

*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 activities,  
and promoting positive community  
growth and beautification. TERA is a  
non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization.*

# TERA

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FALL 2009

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*Visitor from the Past*

## ***Journey Through Time and Trees***

..... • *by Michael Woodward*

**A**ny journey is best made in the company of friends, sometimes the more unusual the friend, the richer the journey.

Mrs. Norton has lived on Maywood Street since she was a young child. Victoria, the mystery tree in her yard moved in about 1939.

The tree was planted by a WPA worker who was renting a small cottage for thirteen dollars a month from Mrs. Norton's parents. Until this year no one had been able to identify it. I was introduced to the two of them last year.

Mrs. Norton needed her tree trimmed. She was wary of tree trimmers having received what's known as a hat rack the last time around. She asked her son.

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## NEWSLETTER STAFF

### EDITOR

MIKE WOODWARD  
editor@tera90041.org

### WRITERS

BOB GOTHAM  
RENATE KOFAHL  
KEELY MYERS  
MIKE WOODWARD

### DESIGNER

GEORGINA REYES  
DISEÑO GRAPHICS  
georgina@disenographics.com

### PRINTER

WARREN PRINTING & MAILING  
graphics@print-mail.com

### ADVERTISING

JOAN MACNEIL  
advertising@tera90041.org

### eLETTER EDITOR

BOB GOTHAM  
e.letter@tera90041.org

### WEBMASTER

ARTHUR NAKATA  
webmaster@tera90041.org

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

.....• by Bob Gotham, TERA President

**M**y first involvement as a TERA Board Member was eight years ago. The economy was robust and developers were ready to invest in Eagle Rock. We were confronted with proposals that were attractive but sadly, too many that would diminish the quality of life in Eagle Rock.

Many of us became familiar with The Colorado Boulevard Specific Plan. Adhering to the plan was a message loudly proclaimed by TERA. When I look at the developments that happened seven or eight years ago, for the most part, those developments are better than they might have been because of TERA's efforts. TERA's land use experts continue to scrutinize each proposal, modest or grand, and bring to the community's attention the benefits or dangers of each proposal.

A few weeks ago the board came together for our second annual retreat meeting. Whereas the focus of our monthly meetings is short term, more immediate activities, The all day retreat was an opportunity for reflection and direction setting.

We began this meeting with sharing how we each began our involvement with TERA. Most of us were initiated by volunteering to help with the Home Tour. Their motivation was to improve the quality of life in Eagle Rock.

There were differences in the specific areas they hoped to impact. Land use, beautification, social services, and more were mentioned. When asked what they hoped to get out of their participation, giving back to the community and getting more connected to the community were the primary responses.

The accomplishments over the last year were discussed. Improvement of the TERA Newsletter, which has been expanded, was a primary goal. We are more aggressively reaching out to other community organizations electronically, to enlist their support in publicizing events.

Finally we sponsored or co-sponsored four public meetings for "Meet the Candidate" (mayoral), State of the Town Address, Parking in Eagle Rock, and the Occidental College Expansion Plan.

Beautification accomplishments included the Eagle Rock Make Art Not Trash project, an installation of beautifully decorated trash receptacles throughout our town. TERA was very supportive of the Eagle Rock Monument project located at the end of the Colorado off ramp from the westbound 134 Freeway.

Land use is our primary goal. Even in this slow economy our land use team (Renate Kofahl, Keith Louie, Frank Parrello, and Michael Tharp) were kept busy. They continue to work closely with Occidental College regarding its proposed expansion plan and they provided early warning of the proposed Eagle Rock Ridge development plan.

Other land-use issues included Medical Marijuana retailers, preservation of the Southwest Museum, parking solutions for Eagle Rock and assisting residents when a hillside residential development plan was proposed in the midst of a long-established



neighborhood. In addition, TERA's land-use team members are active in the Eagle Rock Community Preservation and Revitalization Corporation (ERCPR) and the Colorado Boulevard Design Review Board (CBDRB). TERA is also a supporter of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council.

