



SAN RAFAEL
NEIGHBORHOODS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2017 SRNA Newsletter

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

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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

SRNA General Meetings

WHEN: FIRST WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH

WHERE: CHURCH OF THE ANGELS
CHURCH HALL

1100 AVENUE 64
7 PM

Next Meeting

April 5th, 2017

SRNA GENERAL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Dotty McDavid

Kindergarten: San Rafael School

1929



Meet Dotty Riecke McDavid, early settler in the San Rafael neighborhood, student with the first kindergarten class schooled in the brick, two-story building at the San Rafael Elementary School site, chronicler of more than a half-century of McKinley class reunions, lifetime swimmer and first female lifeguard at Seal Beach, PCC/Muir alumna, USC graduate in science and math, JPL engineering recruit, mother of two sons, executive secretary to PUSD Superintendent Ray Cortines, parent during PUSD's activation of Judge Manny Real's busing order, sudden widow renewed through a McKinley reunion - diplomatic observer of both the raw and the subtle - a tolerant, savvy, practical optimist living a life of many surprises.

It was the mid-1920's when the Riecke family purchased their home at 1517 La Loma Road.

At the time San Rafael School was a two-room, wood-frame building with few students. One schoolroom accommodated K-2 students. The other was for students in grades 3-6. Surrounding land tracts were a beehive of weekday, evening and weekend construction, transforming the bare dirt into a grid-work of neighborhoods. Dads got off work and went to their next job - building a family home in an area needing to replace the small frame school first constructed in 1918.

Civic obligations were met and a two-story red brick building went up in 1929. Dotty and her kindergarten class made the move from the little two-room schoolhouse to a brand new, spacious kindergarten - just for them.

Dotty recalls walking to San Rafael School from her home - east along La Loma, north on Avenue 64 past the old bible college, detouring over to the creek feeding Johnston Lake and always avoiding the "forest" at the corner of Nithsdale and Avenue 64, presently home to the Nithsdale Library.

These scenes changed with time. The red brick school building was damaged in the Long Beach earthquake (1933) and repaired in 1935. Dotty soon moved on to McKinley for grades 7-10, forming life-time friendships renewed over the years during much-anticipated McKinley reunions.

Following graduation from McKinley Dotty attended the PCC/Muir campus, configured for grades 11-14. After two years she moved on to USC, graduating with a degree in science and math. Dotty was soon hired by JPL, working as an engineer in the few small buildings then clustered on the JPL site. Because of excellent shorthand skills she was transitioned to a secretarial position since, at that time, "JPL needed secretaries more than engineers."

Marrying JPL engineer Kenton McDavid in 1947, Dotty raised two sons while volunteering at PUSD's Ed Center at Hudson and Del Mar. Once her sons were independent she put her considerable skills to work as Superintendent Ray Cortines' executive secretary. Dotty fondly recalls the pleasure of working for Superintendent Cortines, and stays in touch to this day.

Not all was smooth sailing. Judge Manny Real's busing order coincided with her youngest son's senior year at Pasadena High School where he was a critical member of the water polo team. To be competitive the water polo coach needed the team he'd built over three years. Judge Real's attendance boundary map did not address such nuances.

The McDavids lived north of New York Drive, an attendance area Judge Real assigned to Muir High School. To facilitate their youngest son's final year in high school the McDavid family leased their home and rented another, south of New York Drive. Their son finished his final year with the PHS water polo team, being the first water polo player to receive the school's combined "scholastic-athletic" award. Both sons went on to graduate from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, one with a degree in horticulture and the other in architecture.

After retiring from the PUSD in the mid-90's Dotty suddenly lost her husband of 52 years. Family and friends rallied and Dotty was persuaded to attend yet another McKinley reunion, renewing a friendship with recent widower, Gary Christensen, with whom she spent many active years.

Dotty presently lives in The Oaks, enjoying the friendships there along with her extended family - staying in touch with PUSD retirees, McKinley graduates - occasionally driving past her childhood home on La Loma Road and now, passing on some of her personal history to neighbors and families of San Rafael Elementary School.

La Loma Bridge Closure Update



A **June 2017 completion date is now expected** for the La Loma Bridge project according to a staff report to be submitted at the February 27th City Council meeting.

The project was originally expected to be completed by the end of December 2016. Unfortunately, the project has experienced unanticipated construction related delays which have pushed back the completion date.

The contractor, Vali Cooper & Associates is requesting additional funds in the amount of \$150,000 for construction management services through completion of the project. Almost 89% of the funds needed for the project are Federal funds. The new cost of the management services contract will be \$1,250,00.00

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

WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE INSTRUCTION

LADIES!
YOUR INVITATION
Women's Self Defense
(Women 14-Years and Older)

SRNA Cordially Invites Women
to
Pasadena's First-ever

WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE INSTRUCTION

Saturday, April 29th

8:30-12:45

Maranantha High School
Student Center
169 So. St. John Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91105

Park in adjacent lot or parking structure; access both from St. John Avenue

This event is sponsored jointly by the Pasadena Police Department and the San Rafael Neighborhoods Association in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The program is intended to give Pasadena women and teen-age girls a sampling of options for building skills and confidence when self-defense is necessary.

