



# SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

The Official Community Newsletter ♦ [www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us](http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us) ♦ Vol. 13 #2 ♦ Autumn 2007

## City to Address Financial Deficits for Infrastructure Repair, Employee Compensation



At the November 6 election, voters will be asked to approve a three percent increase in the City's Utility User's Tax for five years to fund needed improvements in infrastructure and to provide more equitable compensation to City employees. The City's current Utility User's Tax (UUT) rate is five percent.

Two measures will appear on the ballot. One asks voters whether the UUT should be increased by three percent from 2008 until 2013. The second is considered an "advisory measure," which states that if the increase is approved, "should not less than 65 percent of the funds generated by the increase be expended for infrastructure improvements, such as repair, replacement and improvement of water lines, reservoirs, sewer facilities, streets, sidewalks, parks, public building and other such infrastructure facilities, and not more than 35 percent of such funds be expended for employee salaries?"

Voter booklets will be sent to all registered voters prior to the election. To register to vote or to make name or address changes in your voter registration, complete a voter registration form. These are available in English, Spanish and Chinese at the Post Office, the Public Library, the Police Department window, and the City Clerk's office. For further information, contact the City Clerk's office at (626) 403-7230.

## Fire Department Celebrates 100 Years of Service

Almost a century ago, the local newspaper, then known as the *South Pasadenan*, ran a story in the Oct. 31, 1907 edition stating that the City of South Pasadena passed ordinances establishing the fire department and creating the office of fire marshal.

A few months after the ordinance was passed, the City hired its first fire marshal, N. G. Ledgerwood, and also ordered a fire engine. The fire engine, when delivered in 1909, was one of the first two ever used in California (the other was in Hollywood).

A century later, the South Pasadena Fire Department is still dedicated to serving the community. Come celebrate 100 years of service on September 16th when the fire department joins forces with the Tournament of Roses Car Show to provide you with a dazzling display of fire apparatus. See fire engines from the turn of the century to the latest model now serving the community. In addition, firefighters will conduct demonstrations. We hope to see you there! For more information, please call the South Pasadena Fire Department at (626) 403-7300.



## Preventing Home Fires



In 2006, the South Pasadena Fire Department responded to 1,913 emergency incidents. Of that total, 265 responses were related to fire calls. By taking some basic precautions, you can keep your family safe. Take a few minutes and review this important checklist – it could save lives and property:

- Is your stove top clean and free of clutter?
- Are your counter-top appliances in good repair (cords too)?
- Are space heaters at least three feet away from walls and anything else that can burn?
- If you have a fireplace, does it have a screen to catch sparks?
- Has your chimney been inspected or cleaned in the past 12 months?
- Has your heating system been serviced professionally in the past 12 months?
- If anyone smokes in your home, do you have large, deep, non-tip ashtrays?
- Are matches and lighters locked away up high, out of children's sight and reach?
- Do you have adequate electrical circuits for heat-producing appliances such as ranges, dryers, microwave ovens, and electric space heaters?
- Are bathroom and kitchen wall outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters?
- Have you had your fuses or circuit-breakers professionally inspected to make sure they match the circuit capacity of your house wiring?
- Are paints, gasoline, and other flammable liquids stored away from flames and sparks outside the home in a shed or garage?
- Do you have smoke alarms installed on every floor of your home?
- Do your smoke alarms work? (Test them)
- Are any smoke alarms in your home more than 10 years old? (Replace them)
- Are your portable fire extinguishers fully charged?

For more information on how you can prevent home-based fires, please call the South Pasadena Fire Department at (626) 403-7300.

## Spooktacular Fun

Join in on the hair-raising excitement as the City of South Pasadena presents its third annual free Halloween 'Spooktacular,' to be held on October 31st from 6-8 p.m. at the War Memorial Building, 435 Fair Oaks Avenue. This thrilling event will feature lots of spooky fun, including a costume parade, boo-rific games, balloon artist, caricature artist, face painting, light snacks, candy, arts and crafts, contests, and prizes. Adding to this spine-tingling free event will be a dazzling magic show.

Pre-registration is required. Space is limited. Register by October 24th at the Recreation office at 815 Mission St or by calling (626) 403-7380.



## FARMERS' MARKET

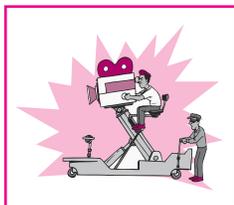
Open 4-8 PM



Meridian and Mission.  
Every Thursday, a variety  
of local businesses in  
the Mission West stay  
open until 8 PM. Come  
visit and support  
your local merchants.

## Hosting a Film Shoot

South Pasadena is a favorite destination for film production companies to shoot commercials, television shows and feature films. Each company has a different request ranging from large kitchens to open floor plans to entryways with a staircase showing.



