



SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

The Official Community Newsletter ♦ www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us ♦ Vol. 10#4 ♦ Spring 2006

Downtown Revitalization Project Updates

This is a very busy winter season for the Community Redevelopment Commission! Last December Citizens Business Bank was first to sign an agreement with DECOMA, the City's selected developer. More property owners followed in the bank's footsteps in signing up to implement the revitalization project.

As Phase I is being fine-tuned, the northeast corner of the project area (at the intersection of Fair Oaks Avenue and Mission Street) will be redesigned according to the concept plan resulting from the "Town-talks" and "Architect Talks" series of community meetings held last summer.

Once completed, the overall project will protect all current businesses while strengthening the commercial appeal of downtown as a place to shop and spend a pleasant evening under the stars. Ultimately, the project will add about 20,000 square feet of new retail space on the ground level and a mix of office and residential on the upper floors with a large subterranean public parking facility.

Most importantly, the project will provide about 18,000 square feet of pedestrian-only plaza and public space with artwork and a fountain — designed in the traditional South Pasadena style.

For more information on the Downtown Revitalization project, follow the live broadcast of the CRC meetings on the second Wednesday of each month on Channel 19 at 7 p.m., visit our website at www.downtown-southpas.com, or contact Marc Castagnola at (626) 403-7216.

Ground Broken for City's First Congestion-Relief Project



Orange Grove Avenue

proved the City's congestion-relief projects.

Prior to the start of each project, a meeting will be held to inform residents, business owners and commuters about the improvements, schedule and detours, if any. Representatives from the City's Public Works Department and Caltrans will be present at the meetings to talk about the projects and to answer questions.

The City is taking steps to minimize the impact of these projects on residents, businesses and commuters. Official detours will be established to discourage traffic from turning onto residential streets. Information will be posted on the City's website at www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us/construction.htm. In addition, questions, comments and requests for information may be left on the special hotline devoted to the project at (626) 372-8706.

The City of South Pasadena celebrated a milestone last December when ground was broken for the first of four congestion-relief projects, the Orange Grove Avenue – Arroyo Seco Parkway Interchange Improvements. Benefits of the project include reduced congestion and improved traffic safety near the interchange of the Arroyo Seco Parkway and Orange Grove Avenue, plus improvements to roadway and lighting that will create a more attractive and pedestrian-friendly avenue.

Construction started in early January. The project is slated for completion in mid-2006, contingent upon the weather and unexpected delays.

The congestion-relief program is part of the Maximizing Mobility Program, funded largely by \$46 million in federal transportation funds that were secured by Congressman Jim Rogan in 1998 to assist the cities of South Pasadena, Pasadena and Los Angeles to alleviate traffic congestion. Of that total, South Pasadena was allocated approximately \$11 million that was augmented by another \$5 million from regional and local funds.

Oversight of the program was provided by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), which established a Design Advisory Group (DAG) in each of the cities to evaluate the congestion-relief needs of each city.

South Pasadena's congestion-relief projects were developed with guidance from the South Pasadena DAG, residents, local businesses and Caltrans. After six years of design work, public outreach and extensive planning, the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans have ap-

City Hosts First Annual Spring Egg-Stravaganza

Join in the "egg-citement" as the City of South Pasadena introduces its First Annual Spring Egg-stravaganza!

When: Saturday, April 15th, Noon – 2 p.m.

Location: Garfield Park (north section, by tennis courts)

Cost: \$5 per child

Families will enjoy pictures with the Easter Bunny, face painting, balloon artist, entertainment, games and crafts. A major highlight of this "egg-ceptional" event is the popular egg hunt with a golden egg for a special prize. Children will be divided by age. Food and refreshments will also be on sale. Space is limited, so be sure to pre-register by Wednesday, April 12th.

For more information or to pre-register, please call the Recreation Division at (626) 403-7380 or stop by the Orange Grove Recreation Center at 815 Mission Street Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.





