



Fall - Winter 2016 SRNA Newsletter

Vol 5, Issue 3

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

IN THIS ISSUE

[La Loma Bridge](#)

[Halloween Street Closure](#)

[Zoning Changes Pending](#)

[Cooperative Success](#)

[Drone Concerns](#)

[Utility Undergrounding](#)

[Winter Water Rules](#)

[Police & Fire Department News](#)

[Merging Schools?](#)

[Airbnb Issues](#)

[Neighborhood Crime](#)

[710 Tunnel / Measue M](#)



2017 Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President:	Mary Dee Romney
Vice-President:	Robin Salzer
Vice-President:	Mary Beth Bridges
Treasurer:	Stan Clark
Recording Secretary:	Mary Dee Romney (Interim)

DIRECTORS:

Stan Clark
Mary Beth Bridges
Andy Gooden
Mary Dee Romney
Ed Graf
Robin Salzer
Kathy Goodwin
Toby McGill
Carol Jones
Colleen Schwab
Ken Chawkins

Ed Graf - 710 Committee
Joanne Fletcher - Utilities Consultant
Wendi Moffly - 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

January 4th, 2017

SRNA GENERAL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

La Loma Bridge Closure Update



Picture of soffit pour courtesy of the City of Pasadena

The La Loma Bridge project is set to re-open at the end of December. However, a major aspect of the construction is the placement of the bridge deck. This work is anticipated in the next several weeks. Once that has been successfully completed city engineers will have a clearer picture for the actual re-opening date. SRNA is closely following this project.

SRNA thanks City Manager Steve Mermell and City Engineer Steve Wright for this important information.

San Miguel / Sierra View Closure

A Safe and Festive Halloween for San Miguel / Sierra View Residents and Visitors

On Halloween this year, hundreds of trick-or-treaters flocked to the reliably festive streets of the San Rafael neighborhood seeking candy and spooky delights. Our neighborhood once again delivered on its promise to be fun and joyful for all. It also successfully delivered on something else to the streets of San Miguel and Sierra View - safety. For the first time, these two streets were closed off to car traffic and trick-or-treaters could be found happily running back and forth between houses without the worry of cars driving up and down the street.

The initiative, headed up by a Sierra View resident, was prompted due to our lack of sidewalks and concern for the safety of those children who are running around on Halloween. With the inherent danger of moving vehicles, trick-or-treating had become fairly stressful which was frustrating for parents and disappointing to the kids. Luckily, that all changed this year.

To get approval and a permit from the City of Pasadena to block off our streets, the Human Services and Recreation Department provided and required the following forms: 1) Application for a Permit to Conduct an Activity within the Public Right-of-Way and 2) Certificate of Liability Insurance (the certificate was purchased through an outside company, Sparta Insurance Programs, recommended by the City).

The City of Pasadena also needed signatures from those residents whose street would be closed off. We acquired these signatures through an online petition and by walking door-to-door.

San Rafael Elementary School was also notified of the street closure and they included information in their newsletter handed out before Halloween.

Once the permit was granted, we reminded and THANKED San Miguel and Sierra View residents. They were made aware of exact location of the street closure and the hours of the closure (5:30 pm - 9 pm) by printed letter.

The City dropped off all of the barricades and traffic signs and local residents help set up and take down the barricades on Halloween night.

Thank you again to all who helped to make this happen. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from residents - our streets felt calm, thousands of pieces of candy were still distributed and Halloween-goers felt safer than ever in our beautiful neighborhood.

We look forward to next Halloween where we will continue celebrating our beloved and newly revised traditions, now with greater safety for all.

Hillside Overlay

Need To Know! Need To Show! Zoning Changes Pending

The City of Pasadena Planning Commission will hold a special meeting Wednesday November 30, 2016 to consider changes to the San Rafael Hillside Overlay District.

Neighbors may recall extreme action by Glen Summer homeowners to "put the brakes on" discordant development on their street. An emotional zoning appeal by a Cheviotdale owner over the loss of a much-cherished view by a second-story addition ended with a tied vote at city council, a precedent jeopardizing view protections in the San Rafael hills. A home addition on Romney Drive met square footage limits but not height limits, thereby taking view values from neighbors.

The Planning Commission will hear staff recommendations on the following:

- neighborhood compatibility
- view protections
- privacy protections
- basements
- garage locations
- accessory structures

SRNA requests that two issues be added to the above:

- 1) Expectation that officials sitting on appeal boards physically inspect project sites before voting on the appeal;
- 2) For purposes of real estate disclosure and development potential, the city needs clear definition of properties considered "reversed corner" lots.

