



# SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

The Official Community Newsletter ♦ www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us ♦ Vol. 7#3 ♦ Winter 2002

## Help Seniors in Need by Donating to Food Drive

This holiday season, the City of South Pasadena Community Services Department, Youth Commis-



sion and Senior Commission will be collecting healthful, non-perishable food items and delivering gift baskets to local senior citizens.

The food drive helps unite youth and seniors in our community while providing healthy meal options to those in need. Items donated should be low in fat, sodium and/or sugar (canned fruit in juice, low-fat crackers/cookies, pasta, low-sodium soup, or other similar items).

Please donate items in their sealed factory packaging. Items will be accepted between December 2-17 at the Senior Center, 1102 Oxley Street, weekdays until 5 p.m., and at the Recreation building at Orange Grove Park, 815 Mission Street, weekdays until 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions or you know of a senior who would benefit from a basket, please call Jeanne Schell, community services supervisor, at (626) 403-7382.

## Southpas.biz

Beginning mid-December, log on to www.Southpas.biz, a new web site providing residents and businesses with comprehensive business directories, business-to-business services, and much more! Southpas.biz is your holiday season link to South Pasadena businesses, shopping, dining, and services.

## Street Repair Plan Goes to Voters Next March

The City of South Pasadena has formulated a comprehensive infrastructure repair plan to provide the necessary funding to repair city streets, alleys, curbs and gutters.

On March 4, 2003, South Pasadena voters will decide whether to support a temporary, 10-year, 4.8-percent utility user tax measure. The repair work would be completed in accordance with a schedule that will take into consideration a number of factors, including road condition, cost efficiency, motorist convenience and coordination of street repairs with other planned infrastructure improvements. City Manager Sean Joyce and Public Works Director James Van Winkle presented the plan to a citizens advisory committee in July and to the City Council in September.

The City has about 62 miles of streets and alleys within its 3.44 square miles. A recent study commissioned by the City concluded that 52.5 percent of those streets are in 'good' to 'excellent' condition. However, nearly half of the streets need to be repaired immediately, and most streets and public alleys will require some repairs over the next 10 years. The total estimated cost to repair streets, alleys, curbs and gutters is \$15.6 million.

In recent years, the City has completed major repair projects on Fair Oaks Avenue, Mission Street, Meridian Avenue, Hope Street, Brent Avenue, Stoney Drive, Oneonta Drive, Bonita Drive, Raymondale Drive and Amberwood Drive. Repair projects are also slated to get underway soon on

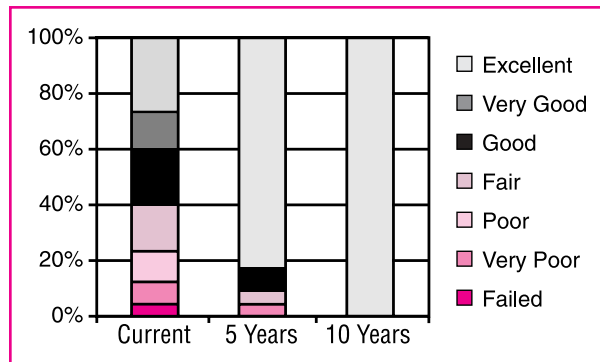
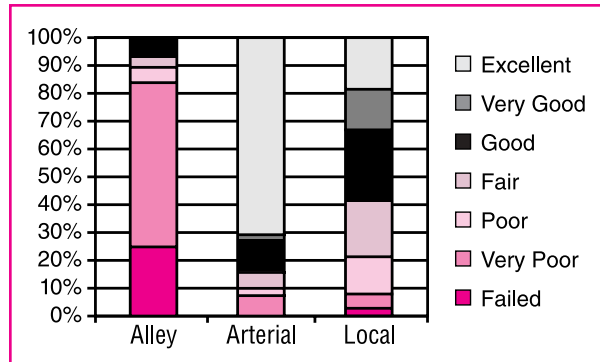
Garfield Avenue, St. Albans Avenue, Oak Hill Avenue, Rollin Street, Glendon Way, Hillside Road, Hermosa Street and Illinois Street. Despite these efforts, however, the City does not have enough

money to keep pace with the continued deterioration of its streets, alleys, curbs and gutters.

The proposed measure is similar to the existing general fund utility user tax that supports police, fire, paramedic, library and other vital local services, except that the proceeds from the new tax may be used *only* for the design, construction and construction management of repairs to City streets, alleys, curbs and gutters. The significant features of the proposed measure are:

- All streets, alleys, curbs and gutters would be repaired over the next 10 years. A 10-year special tax requires a two-thirds voter ap-

### ASSESSING OUR STREETS



proval next March.

