



# SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

The Official Community Newsletter ❖ Volume 4, No. 4 ❖ Spring 2000

## Police and Fire Departments Use High Tech for Public Safety

**T**he South Pasadena Police Department has wrapped up the first phase of its Comprehensive Automated Public Safety Software (CAPSS) project. This consisted of installing new hardware and software for the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS).

The new CAD and RMS streamline and manage information in the department. The CAD system manages information coming into the department and dispatches officers to calls for service. The RMS system manages critical information created by officers in the field and disseminates that information to end-users.

The project's second phase involves connecting officers in the field to the computer network at the station. Officers will utilize their laptop computers in the field and connect to the police station via a wireless cellular (CDPD) telephone connection.

Officers will then have the capability to access numerous state and federal databases for criminal information inside or outside of their patrol vehicles.

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## NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR A NEW CENTURY!

### Blue Line Light Rail on Track in South Pasadena!

**T**he Blue Line Light Rail project is on track and coming to South Pasadena! Construction is slated to begin later this year and the Mission Street Station is scheduled to open Summer 2003. The station will be located southwest of the intersection of Mission and Meridian.

South Pasadena has long been in the forefront of promoting transit improvements, light rail and multi-mode transportation in Southern California.

In 1999, the South Pasadena City Council joined forces with Los Angeles and Pasadena to support removing the Blue Line Light Rail from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and placing the project with a brand new construction authority. Mayor David Saeta now represents the City as Vice Chairman of the new Board for the Los Angeles to Pasadena Metro Blue Line Light Rail Construction Authority and Mayor Pro-Tem Dorothy Cohen serves as the City's Alternate for the seat.

Construction of the Blue Line is an important component of the Multi-Mode Low Build Alternative that the City supports as a viable solution to the proposed Interstate 710 freeway extension.

The Blue Line Light Rail will be built in two phases. Phase I of the Blue Line is 13.6 miles and stretches from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to Sierra Madre Villa in Pasadena. Trains, consisting of three connected 90-foot long cars, will carry approximately 650 passengers from early in the morning (6:00 a.m.) to late at night (1:00 a.m.). During rush hours, trains will run every eight to ten minutes and every 15 minutes outside of rush hour.

It is estimated that the light rail will initially carry 38,000 passengers and increase to 50,000 to 75,000 by the year 2010. The fares will be equivalent to bus express fares for the same route and time. The Blue Line will have an open boarding system in which a passenger can purchase a ticket

from convenient vending machines at the stations before boarding.

The Blue Line route essentially follows the abandoned heavy rail line that already exists in Los Angeles, South Pasadena and Pasadena. Very little additional right of way is needed for the project. A total of 13 stations are planned with one station in South Pasadena, six stations in Los Angeles, and six stations in Pasadena. The light rail trains will begin at Union Station in downtown Los Angeles, stopping in Chinatown, Lincoln Heights, Mount Washington, at the Southwest Museum and in Highland Park. The trains will then stop at Avenue 57 and pass over the Pasadena 110 freeway to the Mission Street Station in South Pasadena.

Rick Thorpe, CEO of the Blue Line Construction Authority, outlined the light rail project at a Town Hall meeting in South Pasadena last December. More Town Hall meetings will be conducted in South Pasadena and other neighboring communities as project construction gets underway.

South Pasadena has also become the home for the Blue Line Construction Authority headquarters that opened last December at 625 Fair Oaks Avenue (directly across the street from Bristol Farms). The telephone number is (626) 799-0080; the Web site address is "www.la-pasblueline.org." The Web site provides updates on the project, maps of the route, and also upcoming Board and community meeting dates.

Blue Line information can also be found at the South Pasadena Public Library, 1100 Oxley Street, where maps and exhibits are on display. In addition, South Pasadena's Transportation Manager, Martha Van Rooijen, is available at City Hall to discuss the project with interested residents and can be reached at (626) 403-7214. You can always come by City Hall during regular business hours to pick up the latest information.



# Community Services: More than Parks and Recreation

**T**hese are exciting times as Community Services programs and activities have expanded for our residents. Now our attention turns to much needed improvements at our park sites and community buildings. The good times will only continue to get better as we roll into a future filled with new playground equipment, new restrooms, improved walkways and lighting, more recreational classes, rehabilitated buildings and an enhanced after-school child care and summer Camp Med program.

A few highlights of what to watch for in the next five years:

## CITY PARK IMPROVEMENTS

**1. Garfield Park** – At our premier park on Mission Street at the head of Marengo Avenue renovations are underway with improvements to be completed by Summer 2000. Permanent restrooms, new playground equipment, improved walkways, new picnic tables, new barbecues, new landscaping, and new pedestrian lighting will make this gem shine.