Would you like to participate in your neighborhood film shoot at another property? To join the free "location library" or if you have any specific questions about filming, please call or email Film Liaison Joan Aguado at [jaguado@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us](mailto:jaguado@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us) or (626) 403-7263.

City of  
**South Pasadena**  
CALIFORNIA

### CITY OFFICIALS

[www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us](http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us)

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## South Pasadena Curbing Stormwater Pollution

For years, the City of South Pasadena has been working to provide its businesses and residents a better place to work and live. One key environmental program is stormwater pollution prevention.

Stormwater pollution is the untreated contaminated water that drains from City streets through the municipal storm drain system and into the ocean. The most common pollutants are trash (fast-food wrappers, cigarette butts, and Styrofoam cups) and toxins (like used motor oil, antifreeze, fertilizer, pesticides, and pet droppings).

These pollutants are picked up by rainwater, and dry weather runoff from hoses and sprinklers that drain from streets, parking lots and lawns, and enter the catch basins throughout the City. This "toxic soup" then flows through a massive system of pipes and open channels – straight to the ocean untreated.

Stormwater pollution not only involves expending funds for cleanup and prevention, but also poses a serious immediate health risk to people swimming or fishing in the ocean, and countless marine plants and animals become sick or die.

To meet the goal of eliminating stormwater pollution, a comprehensive stormwater pollution prevention program has been implemented. Key elements include investigating illicit discharges and connections, inspections at local businesses, initiating public outreach programs to educate the public, and more.

### Everyone can help reduce stormwater pollution. Here are some tips:

- Properly use, store and dispose of all household hazardous products. These include cleaners, solvents, paints, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. Dispose of all household hazardous waste, including empty containers and used oil filters at monthly household hazardous waste "round-ups" conducted by the County of Los Angeles. Call 1-888-CLEANLA for more information or event schedule.
- Use a rake or broom, rather than a hose to collect debris and dispose of it properly.
- Purchase non-toxic products for home and garden use.
- Use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers sparingly. Do not apply any chemicals to the lawn or garden before a rainstorm or watering.
- Conserve water and do not over water lawns.
- Use yard trimmings and leaves as compost. Please place your compost in specially designated green containers.
- Pick up after your dog! Dispose of all pet waste in trashcans.
- Keep covers on all trashcans.
- When changing car fluids, use a drip pan to catch spills. If a spill does occur, apply absorbent materials, such as kitty litter and dispose of properly.
- Keep your vehicles in good working order to prevent leaks.
- Recycle all you can, including used motor oil, filters, beverage bottles and cans.

For more information on the City's stormwater pollution prevention program, please call the Public Works Department at (626) 403-7240 or visit [www.888cleanla.com](http://www.888cleanla.com). Stormwater pollution prevention tip cards and brochures are also available at the public library and City Hall.

## Around Town Parking – Know the Rules

No one likes to get a parking ticket. Below is a list of some of the most frequently violated laws and ordinances with brief descriptions so that you may better understand them and reduce the chances of getting a ticket:

**Restricted Parking: Municipal Code Section 19.45** – This deals with the 1-hour, 2-hour and 4-hour restricted areas that exist in several areas throughout the City. Many of these areas are within the preferential parking districts that surround the Gold Line Metro Station at Mission Street and Meridian Avenue. Pay close attention to any and all erected signs that display the restrictions

**Overnight Parking: Municipal Code Section 19.58** – It's unlawful for any person to stop, stand or park a motor vehicle on any public street for a period of time longer than 30 minutes between the hours of 2-6 a.m., any day, except in accordance with all-night parking permits. Daily, monthly and yearly permits can be obtained at the Police Department.

**Parking on Hills: Municipal Code Section 19.52** – No person shall park a vehicle on a street where the grade exceeds three percent without turning the vehicle's wheels against the curb. Signs are not required to be posted in areas where this ordinance applies. When your vehicle is facing downhill, turn your wheels toward the curb. When you have parked uphill, turn the front wheels away from the curb.

**Missing License Plate: California Vehicle Code Section 5200** – All vehicles registered in the State of California must have two license plates. They must be permanently attached to the vehicle, one on the front, and the other on the rear. This is a "fix-it" ticket; one needs only to attach the plate, come to the police station to have it inspected and the fine is reduced.

**Parking Out of Space: Municipal Code Section 19.46** – In some areas of the City, mostly within the business districts, there are markings on the roadway that indicate single parking spaces. When a vehicle is parked at the curb, it must be parked entirely within that single space. When another vehicle has already parked outside a space, leaving you only a partial space, you should not park your vehicle in that portion of the remaining space as you are subject to a citation. The parking enforcement officer has no knowledge of which vehicle was there first.

