



SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

The Official Community Newsletter ♦ www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us ♦ Vol. 8#3 ♦ Winter 2003

Recycle Your Christmas Trees



The holidays are just around the corner. The City's Public Works Department is already making plans to recycle Christmas trees. Single-family and duplex residents will be able to place Christmas trees next to trash barrels for convenient backyard pickup. Please remove all tree decorations and tree stands, and shake off flocked trees for recycling.

All apartment and condominium residents may place trees on the parkway near the curb for pickup by Athens Services. Trees will be picked up on January 5 and 6, 2004, and will be chipped and disposed of as green waste.

By recycling your Christmas trees through Athens Services, you will be contributing to environmentally sound recycling efforts. All residents will receive a mailer with additional information in mid-December. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at (626) 403-7240.

Protect Your Identity During The Holidays



The Department of Justice produced a 23-minute video describing the many ways in which thieves can obtain your personal finance information, how to protect yourself from being victimized, and what to do if you are. This video is available in the South Pasadena Public Library.

The South Pasadena Police Department wants to remind everyone during the holiday season that identity theft is the fastest-growing crime in America, affecting half a million new victims each year. During the holidays, your chances of becoming a victim greatly increase. Here are some helpful tips in combating identity theft:

- Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or know whom you're dealing with.
- Shred all documents, including pre-approved credit applications received in your name, insurance forms, bank checks and statements you are discarding, and other financial information.
- Do not put your telephone number on checks.
- Do not use your home's mailbox for outgoing mail. Mail should be placed in a U.S. Postal Mailbox or dropped off at the Post Office itself.
- Be careful using ATMs and phone cards. Someone may look over your shoulder and get your PIN numbers, thereby gaining access to your accounts.
- Make a list of all your credit card account numbers and bank account numbers with customer service phone numbers and keep it in a safe place.
- Do not put your credit card number on the Internet unless it is encrypted on a secured site.
- Cancel all credit cards that you have not used in the last six months. Open credit is a prime target.

By following the simple rules above, your chances of becoming the next victim of identity theft greatly decreases. For more information on how you can combat identity theft, please call the South Pasadena Police Department at (626) 403-7270.

Contribute to Spark of Love Toy Drive

The South Pasadena Fire Department, in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, is once again co-sponsoring the Spark of Love toy drive. This effort collects toys and sports equipment for less fortunate children in our community.

Please ignite a 'spark of love' in a child's heart by bringing a new, unwrapped toy or sports equipment to the South Pasadena Fire or Police Department lobbies. Toys can be dropped off from November 28-December 23. If you have any questions, please contact the South Pasadena Fire Department at (626) 403-7303.



Two New Businesses in Mission West

Two new businesses have recently opened in South Pasadena.



Pumpkin Baby Boutique, located at 956 Mission Street, is a chic boutique carrying clothing and accessories for newborns through toddlers.



Videothèque, a new video store offering foreign, classic, independent, alternative rare cinema and new releases, is located at 1005 Mission Street, Suite B.



CITY OFFICIALS

www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us

- Sean Joyce, City Manager(626) 403-7210
sjoyce@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
- Gay Forbes, Assistant City Manager.....403-7210
gforbes@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
- Daniel Watson, Police Chief403-7270
dwatson@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
- Richard Elliott, Fire Chief403-7300
relliott@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
- Josh Betta, Finance Director.....403-7250
jbetta@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
- David Watkins, Planning Director.....403-7220
dwatkins@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
- Albert Carbon, Public Works Director403-7240
acarbon@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
- Barbara Posner, Acting City Librarian.....403-7330
bposner@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
- Veronica Dolleschel, Comm. Svcs. Dir. ...403-7360
vdolleschel@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
- Sally Kilby, City Clerk403-7230
skilby@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us

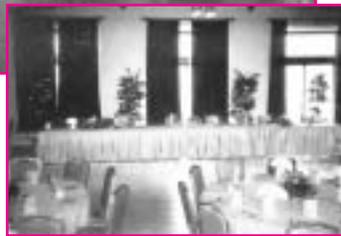
STREET IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

Specific Local Street Repairs	Repairs have recently been completed on Illinois Drive, Hillside Road and Hermosa Street. Improvements for Garfield Avenue, St. Albans, Oak Hill Avenue and Glendon Way are currently being designed.
Orange Grove Striping	Temporary striping modifications are scheduled to be installed on Orange Grove Avenue north of the 110 Freeway. The temporary striping will be in place for a minimum of 60 days, after which the City will evaluate its effectiveness for future design considerations on Orange Grove Avenue.
Access Ramp Project	Wheelchair access ramps are scheduled to be constructed at various locations throughout the City beginning in early spring 2004. Tentative locations include Fremont Avenue, Oak Street and Garfield Avenue.
Fair Oaks Improvements	Design for improvements to Fair Oaks Avenue and the 110 Freeway on-ramp are underway.

