

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Here are highlights of 2013 regarding the City of Pasadena and District 4 with two major items: Continued improvement of Pension Reform and the City Council balancing the budget 2nd year in a row after a decade of unbalanced budgets.

Thank you for your interest and support for District 4, Gene

#### **Pension Reform**

January 1, 2012, Pasadena started negotiating with employee bargaining groups and this was the beginning of pension reform. Some employees started paying their full share of an 8% contribution to their own pension. As of January 1, 2014, according to our City Manager's Office, 74% of the employees in Pasadena are now paying their full share of an 8% contribution to their own pension. 92% of employees are contributing all or part of their retirement.

## Pasadena's Budget has Balanced Two Years in a Row

June 2013: Pasadena City Council adopted a balanced budget two years in a row. The previous 10 years were unbalanced budgets, so this is a great improvement. The proposed \$202,662 million budget for the General Fund was adopted due to the City Council's guidance and willingness to make

difficult but necessary decisions. The City of Pasadena has trimmed more than 300 city staffers since 2009. According to Andrew Green, Director of Finance, during the recovery each city department had a budget cut and part of the recovery is due to city cuts and an increase in sales tax and property tax revenue.

## 8th Guiding Principle Added

April 29, 2013, City Council adopted an 8th Guiding Principle to the General Plan for supporting the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD). The Council's vote makes our public schools a top priority.

### **PUSD/City of Pasadena Work Plan**

At a joint meeting on February 19, 2013, Pasadena Unified School District and City of Pasadena adopted a School/City Work Plan. The work plan adoption followed a series of community meetings to determine the priorities that the city and the school district should focus on. The adoption was the development of seven result areas: early childhood education, academic success, health and social services, involvement and learning in the community, stable and supportive environment, family engagement and system wide delivery. Stakeholders such as students, parents, city and our schools in Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre communities will have a desirable place to live where children and families benefit from a strong educational support system.

## Pasadena Opens California's First City-Run Public Dental Clinic

April 24, 2013, celebrated the opening of a city operated public health dental clinic in California at 1845 N. Fair Oaks Ave. The City of Pasadena Michael D. Antonovich Dental Clinic is a brand new state-of-the-art facility to help improve access to oral health services to HIV-positive persons and to expand services to the homeless, seniors, young children and other underserved population in the Pasadena area.

Pasadena Moves into Environmental Study Phase of 2014 General Plan

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April 22, 2013, Council sent the draft of the 2014 General Plan for the Environmental Study Phase. The General Plan is the blueprint that maps the future of Pasadena by describing the culture, character and physical landscape of Pasadena for the next 20 years. Our last General Plan was in 1994. The environmental phase maps the land use through the seven council districts proposing caps on development that set the pace for new projects over the

next 20 years. The environmental process will likely take a year and then a final plan will come back to the council for approval. One of the major issues that came up before approval during the process was city staff's proposed development caps in all council districts. The next phase will study the environmental impacts of caps on commercial square feet and residential housing units. The goal for District 4 is to protect the neighborhoods and to have managed growth for commercial, retail and residential housing units without allowing too much development so fast that we lose the character of East Pasadena. As you may remember in the 2011 survey, the residents of Pasadena voted to keep density along the transit district to protect neighborhoods and to keep a buffer between commercial developments. Once the draft of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is released in 2014, there will be additional opportunities for public input before the council finalizes the plan.

### **Citizen Service Center (CSC)**

CSC allows you to request a service, report a problem, or even compliment a helpful staff member from your home, office and now from your smartphone. The Citizen Service Center located at <a href="www.cityofpasadena.net/csc">www.cityofpasadena.net/csc</a> and is your 24/7 connection to Pasadena city services and information. Service requests are organized by topics such as Parks & Trees, Trash & Recycling, Streets & Sidewalks, and Employee Feedback that are routed directly to the department or group responsible for addressing the issue for rapid response. Now there's a CSC smartphone app to make Pasadena city services much more accessible and responsive. See a problem? Take a photo and send it in. The CSC app provides automatic mapping of every location-based request submitted, and a confirmation email to let you know when the request will be handled.

## **Kaiser Permanente Medical New Parking Structure**

On July 31, 2013, a new parking structure of 597 spaces was completed at Kaiser Permanente Medical on Foothill Blvd and Sierra Madre Villa Avenue. During construction, members and patients were accommodated on site with free valet parking. Employees parked at Church of the Nazarene and used shuttles to and from the Kaiser Building.

