TERA Statement of Purpose and Mission: The mission of this organization is to work for improvement of the quality of life in the Eagle Rock Community in Los Angeles, California, by providing research and education about Eagle Rock, participating in land-use planning activies, and promoting positive community growth and beautification. TERA is a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization.

TERA

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WINTER 2009

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Tritch Hardware
An Eagle Rock Institution

by Bob Gotham

Where do you go when your shopping list includes a spud nut wrench, Haagen Dazs ice cream and toilet ring remover? There is only one place - Tritch's Hardware in Eagle Rock. Long a favorite of Eagle Rockers, Tritch Hardware is legendary for always having what you want. Recently I shared coffee with Jeff Tritch and we talked about the Tritch Family, the store, and our community.

Jeff comes from a long line of Tritchs who had the hardware business in their blood. In the late 1800's Jeff's great grandfather George, had a hardware store in Denver, Colorado. In 1945, after a stint at Lockheed during WWII, Jeff's grandfather Stuart purchased the store now known as Tritch Hardware. At 14 years old, Jeff's father, Merritt, immediately went to work at the store.

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TIM SANDERS 1995 - 1997
JOANNE TURNER 1997 - 2003
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARIA N. NAZARIO
TERA PRESIDENT

It's been a busy few months for TERA, including our annual State of the Town Meeting with Councilmember Huizar at which Huizar provided an update on what he and his staff accomplished in the past year.

The major issues raised by attendees were traffic, speeding, and parking. The recent fatal traffic accident on Colorado Blvd. has provoked reflection and comments on the purpose of Colorado Blvd. Councilmember Huizar outlined actions and steps taken to help reduce traffic speed on Colorado Blvd., which are covered in the State of the Town Address article.

Land use continues to be at the forefront of TERA's work. We've worked on the following: Eagle Rock Ridge

The planned development of the ridge running along the 134 FWY, from the Eagle Rock to the 2 FWY. TERA continues it opposition. Since last issue, there has been no new activity, but we will keep a close watch.

DHM Lofts

The developer is out of funding. The destiny of the lot that is now abandoned and unsightly has provoked many discussions. Councilmember Huizar's office is pursuing all avenues, but it's a lengthy process when the builder has no funding left, even if there is a construction bond. I urge all to report graffiti and other nuisances to Councilmember Huizar's office at (323) 254-5295. There is very little else they can do but monitor compliance with debris clean-up and graffiti abatement. Although we may wish for the city to step in and take over the property, it is private property and process must be followed.

4875 W. Onteora Way//Round Top Drive - 9 home development

In early September, East Los Angeles Planning Commission (ELAPC) heard the appeal for the zone change request. Frank Parrello, TERA's Planning Preservation and Development Committee Chair, addressed the commission on issues that we felt should be dealt with prior to approval of the development. TERA endorsed the 9 unit subdivision, with the caveat that the zone change be linked to this specific project. Then, if the project were abandoned, more homes couldn't be added. The other issue was the relocation of the oak trees and how many were going to be saved. Probably, influenced by a lack of neighborhood representation at the meeting, the ELAPC dismissed Frank's comments regarding zone change linkage and preservation of the oak trees. It is very difficult for TERA to work on your behalf when neighborhood representation is lacking at these decisive meetings. Since the hearing, there have been no further developments.

Belongals LLC

Belongals, 2478 Colorado Blvd., presented their proposal, which is an adult game-zone facility serving light fare, wine and beer. Bridge anyone? How about Parcheesi or a mean game of chess with a glass of wine? As more baby boomers retire and GenX matures, this could be the wave of the future. We'll keep you updated as more information is available.

Cardio Barre

Cardio Barre came before our Planning Preservation and Development Committee to request a reduction in parking. The TERA Board subsequently approved the committee's recommendation. Some will think we are no longer in favor of neighbors and are pro-business. Who

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Community Garden Chat

• by Mary Tokita

Eagle Rockdale Community Garden & Art Park

Eagle Rock enjoys a rich agricultural heritage; the land beneath our homes and businesses once supported dozens of small farms and fruit orchards. With rising food prices, some Eagle Rockers are reclaiming a relationship with the land and becoming urban farmers.

The Eagle Rockdale Community Garden & Art Park (located adjacent to Shelby-Lanark Park just east of Figueroa and south of La Loma), is now in it's third year, with 36 individual plots and lots of guerilla plantings for all to share. Individual gardeners tend their plots at their convenience. During the summer, on Wednesday nights, we become a community when the curious and sociable stop by in the early evening for a snack and to chat.

