



# SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

The Official Community Newsletter ♦ [www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us](http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us) ♦ Vol. 7#1 ♦ Summer 2002

## Downtown's Facade Improvement Program's First Success!



On March 12, the Design Review Board approved a proposed new neon blade sign and awning for the Ultimate Outlet retail business on Mission Street. Owner Steve Damashek's new sign is reminiscent of the old historic neon blade signs once seen along Mission Street and Fair Oaks Avenue at stores such as the Fair Oaks Pharmacy, Ogar's Yardage, Cappy's Liquor, and the Rialto Theater.

This proposal is the first project to be submitted to the City under the new Facade Improvement Program to revitalize the downtown area. The program is designed to provide 50-percent matching grants of up to \$25,000 to businesses in the Community Re-development Agency area.

## Gold Line Mission Station to Open in 2003



When the Gold Line trains start running through South Pasadena in July 2003, passengers will board from a station and plaza with artistic and design features that reflect the quality character of the city.

Thanks to a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) grant of \$665,000 coupled with \$166,250 of City funds, an art and design advisory committee of volunteers appointed by the City Council has worked since October 2000 to choose "betterments" that will enhance the station/plaza at Mission and Meridian.

Committee members have included Thano Adamson, Michael Burch, Elsa Flores, Beverly Girvigian, Eileen Garcia, Martin Kagan, Odom Stamps, Jay Toffoli, John Turk and Betty Wang.

They have been assisted by two Councilmembers, City staff and Gold Line staff.

The committee reviewed applications and interviewed artists before choosing Michael Stutz to create a 10-foot sculpture facing the tracks; they studied and chose all the elements to make the station/plaza both distinctive and compatible with its historic setting. These include construction materials such as copper canopies, enhanced crosswalks, a free-standing four-sided clock, station and plaza lighting, railings, benches and trash receptacles.

Committee members have given selflessly of their time, and they epitomize the volunteer spirit that makes South Pasadena unique.

For more information on the Gold Line Mission Station, please call (626) 403-7210.



## Heritage Restoration Awards

Awards honoring outstanding examples of heritage restoration of local buildings will be presented at the annual meeting of the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation on June 26. The awards are jointly sponsored by the City, the Cultural Heritage Commission and the Preservation Foundation.

The program also will include presentations by representatives of the Route 66 Preservation Foundation concerning its future plans, and by delegates of the ArroyoFest, an all-day event planned for October 6, which seeks to raise awareness of the Arroyo Seco's history, resources and plans for its future enhancement.

The free meeting will be held in the Library Community Room, 1115 El Centro Street, from 7-9:30 p.m. The public is invited.



# Keep in Touch...



# ...with your City Government!

Send us an e-mail at  
[tellus@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us](mailto:tellus@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us)

Check out our homepage at  
[www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us](http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us)

Drop us a line at  
 1414 Mission St., So. Pasadena, CA 91030

Call our City Manager at (626) 403-7210  
 or City Clerk's Office at (626) 403-7230.

## How are We Doing?

Tell us with a South Pasadena



Hearing from you is important to us. Are you curious about a city service or program? Do you have an idea that you'd like to share? The City of South Pasadena would like to hear from you. Send your comments on a CITYGRAM and you will receive a prompt response from the appropriate City department.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send your comments to: City of South Pasadena City Manager, 1414 Mission St., South Pasadena, CA 91030



# House Number Tips

South Pasadena recently adopted guidelines that establish proper identification and placement of house numbers. These guidelines, now part of the City's municipal code (SPMC Sec. 31.44 and 31.45), help ensure that the Police and Fire Departments can respond to emergencies quickly.

Here are a few tips for homeowners:

- Your house number should be plainly visible from the street.
- Use a color that is distinguishable.
- Make sure your house number is at least two inches in height; preferable height is four to six inches.

# Tap Water Coloration Not a Health Hazard

Tap water in South Pasadena has been tinted red or yellow in recent months due to reactions between the water supplied from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and the City's water mains. The coloration, which is not a health hazard, is due to iron that has been dissolved from rust deposits in unlined iron water mains and galvanized water services and piping.

