



Summer 2016 SRNA Newsletter

Vol 5, Issue 2

Contact: info@srnapasadena.org
On the web at www.srnapasadena.org

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The beautiful artwork showcased in SRNA newsletters is that of SRNA member Wendi Moffly. SRNA is grateful for the warmth Wendi's artwork brings to our pages. In this edition of the newsletter, we are happy to share Wendi's latest work.

SRNA 2016 Board & Directors:

Mary Dee Romney-President

Robin Salzer-Vice President

Mary Beth Bridges-Vice President

Stan Clark - Treasurer

Mary Dee Romney -Acting Secretary

Andy Gooden

Ed Graf - No710 Committee

Kathy Goodwin

Joanne Fletcher -Utility Advisor

Wendi Moffly -SRNA Contributing Artist

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

SRNA General Meetings

WHEN: FIRST WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH

WHERE: CHURCH OF THE ANGELS
CHURCH HALL

1100 AVENUE 64

7 PM

Next Meeting

August 2, 2016
National Night Out

SRNA GENERAL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



National Night Out

**SRNA in Solidarity with Pasadena's Police Officers and Fire Fighters
Join Us
Wood-Fired BBQ**

Tuesday, August 2nd
6:00pm-8:30pm

455 Laguna Road
Pasadena, CA 91105
(North of La Loma Road)

Hot Dogs, Brats and Ice Cream
Old Fashioned Lemonade
(Special Appreciation to Robin's Wood Fire BBQ)

BRING THE FAMILY!

"America's Night Out Against Crime" promotes neighbor involvement in crime prevention practices where they live. The first National Night Out took place on Tuesday, August 7, 1984 with 2.5 million Americans participating across 400 communities in 23 states.

SRNA supports the National Association of Town Watch (NATW)
and National Night Out (NNO).

For more information go to: www.natw.org

La Loma Bridge Closure Update



The bridge remains on schedule to re-open in December 2016.

Construction work will continue with the placement of interior forms and construction of the east abutment, and completion of construction of the remaining piers. Color samples of the bridge fixtures are being discussed for their installation.

For additional information: [www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/PublicWorks/La Loma Bridge Project/](http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/PublicWorks/La_Loma_Bridge_Project/)

Home Alone For 72 Hours: Being Prepared and Self-sufficient in a Catastrophic Disaster



A handful of San Rafael residents and SRNA members now are certified to lead neighborhood Emergency Response Teams in the event catastrophe blocks neighbor access to professional safety personnel and medical services.

Sponsored in April by the Pasadena Fire Department, the 20-hour course was developed in 1985 by the City of Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to build neighborhood Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

Recognizing that citizens could likely be on their own for 72 hours following a catastrophic disaster, the LAFD training model was adopted by fire departments throughout the county, including the Pasadena Fire Department.

The goal of CERT training is quick neighborhood recovery, possible when neighbors are 1) prepared and 2) self-sufficient.

To facilitate CERT goals, San Rafael neighbors who are CERT-certified are moving into the second phase of disaster preparation with a process called Map Your Neighborhood (MYN).

For an excellent overview of MYN, link here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo3PNiqhoPE>

In the next few months when you are invited to attend a neighbor meeting to "build and strengthen disaster readiness among neighbors," please make an effort to participate.

Your own and family safety and recovery in the aftermath of a catastrophic disaster hinge on personal preparations and readiness.

Editor's Note: If you are interested in taking the CERT Class to better prepare your family and property for coping with catastrophic events - like our past windstorm - call Lisa Derderian with the Pasadena Fire Department.

Lisa Derderian

626-744-7276

<http://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/fire?s=cert>

Troubles in the Hills



Temporary wood framing in background showing proposed area of a new second story addition.

A neighbor clash over a zoning appeal in the San Rafael Hills was brought to the attention of SRNA in January. The issue concerned a proposed second-story addition on Glen Holly taking view protections from the neighboring corner lot on Cheviotdale. The Cheviotdale corner

property, as purchased, enjoyed a view of the San Rafael Hills from a limited back yard (9-feet deep) abutting the side yard of the Glen Holly property.

In a split vote, the city's Board of Zoning Appeals (BOZA) voted 3-2 to approve a second-story addition, acknowledging the action would be "precedential."

Those two commissioners opposing the project made site inspections prior to the vote, noting back yard limitations.