Elan's group performs at the SummerSolstice party.

We also host the occasional party, like the memorable Summer Solstice Party last June 21. Despite the hundred-degree weather, we enjoyed a huge turnout as the evening cooled the air, including LA City firefighters from Station 12 (Highland Park) and about 150 friends and neighbors.

The Summer Solstice Party also served as TERA's Membership Appreciation Night. Gardeners personally donated amazing great "thank you" gifts to TERA members as raffle prizes. Gifts included original artworks, free haircuts, knitting lessons, and a "care package" of goodies with an autographed copy of Blue Eggs and Yellow Tomatoes, a new garden-inspired cookbook by Eagle Rockdale's own Jeanne Kelley. Check out Jeanne's blog at http://www.jeannekelleykitchen.com/Site/My_New_Book.html

Winter Gardening

Last year, most of the gardeners let their plots go fallow over the winter.. Then they got busy again with spring planting. With a little planning and effort, we can all benefit from our lovely Zone 24 climate and its two growing seasons.

Southern California's cooler, wetter winters are good for vegetables that grow underground and in leafy configurations: beets, broccoli, brussell sprouts, cabbage, carrots, collard greens, cauliflower, lettuce, onions, peas, potatoes, radishes, spinach and turnips.

Gardening novices could start with easy-growing herbs and lettuces. These choices also work well in containers, or in a bright kitchen window. Plus, living plants take in carbon dioxide and bring fresh oxygen back into the room.

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Editor's Letter

The The Good, Bad, and the What Do We Stand For?

• *by Bob Gotham*

Many good things happen in Eagle Rock. An event that is unusually good at bringing us together as a community is the summer series of Eagle Rock Concerts in the Park. The concerts have been happening for several years, largely due to the efforts of Michael Nogueira. Kudos to Michael! If you have never attended, plan to do so next year. If you have never attended a concert, look for the banner over Colorado Boulevard next spring and put it on your calendar. Elsewhere in this newsletter, I share a fond memory of a concert I attended this summer.

A wealth of lovingly maintained modest architectural gems in hidden mini neighborhoods found throughout Eagle Rock is another good thing about our community. Having lived at the same address for 22 years, I was astounded when, I explored the streets and avenues at the bottom of my hill that are not on my route home. I found architectural gems, large and small, old and new, and superbly maintained. In our community, we are blessed with many mini-neighborhoods, each area having its own residential jewels. Drive down a new street just for the heck of it one day, you will be surprised. It is TERA's goal to better represent the residential aspect of Eagle Rock in future issues.

Comparing Beverly Hills and Eagle Rock is rare. However, we share a common problem, mansionization, which is alive in both communities. Recently I noticed an attractive street, previously populated by well-kept small to moderate size craftsman and cottage style homes, now dominated by a new home that is essentially a minimally decorated cluster of stucco cubes reaching three stories high, looking directly down and into the neighboring homes. It says "damn the neighborhood, I will build what I want". A shred of the original cottage is hidden somewhere in the bowels of this new structure. Building as close to the property lines as possible, every link to the neighborhood including grass, trees, plants, etc. were all abandoned for size. Neighboring homes lost any privacy they may have had. The loss of the charm and appeal of a neighborhood with homes that appeared to be in a long-term relationship, homes meant to grow old together, inevitably impacts property values. As a community, we need to be very vigilant to this type of development. I understand that regulations have been passed that attempt to mitigate this activity. However, professional opinion regarding the effectiveness of the regulations seems to differ. If you know of instances where mansionization has occurred that may be to the detriment of the neighboring homes and the community, we would like to know. This information is important not just from an editorial perspective, but also as a land use issue. Style, aesthetics and personal preferences aside, this could be information that our Planning, Preservation and Development Committee should be made aware of early on, before it becomes a community wide issue. Let me hear from you if this is happening in your neighborhood. (newsletter@tera90041.org).

Does TERA stand for business or for residents? The answer is "both and". At a TERA public meeting an individual proudly proclaimed that they were no longer a TERA member because TERA is too supportive of the business community. Times have changed. In the past TERA was accused of being anti-business. The fact is that now and in the past TERA has always stood for both residents and business. They are not mutually exclusive. A healthy balance between residents and the right businesses is an attribute of any desirable community. TERA attempts to lobby for businesses we feel meet the needs of our residents and in doing so, improve the community. We speak against those that we feel adversely affect Eagle Rock. As a community known for passion and differing opinions, it is natural that there will always be some who don't agree with all of TERA's positions.

