



SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

The Official Community Newsletter ❖ Volume 6, No. 1 ❖ Spring 2001

Blue Line Light Rail on Schedule



The Blue Line light rail project is right on schedule. Construction kicked off in January when the Blue Line contractor,

Kiewitt/Washington, began clearing the right-of-way by trimming trees and overgrown bushes. Upcoming tasks include surveying the right-of-way and preparing final designs for the light rail tracks and stations.

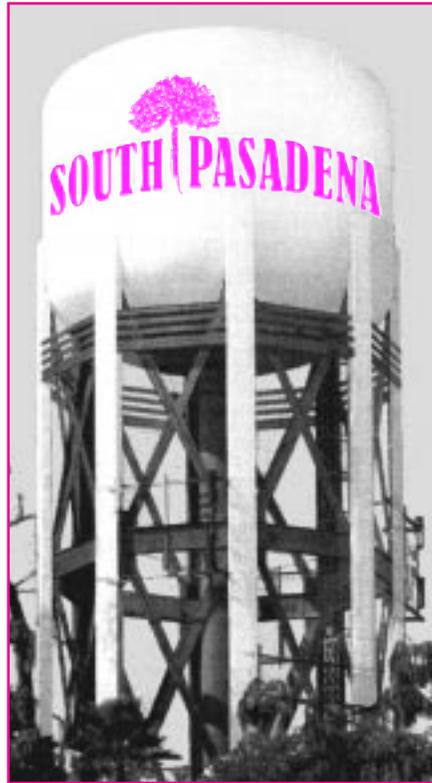
The tracks will be placed this July. Construction and testing are scheduled for completion during the first half of 2003, with the line due to open that July. Ridership is expected to be 38,000 on opening day and gradually increase to 68,000 daily passengers by 2015.

The Blue Line will extend 13.7 miles from Union Station in Los Angeles to Sierra Madre Villa Avenue in Pasadena. Thirteen stations are planned. South Pasadena's station will be located at Mission Street and Meridian Avenue adjacent to Heritage Park. Future plans will extend the Blue Line 24 miles east from Pasadena to Claremont.

Councilmember David Saeta, representing South Pasadena on the Blue Line Construction Authority Board, became the Board's Chair last December. Mayor Dorothy Cohen serves as South Pasadena's alternate to the Blue Line Board.

The Construction Authority has set up a community outreach center for South Pasadena in its headquarter offices located at 625 Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 200. Residents interested in learning more about the Blue Line can stop by the headquarters or call (626) 799-0080. The Blue Line Construction Authority also has a Web site — log on to <http://www.lapaslueline.org>.

For more information, contact the Construction Authority or Martha Van Rooijen, the City's Transportation Manager, at (626) 403-7214.



Artist rendering of proposed facelift to the historic water tower.

City Water Supply and Street Repair Highest Priorities

Among the South Pasadena City Council's top priorities are repairing City streets and making substantial improvements to the municipal water system. In recent years, the City has completed significant street improvements on south Fair Oaks Avenue, the Raymondale area, Meridian Avenue, and Brent, Bank and Hope streets. Major repairs are also nearing completion along the entire length of Mission Street.

Although the City has successfully obtained more than \$14.2 million in state and federal funding for local traffic-flow improvements, it will still cost another \$15 million to complete all necessary street repairs because local street-repair resources were depleted while completing the street repairs mentioned above. About \$3 million has been set aside over the years and is available to fund a small portion of the work.

To help alleviate the shortfall, City staff recently presented several potential funding solutions to the City Council. The most practical alternative is to privatize the City's water system. This would transfer the obligation to

make specified improvements to a carefully selected private operator over the term of an operating lease. It would also require the operator to pay the City an annual franchise fee to be used for street repairs. Under such a scenario, the City would effectively ensure that specified major capital improvements are made to the water system. The City would not have to sell the system and permanently lose control over its operation. Franchise fee proceeds from the private operator would be leveraged to pay all or some of the debt service to municipal bonds issued for street improvements.

Navigant (formerly Bookman-Edmunston), a consulting engineering firm, has been retained by the City to evaluate the existing water system infrastructure, resources, assets, operations, and capital-improvement needs. The Navigant team will then review the latest projected revenue requirements to meet these obligations and prepare a baseline financial forecast for the next 15 years.