Please plan to attend this special meeting of the Planning Commission.

San Rafael School Traffic

A "Most Cooperative" Effort!

Getting around San Rafael Elementary School in the morning and out of the neighborhood is not the hazardous challenge it used to be. New signage, curb restrictions and valet line rules have noticeably improved the experience. The City of Pasadena has committed to providing a crossing guard for peak school traffic times.

A special thanks for these accomplishments goes to neighbor and SRNA board member Toby McGill, whose calm and persistent hands-on approach to "safety for all" pulled varied parties to consensus.

In addition to Toby McGill, SRNA thanks the following individuals for this cooperative achievement:

San Rafael Elementary School Principal Rudy Ramirez

Lt. Pete Hetteema, Pasadena Police Department

Assistant Engineer Alberto Felix, City of Pasadena Department of Transportation

San Rafael School Site Council

Neighbor and SRNA board member Mary Beth Bridges

Drone Concerns

Do Not Down A Drone!

As recently covered by Federal Aviation Regulations Part 107 (FAR 107), unmanned aircraft from 55 pounds to 0.5 pounds (total weight, including payload) are now officially regulated, both commercially and for hobby use.

Drones are considered aircraft and penalties will be assessed (minimum: \$10,000) for intentionally downing a drone.

Do not down a drone.

Do not even try to down a drone, even in jest. If, in downing a drone, it causes damage or injury, you could very well end up in jail.

Privacy is really not addressed in the FAR rulings and the FAA suggests building a relationship with local authorities in order to flesh-out an understanding. Already drones are restricted from fire and police activities, depending on local ordinances.

QUICK RULES TO LEARN

Unless a permit is issued -

- * All drones will remain below 400 feet above the ground or within 400 feet from a structure;
- * Drones must be line-of-sight with the operator (the person with the controller). An observer may be used but the operator must still keep the drone in sight;
- * Drones may not be operated at night - 30 minutes after local sunset or 30 minutes prior to official sunrise. Visibility must be three miles. If a violation is observed, please take photos and if against the sky, try to frame with fixed ground items, i.e., trees, buildings, etc. (As my FAA contacts stated, nothing is worse than trying to determine the altitude of a drone with only the sky in the background.)

If you note drone violations try to find the operator of the drone so that appropriate questions can be asked.

The FAA welcomes phone calls. The local office is in Van Nuys (they control this area) and the phone number is 818-904-6291.

The Pasadena Police Department contact is 626-744-6425, which is the heliport north of the Rose Bowl. They will send out a cruiser if a complaint is lodged.

As the rules have only recently been published, there will be room to change some of the language. I believe they appreciate our input.

As a final comment, interested Pasadenans should get with local authorities and, if possible, try to nail down any privacy issues.

(The above advisory is from SRNA board member and neighbor Ed Graf, retired American Airlines pilot.)

Utility Undergrounding

Interest in Undergrounding?

Since 1968 Pasadena property owners have been surcharged on city utility bills to pay the cost of eliminating power poles and overhead lines and put vaults and circuits underground.

The objectives were: 1) power/utility line safety, 2) street-side ambiance, 3) improved view-shed.

Another objective was to ensure that technology and process keep-up with the times.

In 2003 the city divided program projects: Category I covered arterial and collector streets (priorities) and Category II covered residential streets and alleys. Another designation, "not suitable for underground," covered hillsides and neighborhoods where poles/lines are located in backyards with difficult accessibility.

For maps and photos, see:

<http://www.cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower/undergrounding/>

Over the past 48 years the City of Pasadena reportedly has successfully under-grounded 46 miles of overhead lines on major arterial streets. The cost to continue this pace to completion, in present-day dollars, is estimated at \$10-12m per mile over a 400-year timeline.

Currently the city reports \$40m in the fund with projects on Mountain-Hill-Alpine expected to deplete this balance.

The recent embezzlement of undergrounding funds and subsequent audit prompted a fresh look and perhaps, a new approach, to the program.

Administration and operation of undergrounding districts now are consolidated under the electrical utility division of Pasadena Water and Power (PWP).

The city is assessing whether the original mission of the program has met major goals and how to proceed into the future.

Council districts across the city are collecting resident opinion on the underground program:

- 1) Discontinue?
- 2) Continue at the current pace?
- 3) Double-down on the surcharge for quicker completion?

