



SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

The Official Community Newsletter ♦ www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us ♦ Vol. 8#1 ♦ Summer 2003

Brief History of The Freeway Fight

- 710 Freeway approved in 1964 by then California Highways Commission
- Caltrans acquires properties in 1965
- With first freeway case, state court enjoins further property acquisition and construction in 1973, and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Caltrans agree to conduct environmental review
- State legislature adopts Martinez Bill in 1982, which exempted the 710 from requirement that South Pasadena consent to a "freeway agreement" if certain conditions were met
- 710 approved by CTC again in 1984
- State completes revised EIR/EIS in 1986 with "Meridian Variation Alternative" for the 710
- Final EIR/EIS adopted in 1992 but no final decision by Caltrans or FHWA
- Martinez Bill overturned by Appeals Court; shortly thereafter, Alhambra's "Martinez II" essentially reinstates "Martinez I"
- 710 approved by state in 1994
- 710 approved by federal government in 1998. Design Advisory Group established and supervised by Caltrans
- Federal judge enjoins new 710 freeway extension in 1999
- "Rogan" funds allocated in 2000 to ease traffic along proposed 710 corridor. DAG reviews options
- State law case remanded, ultimately to Los Angeles Superior Court in 2002; federal claims and injunction remain in federal court.
- SCAG and MTA initiate discussion of tunnel alternative in early 2003; City Council is non-committal

Local Transportation Improvements Part of City's Master Plan for Anti-710 Freeway Strategy

On April 29, the City Council approved major surface street improvements for Orange Grove and Fair Oaks Avenues and their interchanges with the 110 freeway. These transportation improvements evolved from the 710 Freeway Fight.

In 1993, the City Council adopted the "Multi-Mode Alternative, a Low-Build Approach to the 710 Freeway Extension" to establish as part of the City's legal challenge to the 710 freeway that traffic improvements could be achieved at a fraction of the freeway's environmental and economic costs. The "multi-mode" or "low build" is the policy context for these traffic solutions, which must also be approved by Caltrans. All told, the City has \$16.2 million in federal, state, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and City dollars for improvements to enhance transportation corridors.

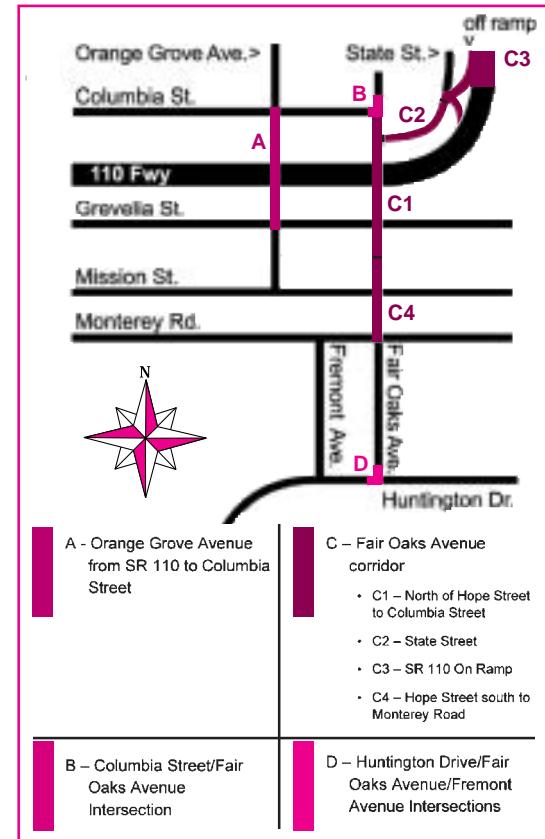
South Pasadena's fight for survival against intrusion by the freeway extension has been waged on legislative and regional planning fronts as well, which in turn support the City's litigation strategy. Current activities include the following:

- Legislative advocacy and relations with legislative representatives and aided by special consultants, as needed
- Monitoring and liaison work with regional planning agencies, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and MTA, regarding regional transportation planning and funding
- Relationships with other cities/regional cooperation
- Monitoring Gold Line construction and operations

The City Council considers freeway litigation and related issues on a fairly frequent basis in confidential litigation sessions before most regular council meetings. The City's special legal counsel, Antonio Rossmann, regularly briefs and consults with the council on litigation strategies to secure a non-freeway future for South Pasadena.

The South Pasadena Design Advisory Group (DAG), comprised of two council members and four residents appointed by the City Council, is responsible for analyzing and recommending projects to enhance regional mobility and support the multi-mode alternative. There are similar groups in Pasadena and El Sereno/Los Angeles. In recent months, the Transportation Commission has

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Freeway Litigation At a Glance

Two cases are pending at present:

- Case against the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) approval of the freeway, in federal court.
- Case against California Transportation Commission's (CTC) approval of the freeway, in state court, is preparing for trial later this year.