Parking ordinances are created so that motorists can travel and park their vehicles in a safe manner. For more information please call (626) 403-7270.

# Senior Center Celebrates 25 Years

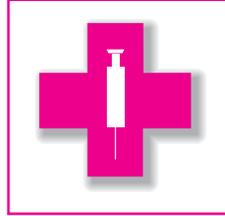
The South Pasadena Senior Center is celebrating 25 years of community service! The Center continues to offer learning and recreational programs, human and health services, travel, and volunteer opportunities. The Center has become an important institution that enhances the lives of senior citizens.

One of the Center's most recent successes has been to obtain non-profit status. Last summer the Center received its determination letter from the IRS and formed the Senior Citizens' Foundation of South Pasadena, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization which raises funds for Senior Center needs that the City's general fund is not able to meet.

Join us on October 19th at 6:30 pm for a gala event celebrating the 25th anniversary of the South Pasadena Senior Center. For more information, please call (626) 403-7360.

## Free Flu Shots Available for Seniors

The annual flu shot clinic will be provided to seniors 60 and over and disabled. Flu shots can be obtained at the South Pasadena Senior Center, 1102 Oxley Street, on November 7th from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The Monrovia/Alhambra Health District, L.A. County Department of Health Services, and the South Pasadena Senior Center will sponsor this free clinic. For more information, please call the Senior Center at (626) 403-7360.



## Updated Design Guidelines Introduced

Updated design guidelines for residential and commercial properties in South Pasadena will soon be introduced. These guidelines will assist property owners wanting to construct new buildings or make additions to existing structures by providing details on the many design elements to be considered in such projects. They will be utilized by the City's various design review boards. Projects will need to conform to the guidelines in order to be approved. Topics covered include site design, appropriate construction materials, building form, and other design elements.

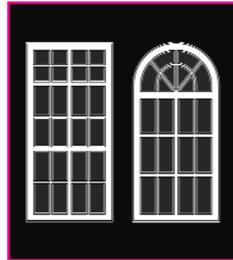
These guidelines will further assist in preserving South Pasadena's unique small-town atmosphere and will help maintain the appeal of the many diverse neighborhoods in the City.

Copies of the guidelines are available from the Planning & Building department for a small fee or can be viewed on-line at <http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us/planning/design.html>.

## Permits Needed for Replacing Windows

South Pasadena homeowners wishing to upgrade or replace windows should be aware that building permits are required for all new windows, even when the existing window openings are retained.

Applicants should check first with the Planning & Building Department before purchasing new windows. The department will provide advice on the types of windows that are generally approved in the City and on the procedures required to obtain a building permit. For more information please call (626) 403-7220.



## You're Invited to Water Fest!

The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGV-MWD) invites South Pasadena residents to the fifth annual water awareness festival.

**Saturday, October 13**  
**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Arcadia County Park**  
**405 Santa Anita Avenue**

For details on Water Fest, please call the USGV-MWD at (626) 443-2297 or Diana Harder, Public Works Assistant, at (626) 403-7243.

## AUTUMN CALENDAR

### LIBRARY EVENTS

#### SEPTEMBER 3

Labor Day Holiday - Library & City Closed

#### SEPTEMBER 6

Author Night with David Masumoto and drummers from the Taiko Center of L.A. - 6 p.m.  
Library Park outside Community Room

#### SEPTEMBER 23

Restoration Concert: Pegasus - Piano Trio  
Library Community Room - 4 p.m.  
Call (626) 799-6333 for ticket information.

#### OCTOBER 8

Columbus Day Holiday - Library & City Closed

#### OCTOBER 13-NOVEMBER 24

"IN-N-OUT Burger Food for Thought Reading Program" for Children & Teens  
Call Children's Services at (626) 403-7458 for information.

#### OCTOBER 21

Restoration Concert: Pantom Trio  
Library Community Room - 4 p.m.  
Call (626) 799-6333 for ticket information.

#### NOVEMBER 8

War Memorial Building Ceremony  
Featuring author Peter Collier  
War Memorial Auditorium - 7 p.m.  
Call (626) 403-7350 for information.

#### NOVEMBER 12

Veterans' Day Holiday - Library & City Closed

#### NOVEMBER 13

California Young Reader Medal Award Celebration  
Library Community Room - 7:15 p.m.  
Call Children's Services at (626) 403-7358 for information.

#### NOVEMBER 18

Restoration Concert: Gary Foster - Jazz  
Library Community Room - 4 p.m.  
Call (626) 799-6333 for ticket information.

#### NOVEMBER 22-23

Thanksgiving Holiday  
Day After Thanksgiving Holiday  
Library & City Closed

## New Businesses Open

There are new businesses in South Pasadena!

