



SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

The Official Community Newsletter ❖ www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us ❖ Vol. 9#3 ❖ Winter 2004

South Pasadena Hires New City Manager



City Manager Mike Copp

Please stop by City Hall or call (626) 403-7210 to meet Mike.

Recycle Your Christmas Trees



On January 3 and 4, 2005, Athens Services will pick up your trees. All apartment and condominium residents should place trees

on the parkway near the curb for pickup. Single-family and duplex residents can place their trees next to trash bins.

Please remove all tree decorations and tree stands, and shake off flocked trees. By recycling your trees, you'll help the environment. The trees will be chipped and disposed of as green waste.

Residents will receive a mailer in mid-December with additional information. Please also call the Public Works Department at (626) 403-7240 if you need further assistance.

Renewal Strategy Helps Ensure Success for Local Businesses

The following article is taken from a speech delivered by Mayor Pro Tem Odom Stamps at the Chamber of Commerce Expo on October 5, 2004 regarding new developments in South Pasadena.

FAIR OAKS AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

Fair Oaks Avenue and Mission Street are about to undergo some long-needed traffic, pedestrian, parking, landscaping and lighting improvements, beginning in 2005. These improvements will help to ensure the long-term future success of retail stores and restaurants.

The hard work of your fellow citizens and business owners serving on volunteer boards such as the Design Advisory Group has resulted in plans to improve cross-town traffic flow that will also protect local businesses with curb parking and protect pedestrians with bumped-out corner crossings, landscaped islands and additional landscaping, trees and lighting. These improvements are funded by special federal grants through Caltrans.

MISSION STREET STREETScape ENHANCEMENT

Mission Street will have wider sidewalks shaded by new ginkgo street trees, bumped-out corner crossings, historic streetlight standards and street markers that will carry the theme set at the Mission Station Plaza. These improvements are funded by grants through the MTA and Caltrans.

The hard work of many volunteers and commissions also established the Mission Street Specific Plan, the new General Plan and the new Zoning Ordinance, which resulted in saving the most worthwhile building stock in the historic shopping core of the Mission West District. We are now seeing the fruits of that labor with the restoration of the Chouinard Building and the old Firestone Building at 1040 Mission Street, as well as compatible new retail and residential infill about to open at the Mission Meridian Village and a new project on Fairview Avenue recently approved by the Planning Commission.



Sixteen-foot sidewalks, parallel parking, bicycle lanes, one lane each way with Ginkgo trees and historic pedestrian streetlights

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION

After months of public meetings and workshops, the Community Redevelopment Commission created a vision and design parameters for the three blocks south of Mission Street between Fair Oaks and Mound, and separated by El Centro and Oxley Streets. The Redevelopment Agency has \$1.8 million and a key parcel of land set aside to help make these a reality. The *Framework for Downtown Redevelopment's* vision calls for upgrading surface parking lots in order to free up space for a courtyard plaza with potential for retail and restaurant activity, and new infill buildings and storefronts designed in keeping with the early 20th-century store fronts on Mission Street. Additional parking structures are contemplated to replace the surface parking and to add new parking for the benefit of the businesses.

STRATEGY OF RENEWAL

All of these pieces add up to a strategy of renewal for the mom-and-pop merchants and restaurateurs who serve our residents and to keep our retail dollars in our community, and to serve as an antidote to bland corporate retailing that increasingly surrounds us.

I look forward to seeing us all out walking and shopping in our downtown! Thank you — and don't forget: SHOP SOUTH PASADENA!



City Council Adopts Recommendations For Equestrian Center



On June 9, the City Council adopted the recommendations of the San Pascual Stables Lease Subcommittee to maintain the equestrian center and to start the process of identifying a potential operator for the facility.

During deliberations, the City Council articulated a list of new services to the community, such as youth and disadvantaged programs, an open-trail rental program, and the support of fundraiser opportunities to promote recreational activities in the City to be included in the new lease. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued in early 2005. To receive more information about the RFP and general update, please call Dan Bartelson at (626) 403-7236.



Mission Meridian Village

Construction nears completion



Keep Your Family Safe During The Holidays

Chief Dan Watson and the members of the South Pasadena Police Department would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season. Please follow these safety tips:

HOME SAFETY

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even if you will only be gone a short time.
- Don't put large displays of holiday gifts in view of your windows or doors.
- When going on trips or out for evenings, use automatic timers to turn indoor lights on and off to make it appear you are home.
- Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with your California driver's license.

- Don't advertise what you got for Christmas by allowing people to see the boxes the gifts came in.

SHOPPING SAFETY

- Lock packages in the trunk of your vehicle.
- Don't overload yourself with packages.
- If you must shop in the evening, shop with a friend or spouse.
- Park in well-lighted areas, as close as possible to store entrances. Be particularly aware of persons in the parking lot, especially near your car.
- Lock your car and make sure your windows are closed.
- Carry only the charge cards you need. Don't carry or flash large sums of cash.
- Carry your purse next to your body with the purse flap against you. Men should carry their wallets in front or inside pockets.
- Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Don't allow your attention to become distracted from your purse or packages.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated in a store or shopping mall.
- Don't hesitate to notify store security if you see suspicious activity.
- If you have to wait for a ride, wait in a busy, well-lighted place.
- If you are a victim of a crime, report it to police immediately.