**2. Orange Grove Park** – On Mission Street at Orange Grove, this site will benefit from restroom rehabilitation, new playground equipment, new picnic tables, a refurbished picnic pavilion, a new sign, and façade and access improvements.

**3. War Memorial Building** – We have come a long way with this 1922 facility, located on Fair Oaks Avenue at Mound Avenue, but still have a long way to go. In the next five years we will paint the exterior, replace the sign, rehabilitate the structure including repair of a water-leaking problem, enhance the Legion

Room, rehabilitate the parking lot, and add much needed landscaping. (For information on renting this and other City facilities, look in the Class and Services Guide.)

**4. Arroyo Seco Parks** – Watch for the installation of a permanent restroom and new playground equipment, and new picnic tables and chairs at Pasadena Avenue and Arroyo Drive.

**5. Eddie Park** – This quaint park at the southeast corner of Chilton Way and Edgewood Drive was created in the City after the Eddie family donated their home and property to the City in the 1930's. As funding allows, look for new playground equipment and rehabilitation work on the house.

## RECREATION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

**1. Quarterly Leisure Classes** – The City continues to expand the number and variety of classes available for children, adults and seniors. Adult sports leagues will be added in the coming years. Look for the Class and Services Guide included with each quarterly newsletter.

**2. Community Kids Center Programs** – We offer year-round after-school childcare for K-6 grades, winter and spring break day camp, and a fun-filled 10-week summer Camp Med program. Facility improvements are detailed under Orange Grove Park. In addition, expect expanded computer access and more special programming.

**3. Summer Camp Med Program** – This successful program will continue to expand the variety of field trips and special events, while benefiting from the Orange Grove facility improvements.

## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Our monthly Senior Center Newsletter provides a wealth of information on our new and ongoing programs and services. Areas of focus for the coming years include expanding our volunteer program, conducting a survey to determine what needs of our seniors are not being met, and expanding cultural programs.

For more information on the above or any other Community Services activities, please call (626) 403-7360.



## LIBRARY GETS NEW CARPET, LANDSCAPING

**H**oliday giving came early last year when the South Pasadena Public Library was fortunate enough to receive gifts of new carpeting and landscaping.

Thanks to an \$18,000 gift from the Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library, Inc. Restoration Concert Committee, chaired by Cindy Line, the library had 3,000 square feet of new green Karastan carpeting installed in its Community Room just before the end of 1999. The new carpet replaces the old, timeworn orange carpet, which has been in use since the 1982 expansion and renovation of the library. Last year the Community Room was rented for 246 days of the year and had been used 109 times since July.

Net proceeds from the popular Restoration Concert series are to be used for the continued "restoration" of the Community Room. For more information about upcoming classical and jazz concerts on Sunday afternoons in the Community Room, please call the Restoration Concert Committee at (626) 799-0670.

In early 1999, South Pasadena Beautiful donated new landscaping to the grounds of the library. Working with current President Marty Wetzel, former President Pam Hames headed the project in cooperation with Burkhart Nurseries.

Thanks from the South Pasadena Public Library to these "civic-minded Santas!"

Not familiar with what the Community Services Department does? You may know us but not realize it, through your:

- child's participation in a recreational class,
- weekly trip to a fitness class,
- having lunch at the Senior Center,
- reserving the picnic area at Garfield Park,
- registering your children for after-school care
- enrollment in the summer Camp Med program at Orange Grove Park,
- renting the War Memorial Building,
- coming to the Concerts in the Park,
- use of new playground equipment,
- use of the Dial-a-Ride program, to name a few

There are many faces to the Community Services Department. For more information call (626) 403-7360.

# High Tech for Public Safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 —

Also, officers will have the ability to send completed report information to their supervisors without having to return to the police station.

New Year's Day ensured quality fire safety service for the new millennium when a state-of-the-art fire department management system was brought to the South Pasadena Fire Department.

The Firehouse software program is an incident reporting system for the fire safety and paramedic functions, and, like the Police Department's system, it is also a

records management and tracking system. It records and stores information on local businesses to be used for both fire prevention and fire fighting functions. It also stores detailed records on fire apparatus and equipment, and fire hydrants as well as firefighter training, and personnel information.

The system will help the Fire Department secure compliance with fire safety standards, maintain fire safety equipment, and insure that firefighters are trained for the activities they perform.

## Computers Galore at the Library

For the South Pasadena Public Library, the future started in 1990 with the arrival of the Inlex computer catalog and library circulation system.