The next phase of our meeting was dedicated to setting direction for the future. These are TERA's goals for the next year:

- **Land Use:** This topic has always been and continues to be TERA's primary concern. TERA's Land Use team will continue to be vigilant, scrutinizing each proposed development and reporting the good and the bad to the community. They will maintain a presence on other key community groups.
- **Quality of life on Colorado Boulevard:** This is a major and broad-reaching goal. Other organizations in Eagle Rock are equally focused on this goal. Pedestrian amenities, reducing the number of lanes on the boulevard, increased number of crosswalks, and the addition of a bike lane are examples of changes that would be expected.
- **Hillside Open Space / Eagle Rock Ridge:** Our goal is to protect and preserve the existing hillside open space, and are opposed to commercial development in this area.
- **Safety:** Work for the installation of a "pedestrian flashing light" crosswalk at Eagle Rock Blvd. and Merton Ave. This is a heavily-used crosswalk where fatalities have already occurred.
- **Parking:** Lobby the appropriate Los Angeles City departments to change the time limits on parking meters on Colorado Boulevard to two hours in all locations. The one-hour limits are impractical to the patrons of many businesses including restaurants and beauty salons.
- **Beautification:** Promote the beautification of the area around the Eagle Rock Mall, especially the perimeter of the mall.
- **Community Service:** TERA will again participate in the Mayor's Day of Service. It is our intent to choose a project this year that will connect to families and social service to the community at large.

There you have it, what we did and what we hope to do in the future. A big thanks to the TERA Board Members, listed elsewhere in this publication. It is through their efforts that we succeeded in the last year. It will be their hard work that will allow us to meet our new goals.

If you are a member of TERA, I hope you will feel that we earn the support you so generously provide. If you are not a member and want to see us accomplish the goals we have embraced, help us to do so by becoming a member.



**BOB GOTHAM**  
TERA PRESIDENT



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# Editor's Letter

.....• by Michael Woodward

This is my first attempt at the TERA Newsletter. It began innocently enough when I agreed to help proofread some of the copy for the last edition at the behest of former editor, and current President of TERA, Bob Gotham. "No good deed goes unpunished."

Some of you may know me already. I trimmed trees in this area for a long time. I was a volunteer in Scott Wilson's tree planting army. I am involved with the Community Garden and do some work on the Eagle Rock Canyon Trail. Basically, I am around here all the time.

I have some very simple goals for my tenure in this position. The first is finding and profiling some of the people who give Eagle Rock its character. There is something different about this part of the big city and I want to explore that. The lead piece in this edition revolves around long time resident, Winifred Norton.

The interview I had with Mrs. Norton was a revelation. In talking with her I could see her younger self riding around the neighborhood in the rumble seat of a Model A. I could taste the famous ice cream sodas of Boulevard Pharmacy. My feel for the history of Eagle Rock was deepened, my commitment to preserving it strengthened.

The second goal is to spotlight land use issues. That is the reason why TERA was formed in the first place and remains our primary reason to exist.

I am fortunate in the pursuit of this goal to have a guide, a Virgil to my Dante as I travel the seven circles of land use issues. Frank Parrello is a long-time TERA board member and a former City planner. Mr. Parrello speaks the language used by developers and the various government departments dealing with land development. I do not, so I will try to learn as much of that arcane speech as possible and translate it for the readership of this newsletter. I hope it helps.

I am having to learn to look for precise and unequivocal language. As it turns out, there is little of that in the halls of government or the proposals of developers. What is not stated specifically and without equivocation is not necessarily there at all. I hope what I learn in the coming months will be of use to the readership of this newsletter. And I thought I was cynical enough already.

The other land use issues that come up, such as the 710 extension, the Southwest Museum's eventual fate, Occidental's Master Plan are the very issues that TERA's Committee on Planning, Preservation and Development is concerned with. This newsletter will strive to keep the readership informed on those or any other developments that effect those of us in Eagle Rock.

After attending to these goals the idea will be to have some fun. There are new restaurants to try and new businesses to explore. The Eagle Rock Canyon Trail is due to be extended. It will extend further into the canyon and give us all a chance to explore sections of the usually impenetrable chaparral. I hope that's true for my exploration of the tangles of local government as well.

One other note: if any of the readers know of Eagle Rock residents who should be profiled, land uses issues that should be publicized, or think I should try a new restaurant, please let me know. I can be reached by email at <editor@tera90041.>



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# Journey Through Time and Trees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Her son said to call his old horticulture teacher from high school, Scott Wilson. Mr. Wilson told her to call me. It's an old Eagle Rock story, one person tells another and pretty soon, everyone knows.

What I found was a tree that had been brutalized by tree trimmers, that I couldn't identify and a truly delightful woman who'd been there when the tree was planted.