South Pasadena's water supply is normally a mixture of local ground water and MWD water. The groundwater is blended from four active wells to comply with state and federal drinking-water standards.

Last November, the City experienced high bacteria levels in one of its wells in San Gabriel. Because of the age of the well, several efforts to disinfect it were unsuccessful. The State Department of Health Services advised the City to take the well out of service and dismantle it for a thorough cleaning and rehabilitation. It

will take several months to accomplish this.

Since the well that was taken out of service is needed to blend the local groundwater, all of the remaining wells also had to be shut down, leaving the MWD connection as the sole source of water for the City. This has caused water to flow in different directions in the water mains, stirring up sediments and reacting chemically with the older pipelines.



As a result, iron is dissolved from rust in both the City mains and in the consumer's galvanized piping. Such reactions are to be expected when major changes are made to

the hydraulics and chemical balances between water and pipes when water sources are changed. The Water Department has been flushing water lines with severe discoloration to minimize the problem.

Repairs to the defective well are underway and will be completed this summer, at which time the City will resume using local ground water.

# Scene Around Town



You may occasionally see film company trucks and movie production personnel about town. Perhaps you've wondered what's filming in South Pasadena and which entertainment stars are here? Our City has recently hosted some of your favorite television shows, feature films, and high profile commercials. Here are some highlights:

- ★ Nancy Drew sipping coffee locally for her new TV show;
- ★ Burt Reynolds stepping out of a Mercedes with the license plate reading BURT for a car commercial;
- ★ Will Farrell and Luke Wilson yucking it up in their latest frat-house comedy;
- ★ David Boreanaz of "Angel" milling about a book store;
- ★ Tyne Daly and Amy Brenneman of "Judging Amy" dining at a local restaurant;
- ★ The CSI team investigating the death of a mysterious "cat lady";
- ★ Halle Berry and Barry Bostwick sipping a soft drink at a soda fountain.

It's never too late to add your property to our new location library! If you're interested in participating, please leave your name and phone number with the City's film liaison, Joan Aguado, at (626) 403-7263 or e-mail information to: [jaguado@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us](mailto:jaguado@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us).



## Friends Bookstore Turns 20!

A 20th anniversary is coming up for the Friends of the Library

Bookstore and will be celebrated with a commemorative sale Sunday, July 28. The sale will be held in the courtyard at the library's entrance from 1 to 5 p.m. All paperback and hardcover books will be priced 20 cents each.

The bookstore, located on the second floor of the library, first opened July 31, 1982, the same day that the rebuilt library opened after approximately 18 months of construction. Operated by volunteers, the bookstore has raised approximately \$500,000 for the benefit of the library.



## Summer Reading at the Library

Children are invited to join the South Pasadena Public Library's free Summer Reading Program, "Wrapped Up in Reading," beginning June 10th.

"Wrapped Up in Reading" members will receive a free plastic book bag, reading folder, and achievement certificate. Librarians will help children select fun books to read. Pre-readers may also join if someone reads to them.

Teens (grades 6-12) are invited to participate in the Teen Reading Program, "Book Readers Dig Reading." The library offers a variety of entertaining book-related programs for summer reading program participants.

Library cards are free and allow children and adults to borrow books, CDs, magazines, cassettes, videos, DVDs and CD-ROMs for three weeks.

For more information, call the Library's Children's Department at (626) 403-7358; also see list of programs in the Summer Calendar, Library Events section of this issue's Neighbors.

## Middle School Summer Activities

Are you about to enter or have you just completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade? Are you looking for a fun, supervised place to spend a day, a week or your entire summer vacation? The Community Services Department is again offering no-cost and low-cost supervised recreation trips and activities this summer. This includes weekly beach trips and field trips, swim time, gym time, sports, and a weekly "youth lounge."

No minimum registration is required in this flexible program; come for a day, a week, or as frequently as you wish. If you are interested in receiving more information, contact the Community Services Department at (626) 403-7380.