- ★ **750 ml, restaurant**  
966 Mission St., (626) 799-0711
- ★ **Bellini, baby to teen furniture and accessories**  
1020 Mission St., (626) 449-8113
- ★ **Educational Adventures/Danger Rangers, cartoon animation**  
1124 Mission St., Suite 200  
(626) 799-0333
- ★ **Panay, home furnishings and accessories**  
1010 1/2 Fair Oaks Ave., (626) 440-7218

## Chamber Opens New Visitor Info Center

The South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce has opened a new visitor information center at 1121 Mission Street, between the historic Mission West shopping district and the main corridor of Fair Oaks Avenue.

Visitors can now pick up maps and information on area shops and services, and locals may view and purchase artworks by local artists. In addition, the space is designed to become a community gathering spot for arts related special events. The new visitor center is also home to the SoPas Gallery that will be a showcase for local art and artists.

The first gallery showing is planned for September, featuring the oil paintings of South Pasadena artist Liz Reday. Subsequent marketing efforts will be seasonal, based on the show schedule, in collaboration between the featured artist and the Chamber.



SoPas Gallery will be open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, log on to [www.south-paschamber.com](http://www.south-paschamber.com) or call (626) 441-2339

## Annual Rummage Sale

The annual rummage sale will be held at the Senior Center on November 7th from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Donations are being accepted for the annual rummage, boutique and bake sale. Proceeds will be used for scholarships provided by the Lunch and Dial-A-Ride Program. Items may be dropped off at the Senior Center one week prior to the event, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Senior Center is also in need of baked items for sale. For more information, contact the Senior Center at (626) 403-7360.

## Dumpster Day Is Coming!

Clean out your back yard and empty your closets and garages - Dumpster Day will be here soon! The City of South Pasadena, Athens Services and Out Of The Closet will sponsor this citywide clean-up day. On October 13th, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., residents are invited to bring items to the corner of Mission Street and Arroyo Drive.



Athens Services will provide the dumpsters for all disposable items that are too bulky or heavy to place into regular trash containers such old furniture and appliances. This event is not for the disposal of green waste and loose materials, such as debris generated by yard clearing or construction materials. Examples of items that will be accepted include refrigerators, ovens, couches, tables, chairs, etc. This service is offered at no charge to South Pasadena residents with proof of residency.

Out of the Closet thrift store chain, the nation's largest AIDS-related retail business, will be on hand to help you recycle your unwanted but usable goods: furniture, clothing, housewares and more. Out of the Closet benefits the AIDS Healthcare Foundation in their mission to provide "cutting-edge medicine and advocacy regardless of ability to pay" to thousands of patients in Southern California, New York and Florida.

Senior citizens who need assistance with removal of items from their homes may call the Senior Citizen's Center at (626) 403-7360 to arrange for a pick-up. When you call, please leave your name, address and a description of the items. This service is offered free to South Pasadena senior citizens, but don't wait too long. The deadline to call in requests is 10 a.m. October 4th. Please have all items collected and readily available in one location for easier pick-up.

Please note that this event is not for the collection of household hazardous and electronic waste. Special roundup events are held regularly throughout Los Angeles County to provide assistance to residents interested in disposing of such items as motor oil, pesticides, car batteries, computer equipment, etc. Call 1-888-CLEAN-LA (253-2652) for a schedule of upcoming events.

If you have any questions regarding Dumpster Day, or household hazardous and electronic waste disposal, please Diana Harder, Public Works Assistant, at (626) 403-7243.

## South Pasadena's 8th Annual Household Hazardous and E-Waste Round Up



**Saturday, September 15  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**South Pasadena Unified School District  
Parking Lot (Diamond & Mission)**

For more information call:  
Diana Harder, Public Works  
Assistant, at (626) 403-7240 or  
L.A. County Department of Public Works at  
1-888-CLEAN-LA (253-2652).

### CITY COUNCIL

Michael A. Cacciotti, **Mayor**  
Philip C. Putnam, **Mayor Pro Tem**  
Richard D. Schneider, **Councilmember**  
Michael Ten, **Councilmember**  
David Sifuentes, **Councilmember**

Sally Kilby, **City Clerk**  
Victor Robinette, **City Treasurer**

You may leave a recorded message at any time of day or night for the Mayor or a Councilmember by dialing (626) 403-7218. Recorded prompts will assist you in reaching the appropriate member of the Council.

**SOUTH PASADENA Neighbors** is published by the City of South Pasadena and is distributed as a public service to City residents and businesses. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please call the City Manager's Office at (626) 403-7210. On the Web: [www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us](http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us)

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**City of South Pasadena  
1414 Mission St.  
South Pasadena, CA 91030**

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