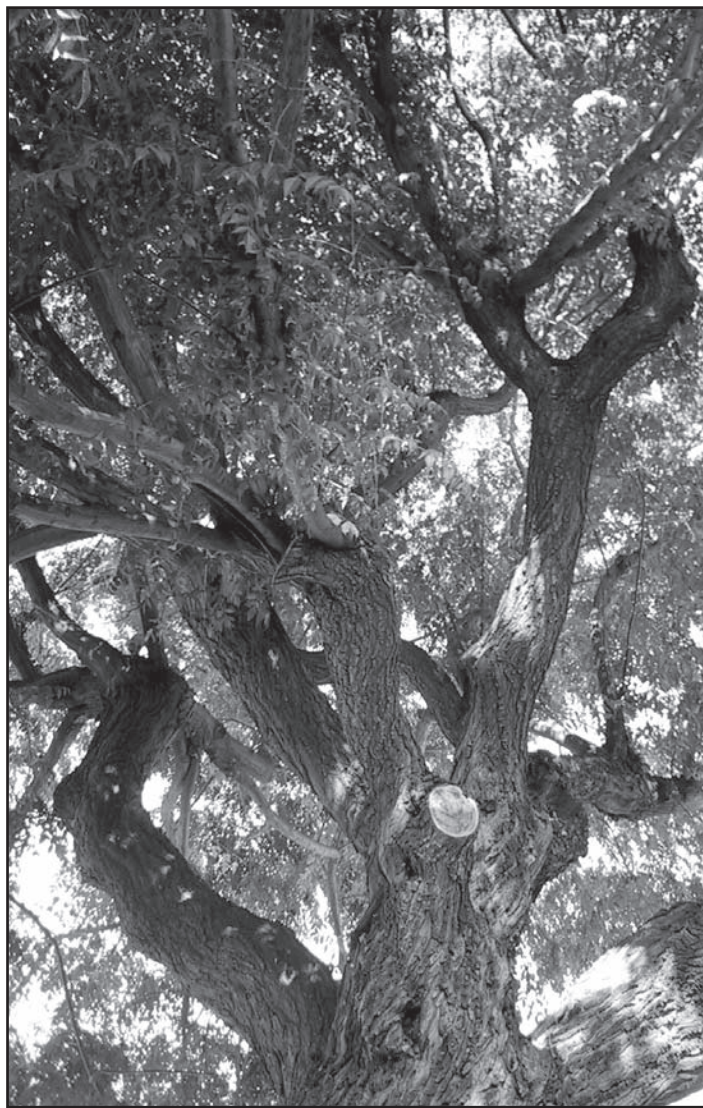
So, when I went to interview her I made coffee and stopped by the Italian Bakery for biscottis then spent the morning in old Eagle Rock, an almost mythically 'small town. Through the lens of Mrs. Norton's reflections I saw this place as it was and how that time set the tone for what's become of Eagle Rock.

"We used to go to the Sierra Theater, we called it the 'Dirty Dime,' because you could get in for just ten cents. It was all serials, though, like Flash Gordon and a lot of Westerns."

Mrs. Norton's family has lived in Eagle Rock for three generations. Her grandmother came here for the air. "Eagle Rock was known for its good air then, that's why they built the Glendale Adventist sanatorium over there. It was too damp for her in Long Beach."

Her mother, Jenny Swenson, was involved in the annexation of Eagle Rock to Los Angeles and an activist in this town all her life. She even made a councilman get her dirt back. "After the flood of 1939, they put in the storm drains. They took all the dirt out of the side yard while they cut the ditch. Then they brought it back."

But Mrs. Norton's mother was a gardener, she knew that wasn't her dirt. "She called the new Councilman down, John Holland, to show him. She got her dirt back." I can imagine the conversation between what must have been the very new councilman and public works.



*A New Perspective On An Old Friend*

Those pre-War days in Eagle Rock sound almost like Grover's Corners or even River City. It was a much smaller town that stretched only as far as Townsend where the streetcar ended. Another streetcar served Figueroa up to the Yosemite area; in between, no man's land.

You would walk or bike to the library. Above what is now Armonds was a very active American Legion Post, hosting dances and 'jitney' dinners. Eagle Rock of the thirties and forties was beginning to sound a lot like the "Grover's Corners" of Thornton Wilder's play.

But they were not hicks for all their small town ways. Downtown Los Angeles with its major theaters and grand department stores was only a streetcar ride away. Imagine a City with a really workable transit system, that's an idea we ought to look into.

That old transportation system also worked well enough to send the younger Mrs. Norton into a new life. She had been at the beach all day, paddleboarding around the Santa Monica pier. When she returned home on the street car there was a call from her husband to be; he had gotten a three day pass.

"We had to rush off so fast to take the train to Oakland (where the young radioman was stationed) that I didn't even have time to wash the sand out of my hair." She was married the next day at an Aunt's home close by the bay.