During the final phase of the study, expected to be completed by this summer, Navigant will identify and evaluate alternative methods of operating the water system that might be more cost effective than current operations. The company will then make specific recommendations regarding the City's options for full or partial privatization of the water system and identify qualified operators who might be interested in submitting proposals to the City.

The City's top priority is ensuring safe and affordable drinking water for our customers. An added objective is to learn how we might be able to improve the quality of our local drinking water.

The results of this phase of the work will be presented to the City Council at a public meeting for thorough review and direction. After the preparatory work has been completed, a request for proposals will be distributed to qualified water operators. The Navigant team will then evaluate the proposals and conduct a ranking and a financial assessment of each to be presented for the City Council's consideration.



City Continues Anti-710 Legal Fight

South Pasadena is continuing the legal action begun in 1998 against the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans to stop the 710 Freeway. In 1999, Judge Dean D. Pregerson of the United States District Court issued an injunction preventing the State of California from any 710 Freeway construction or property acquisition.

The City will continue the legal battle joined by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Sierra Club, the California Preservation Foundation, the Los Angeles Conservancy, the Pasadena Heritage, the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation and the South Pasadena Unified



Council advocates development of the Blue Line light rail project, improved transit and traffic signal technology, improvements to surface streets and coordinated land use and transportation planning. These are all elements of the Multi-Mode Low Build Alternative to the 710 Freeway extension.

The City Council has worked to oppose the project on several fronts, including supporting relevant legislation, funding for the Multi-Mode Low Build Alternative, increasing awareness in the region, and informing state officials about the damage the 710 would bring to the communities along the route.

The City Council is also working with local



710 Opposition Coalition members receive President's Award from NTHP.

School District. All elected officials representing South Pasadena are on record opposing the construction project. It is expected that the case will be decided later this year.

The City Council opposes the 710 Freeway because it will not alleviate traffic. In fact, the project would increase congestion in the area by bringing traffic here from the downtown Los Angeles loop (e.g., State Route 101 and Interstate 5). This has been substantiated in the "710 Record of Decision," approved by the Federal Highway Administration in 1998.

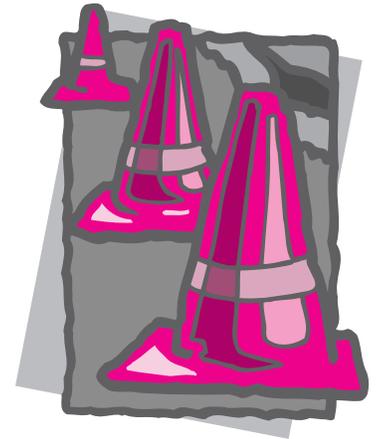
The 710 Freeway would remove approximately 1,000 homes, over 6,000 mature trees and impact over 70 historic properties. To better accomplish traffic management, the City

citizens, including the 710 Opposition Coalition and Citizens United to Save South Pasadena, to develop viable strategies that stop the freeway's extension. The South Pasadena Transportation Commission acts as an advisory commission to the City Council regarding freeway issues.

Although the fight is not yet over, the 710 Opposition Coalition was awarded the National Trust for Historic Preservation President's Award for dedication in preserving historic neighborhoods that would be destroyed by the 710 Freeway. South Pasadena Mayor Dorothy Cohen accepted the honor on behalf of the coalition last November at the National Trust's annual conference, held in Los Angeles. For more information, call Martha Van Rooijen, Transportation Manager, at (626) 403-7214.

No Federal Funds for 710 Freeway; New Funds for Other Projects

As part of the 2001 federal transportation appropriations budget, President Clinton signed into law a bill submitted by former 27th District Congressman James E. Rogan blocking federal funds from being used for the 710 Freeway. The bill also provides \$46 million for alternative traffic-relief projects to the 710 Freeway for South Pasadena, Pasadena and El Sereno.



These funds will be used by the cities to relieve traffic congestion, especially along Fair Oaks Avenue. South Pasadena expects to use this money to jumpstart the implementation of the Multi-Mode Low Build Alternative to the 710 Freeway extension. Many projects listed in the request for the funds are the same as those identified in the City's plan for the Multi-Mode Low Build Alternative.