WATER IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

Wilson Well No. 2	Preliminary well investigations began in September to determine the possibility of bringing the well back into service.
Grand Reservoir and Pumping Station	The environmental review and final design drawings are expected to be completed this winter.

For questions regarding these projects, please call the Public Works Department at (626) 403-7240.



Historic Room Available for Special Events Rental

If you are planning a special event, the City has just the place for you. The War Memorial Building, located at 435 Fair Oaks Avenue, can accommodate up to 150 people and has terrific amenities. This designated historical landmark features 1920s architecture. It has large windows, fresh paint, beautiful hardwood floors, elegant velvet draperies on black iron rods, floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace, round banquet-style tables and chairs, full kitchen, separate entry lobby and newly remodeled rest rooms. For a tour of this cultural landmark or to ask about availability, please contact the Community Services Department at (626) 403-7360.

Orange Grove Park Picnic Area Rentals

For your next picnic or party, come enjoy the new playground, new picnic area, half-court basketball court, brand new permanent rest rooms and decorative colored concrete. The picnic area is available for rental.

Orange Grove Park is located at 815 Mission Street. For reservations or for more information, please contact the Community Services Department at (626) 403-7385.



City Offering Holiday Gift Certificates

The City of South Pasadena Community Services Department offers this unique gift idea for the holidays: Gift certificates for recreation programs and services are now available for that special senior or that hard-to-buy-for-person.

For seniors 55 and older:

- Dial-A-Ride Coupons
- Coupons for On-Site Lunch Program or Home-Delivered Meals
- Recreation Classes (see insert)
- Membership
- Trips and tours

For all ages:

- Recreation Classes
- Picnic-Area Rentals
- After School Child Care
- Winter or Spring Camp

These gift certificates can be purchased for any amount and may be used for everything offered by the Community Services Department. Gift certificates can be purchased at the following locations:

- Senior Center, 1102 Oxley Street (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- Orange Grove Recreation Center, 815 Mission Street (10 a.m.- 6 p.m.)

The City accepts Visa and MasterCard as well as checks and cash. For more information, contact the Community Services Department at (626) 403-7360.

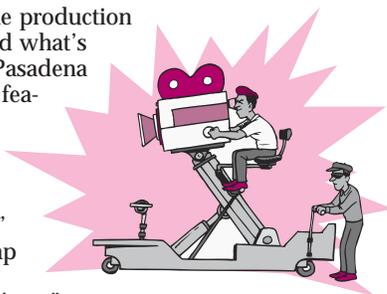


Scene Around Town

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:

- Many commercials, including "Mercury," "Sara Lee," "Dunkin' Donuts," "Mercedes E-Class," "SBC," "Sparklet's," "AT & T," "Yamaha," "MCI," "Pillsbury," "Home Depot," "Cellular South," "Bayer Aspirin," "Leap Frog."
- Some television shows including "Cold Case"; "Judging Amy," starring Amy Brenneman and Tyne Daly; "Beverly Hills Vet"; "Angel"; starring David Boreanaz; and "Everyday Italian," a show for the Food Network, starring Giada DeLaurentis.
- The feature films "A Cinderella Story" with Hilary Duff; "Little Black Book," starring Brittany Murphy; the music video for the movie "The Fighting Temptations" with Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Beyonce Knowles; "National Treasure," starring Nicholas Cage; and "Sleepover," a teen comedy.
- A television movie called "Back When We Were Grownups."

If you are interested in participating in the City's library, 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.



Mission Meridian Village Project Updates

The Mission Meridian Village project is moving along right on schedule. Concrete pouring has begun on the public parking garage and on the south end of the mixed-use project. To accommodate the Mission Street merchants and neighbors during the Christmas holidays, the contractor has changed the concrete-placement schedule so no concrete pumping will occur from December 2 to January 6. Significant concrete pouring will take place on January 14 and January 19.

Power and communication utilities will be installed underground from Hope Street northward to Magnolia Street, westward along Magnolia, and southward on Santa Fe Lane to Mission Street. The removal of the unsightly overhead utility lines will greatly enhance the aesthetics and charm of the neighborhood.