The transit system worked as well for daily chores as well. Mrs. Norton worked for the Broadway downtown, "They had such beautiful department stores then." And for entertainment she and her friends would make their way into the City to visit the Orpheum Theater seeing acts like Nat Cole, Lena Horne, Orrin Tucker and Wee Bonnie Baker. "You could see two movies, a newsreel and a stage show," she recalls.

CONTINUEDS ON PAGE 14

# Cacao Mexicatessen

• By Keely Myres



Lujan owners of the Cacao

After seeing the Cacao Mexicatessen sign pop up over a storefront next to Trader Joe's over a year ago, I had been anticipating the opening of what looked like a new café with the kind of wonder and excitement only a name that includes "chocolate" can bring. Could it be a new coffee shop coming to Eagle Rock? A café dedicated to chocolate and all things sweet and delicious?

When Cacao opened its doors on July 31st, I made a trip to check it out and discovered that it is much more than just a coffee shop or café. This latest addition to Colorado Boulevard's storefronts provides another unique eatery to Eagle Rock's residents. Run by the Lujan family, who also own the flower shop Eufhoria next door, Cacao is a specialty deli, café, and catering

business bringing the Lujan family's modern variations and native flavors from regions across Mexico to our little corner of Los Angeles.

Walking in to Cacao through the small outdoor patio you are suddenly surrounded by the comforting smell of freshly made tortillas. The smell is so infused in the small, bright deli that you feel that this place must have been here forever, even though you know otherwise. You are immediately embraced by the warm atmosphere created by the rich, dark wood, brick façade, and marigold colored walls. Friendly staff are behind the counter to take your order, more than willing to recommend something if you are overwhelmed by the vast menu,

each item sounding more tempting than the last.

This is not your run-of-the-mill Mexican restaurant. In addition to the usual Mexican fare, like enchiladas, carne asada, and rellenos, Cacao offers lesser known (to those not well-versed in regional Mexican cooking!) and more regional, traditional items. Think along the lines of nopalitos (grilled cactus sandwiches) or the el puerco borracho (pork belly cooked in beer and tequila) platillo.

As taco, sope, or burrito options try something off the well beaten path of carnitas, pollo, or carne asada. How about trying carnitas de pato (a duck confit), flor de calabaza (squash blossoms



served with poblano strips and queso fresco), and tocino enchocolatado (bacon with Cacao's own salsa and crema Mexicana)? Not in the mood for a taco or burrito? Try one of the Mexinis on the menu, Cacao's Mexican twist on Italian paninis.

Equally intriguing are the drink possibilities Cacao offers. The specialty

cacaos are a must-taste as the restaurant's name-sake. The aguas frescas are refreshing and perfectly not-too-sweet. Varieties change often depending on season and clientele preference. When I visited they offered horchata, strawberry, pineapple, and citrus fruit. For coffee lovers, Cacao's lattes made with Mexican caramel, vanilla from the Papantla region of Mexico, or organic agave nectar will definitely not be found at your average coffee shop.



cane sugar Coca Cola and Jarritos sodas. A deli case holds fresh salsas, homemade guacamole, and a variety of cheeses. Shelves are lined with Mexican imports: spices, herbs, coffees, Cacao's own brand of sauces, and, of course the restaurant's name-sake – chocolate.

There is so much to try behind the doors of this seemingly tiny storefront, prepare to come back several times in the coming months to get a taste of everything. Next on my list: the El Puerco Borracho, and an Azteca Mocha Latte for dessert!

**Cacao** is located at **1576 Colorado Boulevard**. Open 10:00 to 9:00, Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 to 7:00 on Sunday. Check out Cacao Mexicatessen on Facebook for more info on their great specials, like Fish Taco Tuesday!

Once you have finally decided what to delight your taste buds with, take a seat and soak in the surroundings. There is an endless array of things to capture your interest while you wait for your food to arrive. Drying chilies hang from the ceiling, mixing in with Frida Kahlo paintings on the wall and portraits of lucha libre wrestlers above the refrigerator stocked with bottled

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# Finding Friends and Taking Names

• by Michael Woodward



## A Decision Looming Over Eagle Rock

On Monday, August 10, TERA took the first steps towards an alliance with the Glenoaks Canyon Homeowners Association (GCHA) to prevent the building of a huge banquet facility in the San Rafael Hills overlooking the 134 Freeway. Frank Parrello and this writer, Mike Woodward, attended that meeting as representatives of TERA and found the Glenoaks association at least as opposed to the project as we are. Our mutual opposition is based on a desire to keep the hills above the 134 as one of the last remaining pieces of chaparral in a city that has destroyed a good deal of its natural habitat as it grew. Further, the development of this parcel would be a foot in the door to more development from both private owners and Cal Trans, an agency whose track record in sensitive development is dubious at best. In other words, if the banquet hall goes in the remainder of the San Rafael Hills will be a considerable risk.