The projects are intended to relieve well-known congestion "hot spots" in the proposed freeway corridor by substantially improving the efficiency of surface streets, intersections and traffic signals, as well as the existing 710 Freeway. Eleven projects within the three communities were listed in the federal budget request. The \$46 million will be split three ways with Pasadena receiving \$25 million, South Pasadena \$11 million, and El Sereno \$10 million. Projects include upgrading the intersection of the 110 Freeway and Fair Oaks Avenue in South Pasadena (near Bristol Farms), traffic synchronization on Fair Oaks Avenue in South Pasadena and Pasadena, and extending the existing 710 Freeway in El Sereno across Valley Boulevard to diffuse traffic to Mission Road, as well as adding a dedicated on/off ramp for Cal State Los Angeles on the existing 710 Freeway.

By including projects from all three cities that would be affected by the proposed 710 Freeway extension, the funding provides an opportunity for these cities to work together in creating a comprehensive and coordinated approach to traffic management in the corridor area. For more information, call Martha Van Rooijen, Transportation Manager, at (626) 403-7214.



Protect Your Pooch!

The City of South Pasadena will hold its annual Rotary-sponsored rabies clinic on Thursday, April 19, from 6-8 p.m. at the Fire Department. The cost for the rabies inoculation is \$5 per dog. DHLP + Parvo inoculation (5-in-1 shot) will also be available at \$9 per dog. No checks will be accepted for the inoculations. All dogs must be accompanied by an adult and be on a leash. Don't feed your dog prior to inoculation.

The City will also have finance personnel available should you need to renew or obtain a license for a new dog. The City does accept checks for license fees.

SPRING CALENDAR

LIBRARY EVENTS

MARCH 2

Families for Literacy Program

MARCH 2, 9, 16

Toddler Storytime

MARCH 18

Restoration Concert

MARCH 24

Children's Internet Class

MARCH 28

Telecommunications Task Force Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

APRIL 1-7

National Library Week

APRIL 6, 13, 20, 27

Toddler Storytime

APRIL 15

Library Closed - Easter Holiday

MAY 4, 11, 18, 25

Toddler Storytime

MAY 13

Restoration Concert

MAY 28

Library Closed - Memorial Day Holiday

Please check with Friends (626-799-0670) and Children's Departments (626-403-7358) for starting times and program information.

CITY EVENTS

MAY 28

MEMORIAL DAY

City Hall and Library Closed

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT.

APRIL 5

Spring Fest

Library Community Room, 1115 El Centro St.

Mountain Musers: 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Fun & Games: 4:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Happy Crowd: 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Community Services Department and Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library.

APRIL 9-13

Spring Break Day Camp, 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

JUNE 9

Parent's Night Out, 6 - 11 p.m.

JUNE 18 - AUGUST 24

Camp Med Summer Day Camp, 7 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Adult Co-Ed Softball League coming soon!

Call (626) 403-7382 for more information on the Sunday softball program.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 19-20

An Old Time Country Fair

Location: District office parking lot

Saturday 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

MARCH 20, APRIL 17, MAY 15

"Good Morning South Pasadena"

Chamber of Commerce Breakfast

La Fiesta Grande, 7:30 a.m.

MARCH 21, APRIL 18, MAY 16

Chamber of Commerce Legislative Meeting

Gus's Barbecue, 8 a.m.

MISSION WEST ASSN. EVENTS

APRIL 28-29

Arts and Crafts Festival

It's Your Downtown!



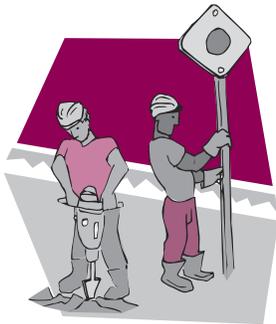
The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) sponsored two open workshops in December to bring members of the community together to discuss the future of downtown South Pasadena.

The Redevelopment Agency has \$1.8 million in bond funds to spruce up and stimulate activity in the redevelopment area. Participants were given coupons representing redevelopment funds and were asked to "spend" their money, choosing from a variety of projects. A large group discussion was conducted to develop consensus on the group's priorities for the bond funds. Participants' favorites included:

- 1) Creating a theater/arts district
- 2) Creating a pedestrian-oriented environment with a mix of uses
- 3) Making loans for facade and signage improvements
- 4) Conducting a market analysis for a retail recruitment effort
- 5) Improving parking management

Results of the workshops will be presented to the CRA in March. For further information and additional public discussion, please call the Community Development Department at (626) 403-7220.