Commissioner Louisa Nelson, clarifying her opposition to the project, said after her site inspection and her vote: "This specific situation is exactly what the Hillside Ordinance is designed to protect . . . the spirit of the Ordinance is aimed at protecting against this . . . the (appellant's) patio is cheek-by-jowl with the (applicant's) roof!"

Following the 3-2 BOZA vote the Cheviotdale property owner paid to appeal the matter to city council. Council heard the appeal in April, splitting evenly in a 4-4 vote and thereby allowing the original 3-2 BOZA vote to stand.

The process for this whole matter has not been without neighbor rancor and notable behaviors.

Below are suggestions for avoiding a redux:

- 1) Any commissioner/councilperson voting on a hillside project must be required to make a full site visit/inspection prior to voting, to include impacted properties;
- 2) In a hillside zoning appeal, every staff Power Point to city council must be identical to the staff Power Point to BOZA, unless changes/additions clearly are explained;
- 3) To clarify for Pasadena realtors and property owners/buyers, the planning commission and city council must review the matter of "reversed corner" lots - particularly those in hillside overlay districts - where city planners may consider the front yard of a corner lot to be the most narrow dimension fronting a public street and not, necessarily, the frontage with the actual street address and location of the front door; this leaves city council with ambiguity and property owners with varied topography few options;
- 4) Attorneys employed for project advocacy must disclose the experts to be used when those experts have employment history with the City of Pasadena;
- 5) Retaliation against properties of project appellants (code-compliance-digging) must be prohibited in hearings;
- 6) Council and the planning commission must work with city planners to establish guidelines for latitude in deciding property rights issues in complex hillside appeals involving "reversed corner" lots, as demonstrated in the recent appeal brought by Mr. Chilingirian.

NOTE: The City of Pasadena defines a reversed corner lot as "a corner lot in which the corner lotline is substantially a continuation of the front property line of the first lot to its rear."

Summer Heat & Possible Blackouts?



Rolling blackouts may occur in Pasadena this summer due to an interruption from one of the state's major power supplies from SoCal Gas.

The City of Pasadena and the PWP are doing everything possible to avoid interruption to your electrical service. In fact, Pasadena has made great strides to ensure our energy portfolio is diverse with renewable and traditional sources.

According to the PWP website, here are things you can do:

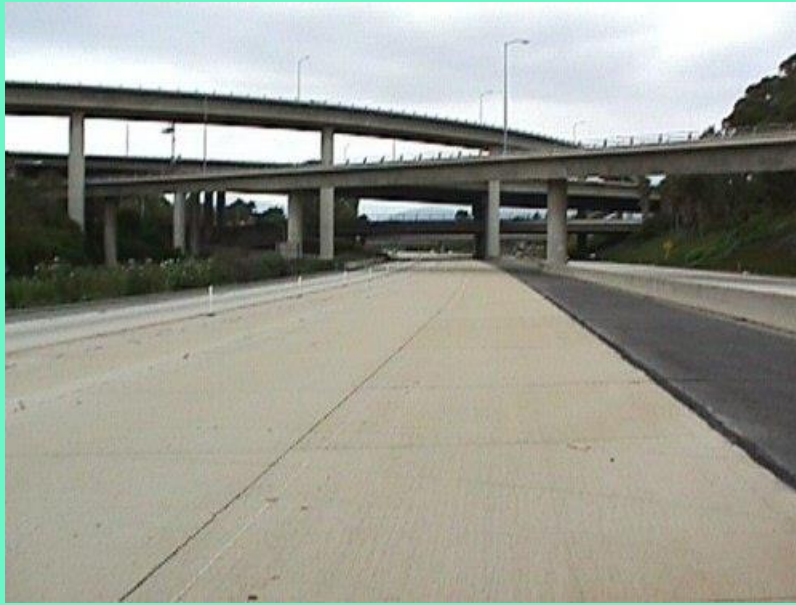
1. Sign up for PWP's Outage Management System- receive a phone call when power is out and when power is restored.
2. Sign up for Flex Alerts.
3. Have a back-up generator handy and tested, especially if you rely on a plug-in medical device. Register your qualified medical device with Pasadena Medical Assistance Program.
4. Use a heavy duty extension cord for devices connected to a back-up generator.
5. Notify PWP's Customer Service team that you rely on a medical plug-in device by calling 626-744-4005.