The Pasadena Police Department, Rosemead's UFC Gym and IMPACT Personal Safety will provide both lecture and demonstration instruction.

Registration and a light continental breakfast will begin at 8:30am. The Pasadena Police Department will launch the program at 9:00am. The final hour will allow for conversation and offer enrollment in a variety of classes provided by UFC Gym and IMPACT Personal Safety.

All photography will be at the discretion of the Pasadena Police Department

Spring-Summer Water Rules

**Summer Watering
Schedule Apr 1 - Oct 31**

**Tuesday, Thursday
& Saturday Watering**



Effective April 1, Pasadena will move to a Level 1 Water Shortage Plan. Under this level, outdoor watering for summer (April 1 to October 31) is limited to:

Three days per week (Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays)

before 9 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

Under a Level 1 Water Shortage customers must also prepare leaks, breaks or malfunctions in a water plumbing or distribution system within 72 hours of notification by PWP.

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

TALE OF TWO GARDENS

by Colleen Schwab



When we first bought our home in the San Rafael Hills, the garden had the traditional sloping lawn, established trees and shrubs, and flowerbeds filled with impatiens, pansies and petunias. It was 1993 and many of the gardens in Pasadena adhered to the same familiar aesthetic ideal. The landscape completed the idyllic portrait: a backyard for the kids to run around and seasonal flowers to admire from the patio while enjoying an alfresco dinner.

The garden became my hobby and a stress reliever. With our semi-perfect climate and average of 286 sunny days of sunshine per year, we were essentially like a boxed cake recipe. All I had to do was add water and voila! My hard work was rewarded in 2001 when the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation honored our garden with their annual Golden Arrow award.

However, after many years, the reality of maintaining this type of landscape started to wear on me as I noticed a pattern had developed: water, fertilize, trash, and repeat. My shrubs grew tall and had to be trimmed constantly. My annuals bloomed, faded and had to be replaced seasonally. Saint Augustine grass, planted because it was "drought tolerant," turned brown in the winter.

In order to keep the lawn green our gardeners over-seeded it with a seasonal variety-but that required our yard to smell like a cattle ranch. In the summer the grass needed so much water but even then it looked worn and exhausted, making me abhor my garden during the hottest months. With all the watering, my mature trees started to struggle. Root-rot and water-loving fungus

began to assault the garden's shade-producing anchors. How could I reconcile my garden's varying water needs?

As I was trying to outwit nature and accept that our average annual rainfall in Pasadena is a scant 19.4 inches, I became fascinated with succulents. I admired their architectural shape, variety of color, and ability to reproduce themselves with little or no assistance from me. The best part? They need almost no water. I began to plant pots of succulents on my patios and learned how to maintain and propagate them. I noticed they did not attract pests, never needed fertilizer and suited our climate well.

My next question was why not transform the garden into a drought tolerant landscape to simplify maintenance and reduce water, fertilizer, and insecticide use? But did I really want my garden to reflect reality-that we live in the desert?

It was hard to let go of that traditional aesthetic of sweeping grass and bright flowers, but in 2011, we started transforming our garden into a "water-wise" landscape by using a combination of California natives and succulents that not only suit the house, but dramatically reduce the impact on the environment.

The garden now attracts more birds, butterflies and lizards. It is no longer a continuous riot of color, but a serene shifting palate of greens with periodic color displays when the California Lilac blooms, and the Rock Roses shimmer in the Spring. Summer heat shows off the Lion's Tail and Cleveland Sage. Winter rain turns the Senecio from Green to blue and the Agaves and Echeveria drink their fill in preparation for the long dry heat of summer. Now, I love my garden year-round.

And the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation does, too. They honored us with another Golden Arrow in 2013. After tending my garden for 24 years, I've learned that it's better to work with the environment rather than against it. Now, I'm proud to call my garden drought tolerant and smile to think how far I have traveled in my garden within this beautiful city.



ASSEMBLYMAN CHRIS HOLDEN'S 710 BILL

Assemblyman Chris Holden recently proposed legislation (AB 287) to change the CA Streets and Highways Code, to read:

"622.2. The department shall not implement a freeway tunnel for Route 710 between Route 10 and Route 210."

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB287

While some observers allege Holden's legislation potentially re-activates 710 surface routes, many are relieved that the \$5.6 billion estimated for the 4.9-mile 710 tunnel might actually be invested in transportation infrastructure more broadly needed - beyond trucking cargo from the ports.

Assemblyman Holden would understand this conundrum.