Oakhill Avenue Improvements



The narrow, sharply curved section of Oakhill Avenue between Monterey Road and Short Way is being upgraded. Key improvements include widening the road and a smoother alignment. Construction begins this spring.

The new road will be 20 feet wide with curb and gutter on both sides of the street. The sharp bend in the existing road will be replaced by a smooth curve. A sidewalk will also be constructed on the east side of the road so that pedestrians will no longer have to walk along the edge of the pavement.

The embankment on the west side of the street will be held up with a gravity retaining-wall system using pre-cast concrete modules. The modules will be placed in a stepped sloping fashion with vegetation planted along its face. This wall design should discourage the graffiti that often defaces vertical retaining walls.

E-MAIL YOUR CITY OFFICIALS

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Josh Betta, Finance Director

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Fire Chief: position is currently vacant

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Michael Berkow, Police Chief

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Terri Maguire, City Librarian

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James Van Winkle, Public Works Director

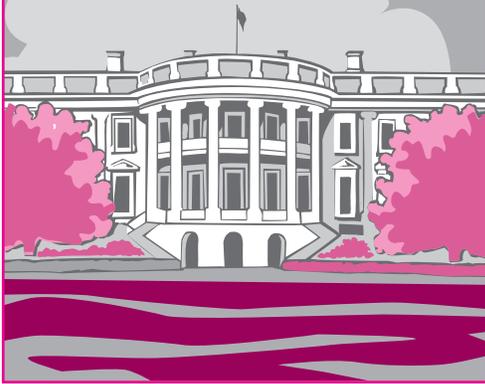
e-mail: jvanwinkle@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us

Martha Van Rooijen, Transportation Manager

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(For questions regarding the 710 & Blue Line.)

How We Voted for President



In last November's presidential election, 57.23 percent of registered voters in South Pasadena cast votes. The final vote count:

Gore	4,939
Bush	3,070
Nader	487
Buchanan	27

Bush captured only one precinct in the northwest section of the City above the 110 Freeway, winning it by eight votes.

City Negotiates New Contract with Athens Services

The City has recently awarded a new contract to Athens Services for all refuse services in South Pasadena. The new 11-year contract provides expanded services to include improved recycling programs, street sweeping, collection of Christmas trees, expanded Dumpster Day services, trash collection at special events, and preparation of all recycling reports & monitoring required to demonstrate the City's compliance with the State's recycling regulations contained in AB939. Refuse rates will be locked in at current levels for one year.



Under the new contract, residents with back-yard barrel service will no longer have to separate their recyclables from their regular trash. All material will be placed in their normal trash barrels and will be sorted by hand at Athens' Material Recovery Facility (MRF). This system will recover a higher overall percentage of recyclable materials than the current system of voluntary recycling. Trash collected in the large rectangular trash bins has been successfully processed by this facility for a number of years now.

Street sweeping will be conducted during the day using vacuum sweepers instead of the broom-type sweepers that were used by the previous service. The streets will now be swept every two weeks instead of every three weeks. There will be no additional cost for these services, allowing the City to save approximately \$80,000 per year from the previous street-sweeping contract.

Watch your mail for more information.

FARMERS' MARKET



4-8 p.m., every Thursday, local businesses in Mission West stay open until 8 p.m. Come visit and support your local merchants!

CPR Classes Being Offered



As part of the Red Cross "Safe Cities" campaign, the City of South Pasadena's Public Safety Commission is offering low-cost CPR classes to South Pasadena residents and business community.

These 3-1/2 hour classes teach basic life-saving techniques and will be held on March 31 at the South Pasadena Senior Center, 1102 Oxley St., South Pasadena. Price: \$5.00. For more information, call (626) 403-7303.

CITY COUNCIL

Dorothy M. Cohen, *Mayor*
David Rose, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Harry A. Knapp, *Councilmember*
David Saeta, *Councilmember*
Paul Zee, *Councilmember*

Sally Kilby, *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.



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South Pasadena, CA 91030

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