Also bookmark and check the City's main homepage www.cityofpasadena.net for important citywide emergency info and updates

Have an emergency preparedness kit in your home, car and office.

For more information: www.cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower/rollingblackouts

710 North Freeway



**Stub view from
California.**

By Terry Tornek

Posted: 07/15/16, 8:00 AM PDT |

Last month marked the first anniversary of the public release of Beyond the 710, a proposal to resolve the nearly 50-year stalemate over the north end of the 710 freeway. The proposal (www.beyondthe710.org) could solve the problems of the current 710 configuration, improve connectivity for all the affected communities and provide exciting opportunities to better use newly freed-up land.

While there are still obstacles to implementing a vision for the 710 that works for everyone, we can celebrate that the Metro board of directors has taken a major step forward by voting to place the proposed sales tax ballot measure on the November ballot with a provision that makes clear the funds generated by the new measure will not fund a tunnel that would plow through and decimate our communities.

As leaders of the cities that are most opposed to the tunnel proposal, I and the undersigned now encourage the board to separately instruct its staff and Caltrans to add the Beyond the 710 proposal to the current 710 north study. We see this as a path forward to ending the stalemate between those bearing the brunt of the 710 Freeway bottleneck traffic and those who fear the tunnel as an existential threat to their communities.

And this fear is justified. The tunnel presents significant health, financial, engineering, seismic, water, public safety, traffic and legal problems. Studies have shown that the tunnel would create cancer hotspots at the exhaust vents. Just as important, the massive, multi-year project would

have little positive effect on traffic and commute times and in fact create new severe traffic congestion and thus air quality impacts in other areas.

Further, while the cost of the 4.5-mile tunnel is estimated between \$5 billion and 10 billion, we all know that if it was ever built, the costs would most likely be much higher.

At the same time, our leaders recognize that the existing freeway "stubs" present real problems for the surrounding communities. At the north end, the stub is a huge gash in the fabric of Pasadena. On the south end, the 710 freeway funnels and dumps its traffic onto Valley Boulevard and does not provide good connectivity to the surrounding communities.

But the Beyond the 710 proposal converts these problems into real opportunities. It proposes to remove these freeway stubs, replace them with four-lane great streets, and use the freed-up land to build new parks and greenspace, transit, bikeways, residential and commercial development, and affordable housing, and provide extra room for local institutions such as Cal State Los Angeles.

On the north end, this approach would reconnect and heal Pasadena. But it's the south stub transformation that would really be magical. Replacing the stub with a grand boulevard would better disperse local traffic, making it easier to get where people want to go and relieving congestion that currently burdens Alhambra and other nearby communities. The price tag is 10 percent of the cost of a tunnel.

And that's why our cities, along with organizations such as the Natural Resources Defense Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, believe that Beyond the 710 is indeed a path to moving beyond the stale debate over the tunnel.

The Metro board needs to step up and direct planners to formally study the proposal. It would serve as a clear signal to voters that Metro is taking a truly balanced approach to the issue, and would encourage them to support of the ballot measure in November.

Voters must be assured that Metro works for them. By demonstrating the vision necessary to resolve this issue, we're confident that we can move forward and ease congestion throughout the county while preserving the quality of life our residents treasure.

Terry Tornek is mayor of Pasadena. This column was also signed by mayors Paula Devine of Glendale, Jonathan Curtis La Canada Flintridge and Diana Mahmud of South Pasadena; Sierra Madre Councilman John Capoccia; Glendale Council.

To view the Pasadena Star News

article: <http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/opinion/20160715/beyond-the-710-has-best-plan-to-end-pasadenas-freeway-stalemate-terry-tornek>

San Rafael Elementary School:

Maintenance and Operations, Traffic and Safety



PUSD schools begin the 2016-17 school year Monday, August 15th.

The current summer break at the SRES campus allowed PUSD maintenance and operations to correct drainage blockage causing soil and lawn erosion in the front of the school. Now that the drainage issue is resolved the aesthetics of landscape will improve.

Next on the SRES project list and prior to start of school is a new steel-panel roof for the auditorium building. The new roofing material will match the roof installed on the main building a few years ago.