- The special temporary tax would net approximately \$16 million over 10 years.
- The utility user tax is less expensive for taxpayers than issuing municipal bonds because no proceeds from the tax are lost to interest payments.
- All of the money generated by the tax goes toward street repairs.
- Residents would be protected by the same exemptions as with the existing utility tax.

For more information on the utility tax measure, please call City Clerk Sally Kilby at (626) 403-7232. For information on the city budget, call Finance Director Josh Betta at (626) 403-7252.





## How to Recycle Your Christmas Tree!

The Christmas tree recycling program will operate as it has in years past. If you live in a house or duplex, simply place your Christmas tree next to your trash containers and your tree will be collected and recycled along with your green waste. Apartment and condo dwellers will receive a tree-recycling schedule in the mail. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at (626) 403-7240.



## Scene Around Town

You may occasionally see film company trucks and movie production personnel about town. If so, perhaps you have wondered what's filming in South Pasadena and which stars are here?

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

☞ Kathy Ireland and Jaclyn Smith in a K-Mart commercial

☞ Many other name-brand commercials including Nintendo, Land's End, American Express, Hyundai, and Sears

*Some film companies came back for a 2nd time:*

☞ New NBC television show "Hidden Hills"

☞ New CBS television show "Presidio Med" starring Anna Devere Smith and Gerald McRaney

☞ Feature film "Old School" starring Luke Wilson and Will Farrell

☞ The making of "Halloween, the Movie" for "Backstory" on AMC

*There was also a music video:*

☞ The band "Insane Clown Posse"

*And a couple of others on deck:*

☞ Jim Carrey and Jennifer Aniston in the feature film "Bruce Almighty"

☞ Untitled Ben Stiller feature comedy

It's never too late to add your property to our new location library! If you are interested in participating, please leave your name and phone number with our film liaison, Joan Aguado, at (626) 403-7263 or e-mail the information to: jaguado@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us. A packet will be sent to you immediately explaining how it works.

# Holiday Safety Tips from Your Fire and Police Departments

The South Pasadena Fire and Police Departments are offering a number of safety tips to help keep your loved ones safe during the holiday season:

### Fire Department Safety Tips:

- \* Be sure flocking on Christmas trees is fire retardant.
- \* Make sure your fireplace has a proper screen.
- \* Never put candles on trees or windowsills or within reach of children.
- \* Don't burn wrapping paper in the fireplace.
- \* Clean and repair chimneys every year, so creosote buildup won't start a chimney fire.
- \* Before decorating for the holidays, replace frayed or cracked wires and defective plugs.
- \* Observe cooking and smoking safety rules with extra care at holiday parties.
- \* Don't overload electrical circuits or use extension cords with electric heaters. Don't leave heaters unattended.
- \* Hold a family conference for fire-escape planning and fire drills. Plan two ways out of every room. Remember 'EDITH' — Exit Drills In The Home. Plan a safe meeting place outside the home in case of fire. Account for every member of your home. Never go back inside.
- \* Install smoke detectors outside bedrooms and at the top of stairs. Test smoke alarms regularly and replace batteries every six months when you adjust your clocks for daylight savings time.
- \* Keep fire extinguishers handy and discuss their correct use. Never try to extinguish a big blaze. When in doubt, get out.
- \* Make everyone in your family responsible for fire prevention, safety, escape planning and first aid in the home.

If you need more information or would like help with a fire exit plan, please contact the

South Pasadena Fire Department at (626) 403-7300. Remember to call 911 for emergencies.

### Police Department Safety Tips:

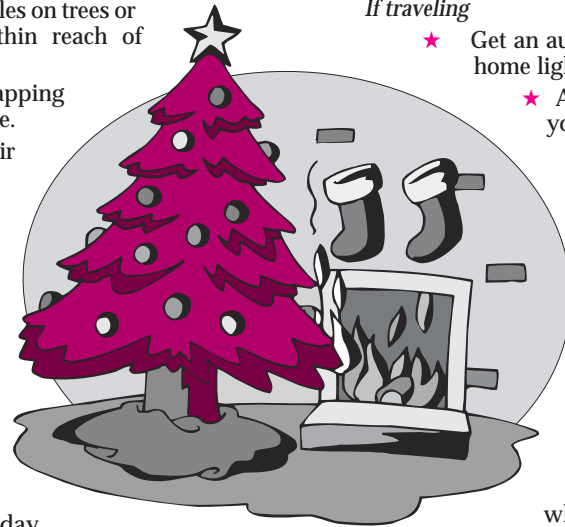
With the holiday season only weeks away, the South Pasadena Police Department has a number of safety tips for you that will help reduce your chances of being a victim of theft or fraud:

#### If traveling

- \* Get an automatic timer for your home lights.
- \* Ask a neighbor to watch your home.
- \* Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped.