#### **Foothill Gold Line Extension**

The Foothill Extension of the Gold Line project continues with the construction going on everywhere to Azusa. The 11.5-mile Metro Gold Line

Foothill extension from the Sierra Madre Villa Station to Azusa is being built. The at-grade crossings are being completed at a fast pace. Station platforms are visible in Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte and soon in Irwindale and Azusa. This segment from Pasadena to Azusa is funded by Los Angeles County's Measure R. Three design-build contracts, totaling more than \$500 million, will be overseen by the Construction Authority to complete the Pasadena to Azusa segment, including \$18.6 million Gold Line Bridge near Baldwin traveling across the I-210 Freeway. Completing the Gold Line extension to Azusa is estimated in 2015. In Monrovia near Home Depot, the 24 acre maintenance facility yard is under construction.

#### **Armenian Genocide Memorial**

September 9, 2013, City Council unanimously approved the Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial, which will be erected in Memorial Park. The memorial will be completed by April 24, 2015 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 1915. The City of Pasadena has recognized and commemorated the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide for over 30 years. The Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial Committee (PASAGMC) submitted an application to Pasadena in May 2012. The final design by Pasadena Art Center Environmental Design student, Catherine Menard was chosen from 17 proposals submitted in the design competition. There was some controversy about location and size, but the key to PASAGMC's success was that members stayed positive, professional, stayed on course and took the high road.

# **District Meeting at Former Saint Luke Hospital**

On November 21, 2013, a District 4 meeting was held in the Chapel of the former Saint Luke Hospital. A short presentation by Rachelle Branch, Cultural Affairs Manager regarding a District 4 transportation art project at the I-210 bridge at Sierra Madre Villa Ave. The new owners of the former Saint Luke Hospital were introduced, Mr. Mehdi Bolour and Mr. David Bolour from Denley Investment. The new owners plan to have a medical center for outpatient services for the Pasadena community with suggested services: urgent care, radiology, surgery, dental, physical therapy, occupation therapy, workman's comp services, pharmacy, durable medical equipment, senior wellness center/community center and community space. They plan to re-occupy the former hospital with medical offices; demolish the two-story Annex Building, demolish the one story office building and construct a 280 space parking structure and construct a 750 square foot receiving facility

addition at the rear of the power plant. David Reyes, Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development and staff made a Predevelopment Plan Review presentation on the project. They made it clear that nothing had been agreed to and that this district meeting was to get input on the medical project. The meeting was well attended and there were questions and answers. A lively discussion ended with most supporting the proposed development.

## **Progressive Insurance Claim Center**

On June 21, 2013, Progressive Insurance had a grand opening at their new claim center on the former site of Pleasures Gentlemans Club on Foothill Blvd.

## **LA Fitness Coming to Former Hastings Theater**

A new LA Fitness is under construction at the former Hastings Theater. The demolition is completed, foundation completed and the exterior walls have been constructed. The development of the interior for the new fitness center continues. Completion is expected before the 4th quarter of 2014.

## Sierra Madre Villa Avenue Improvement Project

This 2012/13 project has been continuing on Colorado Blvd. going north to Foothill Blvd to create a pedestrian corridor with direct access to the light rail station through the widening of the existing sidewalk, new street lights, construction of streetscape and landscape enhancements. Public art and lighting for the exterior to be installed near the sloped hill and adjacent to the I-210 Freeway at the on/off-ramps at Sierra Madre Villa Avenue. The proposed artwork will have a transportation theme incorporated into the design and the location of the art work will beautify the lower portion of the bridge.

# **Capital Improvements**

In 2013, there has been a lot of work with our infrastructure in District 4, and I want to thank you for your patience with city crews tearing up and closing streets during the improvements. Pasadena Water & Power and the Department Works are replacing old pipes, sewers, undergrounding of electrical facilities and improving lighting. To give you an idea of work, systematic repair, rehabilitation or replacement of the City's sewer consists of 311 miles of sewer pipes ranging in different sizes. Taking a pro-active approach to replace our infrastructure is important in the long run; just imagine not being able to turn on your water or electricity.

Again, Happy New Year and I wish everyone a successful 2014.

Councilmember Gene Masuda