Even when TERA has supported businesses that are clearly the best option one could expect for a given location, there are some who disagree with us Opposition often comes from those who own property close to or adjacent to the commercial location. The vast majority of commercial buildings are decades old and were there when the owners purchased their property. It is not reasonable to expect those commercial properties to stay vacant. When TERA expresses support for a new business, it is always after thorough review of regulations and with the expectation that the proposed business will be far less intrusive than other commercial enterprises might be.

It is my hope that TERA's actions today and tomorrow demonstrate the commitment to supporting both Eagle Rock residents and businesses in a mutually beneficial way.

Finally, let me know your thoughts about the topics and opinions expressed in this issue and/or what would you like to see included in future issues. You may contact me at newsletter@tera90041.org.

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A Summer Memory - Concert in the Park

• by Bob Gotham

The arrival of summer is proclaimed each year by the "Concerts in the Park" banner hanging across Colorado Blvd. The concerts provide a unique opportunity for our community to come together.

Several hundred Eagle Rockers typically show up on Sundays at the Eagle Rock Recreation Center. As groups of friends or families arrive, they each spread their blankets over that perfect square of grass. Shady areas away from the stage go first. Folding chairs, coolers, fancy picnic baskets, simple paper bags, backpacks, and everything in between are arranged. "Neighbors" get increasingly closer as the lawn fills. Eventually the closeness grows into a community connection. The usual barriers of ethnic origin, economic status, gender, age, or simply not knowing each other fade. Strangers talk to strangers as we share the same lawn, sky, music, and the beauty of the children who refuse to be confined to their blankets. Strangers speak to strangers. Radical!

As the concert begins, drinks are pulled out of coolers and dinner is "served". Hot dogs, Philly Steak Sandwiches, and other food may be purchased from vendors. Home cooked delectables, store bought fried chicken, lumpia, nachos and very occasionally a low cal, low fat entre is served. We settle back and eat, drink, and enjoy the music. Life is good!

Go to several concerts and each experience will be different. A strong influence is exerted by the featured music. Big band, jazz, Beatles, Neil Diamond all represent a sampling of the offerings. Where you sit and whom you sit next to affects the experience as well. Stage right has the unique aroma of cotton candy mixed with grilled hot dogs and onions. The distant sounds of children re-launching themselves into space over the moon bounce can be heard. Stage left is different. Skateboarders repeatedly careen down the long paved sloping walkway just over the low wall that delineates the sitting area. Again and again they end their journey with a "full-body crash" into a building wall. Wrapped in the immortality of youth, they immediately get up and return to the top of the rise to do it again.

Gradually the audience warms to the music and a few brave souls take to the dance floor, the concrete space in front of the stage. A senior citizen, with a steady grip on her walker, was one of the first on the "floor". Moving her hips to the rhythm of the music, she carefully executed a few dance steps. A few feet away a father swayed to the music holding his infant daughter, taking her to her first dance. Soon his wife joined, embracing both husband and daughter as the family swayed as one to a Neil Sadaka tune. Call me a sentimental, but I was very moved by the whole scene and felt fortunate to be part of a community that comes together as we do at these concerts.

If you have never attended, plan to do so next year. It is truly Eagle Rock coming together as a Community. Moreover, it's free and it's fun!

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Each issue will feature an example of a residential treasure in Eagle Rock. Do you recognize this building? Do you know anything about the history of this impeccably maintained building? Email me at newsletter@tera90041.org.

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Eagle Rock's Bartender

• by *Bob Gotham*

In this edition, the business focus is on places and individuals that are "institutions" in Eagle Rock. "Frank the bartender at Colombo's" for over 20 years, is considered an institution by many. A "Frank Drink" is understood to mean a "stiff" drink. Regulars chat with Frank as if he were an old friend, often sharing their life story. But Frank's story is not so well known.

Born and raised in Athens, Greece, Frank loved the country and has fond memories of weekends spent at his grandfather's orchard. His father was in the trucking business. As was traditional, his mother was a "stay at home" mom. Soccer and occasionally a little basketball were his sports. In the late 60's, at about 18 years old he decided to come to the Land of Opportunity–the United States. "Everyone wanted to come to the United States then". Movies seen in Greece depicted the USA as the ideal place to be; everyone lived well, good education was plentiful, life was generally perfect.