Time to Change Smoke-Alarm Batteries

As spring approaches, the time to move our clocks forward is upon us once again. The South Pasadena Fire Department would like to suggest that whenever you change your clocks, you also change your smoke-alarm batteries.

The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke alarms is worn or missing batteries. The smoke alarm is a vital tool that needs to be ready to work at any time. A non-working smoke alarm can rob residents of the protective benefits home fire-safety devices were designed to provide. Working smoke alarms provide an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape to safety.

In addition, the South Pasadena Fire Department recommends that residents take the time to plan at least two ways out of any room. Practicing those escape routes with family and co-workers could make the difference between life or death.



CITY OFFICIALS

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Memory Training Program Offered at Senior Center



The UCLA Center's Aging Memory Training Program has been developed to improve age-related memory loss. Memory training is a five-week course led by trainers who teach techniques to improve memory retention and the ability to retrieve information. The course is not intended for people with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. The curriculum is composed of classroom discussions and exercises, homework assignments and memory quizzes to demonstrate the application of the memory techniques.

Location . . .South Pasadena Senior Center, 1102 Oxley Street

Start Date . .Friday, March 17th

Time1-3 p.m.

Cost \$10.00 for the 5-week series

Registration and payment are required in advance. Call the Senior Center at (626) 403-7360.



*Back Row: Natali Dominguez, Typist Clerk; Marlon Ramirez, Building Clerk; John Mayer, Associate Planner
Front Row: Mike Mendenhall, Building Inspector; Paul Garnett, Planning Intern; Colleen Foster, Community Improvement Coordinator; Patrick Clarke, Senior Planner; David Watkins, Planning Director; Irma Crow, Administrative Secretary. Not shown: Julie Patino*

Planning and Building Department Helps Guide City Development

The Planning and Building Department guides development so that it is consistent with the City's municipal code as well as the City's General Plan and Mission Street Specific Plan.

Planning staff acts as a liaison to the Cultural Heritage Commission and Design Review Boards, makes recommendations on current and long-range planning issues, issues building permits to residents and contractors and checks plans for compliance with the Building Code.

In addition, it is the responsibility of the Building staff to enforce the minimum safety standards of design, construction, materials used, occupancy, location and general maintenance.

Building and Planning-related code enforcement, including information regarding temporary banner permits, garage sale permits and the Home Improvement Program are provided by the department's Community Improvement Coordinator.

Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

Identity theft is a huge problem and growing each day — most victims don't even realize they have become another statistic until at least 30 days later! Learn how to protect yourself and keep your credit rating in good standing by attending a presentation given by the South Pasadena Police Department on Wednesday, April 19, at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center, 1102 Oxley Street.

For more information, please contact staff at (626) 403-7360.

Scene Around Town

South Pasadena has recently hosted some of your favorite television shows, feature films and high-profile commercials. Some recent highlights include many commercials, television shows and feature films.

Would you like to host a film shoot? The City has a "Location Library" to match interested homeowners with film companies. If you are interested, please leave your name, address and phone number with our film liaison Joan Aguado at (626) 403-7263 or email the information to jaguado@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us.

Senior Health Fair Offers Variety of Free Screenings



The South Pasadena Senior Center will be hosting the 6th Annual Senior Health Fair on March 31st. Some of the free screenings include a blood sugar screening from the Huntington Memorial Hospital, derma scan from Health Care Partners, hearing test from the Hear Center, bone density from Physician Associates, oxygen-level testing from Arroyo Seco Medical Group and a blood-pressure clinic.

Information will be provided by the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging, Chancellor Place of Pasadena, Villa Esperanza Services, Senior Care Network, HomeCare 1 and many others. The Health Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Pasadena Senior Center, 1102 Oxley Street. For more information, contact the Senior Center at (626) 403-7360.



SouthPasChamber.com Launched

Now you can find South Pasadena businesses online in a search directory, SouthPasChamber.com. The South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce has launched the Business Directory section on its website.