A representative of the City of Glendale, Hassan Haghani, was also present and expressed the concerns of that city about the proposed banquet hall. Their worry is simple: while the facility would technically be in LA, all the services, road, water, sewage and electrical would be routed through Glendale.

The plans incorporate a road nine hundred feet in length. If it had been a thousand feet long it would have required two exits for fire safety. Now that is a slippery slope.

Mr. Parrello also noticed that the developer is saying he will not remove any dirt from the area during construction. This means 'cut and fill.'

For those readers unfamiliar with the term 'cut and fill,' imagine taking a large bulldozer to the side of the San Rafael ridge. The driver cuts across the face of the ridge from Mt Caramel drive to just above Sierra Villa cutting the top off the descending ridges and filling in the gullies as he goes. Reaching the top the driver flattens the crest of the hills and fills in the area below until a sufficient pad is cut to allow the construction of the banquet hall.

There is a possibility that the developer is bluffing. It is not unknown, in the annals of Southern California real estate for someone to propose the development of a sensitive area in order to force either the city or some agency like the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to buy him out at a profit.

Arguing in favor of this scenario is the fact that the developer has not yet come up with the fee required for the necessary Environmental Impact Report and missed the deadline for that filing. Maybe he doesn't have the financing in the current economy, maybe he's hoping someone will buy him out without his having to spend a dime.

On the other hand, neither the City of LA or the Conservancy have the money to make a deal for this prop-

erty. Plus, the developer, Dr. Hamlet Der Avanesian, has hired a well-connected lobbyist/advocate, Mr. Victor Griego. Here we have all the makings of a giant banquet hall in the San Rafael Hills.

In our fight against this project, we have an ally besides the Glenoaks Canyon association. Mr. Marc Stirdivant, VOICE (Volunteers Organized In Conserving the Environment) and a member of the board of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, was also in attendance at this meeting. He offered practical help, suggesting that one of the first things anyone opposed to this project do is to develop talking points on the issue.

Beyond that, in Mr. Stirdivant's opinion, we should then press not only Councilman Hui-zar's office on these issues but also make our views known to our Assemblyman, State Senator, and Congressman. The more people who know about the project and our opposition to it, the more likely that position will prevail.

We at TERA, and this newsletter, will also monitor the positions of other Council persons. Councilman Hui-zar voiced his opposition to the project at the State of the Town meeting on September 23. He also noted that the developer has applied for a waiver of the Environmental Impact Report. This fight is just beginning.

# Garden Spot

..... by Michael Woodward

**W**e at the Eagle Rock Community Garden like to think of ourselves as being on the cutting edge of gardening technology. That may not be true, but we like to think of ourselves that way.

We are currently experimenting with a new way of making raised beds which looks to be successful so far. These are the bat beds and, yes, it's okay to hum the theme song when you mention bat beds



*Beds of the Future*

Originally designed for erosion control in post burn areas and marketed under the name 'Sediment Stop,' these are straw and jute bats that roll out to fifty feet long. When re-rolled, and filled to the desired amount with straw they become a giant straw log of a sufficient diameter to make a raised bed. One of the nice things about these bats is that they can be made almost any diameter one would like by simply adding more straw during the rolling up process.

As can be seen from the photos, they provide a nicely raised bed in which to plant vegetables or flowers, or both. Since they roll out to fifty feet long and our Garden beds are five feet by ten feet, each bat makes two beds.

They cost, depending on the quantity ordered, just under sixty dollars a bat which makes them cheaper than douglas fir and, certainly redwood. They should last as long as the fir before blending into the surrounding landscape, by which time we hope they will

be useful in clearly defining the garden plots.

We stumbled across these as the result of a suggestion by one of our Garden members, Mr. Warren Ontiveros. Up until then the Garden had been struggling to find bed building materials that were not destructive of the northwestern forests, like douglas fir or redwood, and not so heavy as to be difficult to work with, like cinder blocks. So far this seems to be a good solution to these problems. We will keep the TERA membership posted as to our progress and how well this all works.