Soon after arriving in the US Frank moved from Chicago to Bethesda, Maryland. He immediately loved being here. But the picture perfect life he had seen in the movies was elusive. Not speaking English, having a job or transportation were all barriers to the good life. For the next three years Frank walked to menial entry-level jobs and spent evenings in classrooms leaning English. Life was disheartening. At times he questioned the wisdom of the move. Yet his affection for America grew, as did his determination to succeed.

Soon breaks began to happen for Frank. Returning to Chicago, Frank was able to get his first "real job" working the take out window at KFC. His English was just good enough to handle the vocabulary of ordering chicken to go. Frank still remembers his first tip, a dime for good service. He briefly drove a cab but returned to a position at another five-star restaurant. He worked at the service bar as a bar-back (bringing clean glasses, keeping the ice container filled, etc.). The bartender offered to teach him the trade. Frank vividly recalls that they had over 60 different types of glasses for specific drinks. His mentor showed him how to make drinks and regularly encouraged him to work always faster. That speed is evident today. As Frank transitioned from bar-back to bartender, he thrived on the quick pace, enjoyed the interaction with customers, and discovered how generous customers were to a good bartender. This was more like the US he had seen in the movies.

Having found his profession, it was time to address an important technicality; Frank was an illegal immigrant! Good karma continued. Frank needed to leave the United States and re-enter legally with a visa. Acquiring a visa involved an extended interview process and a waiting period. As Frank was sitting amongst many other applicants waiting for their interview at the US Consulate in Toronto, a high-level official looked into the room to assess the number of applicants. He immediately recognized Frank and called him into his office. An hour later, after a cordial catch-up conversation but no interview, Frank left the consulate with visa in hand. He had trained the consulate official, Steve, as a bartender many years prior. Frank's hard work and congenial personality had paid off.

Things continued to fall into place for Frank. His parents and his sister moved from Greece to Chicago for a short period before moving to Southern California for the more moderate climate. Still in Chicago, Frank was working at another up-scale restaurant when he noticed a special girl. "A little shy, not in your face" is how Frank describes Kim. She brought him cookies one night. He poured her a drink. A couple of weeks later he had dinner in her apartment. He asked her to never cook for him again. Three years later, they got married and had a daughter, Jacqueline.

Approximately 20 years ago Frank, Kim and Jacqueline left Chicago and joined Frank's family in Southern California and went to work behind the bar at Colombo's. Not able to afford buying a house in Los Angeles, Frank took a customer's advice and found an affordable home in Las Vegas. Now, every Wednesday Frank drives from Las Vegas to Eagle Rock and on Sunday nights he drives back to Las Vegas. He cherishes the "alone time" and credits his days away from home as a secret to the success of his marriage. In Vegas Frank

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2008 TERA
State of the Town Address

• by Keith Louie

For many years, TERA's most popular public meeting, judged by attendance, has been the annual "State of the Town Address". This is a rare opportunity for Eagle Rockers to interact directly with the 14th Council District Representative. Although the Council Representative is well represented by staff at the meeting, it is he or she at the podium conducting the dialogue with constituents. The typical format of the meeting is for the Council Representative to first describe their vision for the community, explain what they have accomplished in the past year, and detail the issues facing the community, and how the Council Office intends to address them. At the completion of the formal program, there is an opportunity for audience members to participate in a Q & A directly with the Council Representative. This part of the meeting, which is unscripted, is sometimes the most interesting aspect of the evening.

As in the past, this years meeting was well attended Councilmember Jose Huizar delivered a very polished presentation, which was supported by a very professional PowerPoint presentation. Specific Eagle Rock accomplishments and statistics were in abundance, avoiding the feeling of a "one size fits all" presentation that could be used in many communities.

At the time of the meeting, the recent fatal and tragic accident that claimed four lives on Colorado Boulevard was still on everyone's minds. That event made it even more timely and appropriate that one of Jose Huizar's primary topics was safety. He stressed that not just at this time, but all the time, public safety in every community is a very high priority in his office.

In order to help reduce speed Councilmember Huizar stated that two speed feedback signs will be installed along Colorado Blvd. One will be west of Dahlia Heights Elementary School, and the other will be placed near the western border of Eagle Rock near the Eagle Rock Plaza. Councilmember Huizar also mentioned that residents have asked about installation of an additional stoplight along the stretch of Colorado Blvd. where the accident occurred.