## Skate Park Opens this Month!

The community, skateboarders, and in-line skaters are invited to celebrate the grand opening of South Pasadena's nearly 12,000-square-foot skate park on Saturday, June 15th, at 10:30 a.m. The skate park is located at 660 Stoney Drive, off Mission and Arroyo Drive, at the former site of the recycling center. The dedication ceremony will include music, food, and demonstrations from professional skateboarders.

The free skate park, staffed by City employees, will be open to all who have completed pre-registration forms (signed by a parent/guardian if under 18), received a picture identification card and who wear full safety gear including helmet, elbow and knee pads.

Registration packets are now available at Orange Grove Park, 815 Mission Street. Stop by between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to register on site, or call (626) 403-7380 to request a packet by mail. Registration packets, rules, pictures and other skate park information can also be found on the City's website at [www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us](http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us).

During the school year, the skate park will be open after school Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. to dusk, and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to dusk. Summer skate park hours, effective June 17, are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to dusk, with weekends remaining the same at 9 a.m. to dusk.

The City Council would like to express its appreciation to the Skate Park Task Force, Parks and Recreation Commission, Youth Commission, community donors and the many skaters who provided thoughtful comments, gave many hours and showed incredible patience and support over the past two years.

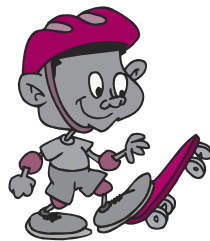


## Skate Park Safety

The South Pasadena Police Department is committed to working closely with the Community Services Department and Skate Park staff to make the City's new skate park safe and successful. Skate park safety requires not only a commitment from the City, but also from skaters and other visitors to the park.

Frequent patrols in the area by uniformed officers in black and white patrol cars will be instituted, as automobile and pedestrian traffic on surrounding roads will increase once the gates are open.

The police ask that drivers and pedestrians strictly obey all traffic laws. This includes posted speed limits, traffic signs and marked crosswalks. New City ordinances will also be in effect covering safety aspects for skaters, e.g., safety equipment to be worn, park hours, conduct for park users, and more.



## SUMMER CALENDAR

### CITY EVENTS

**MAY 27**

Memorial Day

City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

**JULY 4**

Independence Day

City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

**JULY 20**

Household Hazardous Waste Roundup, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
So. Pasadena Unified School District parking lot

**SEPTEMBER 2**

Labor Day

City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

### FESTIVAL OF BALLOONS

**JULY 4**

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies, 10:30 a.m., Library (El Centro side)

Parade starts 11 a.m. Festivities at Garfield Park immediately following parade.

Live entertainment, dancing, food, drinks, 6:30 p.m.

Fireworks display, 9 p.m.

### LIBRARY EVENTS

**JUNE 10**

Library Summer Reading Program (SRP) sign-ups begin. Most programs will be held in the Library Community Room at 2 p.m. All ages are welcome. For more information on library events, call (626) 403-7358.

**JUNE 20**

Egyptian hieroglyphic printmaking, presented by Barnsdall Junior Arts Center staff (program will be on the Oxley Street side of the library) - 2 p.m.

**JUNE 27**

Juggler David Cousin, juggling record holder, 2 p.m.

**JULY 11**

America's Multicultural Music by Craig Newton-2 p.m.

**JULY 18**

Tiger and Mousedeer puppet show by L.A. pros, 2 p.m.

**JULY 20**

Parents' Internet Class, 10-11 a.m. Register by July 13

**JULY 25**

Reading magic show by Harvey Simpson - 2 p.m.

**AUGUST 1**

Literacy Program: 10 a.m.-Noon, Library Conf. Room

For more information, call (626) 294-4807.

Foxes and Pharaohs animal program by Wild Wonders, Inc. - 2 p.m.

**AUGUST 8**

Ventriloquist Randel McGee & Groark - 2 p.m.

**JUNE 17 - AUGUST 9**

**Grandparents and Books Read-Aloud (all ages)**

Volunteer library grandparents are available to read aloud to children in one-on-one or small group settings. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 1-3 p.m.