On October 15, 2015 Assemblyman Holden convened a "Select Committee on Regional Transportation and Interconnectivity Solutions" at Pasadena's US Court of Appeals. It was headlined: **"Moving Goods, Moving People."**

Assemblyman Holden delivered introductory remarks, observing that **"transportation makes society and the economy run . . . (and) we need to think of the next generation."**

To this end, representatives from Metrolink, Metro, Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Construction Authority, SCAG, CA Transportation Commission, Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority, SCAQMD and CA Department of Transportation District 7 (Los Angeles and Ventura) delivered updates. Focus was on data and blueprints supporting plans for commuter rail, bus-rail-airport connectivity, freight mobility, air quality targets, deferred highway maintenance, capital improvement to the state highway system, support for a "vibrant economy" and - **funding the gaps in all of the above.**

THE STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING GAP IS BIG

Figures released by the CA Transportation Commission during the hearing show California ranking **45th in overall highway performance**, with **\$57 billion in deferred** transportation maintenance and a **ten-year projected shortfall of \$296 billion**. In 2016 the State Highway Operations and Protection Program estimated a need for \$8 billion to meet the year's goals, with only \$2.3 billion available.

CONCLUSION

SRNA opposes the SR-710 "north extension," both in concept and cost. (no710.com) The legislative opening now provided by Assemblyman Chris Holden affords the opportunity to better invest \$5.6 billion to comport with Mr. Holden's stated goal that transportation planning "make society and the economy run" while thinking of the next generation.

SRNA will continue to notice membership on this crucial matter.

REGULATIONS for VACATION RENTALS and Airbnb

The Planning Commission will hold a **public hearing** to consider regulations for "**Short-Term Rentals**," also known as STR's, vacation rentals and/or Airbnb, HomeAway . . .

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

6:30 pm

City Hall, Council Chamber

100 N. Garfield Avenue

SRNA has requested that the city adhere to the following objectives when adopting STR regulations and prioritize these objectives as follows:

- 1) The **quality of life in neighborhoods**, and the reasonable expectation of neighbors to enjoy their homes, **must be maintained**;
- 2) The **supply of housing for purchase and/or long-term rental** should not be significantly reduced; and
- 3) Short-term rental units should **enhance the local economy**.

SRNA has requested that the following be included in the ordinance:

- **City review and/or inspection with annual permit**
- **Notice to properties within 300' accompanied by a "nuisance response plan" from the STR owner**
- **"Quiet Hours" established through city-wide good neighbor guidelines - especially important for Rose Bowl events!**
- **Annual review by city council of STR code compliance complaints city-wide**

- **Clear assignment of liability in the case of registered sex offender presence**

Please plan to attend this important meeting!

STATE NOW MANDATES SECOND UNITS IN SINGLE-FAMILY NEIGHBORHOODS

State planning law authorizes the *legislative body of a city to regulate the "intensity of land use" through local zoning codes.*

On September 27, 2016 Governor Brown signed legislation canceling-out local zoning control of second units in residential neighborhoods (AB 2299 and SB 1069) ***allowing the state to seize control of local zoning*** and impose new state guidelines for second units in single family and multifamily residential zones, to include manufactured homes and trailers not to exceed 1,200 square feet.

The state will penalize non-compliant cities with a refusal to certify housing elements submitted in future updates to general plans.

The League of California Cities opposes this power grab. The City of Pasadena has scheduled ***community meetings*** on this very serious neighborhood matter.

Tuesday

April 4, 2017

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

First Church of the Nazarene Pasadena, Gilmore Hall
3700 East Sierra Madre Blvd.

or

Thursday

April 6, 2017

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Pasadena Senior Center, West Pavilion
35 East Holly St.

Some proposed amendments to meet state requirements:

- 1) Terminology is changed: ***Second Unit*** is now called ***Accessory Dwelling Unit or ADU***;
- 2) ADU's can be either ***attached or detached units with floor area not to exceed 1,200 square feet***;
- 3) ADU's can be ***contained within the footprint*** of an existing home, *like a boarding house*;

- 4) **Trailers and prefabricated buildings** can be used as ADU's;
- 5) Minimum **parking requirements are reduced and/or eliminated**;
- 6) Garage conversions to ADU's *cannot require setbacks*;
- 7) **Ministerial approval(no notice/no hearings)** for ADU building permits must occur within 120 days of receipt of application; there will be no cost reimbursement from the state to the city to cover this mandate.

COMMENT:

The haste in Sacramento to implement these changes is an attempt to quickly increase the inventory of rental housing stock statewide by forcing higher density, independent of local control, in ways not presently permitted in single family and multifamily residential zones.

NOTE:

The 2004 Second Unit Ordinance provides density protections in hillsides and landmark districts, sets saturation limits and lot size thresholds. These protections also underpin the development of new guidelines related to hillsides and specific plans.

Please plan to attend one of the above workshops!

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.srnasadena.org](http://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.