Businesses are listed by name, contact or category. For instance, Fair Oaks Pharmacy and Soda Fountain comes up under pharmacy, gifts, ice cream shops and jewelry. The directory is easy to use and lists over 200 Chamber-member businesses. It provides email and phone contact information as well as a special mapping feature in case you don't know where to go in South Pasadena.

If you have a business in South Pasadena and would like to be listed, call Chamber Executive Director Scott Feldmann at (626) 441-2339.

SPRING CALENDAR

CITY EVENTS

MARCH 15

City Council Reorganization
Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.

MARCH 17

Memory Training (5-week series)
Senior Center, 1102 Oxley Street, 1-3 p.m.

MARCH 31

Senior Health Fair, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Senior Center, 1102 Oxley Street

APRIL 15

Spring Egg-stravaganza, 12-2 p.m.
Garfield Park (by tennis courts)

APRIL 19

Identity Theft, 10-11 a.m.
Senior Center, 1102 Oxley Street

APRIL 20

Rabies Clinic, 6-8 p.m.
Fire Dept., 817 Mound Avenue

APRIL 22

Earth Day Celebration, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Arroyo Park (off Stoney Drive in picnic area)

APRIL 22-23

Relay for Life, 9 a.m. Sat. - 9 a.m. Sun.
South Pasadena High School Field

APRIL 29, 30

Mission West Street Festival, Mission & Fremont
Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

MAY 1-5

Public Service Recognition Week

MAY 29

Memorial Day
City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

LIBRARY EVENTS

FEBRUARY 23-MARCH 16

Grandparents and Books Read-Aloud. Volunteer Grandma Kaytie shares her enthusiasm for books by reading aloud to children of all ages in one-on-one or small group situations. Thursdays, 3-5 p.m.

MARCH 1-17

Storytimes

Librarians read age-appropriate stories, share songs, fingerplays, flannel board stories, and book-related filmstrips or videos with children in a group setting.

MARCH 5

Music Masters - Children's Program
Call the Children's Dept. to register: (626) 403-7358

MARCH 7-14

Arbor Day Programs - To Be Announced
Call the Library's Children's Department at (626) 403-7358 for more information.

MARCH 19

Restoration Concert: Songa Lee & Friends - Strings
Library Community Room - 4 p.m.
Call (626) 799-6333 for more information.

APRIL 2-8

National Library Week - To Be Announced.
Call (626) 403-7358 for more information.

APRIL 4-MAY 26

Storytimes

Librarians read age-appropriate stories, share songs, fingerplays, flannel board stories, and book-related filmstrips or videos with children in a group setting.

APRIL 6-MAY 25

Grandparents and Books Read-Aloud
Volunteer Grandma Kaytie shares her enthusiasm for books by reading aloud to children of all ages in one-on-one or small group situations.
Thursdays, 3-5 p.m.

APRIL 9

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

APRIL 16

Easter Sunday - Library Closed

APRIL 24-30

Turn Off the TV Week - To Be Announced
Call (626) 403-7358 for more information.

APRIL 24

Barks and Books, 3-4 p.m.
Call the Children's Department at (626) 403-7358 for more information.

MAY 22

Barks and Books, 3-4 p.m.
Call the Children's Department at (626) 403-7358 for more information.

JUNE 12-AUGUST 12

Summer Reading Program
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sign-ups June 12-July 31

Call (626) 403-7358 for more information.

For more information about these and other free library activities, please 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 Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Thursdays & Fridays 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays 1-5 p.m.

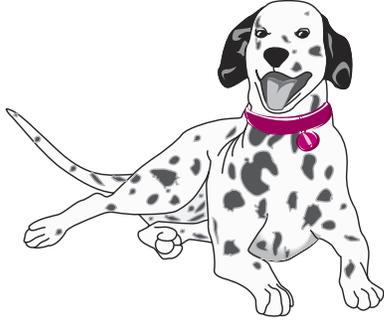
Understanding Curb-Number Painting Regulations

From time to time, residents are approached by individuals wanting to paint curb numbers for a donation. It is important to know that door-to-door solicitation is against the law; what's more, painting curb numbers may only be done by an individual who is licensed, insured and permitted to do the work.