One option raised at a recent meeting in the Rose Bowl locker room was to have city staff evaluate possibilities for "benefit assessment districts" allowing neighborhoods to assess themselves for undergrounding through county assessor tax rolls.

Also considered was the potential obsolescence of overhead lines as homes power-up with solar, a futuristic scenario arguing for a continuance of the current pace of the program until technology can accomplish the task.

This early stage of the public outreach process on undergrounding raised other questions.

For instance, if the surcharge is for "public benefit" and therefore a tax, how best to explain a public benefit to those with properties identified as "not suitable" for undergrounding while paying the tax? Property owners paying large surcharges over time have the same question.

Stay tuned on undergrounding!

Water Rules November 1 through March 31



Level 2 Water Shortage Plan in Effect: Spring/Summer Schedule: **November 1 - March 31.**

Fall/Winter Water 1 Days per Week on Saturday Only.

On June 1, 2015 the Pasadena City Council adopted the Level 2 Water Shortage Plan, under City Ordinance Chapter 13.10. The plan limits outdoor watering to two days per week on Tuesdays and Saturdays from April 1 through October 31, and **one day per week on Saturdays from November 1 through March 31.** The plan also prohibits watering between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., requires water leaks to be fixed within 48 hours, and prohibits the filling of ornamental lakes and ponds. (Please note that the fall/winter watering schedule was also one day per week in 2014 under the previous Level 1 Water Shortage Supply Plan.)

The key water waste prohibitions currently in effect for all PWP water customers include:

- In the spring and summer months property owners can water two days per week on Tuesday and Saturday April 1 to October 31. Outdoor watering one day per week, on Saturday only, during the fall and winter months, **November 1 to March 31**
- No watering outdoors between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., **except with a handheld container or hose with a shutoff nozzle**

- No watering during periods of rain and 48 hours after rain
- All water leaks must be fixed within 48 hours
- No excessive water flow or runoff onto pavement, gutters or ditches from watering or irrigating landscapes or vegetation of any kind
- No washing down paved surfaces with potable water unless for safety or sanitation
- No washing vehicles except by using a handheld bucket or similar container or hose equipped with a water shutoff nozzle
- No filling of ornamental lakes or ponds

For more information please see: www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/waterandpower/

Pasadena Police & Fire Department News

Pasadena Police Department:

The Pasadena Police Department has completed the policy and implementation of body worn cameras for officers. Beginning Monday November 7th cameras will be deployed for regular use. The use of body-worn cameras is seen as strengthening transparency and accountability between the public and officers. The policy will be discussed at the next scheduled public safety committee meeting later this month. For more information go to: [PPD Camera Policy](#)

=====

Pasadena Fire Department:

The Pasadena Fire Department has received an approval of its first Annual Compliance Report (ACR) from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Last year the department was awarded "Accredited Agency" status. The approval validates the dedicated and diligent work performed by the department. Only 10 municipal fire departments in California and 218 internationally have earned "Accredited Agency" status.

San Rafael Elementary School

Merging San Rafael AND Linda Vista Schools?

The Pasadena school board recently approved a 1-year renewal of the district's facilities lease with Linda Vista Children's Center (formerly All Saints Children's Center) at the Linda Vista elementary school site. The renewal gives the non-profit pre-K operation access to 33,000 square feet of grounds while paying the district \$4,412.14 per month. The renewed lease expires August 31, 2017.

The near-term future for the Linda Vista school site is likely to integrate with academic plans for San Rafael Elementary School's popular Spanish immersion program.

What has been considered:

- 1) Establish Pre-K and Kinder enrollment at Linda Vista for all the district's Spanish immersion families - where there is grass for younger children and neighbors want grass for local families when displaced by the increasing number of Rose Bowl events;
- 2) Use TT Bond funds for modulars at the Linda Vista site, with site placement and flexibility allowing for bubbles in enrollment while expanding the city's park landscaping and playground area; this allows space for all-day pre-K and eliminates a false sense of parental entitlement to automatically enroll pre-K students at San Rafael (resolving the thorny problem of out-of-district families flooding San Rafael pre-K), while allowing other sites to grow their programs;
- 3) With classroom and playground space freed-up at San Rafael for upper elementary grade level Spanish immersion, the in-district wait list for these grades can be accommodated.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ▶ Open Linda Vista for PUSD pre-K and kindergarten Spanish immersion for the 2017-18 school year; share site with Linda Vista Children's Center for one additional year; reconfigure San Rafael for older elementary students.
- ▶ Due to the small size of both the San Rafael and Linda Vista sites, cap (hard cap) each site at 400 students.
- ▶ Expect outreach and transparency from District 7 school board member Scott Phelps

Real time update:

PUSD trustees just authorized and funded "Historic Assessment Survey" reports for both Linda Vista and San Rafael schools. George Taylor Loudon AIA, has contractual agreements to meet with stakeholders (including neighbors), present results to the city's Design and Historic Preservation Committee and engage in a "collaborative process with a satisfying end result for all."