Transportation Improvements, continued from page one.

advised the DAG on significant projects proposed for the City's north-south corridor.

The fight against the freeway has been successfully fought for four decades. The entire community of South Pasadena owes this success to the blood, sweat, tears, money and time of the many "freeway fighters" who have worked over the years to protect the town. This grassroots effort has become the model and inspiration for numerous grassroots advocacy efforts that have arisen throughout the country over the past 40 years.

Caltrans' Properties in The Proposed 710 Route

Caltrans' ownership and management of houses along the freeway route has long been the subject of controversies from residents and cities alike. Most recently, Assemblywoman Carol Liu's leadership led to the establishment of a special task force to oversee the rental rates and potential sale of these properties.

Two of these properties were improved through community efforts. The City of South Pasadena acquired 2002 Berkshire Avenue and then resold it to a family to rehabilitate the house and live in it. In a unique transaction, the City's Redevelopment Agency coordinated the acquisition of 1021 Magnolia Street by Heritage Housing Partners, which relocated the two historic buildings from Meridian Street for restoration and sale as moderate-income housing.

For questions regarding Caltrans' upkeep of these properties, please call the City's Community Improvement Coordinator at (626) 403-7220. For information on the task force, call Carol Liu's office at (626) 577-9944. For rental availability questions, call Caltrans' staff at (213) 897-1793.

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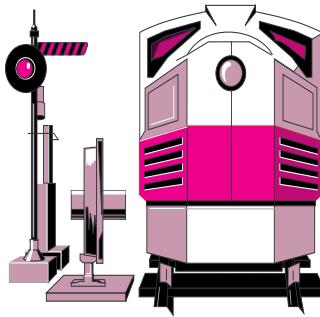
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MTA's Gold Line Safety Measures



The Metropolitan Transit Authority has provided extensive safety training that will prove invaluable since Gold Line trains will start running through South Pasadena in July. Here's a brief recap:

- Beginning in September 2002, MTA conducted proactive education presentations that detailed rail safety issues to the community and, specifically, to surrounding schools.
- MTA's Community Relations Rail Safety team has attended scores of community events and 66 area schools, reaching nearly 46,000 students with the rail safety message.
- March 25, 2003 - MTA and the Construction Authority held an "Open House" to all South Pasadena Residents at the City's library.

• May 17, 2003 - MTA hosted a Gold Line Safety Presentation at the City Council Chambers. All residents were invited.

- Age-specific videos reach audiences of kindergarten to high school students who live along the Los Angeles-to-Pasadena alignment.
- Interactive DVD presentations help the community recognize rail warning devices and how they function in neighborhoods. Real-life examples are used to demonstrate what to do and not to do near trains.
- A mobile theater employs advanced video and 3-D effects to simulate the true operation of a P2000 train along the actual Metro Gold Line route.

Other components of MTA's Safety Education Program include a poster campaign in schools to remind students daily about rail safety as well as public-service announcements that have been run on local television stations and in movie theaters.

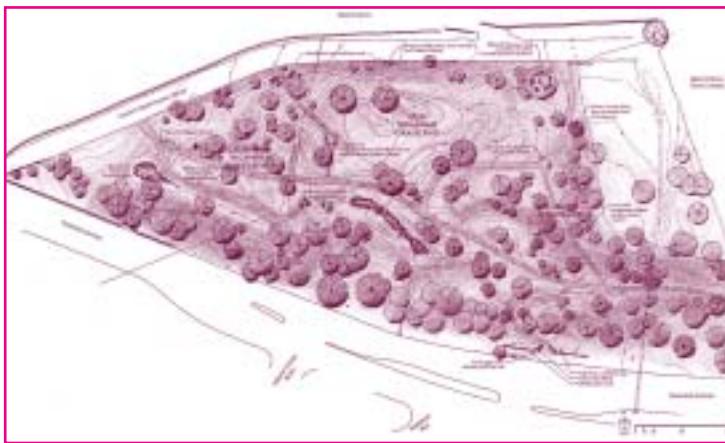
MTA has utilized several safety measures that have proven effective on the Metro Blue Line that has operated for 13 years between Los Angeles and Long Beach.

- Use of four quadrant gates that completely seal off intersections when trains are coming.
- Installation of vehicle detection loops that allow a vehicle to escape should it be caught within the gates at an intersection.
- 23 of the 30 at-grade crossings are equipped with pedestrian and swing gates, which increase safety by completely closing the crossing to foot traffic.
- Close attention has been given to signage and striping at intersections to ensure compliance with Public Utilities Commission regulations.

The finishing touches of the Metro Gold Line are now taking place, but the MTA Rail Safety Outreach Group's efforts will continue.