#### If out for the evening

- \* Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- \* Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.



#### If shopping

- \* Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- \* Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- \* Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- \* Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- \* Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

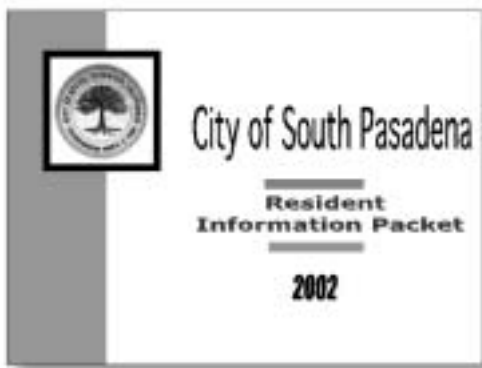
Please also remember to drive safely during the holidays, always buckle up, and remember — don't drink and drive! For additional information, contact Richard Lee in the Police Department's Crime Prevention Office at (626) 403-7285.



## Donate Your Toys!

The South Pasadena Fire Department, along with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, will be collecting toys for the annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. The drive began November 29 and concludes December 24.

Any new unwrapped toys are welcome. Toys may be dropped off at the Police or Fire Department at 817 Mound Avenue before December 24.



## City Welcome Packet Now Available

Are you new in town? The City has a welcome packet for you! Find out everything from the unique history of our City to where to go for dinner tonight. The 'Resident Information Packet' is designed to acquaint you with your local government, community services, and some key city ordinances.

If you're a new resident and would like to receive a packet, please call City Hall at (626) 403-7259 and one will be sent to you immediately. You may also request a packet on our City web site: [www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us](http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us).

## Interactive Storytelling at the Library!

The South Pasadena Public Library invites children and their families to 'A Season of Giving,' an interactive holiday storytelling performance at 7:30 p.m. on December 17 in the Library Community Room.

We Tell Stories combines storytelling and participatory theater. The 24-member cast brings colorful costumes and props and invites the audience to assist with the performance.

Established in 1981, the troupe is now the national outreach program component of Theatreworks/USA and has performed for over 3.5 million children.

The presentation is funded by a grant from the Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library, Inc. For more information about these and other free library programs, visit the library at 1100 Oxley Street in South Pasadena, or call (626) 403-7358.

## Buying or Fixing a House? Know about The City's New Zoning Code

On September 18, the City Council adopted a new Zoning Code — the first major revision in over 30 years. The new code, which went into effect on October 18, is designed to implement the City's General Plan, adopted by the South Pasadena City Council in October 1998. State law requires that a city's zoning code be consistent with and implement the city's General Plan.

The new Zoning Code affects all properties in the City, and in different ways. Detailed information and maps explaining how your property is affected are available at the City Hall in the Community Development Department and in the Library. What follows is a general summary of the key changes in the new Zoning Code.

### Single-Family Zones

There are very few changes in the single-family areas. The most significant changes will affect those who own vacant land in the hillside areas of the City. New development standards, including lower height regulations, will ensure new homes will blend into the existing contours and preserve existing vegetation as much as possible. New provisions governing the addition of a second unit ('granny flat') on a single-family parcel were also adopted.

### Multi-Family Zones

One of the goals of the General Plan is to reduce the overall density of the City to protect single-family neighborhoods and preserve its small-town character. In keeping with this goal, the new zoning code rezoned many multi-family (apartments, condominiums, etc.) areas to reduce the number of housing units that could be built on each parcel. Additional design guidelines were included to ensure that any new developments will be harmonious with the uniquely beautiful character of South Pasadena's existing homes.

### Commercial and Industrial Zones

The commercial and industrial zones will see significant changes as well. To ensure consistency with the General Plan, revisions were made to the different land uses permitted in the commercial and industrial zones. Some land uses are no longer being allowed, and others may have additional regulations or new development standards and design guidelines imposed. Also, in the commercial areas, new land uses encouraged by the General Plan would be allowed, such as housing units on the second floor of a commercial building.

### Public Participation

The public and the Planning Commission have subjected the revised Zoning Code to thorough scrutiny during the last three years. Last year, the Planning Commission held 31 public hearings to review several drafts of the Zoning Code, and forwarded their recommended draft to the City Council at the end of November 2001. The Planning Commission and the City Council held two joint meetings last February; the Council provided direction on several policy issues and held a public hearing on August 21 before final adoption in September.