Once the barcode was added to both books and library cards, it became possible to check things out quickly and efficiently. It was also possible to tell from the catalog whether or not a specific book was checked out and when it was due back, something that had never been possible with the trusty old card catalog.

The next giant step toward the future was the arrival of public Internet services in 1994. As the online world moved quickly from "gophers" and "FTP" to the Worldwide Web, the library rapidly expanded from one public Internet terminal to four and still is unable to totally meet public demand.

In the first few years of the 21st century, even bigger changes are in the works. The next step for the library is the introduction of a Web server that will make the library's catalog available on the Internet. Once in place, the Web-based catalog will allow users to access the library from their home computers. Placing holds, renewing books and verifying items currently checked out will be an easy click of the mouse button.

The biggest step toward the future will be the installation of a new, client/server system for the library that will allow faster processing speeds for both staff and the public. In a networked environment, the library's catalog computers will offer access to magazine indexes, telephone books, newspaper back files and other reference sources as well as access to the catalog of the South Pasadena Public Library, South Pasadena Middle School Library and South Pasadena High School Library.

Access to the Internet will also be available at more points within the library. All of these resources will be connected to a high-speed DSL (Digital



Subscriber Line) connection that will shorten download times and virtually eliminate the problem of being abruptly disconnected in the middle of a search.

While all of these technological wonders are in the planning stages and should be arriving at the library within the next 24-36 months, booklovers should not despair. The South Pasadena Public Library continues to offer an extensive, well-balanced collection of printed materials, both current and historic. Story times continue to be offered on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and on Thursday and Friday mornings. The 1999 Summer Reading Program reached a record enrollment of 1,666 young readers, and the library remains open and welcoming to everyone just as it has since 1895.

## NEW EQUIPMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Last October the City of South Pasadena received a new addition to the sewer division - a van conversion with a video camera and associated equipment to be used for sewer main line inspections. The video camera is mounted on mechanical wheels and is self-propelling, providing the City with the ability to video sewer lines ranging from six inches to 24 inches in diameter.

The video cameras will be used to inspect the sewer infrastructure and assist in annual sewer cleaning. This is invaluable as it helps staff evaluate sewer line conditions, plan for repairs, and estimate costs. Sewer backup claims costs will be cut as the City will be able to inspect a particular line and quickly analyze the problem. These capabilities are important to South Pasadena citizens, as previously, a contractor with a video camera was required to inspect the sewer lines - requiring longer time periods for service.

## LIBRARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH/APRIL/MAY

M,T,W, Grandparents + Books, Children's Room, 3:00-5:00 pm  
W, Storytime, 7:00 pm  
Th, Storytime, 10:30 am  
F, Storytime, 10:30 am

### MARCH 1

LA Opera Lecture, 7:00 pm,  
Community Room, Rigoletto

### MARCH 5

Sisters In Crime LA Chapter Meeting,  
1:00-5:00 pm, Community Room

### MARCH 12

Spring 2000 Restoration Concert, 4:00 pm Community Room, Leslie Reed, oboe; Gary Boyver, clarinet; John Steinmetz, bassoon.

### APRIL 2

Sisters in Crime LA Chapter Meeting,  
1:00-5:00 pm, Community Room

### APRIL 13

Wildlife on Wheels (National Library Week) 3:00-3:30 pm

### APRIL 29-30

Mission West Arts 'n Crafts Festival

### MAY 7

Spring 2000 Restoration Concert, 4:00 pm Community Room, Dominique Piana, harpist.

### MAY 13

Household Hazardous Waste Roundup  
Glendale Water and Power, 800 Air Way, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
For information call (888) CLEAN-LA (253-2652).

### MAY 20-21

School District's International Family Fun Fair

### JUNE 20

Summer Reading Program begins.

## FAMILIES FOR LITERACY

South Pasadena-Arcadia  
Reading Centers  
Families for Literacy Reading Club.  
March 18 • April 8  
May 20 • June 10 • July 29  
Call (602) 294-4807 to register. Sign up now for free story time classes, free books, and crafts projects. Light snacks at each club meeting.

## CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT PROGRAMMING

### APRIL 3-MAY 24

GRANDPARENTS AND BOOKS READ-ALOUDS  
Mondays through Wednesdays - all ages

### APRIL 4-MAY 26

#### STORYTIMES

Family Story times - all ages: Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Pajama Story times - 3 to 5 year olds: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Preschool Story times - 3 to 5 year olds: Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m.  
Toddler Story times - 1 to 2 year olds: Fridays, 10:30 a.m. -10:50 a.m.