In case of emergency, call MTA's Trouble Line at (323) 563-5000.

South Arroyo Nature Park Plans Complete



The South Arroyo Nature Park Task Force recently completed review of the draft plan for the South Arroyo Nature Park. The City Council will consider the Task Force's recommendation at an upcoming City Council meeting, tentatively scheduled for June 18. Construction will start this fall and is expected to finish by spring 2004.

The Task Force appointed by the City Council conducted six

community meetings and reviewed several draft plans before reaching its recommendation. Chaired by Mayor Michael Cacciotti, the Task Force members include City Council Member David Margrave, Natural Resources Commissioner Ron Mitchell, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Karen Steen, and Community at Large members Charlie Craig, Art Flemming, Sonia Nicholson, Susan Seager and Evelyn Zneimer.

The Arroyo Nature Park project is made possible by a \$250,000 grant secured by then State Senator and now Congressman Adam Schiff. For more information, contact Community Services Director Veronica Dolleschel at (626) 403-7362 or at vdlleschel@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us.

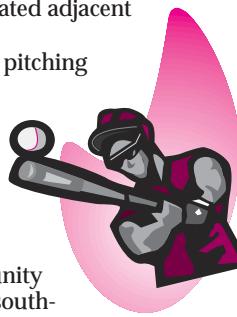
Batting Cages Come to South Pasadena

Ready to swing away in the batting cages? The new state-of-the-art All-American Baseball School will celebrate its grand opening this summer. The batting cages are located adjacent to the skate park at the Arroyo Youth Recreation Park on Stoney Drive.

The facility includes seven cages for baseball and softball, two pitching instruction areas, a snack bar, a picnic area for parties (available by reservation) and instruction by professional players. The City will receive 10 percent of all gross revenues over the 10-year lease with operator Dylan Gaines.

At the end of the lease, the City will then own all of the improvements and will have several options, including entering into a contract with a private firm to operate the cages.

For more information, contact Gaines at (626) 296-3744 or Community Services Director Veronica Dolleschel at (626) 403-7362 or vdolleschel@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us.



Summer Concerts Coming to Garfield Park

There are lots of reasons to look forward to summer in South Pasadena, and you will find many of them at Garfield Park. The City Council and the Parks & Recreation Commission are pleased to announce that Garfield Park will once again be home to the fifth annual Concerts in the Park series.

The five-concert series will be held on alternating Sundays starting June 29. Join your family and neighbors from 5-7 p.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and have a picnic. Delicious meals from local vendors will be available for purchase, or you can bring your own.

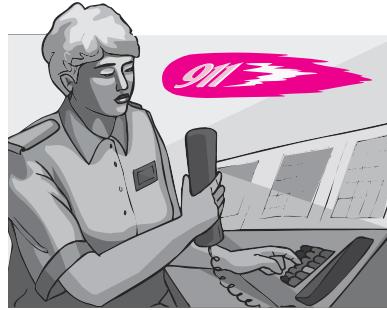
Whether you're sharing a picnic with old friends or sharing conversation with new ones, Garfield Park is the place to be. Mark your calendars for the following concert dates:



- ❖ June 29Swing – Peter Jacobs Wartime Radio Revue
- ❖ July 13.....Rock – The Ravelers
- ❖ July 27.....Jazz – Park Avenue West
- ❖ August 10.....Country – Doo Wah Riders
- ❖ August 17.....Latin – Susie Hansen

The concerts are made possible through the financial support of the City Council and generous donations from local merchants and businesses. For more information, please contact the Community Services Department at (626) 403-7360.

Don't Delay Calling 9-1-1



Heart attack and coronary heart disease are America's number one killer. Understanding the importance of calling 9-1-1 immediately at the onset of heart attack symptoms is a critical component in survival and recovery. While some heart attacks are sudden and intense, the majority start slowly with mild pain or discomfort. Here are the signs and symptoms that mean a heart attack may be occurring:

- + Discomfort in other areas of the upper body - Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- + Shortness of breath - The feeling of not getting enough oxygen in every breath or not being able to breath normally. The shortness of breath is often accompanied by the feeling of anxiousness.
- + Other signs - Additional signs may include breaking out in a cold sweat, feeling nauseated or lightheaded.

If you or someone you are with has chest discomfort, especially combined with one or more of the other signs, recognize that a heart attack may be occurring and call 9-1-1. Never delay before calling for help.

Calling 9-1-1 is almost always the fastest way to get lifesaving treatment. South Pasadena Fire Department paramedics are specially trained to treat heart attack victims with advanced medical procedures as well as providing rapid ambulance transportation to the appropriate medical facility. For additional information on heart attack awareness or the life-saving capabilities of the paramedics, please call the South Pasadena Fire Department at (626) 403-7300.