The project will include 67 new condominiums in two courtyard-type buildings designed in Craftsman style and 5,000 square feet of retail shops and lofts in a brick boulevard building along Meridian Avenue. One level of public parking (142 spaces) is available for Gold Line commuters. The project will be complete in spring 2004.

Residential sales and retail leasing information is available at (626) 799-1600 or www.MissionMeridianVillage.com.



WINTER CALENDAR

CITY EVENTS

DECEMBER 4

Santa visits Farmers' Market 3-5 p.m.

DECEMBER 6

Mission West businesses Open House - 1-4 p.m.
Santa visits 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day
City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

DECEMBER 28

Tournament of Roses "Crunch Time Party"
Late afternoon in the float area

JANUARY 1

New Year's Day
City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

JANUARY 19

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

FEBRUARY 16

Presidents' Day
City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

LIBRARY EVENTS

DECEMBER 16

Library Winter Holiday Arts Festival Program
Library Community Room - 7:30 p.m.
Free - Call (626) 403-7358 for more information.

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve
Library closes at 4 p.m.

DECEMBER 31

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

JANUARY 24

Parent's Internet Class
Library, Children's Department
10-11 a.m.
Call (626) 403-7358 to register.

JANUARY 27

Annual Meeting of the Friends of the SPPL
Library Community Room - 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 19

Restoration Concert: New Hollywood String Quartet
Library Community Room - 4 p.m.
Call (626) 799-6333 for ticket information.



CRUNCH TIME PARTY

The Tournament of Roses' Crunch Time Party will be held in the late afternoon on Sunday, December 28 at the float location. Tickets are \$15. For more information, log on to www.sptor.com.

Programs Help Lower Utility Bills

Southern California Edison offers a number of programs designed to assist low-income and senior residents to lower their electricity bills.

- The California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program gives a 20-percent discount on electricity bills for low-income households. Residents who are accepted in the program also receive a 20-percent discount on their gas bill, courtesy of the Southern California Gas Company. Please contact (800) 447-6620 for more information.
- The Medical Baseline Allocation Program reduces electricity bills to residents dependent on electrically powered life support or mobility equipment. To learn more, call (800) 655-4555.
- The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides eligible households assistance to offset the costs of heating or cooling their home. Please call (800) 339-6993 for more information.
- The Energy Assistance Fund (EAF) provides assistance to income-qualified, elderly or disabled residential customers facing temporary financial difficulties on their winter electric bill. Please call (800) 655-4555.

For more information, please contact Veronica Velarde at (626) 403-7225.



Placing Your Trash Containers Out Properly Can Facilitate Pickup

Trash collection service for the City of South Pasadena is provided by Athens Services, the City's authorized collection agency. The basic service is for household refuse collected once per week from the backyard of your property. The amount of refuse is limited to one cubic yard or 220 gallons, not to exceed 65 pounds per container. This is equivalent to about six 35-gallon-size standard trash containers. Of these six containers, any number you wish may be labeled for yard-waste collection. Yard waste consists of grass clippings, leaves and tree trimmings. Yard waste will only be collected when it is placed in properly labeled, designated yard-waste containers. Yard-waste stickers are available at City Hall, or by calling the Public Works Department at (626) 403-7240.

Please follow these simple guidelines for proper placement of trash containers:

- First, find one location for all containers in your backyard. The backyard location must be on the driveway side of the house, by the side of the house or garage, or in the backyard through an access gate (make sure pets are contained). Trash containers are not to be located at the curb.
- When choosing your backyard location, keep in mind that trash containers cannot be carried up or down stairs or lifted over fences.
- Providing free and clear access to your trash containers is essential to good service. If a car is parked in the driveway on trash day, for example, the disposal company would have to return and additional charges would apply.
- Finally, containers must be located within 10 feet to which the collection vehicle can drive.

Questions?

- For billing inquiries, please call the Finance Department at (626) 403-7257.
- To request a special pickup or to report missed service, please call Athens Services directly at (888) 336-6100.
- For all other inquiries, please call the Public Works Department at (626) 403-7240.

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!

Holiday Music and Juggling at The Library

The South Pasadena Children's Elementary Orchestra and the South Pasadena Juggling Club will come together in a special program for this year's Winter Holiday Arts Festival at the Library. This free event will be held on Tuesday, December 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library's Community Room. For more information, please call (626) 403-7358.



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



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City of South Pasadena
1414 Mission St.
South Pasadena, CA 91030

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