L.A.P.D. Senior Lead Officer Orange explained that an increased police presence in Eagle Rock has resulted in more than 160 traffic citations in roughly 2 1/2 weeks after the accident on Colorado Blvd. occurred. Further, he indicated that for the citations that were issued for speeding, along Colorado Blvd., the average speed was 55 MPH in a 35 MPH zone.

Accomplishments were many and varied, with a special focus on addressing needs that result from the aging Los Angeles infrastructure. Sidewalk repair, street re-surfacing, and water main replacements were some of the more significant and broad ranging accomplishments.

The focus on safety continued through the Q & A session. The council member remained for a few minutes longer after the Q & A to talk to community members individually. This does not always happen. I think it is safe to say that if the current Council Representative has not earned the affection of the community, and perhaps he has, he has at least not incurred the wrath of the community.

In closing, as TERA's coordinator of public meetings I need your help! Let me know what topics you would like addressed at future TERA public meetings by calling (323) 799-1190.

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Tritch Harware

CONTUNED FROM PAGE 1

Eventually Merritt married Eva and they settled in a home in Eagle Rock, a house that is still in the Tritch family. They raised three children in that house: Jeff, Beverly and Glenn. Merritt took over the business when Stuart retired. Merritt and Eva especially liked brief trips to Las Vegas. They weren't serious gamblers, but loved the slot machines and the chance to have some time to themselves. The children were always delighted with the shiny coins that their parents brought back as gifts. Merritt dabbled with hot rods and racing the flats. He was stationed in Korea during his military service and belonged to the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club for many years. Jeff recalls his mother being the boss, or at least the one with whom he was more often in trouble. Eva passed away in 1984 after 30 years of marriage to Merritt.

Today Merritt is 78, is still at the store most days, and actively participates in business decisions. As customers will attest, he knows where everything is and is always eager to assist. He still enjoys a little nightlife, which usually consists of dinner at Colombo's. Jeff and Glenn are encouraging their dad to take a little more time off.

Jeff and his wife Rhonda are a true Eagle Rock family. They live in the house in which Jeff was raised. They have a blended family of four girls and one boy between the ages of 8 and 28. Rhonda and Jeff attended Eagle Rock High School. His family and hers have been friends for many years. They often socialized at the bowling alley that existed where the post office is located today. The "hardware" gene was obviously inherited by Jeff. He began working in the store in 1973 after graduating from High School. His younger brother Glenn has worked at the store for approximately six years. His sister, who lives in Walnut, did not inherit the gene. Jeff's son has shown no interest in the business and the girls have other plans. No one else in the family has expressed an interest. Sadly, this may be the last generation of Tritchs to be in this business.

Why has this store succeeded when so many family owned businesses, especially hardware stores, have vanished? If you are able to avoid being greeted as you walk in, which is not easy to do, you will first notice merchandise piled high to the ceilings in what appears to be no particular order. Missing are the shiny signs indicating "Power Tools" or "Paint Supplies". There is the special fragrance of an "old time" hardware store, the fragrance of stores long-gone. There is an American Flag freshly posted out front each day. The store fits the profile of a place that cannot survive. But it does.

A high level of customer service and having "everything" are the most obvious factors in the Tritch Hardware success story. These qualities have made this business an institution in Eagle Rock. "In a big box store it's hard to get service, in our store it's hard not to get service," says Jeff. You will be greeted at the door and immediately Merritt, Jeff, or Glenn will help you find what you need. You will discover there is a system to how merchandise is displayed. If you only know what you want to do, they will help you figure out what you need. And what you need is almost always there. Jeff feels that the lack of a big box store close by has been to the store's advantage. He's not hoping to test the theory, but he does feel that their particular brand of customer service might be an effective defense if it happened. The number of repeat customers and customers who are second and third generation is very high. Jeff considers their customers and the support they receive from the Eagle Rock Community to be a true blessing. The loyal customer base also demonstrates Eagle Rock's appreciation for this very special business and its owners.

Old Scale used to weigh nails.

Over the years, changes have been few and carefully considered. Padded toilet seats were added after several customer inquiries. The most recent and radical change was a Haagen Dazs ice cream freezer in the store. To Jeff's pleasant surprise, Merritt wanted to try something new. For the most part, they have stayed with a basic hardware inventory that is most appropriate for the age of Eagle Rock homes. They do not stock some items used exclusively in new construction. The store's reputation was reinforced recently when a customer pleaded that he could not find cast iron cookware anywhere. Did Jeff know where he might find it? Right there at Tritch's. Once again, the reputation was burnished.