## WINTER CALENDAR

### CITY EVENTS

#### DECEMBER 7

Mission West Open House

#### DECEMBER 12 & 19

Santa visits Farmers' Market

#### DECEMBER 25

#### Christmas Day

City Hall, Library, Community Services closed

#### DECEMBER 29

Tournament of Roses 'Crunch Time Party'  
6 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

#### JANUARY 1

#### New Year's Day

City Hall, Library, Community Services closed

#### JANUARY 20

#### Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

City Hall, Library, Community Services closed

#### FEBRUARY 17

#### President's Day

City Hall, Library, Community Services closed

#### MARCH 4

#### General Municipal Election

Polls open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

### LIBRARY EVENTS

#### DECEMBER 17

Children's Winter Holiday Program:  
'A Season of Giving'  
Library Community Room - 7:30 p.m.  
Call (626) 403-7358 for more information.

#### DECEMBER 24

Library closes at 4 p.m. - Christmas Eve

#### DECEMBER 31

Library closes at 5 p.m. - New Year's Eve

#### JANUARY 28

Annual Friends of the Library Meeting

#### FEBRUARY 9

Restoration Concert, DaVinci String Quartet  
Library Community Room - 4 p.m.  
Call (626) 799-0670 for more information



## Senior Holiday Program

The annual senior holiday program is almost here! This year's program will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12, in the Multipurpose Room decorated for the holidays at the South Pasadena Senior Center.

A special dinner will be served followed by a great evening of live entertainment provided by Dickens Carolers. Cost is \$2.25 per person for seniors 55 or older, \$3.95 for those under 55. Reservations are necessary and must be made by December 5. For further questions or to make your reservation, please contact the Senior Center at (626) 403-7360.

# Explore Your Library!



Did you know that there are more than 110,000 books at the South Pasadena Public Library, with new titles being added all the time? But did you also know that there are many other special non-book collections in the library?

Also available for free check-out from the library with your library card are:

- Audio books (in both CD and cassette formats) for children and adults
- CDs (including jazz, blues, classical, music from Broadway productions, Children's music, and movie soundtracks)
- Literacy books
- Videos (including educational films for children and adults, as well as classic feature films)

Recent new "non-book" collections added at the library include:

- Over 90 new CD-ROMs in the Children's Collection
- Over 140 DVDs for the library's new DVD collection

For more information about the library or applying for a library card, visit the library at 1100 Oxley Street, or call the Reference Desk at (626) 403-7350. You can also find library information online at <http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us/departments/library/library.htm>.

# New Businesses in South Pasadena!

In recent months, a number of new businesses have opened in South Pasadena. Walk down Mission Street toward the City's new Goldline metro station and you'll see the following:

- ~ Chi-Chi, La-La (1001 Mission Street), unique women's clothing, jewelry and gifts
- ~ About Home (1005 Mission Street), home furnishings

Street), a fine arts and crafts gallery

*Need a new skateboard? Travel a little farther down Mission Street to:*

- ~ Xtreme Board Shop (1514 Mission), skateboarding boutique

*Dining out? Don't leave town! There is a fine assortment of new eateries in town:*

- ~ Beijing (456 Fair Oaks Avenue) — quick



- ~ Femme by Melissa M. (1011 Mission Street), contemporary women's clothing for all sizes

- ~ The Yoga Place (1017 Mission Street), yoga classes, café and designer casual wear

- ~ B. Simply Brilliant Jewelers (1020 Mission Street), fine jewelry and imported gifts

- ~ Natural Essence (1024 Mission Street), relaxing day spa

- ~ The Arroyo Collection (1104 Mission

and easy Chinese fast food next to Starbucks and Kinko's.

- ~ Chipshot Grill (1055 Lohman Lane) — grill at the golf course

- ~ Firefly (1009 El Centro Street) — Nouveau American restaurant in a unique setting

- ~ Il Palino (1021 Fair Oaks Avenue) — Italian trattoria next to the Rialto

- ~ Lemon Tree Café (711 Fair Oaks Avenue) — Hong Kong-style café in the plaza on Fair Oaks.

## FARMERS' MARKET



Take home a hot dinner and fresh produce! Visit the Farmers' Market every Thursday from 4-8 p.m. at Meridian Avenue and Mission Street. Mission West businesses keep their doors open until 8 p.m. for you!

## 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

1414 Mission St.

South Pasadena, CA 91030

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SOUTH PASADENA CA  
PERMIT NO. 1

South Pasadena Postal Customer  
South Pasadena, CA 91030