## Autumn in the Garden

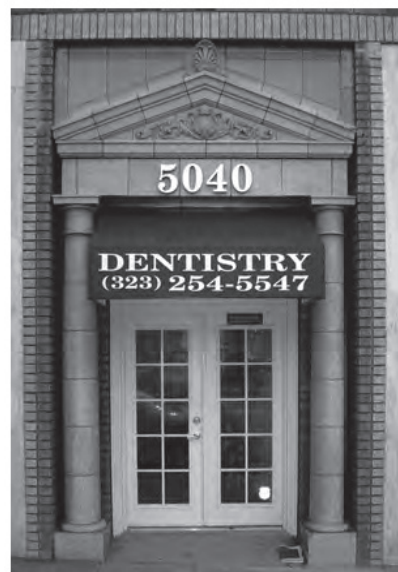
Fall in the garden is not synonymous with fallow. This being Southern California we are busy planting our winter crops of snow and snap peas, broccoli, chard, lots of different kinds of lettuce and the current craze in our Garden, potatoes. While the rest of the country beds down at the end of summer we are planning another rotation of crops to help us snack our way through the harsh Los Angeles winter.

This also means we are having to do even more soil preparation. We are adding mulch to our beds as well as other amendments to increase the amount of vital nitrogen in the soil. These include blood and bone meal, cottonseed meal and chicken manure. While trace minerals remain in the soil for some time, nitrogen must continually be replenished to insure good growth. A gardener's work is never done.



*Gardeners At Work*

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# TERA 2008-2009 Financial Report Use Update

• by TERA President Bob Gotham

## ASSETS

### Fund Balances as of Fiscal Year End June 30

TERA Unrestricted Funds	2009	2008
Operating Savings Account	\$14,132	\$15,974
Operating Checking Account	2,953	3,727
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>\$17,085</b>	<b>\$19,701</b>
TERA Restricted Funds	2009	2008
Beautification Fund	\$8,116	19,783
Community Improvement Fund	0	\$8,743
ERCPR/DOT Match	3,000	0
TERA Contingency Fund	15,000	15,000
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$26,116</b>	<b>\$43,526</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$43,201</b>	<b>\$74,572</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

INCOME	2009 (%)	2009	2008
Advertising	14%	\$1,940	\$1,620
Beautification	0%	0	5,500
Community Garden	9%	1,240	1,900
Donations	2%	294	0
Fundraiser	2%	358	9,804
Interest and Dividends	4%	562	1,090
Membership	68%	9,391	6,196
PPD (Preservation, Planning & Development)			
Public Meetings	1%	107	135
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$13,894</b>	<b>\$26,245</b>

EXPENSES	2009 (%)	2009	2008
Administration	12%	\$4,002	\$3,997
Beautification	59%	19,555	7,617
Community Garden	9%	2,986	1,801
Donations	2%	575	1,315
Fundraiser	0%	0	4,800
Insurance	5%	1,570	1,570
Membership	0%	100	1,464
Outreach	10%	3,525	1,726
PPD			1,142
Public Meetings	3%	1,063	1,974
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$33,378</b>	<b>\$27,407</b>

### Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets (\$19,484) (\$1,162)

**TERA Unrestricted Funds:** These funds consist of operating checking and savings accounts. Monies are available to fund TERA's operational activities such as administration, insurance, public meetings, printed newsletter, e-letter, community garden, fundraisers, membership drive, and other activities.

**TERA Restricted Funds:** These funds are reserved for specific projects or purposes.

The Beautification Fund was established by Council District 14 in 2003, dedicated to fund an Eagle Rock Monument. In this fiscal year, as the Fund Administrator, TERA expended \$2,891 on the Wiota Circle Monument at the base of the Colorado Exit of the 134 Freeway leading up to its grand opening this past spring. The Beautification Fund balance of \$6,392 at fiscal year end remains allocated to the Monument for final construction and future maintenance costs.

Contributions were made to the Beautification Fund earmarked for ERMANT (mosaic art cans), including a 2009 contribution from the Eagle Rock Collaborative of \$195 and \$1,657 from TERA (in addition to TERA's original \$10,000 contribution). With the installment of the ERMANT cans this past spring, all but \$1,724 of these funds were paid out in this fiscal year. Wrap-up expenses and maintenance costs will be funded from the balance.

**The Community Improvement Fund** originated with a contribution of \$30,000 donated by Nextel in 2002 and administered by TERA for community improvement projects. Allocations were made in conjunction with the Eagle Rock Chamber of Commerce (ERCC) and Eagle Rock Community Preservation and Revitalization (ERCPR). In prior years, moneys funded the Eagle Rock flag flying at the intersection of the 134 and 2 Freeways and capital improvements to the Eagle Rockdale Community Garden & Art Park. In this fiscal year, the garden expended the balance of its original \$5,000 capital improvement allocation in constructing additional garden beds. With the support of ERCC and ERCPR, TERA has spent the remainder of the Community Improvement Fund for the ERMANT project thereby closing the account.