While Tritch's Hardware store has changed little over the years, the Eagle Rock Community has changed in ways that Jeff thinks are positive. Gentrification is moving forward with homes regularly being repaired, restored or expanded. The median income bracket is slowly growing. While nightlife has improved, the community remains one of the safer neighborhoods. Public schools in our area have a good reputation. The "home-town" feeling of the community has been maintained. Residents are represented by a vibrant hodgepodge of professionals, artists, and journeymen and women. Getting better control on the speed of traffic and improving the parking situation are things Jeff hopes will improve.

If you have never visited Tritch Hardware Store (1620 Colorado Blvd.), do so soon, you may just find that something you couldn't describe but surely needed. It is a step back in time in the best possible way. They are part of what makes our community unique and wonderful.

Safe Streets for Everyone

• by Renate Kofahl

Community concern over the increased instances of fatalities, injury and property destruction in the central core of Eagle Rock due to speeding and other traffic problems was brought to a tragic apex on the night of August 27. The only silver lining to this heartbreaking event is a heightened effort by the Councilmember's office and local community organizations to look for solutions to the problem.

When streets are designed for everyone who uses them, cyclists, pedestrians of all ages and abilities – think strollers and wheelchairs – the cars on these streets will have to move at the right speed. Bottom line, pedestrian-centric elements are also traffic-calming elements; such as,fewer lanes, pedestrian medians at intersections, well-marked crosswalks with countdown timers and bicycle lanes. One study found that designing for pedestrian travel by installing raised medians and redesigning intersections and sidewalks reduced pedestrian risk by 28% (Highway Statistics, 2001). While a number of factors are responsible, including the minimal amount of funding for pedestrian safety projects, the way streets have been designed over the past 50 years lies at the root of the problem. As streets get wider, drivers instinctively accelerate. Research has shown that wider streets are also the streets that result in more crashes.

On Eagle Rock's Boulevards, the distance between signals and the width of the street allow for faster speeds. Colorado is known as one of the fastest east-west thoroughfares and most of the traffic is through-traffic and does not originate or end in Eagle Rock. Certainly greater enforcement of traffic speeding would help; however, if a street design encourages drivers to travel at 45 mph instead of the legal 35 mph, police are not the complete solution.

Traffic-calming Strategies

Eagle Rock is fortunate in that it is an older "traditional" neighborhood that naturally has some of the tenets of a walkable neighborhood: short blocks, on-street parking and sidewalks well beyond five feet wide. But there are retrofits that can be made to slow down the speed of vehicles and improve the safety and walkability. Traffic calming strategies and devices that could help in Eagle Rock include:

- Special pavement textures and markings at crosswalks and to designate special areas.
- Marking bike lanes to narrow the traffic lane.
- Putting Colorado Boulevard on a "road diet" by reducing the number and width of lanes.
- More street trees. Planting trees along streets creates a sense of enclosure and enhances the pedestrian environment.
- Enforced speed reduction programs such as synchronized signalization that "rewards" slower drivers and confounds those going over the speed limit.
- Shorter distance between traffic signals.

Traffic calming slows down the vehicles that travel faster than is desirable without causing congestion to those that travel at legal speeds. It is a way to reduce the negative effects through positive changes that alter driver behavior and improve conditions for the business owners, residents, walkers and bicyclists.

The only way this will happen is if the residents and businesses of Eagle Rock reclaim our Boulevards by emphasizing actions that change the way our streets are perceived and used to better accommodate non-vehicle life.

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TERA TREASURER'S REPORT

2008 Financial Statements

ASSETS

Fund Balances as of Fiscal Year End June 30:

TERA Unrestricted Funds	**2008**	**2007**
Operating Savings Account	$ 15,974	$ 26,134
Operating Checking Account	3,727	3,138
Total Unrestricted Fund Balance	**$ 20,201**	**$29,272**

TERA Restricted Funds		
Community Improvement Fund	$ 8,743	$ 19,609
Beautification Fund	19,783	10,691
TERA Contingency Reserve	15,000	15,000
Total Restricted Fund Balance	**$ 43,026**	**$ 45,300**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$ 63,227**	**$ 74,572**

Net Increase (Decrease) in Assets ($11,345)

TERAUnrestricted Funds: The funds consist of an Operating Savings Account and Operating Checking Account. Both fund TERA's operational activities such as administration; insurance; public meetings; the newsletter and e.letter; expenses related to the membership drive; the Preservation, Planning, and Development Committee and it's activities; the Eclectic Eagle Rock Home Tour; and other critical activities.

