, comments made in staff reports/board deliberations during Tuesday's (12/11/12) Board of Education meeting confirmed: "The State requires us to have a plan for San Rafael." (John Pappalardo, PUSD/CFO).
- The Board of Education now has directed staff to plan a process for drafting new attendance boundaries district-wide, with school size/consolidation in mind.

## **Fire Station 39 UPDATE**

**By Stan Clark**



- A contract for renovation of fire station 39 has been awarded on Nov. 30th 2012 to Mallcraft, Inc. The contract has been approved by the city council on Dec 3rd 2012.
- The amount of the contract is \$1,781,000.00 not to exceed \$1,959,000.
- Mallcraft, Inc. was established in 1965. Mallcraft is currently the contractor on Station 32 renovation. Mallcraft has done other projects in Pasadena including the Health Center. Mallcraft most recently worked on a Tustin Fire Station
- Station 39 closed on April 27, 2011 and after 586 days the area is one step closer to getting Engine 39 and its crew back in service.
- The timeline is as follows;

**Contract Award :** Dec 2012 - Completed  
**Final Plan Check/Permits:** Jan 2013

Construction:  
Grand Opening:

Jan-Fall 2013  
Late Fall 2013

***SRNA will continue to monitor the progress of Fire Station 39 every step of the way until the station is re-opened. Restoration of Engine 39 in Fire Station 39 is essential to ensure public safety in the San Rafael area.***

## San Rafael Park Update

By Wendi Moffly



- New playground equipment has been installed at the San Rafael Park. This renovation added three new pieces of equipment and replaced the existing swing set with a larger one. The equipment provides more choices for kids aged 5-12 and still keeps plenty of grassy area for running around. The project also included turf, soil, concrete and sprinkler work and the addition of a wood fiber playground surface. Currently everything is in place but there is still yellow tape around the new turf.
- The project was originally estimated at \$55,000 but came in around \$75,000, according to the city's Project Manager for Parks and Landscape.

## Holiday Safety Tips

By Kathy Goodwin



- The holidays! This is a very busy time of year and it's easy to let your guard down but it is even more important to be as vigilant as ever. I have a few suggestions to be aware of, and hopefully this will keep you and your family safe and sound.
  1. Always keep your doors closed and this includes garage doors! Take it a step further and keep doors locked while at home too.
  2. Set your alarm every time you leave your home, and consider setting your alarm while you are at home also. Also, display your alarm company's signs prominently, front and back!
  3. Set lights on timers and install motion detector lights outside of your home.
  4. Watch your trash. Shred papers with any personal info like bills and statements, and be careful of boxes and packaging for high ticket electronics and gifts. Break down boxes, put them in garbage bags then in the trash bin. You may want to dispose of these somewhere else, like a work dumpster or save the boxes for safe transportation of the items in the future.
  5. Do not open your door to anyone you do not know! If you don't recognize someone at your door let them know you are home but call your non-emergency police number and give a good description if you feel uncomfortable. Trust your intuition.

6. Consider placing valuables, such as jewelry, cash etc. in your kitchen, maybe in a cereal box or freezer if you don't have a safe.

A few things to remember when you are out

- Park under a light at night
- Don't park next to vans or other large vehicles.
- Check under, around and the back seat before getting into the car. If something doesn't feel right go back inside the building for assistance.
- Don't over burden yourself with packages.
- Always have your keys in your hand before you walk out to your car.
- Don't leave expensive items or packages in plain sight in your car. Put them in the trunk.
- Don't walk between cars, stay in the open.

Do keep in mind that social media is not a good place to broadcast your vacation plans or whereabouts. We are very vulnerable to people who want what we have and you have to remember they are always watching. Let a neighbor or two know you will be away when you travel or better yet have someone stay in your home. Don't let newspapers or mail pile up as these are signs that your house is vacant.

The holidays are a time of celebration and good cheer. Keep your eyes open and watch out for each other. Always call the non-emergency number for the police if anything seems odd or out of order. The most important thing is to listen to your instincts and trust them, and teach your children to be aware of their surroundings too.

For more tips on safety and security go to:

HowStuffWorks "Home Security: Tips and Guidelines"

[home.howstuffworks.com/home.../security/home-security-tips.htm](http://home.howstuffworks.com/home.../security/home-security-tips.htm)

[home.howstuffworks.com/home.../security/home-security-tips.htm](http://home.howstuffworks.com/home.../security/home-security-tips.htm)

[www.crimedoctor.com/home.htm](http://www.crimedoctor.com/home.htm)



Contact us at: [info@srnapasadena.org](mailto:info@srnapasadena.org)

Please consider joining SRNA--West Pasadena's newest and fast growing neighborhood organization dedicated to the San Rafael Neighborhoods Area.

SRNA is registered with the city of Pasadena/Neighborhood Connections office.

**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:**

**Member \$20**

**Household \$35**

**Sustaining \$100**

**Patron \$250**

**Benefactor \$500**

**Please send check by mail to:**

**San Rafael Neighborhoods Association (SRNA)**

**PO Box 92617**

**Pasadena, CA 91109**

**OR**

**Join us at our website at**

**[www.srnapasadena.org](http://www.srnapasadena.org) and click the tab "Join Us"**

**Credit cards accepted**

***SRNA is looking for people to volunteer and be a part of our organization. Write to us if you would like to help make a difference and what your area of interest is.***