The ERCPR/DOT Match Fund was established in this fiscal year by a vote of TERA's Board of Directors to support ERCPR's grant application to the Department of Transportation for creation of an overall plan (including parking) for Colorado Boulevard. (The grant application did not succeed. Therefore, these funds will be restored to the Operating Budget.)

### Overall Comments

As noted above, TERA's net decrease in assets in this fiscal year is primarily due to the funding of the ERMANT, Wiota Circle Monument and Community Garden expansion projects. In addition, TERA had no fundraiser in this fiscal year. Plans are underway for a fundraiser in spring 2010.

The last year was a good year for TERA and Eagle Rock. We could not have done it without the support of many in the community. The ERMANT project, coordinated by now-retired board member Pauline Mauro, was supported by local artists who created the mosaic art cans, volunteers and Eagle Rock businesses who stepped forward to adopt and empty the cans in the future. The Wiota Circle Monument was supported by volunteers under the dedicated leadership of Dave and Helen Gustavson. The Eagle Rock Community Garden & Art Park volunteer gardeners led by board member Mike Woodward continue to construct additional garden beds for new gardeners. Volunteers labored for TERA's Day of Service project and spruced up the landscaping at the public library. Eagle Rock businesses support the TERA newsletter with their advertising contributions. Individuals and businesses support TERA with their membership dollars and many other volunteers regularly assist in the ongoing work of TERA.

An acknowledgment is also due to immediate past president Maria Nazario under whose leadership so much was accomplished.

The success of TERA truly is due to the financial support of its members, the dedication of its volunteers and the support of Eagle Rock community at large.

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Joan MacNeil**  
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# Leed: It's Not a City in England

.....• by Renate Kofahl, LEED A. P.

**F**or those of us who work in the building and design industry, it's hard to imagine that not everyone has a working knowledge of LEED design and construction. But that is not the real world. While current economic conditions have slowed the pace of proposed new development in Eagle Rock, new projects and renovations continue in the planning stages.

It is very desirable that all of our stakeholders share awareness, not only on the impact that development may have on traffic and parking, but also on our environment. The United States Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEEDTM (which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building rating system is one way to measure that impact.

LEED addresses five key areas of building design, construction and operations in a point system:

Site location – site planning, landscaping, storm water management, construction and demolition recycling. A possible 26 points.

Water efficiency – efficient fixtures, wastewater reuse, efficient irrigation. A possible 14 points.

Energy and atmosphere – energy efficiency, clean/renewable energy. A possible 35 points.

Materials and resources – materials reuse, efficient building systems, use of recycled and rapidly renewable materials. A possible 10 points

Indoor environmental quality – improved indoor air quality, increased natural day lighting and improved thermal comfort/control. A possible 15 points.

In addition, up to 10 bonus points can be awarded: up to 4 for focusing on LEED credits that have been chosen as regional priorities and up to 6 Innovation and Design points

Although LEED is a voluntary system, in April of 2008, the City of Los Angeles

did adopt an ordinance to the Los Angeles Municipal Code, establishing a Green Building Program. The ordinance requires that all new large projects meet the intent of the criteria for LEED Certified level – or at least 26 points.

Looking at trends in cities in California and around the country, it is not unreasonable to expect these requirements going to smaller projects as the city reviews its current thresholds on a bi-annual basis. Currently all new city-owned buildings larger than 7,500 square feet or with major renovations are built to LEED Silver level – 33-38 points.

It is important to remember that every building project, even in Eagle Rock, has an impact on the environment. Most sizes or types of projects can set a goal for LEED certification or other green goals. LEED rating systems are currently available for new construction, including major renovations, core and shell, commercial interiors, and homes and existing buildings which take into account a building's ongoing operations. Rating systems are in the pilot stage for retail, healthcare, neighborhood development and multifamily.

Why is it good for the environment, and subsequently our community, to build using LEED criteria? Here's some facts published by the City's Green Building Program: "Buildings consume up to two-thirds of the city's electricity, use significant water and other natural resources and contribute 12% of landfill waste."

Yet, for example, 60-80 percent of all waste on a construction site is recyclable. LEED points are awarded for diverting 50 and 75 of construction waste. Since 80% of construction materials use natural resources, specifying recycled/reusable materials is a logical improvement. LEED credits for choosing previously developed sites or brownfield sites or encouraging development in urban areas, helps protect green space and preserve natural resources.