TERA's Restricted Funds:

The **Community Improvement Fund** is the balance of $30,000 in funds donated by Nextel in 2002 and administered by TERA's Board of Directors for community improvement projects. Allocations are made in conjunction with the Eagle Rock Chamber of Commerce (ERCC) and Eagle Rock Community Preservation, and Revitalization (ERCPR). At the start of the fiscal year there was $19,609 remaining in the fund to be allocated to community projects. During the past year, the balance of the funds allocated to the Eagle Rock Flag of $8,821.17 was transferred to the ERCC to administer for future maintenance of the flag at the intersection of the 134 and 2 freeways. TERA's original allocation of $5.000 to the Eagle Rockdale Community Garden & Art Park was reduced by $1,374.48 for the purchase of tools, compost bins and additional raised beds. ERCPR allocated their remaining share of funds $5,457 and ERCC allocated $2,000 tot he Eagle Rock Make Art Not Trash Project (ERMANT). Also, the TERA Board allocated the cumulative interest earned minus bank fees to the ERMANT project of which $951 have been spent. The ERMANT project is expected to be completed in early 2009, which will close this funds.

The Beautification Fund was established by Council District 14 in 2003, dedicated to fund the realization of an Eagle Rock Monument. TERA is the fund administrator and the funds are being used to complete the Wiota Circle Monument at Wiota Circle, just north of Colorado Boulevard. An additional $5,000 was awarded to help complete the Wiota Circle Monument, of which all should be spent by FYE 2009.Add the following after 2009. Additionally, TERA transferred $10,000 from its operating savings account to the Beautification Fund and the Kiwanis Club donated $500, both earmarked for the ERMANT project.

Over the course of FY ending June 30, 2008, TERA's income was $26,245 (down $5,693 from FY2007) while total expenses were $27,407(up $8,251 from FY2007). The principal reasons for the decrease in income are membership contributions and the Eclectic Eagle Rock Home Tour Income which were less than anticipated. The principal reasons for the increase in expenses are beautification costs associated with the Wiota Circle Monument and expansion of the

LIABILITIES

TERA is a volunteer run organization that does not have any personnel, building or equipment costs or liabilities.

Statement of Activities

Income as a Percent of Total:	**2008**	**2007**
Advertising	6%	8%
Beautification	21%	0%
Garden	7%	5%
Home Tour	37%	42%
Interest Income	4%	3%
Membership	24%	41%
Public Meetings	1%	1%
Total Income	**$ 26,245**	**$ 31,938**

Expenses as a Percent of Total:		
Administration	14%	16%
Beautification	28%	0%
Donations	5%	3%
Garden	7%	1%
Home Tour	17%	24%
Insurance	6%	8%
Membership	5%	16%
Nominating Committee	0%	2%
Outreach	6%	17%
PP&D	4%	0%
Public Meetings	7%	13%
Total Expenses	**$ 27,407**	**$ 19,156**
Net Surplus (Deficit)	*($1,162)*	*$12,782*

Eagle Rockdale Garden. However, there were savings from the Home Tour, membership recruitment, public meetings and producing one less newsletter than expected.

Of note was our ability to fund the work needed to designate the McNarry House a historic landmark, to conduct a member survey that provided input to the board and a member appreciation event at the Garden. This is all part of TERA's goals to invest membership dues in the community.

In-Kind Contributions

TERA's Annual Finance Report would not be complete if it did not acknowledge tremendous non-financial community support. Local Eagle Rock restaurants, professionals, and shops make generous in-kind donations to sponsor our public meetings, newsletters, Eclectic Eagle Rock Home Tour, and other programs. An amazing group of volunteers including board members and home tour volunteers donate their time, skills, energy and positive attitude pro-bono. This non-financial support allows TERA to reduce its operating expenses significantly.

The factors outlined above account for the decrease in net assets of $11,345 and a deficit in expense to revenue of $1,162 for FYE 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact me at treasurer@tera90041.org or call 323-799-1190.