Still anticipated are safety, traffic and parking tweaks developed by immediate neighbors and the school principal in collaboration with Pasadena traffic engineers and the Pasadena Police Department.

These recommendations were made in **March 2016** and are itemized below:

1. Red curb for the north side of Hermosa where Laguna intersects with Hermosa, and east for approximately 25 feet to allow for westbound traffic on Hermosa to remain in the westbound lanes when turning south onto Laguna;
2. Post the entire cul-de-sac on the west end of Hermosa "No Stopping" during school pick-up and drop-off times. Prohibiting cars from parking in the cul-de-sac would allow a safe turnaround for cars dropping off or picking up children on San Miguel at the drop-off and wishing to leave the area northbound rather than continuing south on Laguna. The bridge closure is causing numerous unsafe u-turns, and three point turns in driveways which adds to the congestion in the neighborhood;
3. Post both the east and west side of Laguna "No Parking" or "No Stopping" during school pick-up and drop-off times. This will allow the entire width of the narrow street to be used for two-way traffic and help keep pedestrians off the roadway;

4. Place an additional "No Stopping" sign on the southeast curve of the intersection at San Miguel and Hermosa. Although the "No stopping" zone continues around the corner onto San Miguel, parkers assume the curve is allowed for parking and often violate the zone. Red curb would also work around the curb, but as discussed before, there is no actual curb, and painting the existing asphalt berm was not desirable;
5. Extend the "No Stopping" during school pick-up and drop-off hours on San Miguel all the way from Hermosa to Nithsdale on the east side of the street. This would keep parents from parking on the east side and having the children cross through the traffic and also allow room for two-way traffic as well as the drop-off lane on the west side of the street;
6. Move the marked north/south crosswalk from the west side to the eastside of the Nithsdale/San Miguel intersection to encourage pedestrians on San Miguel, north of Nithsdale to walk on the east side of the street for improved safety and traffic visibility.

RIM OF THE VALLEY

Pasadena - home to mountain lions, black bears, and more . . .

The Center for Biological Diversity (Oakland) wants to reintroduce grizzly bears to the Sierra Nevadas, reported recently by the Los Angeles Times.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-california-grizzly-bear-study-20160711-snap-story.html>

Claiming "grizzlies" occupy less than 2 percent of their original range with none in California - though depicted on the state flag - grizzly supporters have identified 8,000 square miles in California's mountain ranges as appropriate for grizzly habitat.

Corridors in these ranges link to habitats in neighboring mountain ranges where grizzly colonization may occur.

Grizzlies can be 800 pounds and 8 feet tall, with no enemies but man. They are the largest omnivores in North America and must eat amply during summer months to survive winter hibernation.

The Center for Biological Diversity believes grizzlies are jeopardized by human infrastructure (homes and freeways, energy development, animal husbandry, etc.) - limited reproductive variety (isolation) - loss of critical food resources (deer, big horn sheep, etc.) - and wildlife management practices (excess hunting).

Similar issues touch close to home in Pasadena.

Legislation written recently by Rep. Adam Schiff (Rim of the Valley) expands the boundaries of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) to include Pasadena residential neighborhoods and the Arroyo Seco.

► Rep. Schiff's legislation approaches wildlife protections as an offer of "technical assistance" to private property owners, with the intent of regulatory administration through the National Park Service and related federal agencies.

For map of Rim of the Valley expansion, see here:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1woGMh6BMC5OvKo2MwoXAomKZxwg>

For Rim of the Valley legislation, see here:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5467/text/ih?overview=closed&format=txt>

► A recent study by UCLA and the National Park Service tracked predatory hunting by mountain lions in and around SMMNRA boundaries. The study found urban survival needs of female mountain lions brought them closer to developed areas, by necessity avoiding risks of aggressive behavior by males.

The full study is found here:

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0158006>

Print coverage is here:

<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-mountain-lions-santa-monicas-20160715-snap-story.html>

► In June a 2-year old female black bear mauled a camper in Millard Canyon above Altadena. Fearing the bear had become "habituated" it was humanely euthanized by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-black-bear-euthanized-20160630-snap-story.html>

► Local conservationists plan to purchase 11 acres in Cottonwood Canyon for black bear habitat, among other species. Surrounded by homes, the canyon extends from the floor of the Arroyo Seco and up Linda Vista Avenue to La Canada Flintridge/Glendale.