SPRING CALENDAR

CITY EVENTS

- JULY 4**
Independence Day
City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed
Festival of Balloons
7:30 a.m. Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast
10:30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies, Library (El Centro Street side)
11 a.m. Parade starts. Immediately following parade, festivities at Garfield Park.
5:30 p.m. Gates open at high school
6:30 p.m. Live entertainment, dancing, food, drinks
8:45 p.m. Parade awards presented
9:00 p.m. Fireworks display

- SEPTEMBER 1**
Labor Day
City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

LIBRARY EVENTS

- JUNE 25**
Summer Reading Program
Rainforest Craft Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- JUNE 27**
Summer Reading Program
John Abrahams, Magician
Magic in the Mist, Community Room - 2 p.m.

- JUNE 28**
Summer Reading Program
Rainforest Craft Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

- JULY 8**
Summer Reading Program
Rainforest Craft Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

- JULY 11**
Summer Reading Program
Rainforest Art
Oxley Street side of library - 2 p.m.

- JULY 12**
Summer Reading Program
Rainforest Craft Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

- JULY 18**
Summer Reading Program
LA Puppet Professionals
Chen Ping and His Magic Axe
Library Community Room - 2 p.m.

- JULY 19**
Parents/children Internet instruction
Pre-registration is required.
Call (626) 403-7358.

- JULY 22**
Summer Reading Program
Rainforest Craft Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

- JULY 25**
Summer Reading Program
Aunt Sandii: Singing the Way to Reading
Library Community Room - 2 p.m.

- JULY 26**
Summer Reading Program
Rainforest Craft Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

- AUGUST 1**
Summer Reading Program
Richard Wade
Volcanoes in Story & Science
Library Community Room - 2 p.m.

- AUGUST 5**
Summer Reading Program
Rainforest Craft Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- AUGUST 8**
Summer Reading Program
Steven Henegar
Swing Into Stories - American Originals
Library Community Room - 2 p.m.

- AUGUST 15**
Library Safety Day - Library Closed to Public

People, Pooches and Parks



Over the past several months, several South Pasadena residents have asked the City to reconsider its ban on dogs in our parks. Both the Animal Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission have reviewed this request and approve its consideration by the City Council.

South Pasadena currently has an ordinance that prohibits dogs in City parks, even if on a leash. Some towns allow man's best friend to accompany their owners for a leisurely walk through parks. These cities require that dogs must be in the control of a responsible person, be on a leash that does not exceed six feet in length, and that owners clean up after their dogs.

South Pasadena has laws already in effect that require dogs to be on a leash when walked in a public place. Dog waste must also be removed within five minutes.

This issue will be heard by the City Council at the regularly scheduled Council meeting on Wednesday, June 18. Residents are invited to participate.

FARMERS' MARKET



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

Michael A. Cacciotti, **Mayor**

Michael D.Y. Ten, **Mayor Pro Tem**

David L. Margrave, **Councilmember**

David Saeta, **Councilmember**

Odom Stamps, **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

Planning Updates

Home Improvement Grant Money Available

The City of South Pasadena is once again offering the Home Improvement Grant Program, which provides free home rehabilitation for residents with low incomes. The program is funded through the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant.

If you own a home and fall within the program's income limit, you may be eligible to participate in this program. If your application is accepted, you could receive up to \$5,000 for approved home rehabilitation repairs. Priority for acceptance will be given to those who have never received a Home Improvement Grant in the past.

Funds are limited and will be allocated based on several factors, including need and scope of work, with the emphasis on correcting code violations and addressing safety issues. For more information, please contact Veronica Velarde at (626) 403-7225 or email at Vvelarde@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us.

Mission District Lofts



units and 1,500 square feet of retail. Information on the project can be obtained by calling Decoma Industries at (626) 585-8620 or by visiting the project web site at www.missionlofts.com.

Mission Meridian Village

Excavation for the Mission Meridian Village project is completed and the first elements of the building are being erected. The project will provide 67 condominium units in the traditional Craftsman architecture style and about 3,000 square feet of retail designed to match the historic brick construction of the adjacent hotel building at the corner of Mission Street and Meridian Avenue.

The retail building and subterranean public parking, which will have 142 parking slots, are expected to be ready by early 2004. The townhouses should be ready for occupancy by mid-year 2004. Information about the progress of the construction can be found on the City website or by calling the Planning Department at (626) 403-7220. Sales information for the condominiums or the retail business can be obtained at (626) 799-1600.

New Businesses in Town

Tokoro, 802 Fair Oaks Avenue – Japanese and Sushi Restaurant.

Yasmeen's Mediterranean Cuisine, 818 Fair Oaks Avenue – Mediterranean restaurant with specialty plates.



NORTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

City of South Pasadena

1414 Mission St.

South Pasadena, CA 91030

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