**JUNE 18-AUGUST 9**

**Storytimes**

Family (all ages).....Tuesdays 7:30-8 p.m.

Pajama (ages 3-5) .....Wednesdays 7-7:30 p.m.

Preschool (ages 3-5) .....Thursdays 10:30-11 a.m.

Toddlers (ages 1-2) .....Fridays 10:30-10:50 a.m.

(ages 2-3) .....Fridays 11-11:20 a.m.

Program sponsored by the Friends of the

South Pasadena Public Library, Inc. and

other generous community donors.

**JUNE 25-AUGUST 10**

**Cleopatra's Crafts**

Every other week, from June 25th through August 10th. (Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.), paint your pharaoh's hat and ancient Egyptian-style jewelry, design a sarcophagus, make your own cartouche with ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, and create a miniature ancient Egypt diorama.

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

**JUNE 6**

Annual Meeting, 6 p.m. Location to be announced

**JUNE 18, JULY 16, AUGUST 20**

Network Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., La Fiesta Grande Rest.

**JUNE 19, JULY 17, AUGUST 21**

Legislative Meeting, 8 a.m. Gus's Barbeque

# Park Improvements

## Orange Grove Park

Winter 2002 — playground renovation project will be completed.

## Eddie Park

Winter 2002 — playground renovation project will be completed.

## Skate Park

Opens June 15 @ 10:30 a.m. (see page 3).  
660 Stoney Drive

## South Arroyo Nature Park

Task Force is developing a plan that will improve access and enhance the four-acre park.



Garfield Park

Renovations to the northern walkways will be done in Spring 2003.

## FARMERS' MARKET



4-8 p.m.; Meridian Avenue and Mission Street every Thursday. A variety of local businesses in Mission West stay open until 8 p.m. Come visit and support your local merchants!



## Summer Concerts in the Park

The City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission are proud to announce the return of the popular Concerts in the Park this summer. The five-concert series will be held on alternating Sundays. Mark your calendars and join your family and neighbors at Garfield Park from 5-7 p.m. Bring a blanket, chairs and a picnic. Or if you prefer, dinner will again be available for purchase at each concert, prepared by local restaurants and caterers.

### Platinum Sponsor

*Transtech Engineers*

### Gold Sponsors

*Collins, Collins, Muir & Traver  
Morrow & Holman Plumbing*

### Silver Sponsor

*TimeWarner*

### Bronze Sponsor

*Prudential Bryant Real Estate  
House of Coffee*

June 30th .....Pete Jacobs-Swing  
July 14th .....Doo Wah Riders-Country  
July 28th .....The Answer-Rock and Roll  
August 11th .....Erik Ekstrand-Jazz  
August 18th .....Chico-Latin  
For inquiries, please contact the Community Services Department at (626) 403-7360.



Relay For Life is a new community event coming in August to the City of South Pasadena.

Find out how you can get involved in the fight against cancer by calling Rosie Rivas at the American Cancer Society (626) 795-7774 (option 3) ext. 232 or write to rrvivas@cancer.org

## Free Household Hazardous Waste Roundup



Do you have any containers of old paint, turpentine, pesticides, or cleaners containing acid or lye? How about car or household batteries, or used motor oil lurking in the dark corners of your garage? If so, then Saturday, July 20, will be a good time to place these items in a sturdy box and bring them to the City's 3rd Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Roundup. It will be at the South Pasadena Unified School District parking lot, 1020 El Centro Street, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Explosives, live ammunition or waste from businesses will not be accepted. For more information, call the South Pasadena Public Works Department at (626) 403-7240 or the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works at 1-888-CLEAN LA (253-2652).

## CITY COUNCIL

Harry A. Knapp, *Mayor*  
David Saeta, *Mayor Pro Tem*  
Michael A. Cacciotti, *Councilmember*  
Dorothy M. Cohen, *Councilmember*  
David V. Rose, *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](http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us)



## SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

City of South Pasadena  
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South Pasadena, CA 91030

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