For mapping of corridors, see here:

<http://www.arroyosfoothills.org/cottonwood-wildlife-corridors/>

It appears Pasadena's residential neighborhoods increasingly will be dealing with "habituated" wildlife. Be careful out there.

REGULATIONS:

Home Sharing/Airbnb/Vacation Rentals

Pasadena City Council has not yet officially addressed the issue of home sharing/vacation rentals in Pasadena's residential neighborhoods.

With the Arroyo Seco Music and Arts Festival scheduled to debut at the Rose Bowl June 2017 (attendance expected at 90,000) and the City of Los Angeles recently striking a deal to collect a lodging tax from residential "hosts" through Airbnb, SRNA Board member and neighbor Andy Gooden offered **food-for-thought** in the debate of this thorny matter.

City of Pasadena Policy Goals Need To:

- ▶ Preserve the integrity of residential neighborhoods
- ▶ Preserve housing for residential use in a constrained housing environment
- ▶ Preserve the rights of homeowners
- ▶ Provide mechanisms for city to address repeat-nuisance rental properties
- ▶ Provide a clear channel of communication with the city (which department should neighbors contact with issues?)
- ▶ Provide a clear set of operating parameters - no ambiguities or loopholes

Proposal:

Make a distinction in properties:

- **Owner Occupied**
- **Not Owner Occupied**

1) Owner Occupied

Require a business license

Remit occupancy taxes

Define "owner occupied" by maximum number of rental days or minimum number of days with owner present

Restrict by zoning (existing code allows owners in RS zones to rent a maximum of two bedrooms)

2) Not Owner Occupied

Apply existing city code regulating bed-and-breakfast inns

<http://ww2.cityofpasadena.net/zoning/P-8.html#LODGINGBEDANDBREAKFASTINNS>

Establish terms for minimum rental period

Require official posting of "responsible person" contact information

Open Question:

How will the city prevent subletting/renting of subsidized housing?

How other cities have addressed the issue:

Santa Monica:

Home must be host's primary residence
Host must live on-site during guest's stay
Non-owner occupied rentals prohibited
Must get a business license
Collect a 14% occupancy tax and pay a \$500 fine with a violation

City of Los Angeles:

(Proposal approved by City Planning, now at LA City Council)
Hosts must register with the city
Hosts must pay hotel taxes
Must be host's primary residence, i.e., host must live there at least 180 days/yr
Non-owner occupied could be rented for a maximum of 15 days annually
Property can't be under rent control or designated as affordable housing
Hosts legally responsible for nuisance violations by guests

Seattle:

A non-primary residence is limited to 90 rental nights in a 12-month period, must carry liability insurance and provide a local contact number.

Philadelphia: Allows 180 rental days if owner lives on-site and 90 if not.

For background on Pasadena home-sharing from the past year:

www.pasadenanow.com/main/private-home-rentals-through-airbnb-website-called-major-problem-for-city/#.V5AMfaKUbmC

www.pasadenanow.com/main/pasadena-home-sharing-network-members-call-for-regulation-of-their-own-service-industry/#.V5ANP6KUbmC

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH SRNA

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Member	\$	20.00
Household	\$	35.00
Sustaining	\$	100.00
Patron	\$	250.00
Benefactor	\$	500.00

You may send your check by mail to:

San Rafael Neighborhoods Association
PO Box 92617
Pasadena, CA 91109

[SRNA 2016 Member Form](#)

OR

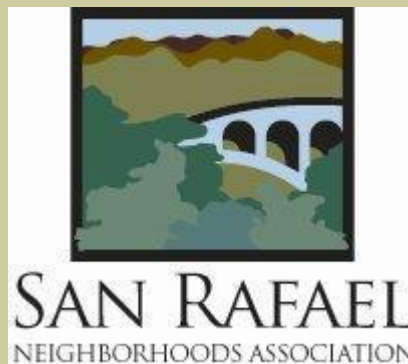
Join us at our website at

www.srnapiasadena.org and click the tab "Join Us"

Debit and credit cards accepted.

Sign up for our News and Notices:

<http://srnapiasadena.org/join-us/>



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

SRNA is a California exempt non-profit 501 c 4 corporation and registered with the City of Pasadena/Neighborhood Connections office.

Membership Dues/Donations are Not Tax Deductible.