### APRIL 22, MAY 27, JUNE 24

#### CHILDREN'S INTERNET CLASSES

Pre-registration required: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### APRIL 13

National Library Week: call (626) 403-7358 for more information.  
For more information about these and other free library activities, call (626) 403-7358 or visit the library to pick up a calendar of events.  
The library is located at 1100 Oxley St. Library hours are  
Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.;  
Thursday/Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.;  
Saturday from 10:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.; Sunday from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATES



The start of the new millennium will bring some changes! Here are just a few of the projects now in the pipeline.

## BRAEWOOD ESTATES

In 1988, the City approved the subdivision of approximately 10 acres of land along Meridian Avenue into 25 single-family lots, commonly referred to as Braewood Estates. Since that time only ten houses have been built, eight of which were constructed prior to 1994. The remainder of the lots has since been sold and is finally being developed.

Construction of nine new houses has been approved and is now underway; construction of the remaining six lots is scheduled to begin this year.

## 119 PASADENA AVENUE

On Dec. 13, 1999, the Planning Commission approved an application to construct a new 25,669 square foot multi-tenant building located at 119 Pasadena Avenue. The building will contain four separate tenant spaces for lease by research & development/light-manufacturing related businesses with accompanying office and warehouse space. The project includes demolishing two vacant buildings existing at the site, previously occupied by Domenico's Restaurant, to construct the new building.

The property is located within the Business Park/Research & Development & Light Manufacturing land use designation of the City's General Plan. To create momentum for development at the project site, the property was one of a number of sites spotlighted at the City's Economic Development Symposium held by the City Council on Sept. 23, 1999. The proposal to construct a building for research & development/light-manufacturing, office and warehouse uses complements the General Plan land use designation for that site.

## 1412 HUNTINGTON DRIVE - VETERINARY HOSPITAL

On Dec. 13, 1999, the City approved a Conditional Use Permit for a veterinary hospital at 1412 Huntington Drive. The

hospital will be operated by TLC Centers Inc. and will provide 24-hour emergency service for all pet owners in our community. The existing law building will undergo some renovation to accommodate the new business and to bring back the original front entry on Huntington Drive. The facility is expected to be fully operational early this year.

## 1040 MISSION STREET (FIRESTONE BUILDING) - MIXED USE PROJECT

A private developer has plans under review by the Design Review Board for a new mixed-use complex on the site of the Firestone tire and auto body shop at 1040 Mission Street. The proposal will include about 4,000 square-feet of retail adjacent to about 17 residential units. The project will be built over an underground garage and will be designed in an architectural style reminiscent of the historic Mission Street in keeping with the Specific Plan.

Residents and local business operators were invited in early December to review the plans presented by Vic Mardian of Mardian & Associates, Architects, and Nick Eftekhari, property owner. The City will review the project and conduct the environmental review in mid 2000; if approved, developers will start construction in early summer.

**Starting in March  
the Farmers Market will be open  
from 4-8 pm. The local businesses  
are open every Thursday til 8.  
The Mission West Street Festival  
will be on April 29-30th.**

## MISSION MERIDIAN COURTS

A potential project is in the works to

develop the vacant lots and adjacent lots along the west side of Meridian Ave., just north of Mission St., into a mixed-use transit oriented development. Creative Housing Associates and Michael Dieden, developer, have been meeting with the community for over one year. The project is within the Mission Street Specific Plan (MSSP) area, and would support the goals of the MSSP by providing public parking to serve passengers of the Blue Line. The City sought and obtained a grant from the Metropolitan Transit Commission Authority (MTA) for \$2.6 million to construct parking for the Blue Line.

## EXTENDED HOURS NOW POSSIBLE FOR RETAIL BUSINESS

In an effort to increase services to residents, the City Council has approved a zoning amendment that allows retail businesses to apply to the Planning Commission to extend their hours of operation beyond the existing 11 p.m. limit for commercial businesses. Any business seeking to extend its hours must apply for a conditional use permit, and so notify all neighbors within a 300 foot radius of the business. The Planning Commission may approve the request subject to conditions specifically tailored to the business and to the site. The Planning Commission will review an approved CUP again if any complaints are received within a one-year review period.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

After hosting a symposium on economic development, the City Council started the new year by directing staff to actively seek developer interest in vacant and underdeveloped commercial sites in the City, consistent with the Economic Development and Revitalization Element of the General Plan and the Mission Street Specific Plan.

## CITY COUNCIL

David Saeta, *Mayor*

Dorothy M. Cohen, *Mayor Pro Tem*

Harry A. Knapp, *Councilmember*

David Rose, *Councilmember*

Paul Zee, *Councilmember*

Jeannine Gregory, *City Clerk*

Victor Robinette, *City Treasurer*

**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.**



## SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

City of South Pasadena

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