Building sustainable buildings is an important part of building a sustainable Eagle Rock. By knowing more about LEED and other green design and construction practices, we are better prepared to raise the questions of new developments coming to our community.

To learn more about the LEED rating system, please visit the USGBC's website at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

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# Hot Button, Hotline

Driving down Colorado Boulevard you may have noticed the signs close by the old City Hall. You know, the ones with the 710 Freeway logo with a line drawn through it.

These signs have been put up by a recently formed group, "United Against the 710." They encourage readers opposed to that freeway extension to call the hotline: 323.254.1856. The number belongs to Nancy Campeau, recently minted as an activist in this matter, but showing a sophistication about political tactics many professional politicians would envy.

The idea is that the 710 would dive underground near its current terminus on Valley Boulevard in Alhambra resurfacing to to join with the 210. The stated purpose of this extension is to expedite truck traffic out of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

And therein lies the rub. Those opposed to this project do not want any increase in traffic, especially diesel traffic through this area. Their motto is, "No 710 extension, no how, no way, no where."

What drives the group is the impact they feel the extension of the 710 will have on air quality, traffic, and noise pollution. The 710 connection, if created, will become primarily a freight corridor bringing truck traffic from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles through Northeast LA on its way to the rest of the country.

Bore testing has begun on this project. "The geotechnical activity and testing is not to predict a route, the testing is to determine if there are any zones that we should not consider at all," said District 7 Director Doug Failing, quoted on the Cal Trans web site.

Ms Campeau said, "This is a 20th century solution to a 21st century problem." The group feels that the very idea that the congestion at the ports can be solved through the creation of additional truck corridors is fundamentally flawed. They propose a "multi-modal" approach that would include a much greater use of rail.

In addition, the number of trucks passing along the the 210 freeway would create an intolerable amount of pollution. It is because air pollution knows no boundaries that so many people from all the Northeast communities are so incensed about this latest Cal Trans proposal.

"We want to preserve this quiet gem of a neighborhood," was how Ms Campeau summed up the position of United Against the 710.

At the State of the Town meeting Councilman Huizar said, "I will not allow any freeway, above ground, or tunnel to come to Northeast LA. I just does not make sense." This statement was met with a round of applause.

After that statement Councilman indicated that he would be introducing a council measure to oppose any route through Northeast LA. He stopped short, however, of opposing any freeway extension whatsoever.

More information is available at the hot line: 323.254.1856. There is a web site [www.stopthe710.org](http://www.stopthe710.org). There is also a Yahoo club site with even more information at [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/stopthe710](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/stopthe710). The group now has office hours of 5 pm to 9 pm Sundays at the Coptic Church on Cleland Avenue.



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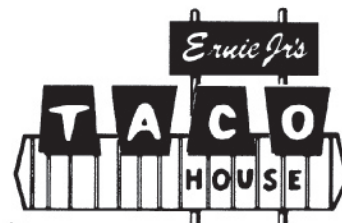
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# Journey Through Time and Trees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Despite its closeness to the big City below, Eagle Rock to this day has that small town feel. Maybe less so around five o'clock when you rush down Colorado Boulevard, and could almost be on the West Side. Even now, on the side streets, where we live, there is a sense of serenity and, security.

Eagle Rock is no longer the separate little world it was in the thirties and forties. There's a freeway above us and maybe more development beyond that. One of the great cities of the world surrounds us. Still we retain a feeling of home.

Part of what keeps us that way is preservation. "If you look at Swork's, you could swear you were looking at Patterson's Drug Store," is how Mrs. Norton put it. It is that we haven't destroyed all of the old, that we've retained not just the architecture of old Eagle Rock, but the sense of community that was at its heart.

Another thread that comes down the years is a sense that this is a community worth fighting for. From the days when we were annexed to Los Angeles, through the fight over the 134, to today when we fight to preserve the ridgeline above us and keep Cal Trans from running another freeway through this part of town; this little village has always fought to keep larger powers from running roughshod over us.

So, if you enjoy the small pleasures of Eagle Rock, if that's why you live here, remember that it was people like Winifred Norton who made this place the little gem that it is. I want to thank her for a delightful morning listening to her reminiscences of our town.

Oh, and that tree, it's a Neem Tree (*Melia azadirachta*). It is called by many other names: Chinaberry, Texas Umbrella, Village Pharmacy (for its many medicinal uses) or, the one Mrs. Norton and I liked the best, Persian Lilac.

## TERA PATRONS

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 acknowledged in subsequent newsletters.

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