Airbnb Issues

"City Council To Consider"

Home Sharing - Airbnb - Short-term Rentals

Preliminary scheduling indicates the city council's Economic Development and Technology Committee (Ed-Tech) will agendaize for early 2017 meetings, proposals for regulating home sharing/short-term rentals in Pasadena's residential neighborhoods.

<http://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/city-council-economic-development-technology/>

SRNA will monitor and announce the date and time for this meeting.

Below, once again, SRNA Board member and neighbor Andy Gooden provides observations for consideration prior to the meeting.

City of Pasadena Policy Goals Need To:

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

Proposal:

Make a distinction between "owner occupied" and "not-owner occupied" properties.

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

Review existing city code regulating bed-and-breakfast inns

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

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?

The City of Pasadena has announced meetings on this issue. Click the link below:

[Community Meetings](#)

How some cities have addressed the issue:

Seattle: A non-primary residence is limited to 90 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

Santa Monica: Owner must live on-site, get a business license, collect a 14% occupancy tax and pay a \$500 fine with a violation

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

<http://www.pasadenanow.com/main/private-home-rentals-through-airbnb-website-called-major-problem-for-city/#.V5AMfaKUbm>

<http://www.pasadenanow.com/main/pasadena-home-sharing-network-members-call-for-regulation-of-their-own-service-industry/#.V5ANP6KUbm>

Crime Challenges - Holiday Caution

Mail theft continues to be a persistent problem in neighborhoods. Even with locking mailboxes, break-ins are being reported. Here is the link to report federal mailbox theft/break-ins: USPS theft reports: (877) 876-2455 or www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov

The holidays are near and the police department is reminding people not to leave valuables in plain sight in your vehicle. Park in well-lighted areas and pay attention to your surroundings. It is a good idea to shop with others and look out for each other - especially at night. For a complete list of safety tips go

to: <http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/EkContent.aspx?theme=Navy&id=8589937160&bid=0&style=news>

To view recent preliminary crime statistics please see:

http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/Police/Crime_Statistics/

710 Tunnel / Measure M - A "Forever Sales Tax"

Voters on November 8th passed Measure M, Los Angeles County Metro's planned transportation ballot measure. The bill will increase the sales tax county wide by 1/2 of 1% sales tax to run concurrently with Measure R that passed in 2008. Measure R will sunset on July 1, 2039 at which time Measure M will increase to 1% and never expire.

Several cities in the South Bay area sued over the ballot language for Measure M claiming the language was confusing, that project descriptions were not clearly defined or stated, that the measure would relegate projects approved in Measure R to the back of the line for projects stated in Measure M, and more importantly, that the 1/2 of 1% to 1% tax being permanent was not included.

On September 6th, 2016 Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mary H. Strobel said Measure M is not an initiative and therefore did not require the ballot language specifics sought in the lawsuit. Judge Strobel stated there was no evidence presented that the wording was confusing to voters.

It is not known if the cities involved in the litigation: Carson, Signal Hill, Rancho Palos Verdes, Commerce, Norwalk, Torrance and Santa Fe Springs will file an appeal.

The official vote on Measure M was: Yes - 1,594,427 (69.79%) No - 690,271 (30.21%). 2/3rds (67%) was needed for approval.

Measure M states that traffic will improve by 15% and provide 465,000 jobs. A closer look shows the benefits may not occur until 2050 or later.

With projects unclear or unstated and approximately \$120 billion of new tax dollars going to Metro control, residents should be leery of large bloated projects like the 710 Tunnel plan under consideration. Measure M is a "forever" 1% sales tax beginning in 2039 and Metro should spend it wisely on 21st Century solutions. A decision on the 710 Gap completion is expected sometime next year.

SRNA is opposed to the tunnel and the completion of the 710. Alternatives that make financial sense using new technology are a better option for all.

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.srnapasadena.org and click the tab "Join Us"**

Debit and credit cards accepted.

Sign up for our News and Notices:
<http://srnapasadena.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.