Respectfully Submitted,

JOAN MACNEIL
TERA TREASURER

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTUNED FROM PAGE 2

would have thunk anyone would ever say that about TERA? This is not the case. TERA is pro-Eagle Rock and that means balancing neighbor's concerns with business needs. Cardio Barre is the most benign business that could go in to that location. They need a lot of space. However, unlike restaurants, clubs, bars, etc. there are minimal bodies at one time. TERA feels Cardio Barre will have the least impact of all the possibilities to the surrounding neighbors.

Green Goddess

The medical marijuana facility on Colorado Blvd. may not be.granted the hardship exemption. Consequently, they would have to abide by the applicable Colorado Blvd, rules and may not be able to do so. There are several medical marijuana locations already in Eagle Rock, much to many people's surprise. More to come in the e.letter.

Griffith Park; The Autry Museum; The Southwest Museum

The only item to report is that the great grandson of Mr. Griffith has applied to make Griffith Park a historical landmark. This would include all land and buildings secured before 1947. This does not include the Autry Museum building, but would include the land nearby. TERA is supporting this venture.

TERA's Eclectic Eagle Rock Home Tour took a hiatus in 2008. We are using the one-year breather to re-group and re-organize. New volunteers, particularly for home tour leadership positions, are needed. Please send a note to hometour@TERA90041.org if you would like to get involved in 2009.

I welcome your thoughts and insights at president@tera90041.org. Thanks and I wish all of you happy, safe and rewarding New Year.

Community Garden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Tom Charlesworth and Mary Tokita

Plant your bulbs for spring-blooming flowers from September through January. Don't just throw bulbs from the shopping bag into the soil. Prep the soil with plenty of compost and nitrogen amendment. And realize that some bulbs need to be refrigerated for 4-6 weeks or they won't bloom. Plant bulbs on several different weekends for a continuous display of new blooms across the season.

November is an ideal time to sow or transplant a broad range of flowers that germinate from seeds. Fall is also the time to plant acidic plants like azaleas and camellias, also dogwoods and oriental magnolias like this cooler time to settle in and grow their roots. Avoid planting wind-damage-prone trees such as acacia, ash, cypress, elm, eucalyptus, liquidamber, California pepper, and pine.

Local Nursery, Anyone?

Most of us go to big box retailers for our garden supplies because independent nurseries have vanished from Northeastern LA. However, it's a TERA tradition to advocate for supporting all local (closest) independent businesses. I recommend the following nurseries in Pasadena, where you will find a great selection and good service:

Perssons Nursery
3115 E Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
(626) 792-6073

Burkhard Nurseries
690 North Orange Grove Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91103
(626)796-4355
www.burkards.com

Eagle Rock Bartender

CONTUNED FROM PAGE 6

loves the nickel machines, the cold beer, and the opportunity to escape from his concerns for a few minutes in a casino, yet has no desire to work there. Skiing, hiking and camping have also been family activities. Frank and Kim are very proud of Jacqueline, who recently graduated from the University of Washington. After 23 years of marriage, Frank is still the cook.

Many qualities are essential to a good bartender according to Frank. Treating customers as if you really like them, regardless of how you really feel about them, and giving everyone a decent drink top the list. A good sense of humor and being able to move quickly are also important. Frank listens to his customers' stories but never interferes in their business. Fully in love with his wife after 23 years, Frank always combines a sincere compliment with his decline to the women who make overtures to him at the bar. "The compliment must be sincere, they can tell the difference". Frank knows how to make about 85% of the drinks that are ordered. For the last 15% he simply guesses, puts extra liquor in the drink, or asks the customer for the recipe. Rarely are drinks returned. To those who have overindulged, the respectful response will be a cup of coffee, a seriously diluted drink or nothing at all.

Frank feels Eagle Rock is moving in the right direction. He has seen many improvements in the Eagle Rock Community that have translated into changes at the bar as well. More of the patrons are professionals. The local gay community coexists with the straight patrons, ethnic backgrounds are varied, Oxy students sit on bar stools next to seniors, and the overall economic bracket of customers has improved. The community and Colombo's have become a wonderful and unique melting pot of humanity.

One day a couple of guys, not regulars, came to Colombo's and ordered drinks. They asked, "Are you Frank?". The guys informed Frank that his reputation went far beyond Eagle Rock; his drinks were legendary, even in the state prison at Chino. Now that's an institution.

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The Eagle Rock Association could not exist without the support of its members. Thank you to all those listed below who have either renewed their memberships or have joined for the first time. The list is as of date of printing and renewals/new memberships since then will be thanked in subsequent newsletters.

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