Any individual, group or organization interested in painting curb numbers in front of your home must possess a City Business License and obtain an Encroachment Permit from the South Pasadena Public Works Department. This process ensures that individuals are from legitimate organizations that will do the work according to City specifications, and that contact with the resident is made in a proper and authorized manner.

If you have any questions regarding curb-number painting or would like to report illegal solicitation for these services at your residence, please do not hesitate to contact the Public Works Department at (626) 403-7240. They are available to assist you Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays until 4 p.m.

Annual Rabies Clinic Provides Vaccines, Licenses for Your Pooch



Attention all dog owners!! The Annual Rabies Clinic is quickly approaching. Please mark your calendars and bring your dogs to the South Pasadena Fire Station located at 817 Mound Avenue on Thursday, April 20th, between 6-8 p.m.

License your pet and have your dog vaccinated for a minimal fee. Charges are as follows: DHLPP + Parvo (5 in 1 shot), \$11; Rabies, \$9; Lyme, \$15; and Bordatella, \$10. Look for an insert in your March/April water bill.

FARMERS' MARKET

Open 4-8 p.m.



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

CITY COUNCIL

Odom Stamps, *Mayor*

Philip C. Putnam, *Mayor Pro Tem*

David L. Margrave, *Councilmember*

Michael A. Cacciotti, *Councilmember*

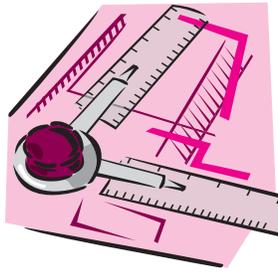
Michael Ten, *Councilmember*

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. On the Web: www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us

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Apply Now for Home Improvement Program

Submit your applications for the 2006-2007 Home Improvement Program (HIP) now! H.I.P. is a grant program that is designed to rehabilitate the homes of individuals with low-to-moderate incomes.

All South Pasadena homeowners with dwellings of two units or fewer may apply for the H.I.P. grant. Those who are approved to participate in this program will receive free home repairs. Both minor and major rehabilitation needs qualify for this program. However, due to the large number of applicants and limited availability of funds, safety items hold priority before any other repairs.

Applications will be received year-round and will be reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications are available in the Planning and Building Department at City Hall, or you may contact Community Improvement Coordinator Colleen Foster (626) 403-7225 for further information.



New Businesses Open in South Pasadena

There are new businesses in South Pasadena!

- ★ **Bistro De La Gare**, "Bistro at the Station," classic French bistro
921 Meridian Avenue, (626) 799-8828
- ★ **Michael Ni & Associates**, Structural Engineers
1414 Fair Oaks Avenue, #11, (626) 799-3588
- ★ **Mission West Kitchen & Bath**, plumbing, lighting, hardware, fine cabinetry, tile and finishes
905 Mission Street, (626) 799-3503
- ★ **Mr. Fix-It Handyman Service**, home and business repairs
712 Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 209, (626) 441-4585
- ★ **R S L Insurance Agency Inc.**, auto, home, business and life insurance
1260 Huntington Drive, Suite 206, (323) 341-7744
- ★ **Serenity Wellness & Skin Treatment Center**, exotic rituals: skin & body care
1124 Mission Street, (626) 441-8144
- ★ **Space Light Structure Design, Inc.**, architecture
1414 Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 2, (626) 799-8818
- ★ **Timothy P. Burke & Associates**, law firm
1136 Fremont Avenue, Suite 108, (626) 799-8902
- ★ **Univision Partners Inc.**, real estate development & management
1414 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, #12, (626) 799-2866



SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

City of South Pasadena

1414 Mission St.

South Pasadena, CA 91030

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