CREATE YOUR HOME INVENTORY

The holidays are a good time to update — or create — your home inventory. Take photos or make a video of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make sure things like TVs, VCRs, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment, and power tools are on the list.

City of
South Pasadena
CALIFORNIA

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Sound wall on I-5

Gold Line Updates

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is soon to decide litigation on the settlement agreement negotiated by the City, Pasadena Blue Line Construction Authority and the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA). Residents along the Gold Line are expected to get relief from noise with the installation of sound walls with sound-absorptive material. If approved,

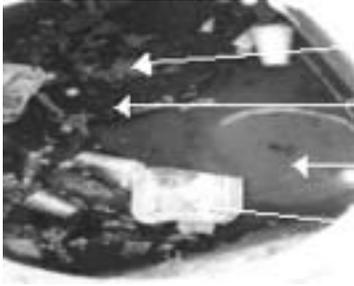
the settlement will also provide funding for further mitigations.

Additional information is available on the City's website or with Transportation Manager Karen Heit at (626) 403-7210.

Help Keep Waterways Clean

South Pasadena's storm drains are located at intersections and low points along the City's streets. Storm drains collect storm water that runs down streets and deposit it in nearby rivers and streams, the ultimate destination being the ocean. Unfortunately, storm drains do not filter storm water, so pollutants on City streets end up in these bodies of water.

A variety of pollutants contaminate storm water. Trash and debris from streets, parking lots, neighborhoods, businesses and construction sites all accumulate in storm drains and ultimately end up on beaches. Fast-food wrappers, cigarette butts, bottles and cans are a few of the commonly found trash items polluting waterways. Not only is trash an eyesore, but it can also harm aquatic habitats and life.



Leaf litter

Dirt or sediment

Water contaminated with chemicals

Trash

This is a snapshot of the inside of a storm drain for demonstration purposes

- ✓ Household hazardous and electronic waste cannot be thrown out with your regular garbage; it must be taken to a household hazardous waste roundup. These hazardous wastes are harmful to the environment and can cause a lot of pollution if not properly disposed. For the current collection schedule, please log on to www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us or call (888) CLEAN-LA (888-253-2652).

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact the South Pasadena Public Works Department at (626) 403-7240.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- ✓ Throw litter only in designated trash bins.
- ✓ Recycling not only saves landfill space, but also protects our natural resources. All plastics, metals, glass and newspaper are separated from commingled trash and recycled for you as part of your regular trash service in South Pasadena.
- ✓ If you see litter, pick it up. If everyone started cleaning up their neighborhoods, people would be less likely to litter and we would have cleaner streets.
- ✓ Make sure your trashcan lids are on tight. Loose lids can be knocked or blown off easily, allowing litter to scatter on the street.



Ring in the New Year With a Healthy Attitude

Your local parks can help you start off the New Year with a healthy new attitude. Take advantage of the City's many parks featuring inviting walkways and trails, as well as maps showing walking distances.

It is increasingly in the news that many youth and adults are overweight or unfit. In South Pasadena's 44th Assembly District, about 25 percent of youths are overweight. The latest Los Angeles County Health Survey indicated that over half (55 percent) of the county's adult population is either overweight or obese.

Did you know that drinking one can of soda every day for one year is equivalent to consuming 30 pounds of sugar? So shape up! A walk or run in the park is a great way to work out. Come walk in Garfield, Arroyo and the new Woodland and Wildlife Parks. Take part in many other fun park activities that get you and/or the kids out and about. Walk the dog (on a leash), play Frisbee, throw a baseball/football, play volleyball, kick a soccer ball around or play tag.

Please call (626) 403-7385 for a copy of the walking-distance maps for the City's parks.

- ❖ Only 13% of all trips to and from school in California are by foot or bicycle.
- ❖ Parents driving their kids to school make up 20-25 percent of the morning commute
- ❖ Moderate to vigorous physical activity, such as walking and biking, positively affects academic performance and skill development.
- ❖ Walking to and from school on a regular basis provides children with a routine source of physical activity and helps contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Children should aim to be active for 60 minutes a day accumulated over the course of the day. Walking to and from school is about taking important steps to a healthy and physically active lifestyle for adults and children alike.

It's Your Downtown

"Staying Small Successfully" is the Community Redevelopment Commission's (CRC) theme for the revitalization of downtown. The CRC recently issued a Request for Developer Qualifications (RFQ) to work with the community to design and implement a mixed-use project for downtown. The CRC will select a developer in early 2005. Regular monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month in Council Chambers. To participate and stay informed, see the City's website (www.south-pasadena.ca.us) and contact Gay Forbes or Marc Castagnola at (626) 403-7210.

WINTER CALENDAR

CITY EVENTS

DECEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23

Santa visits Farmers' Market 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 4

Mission West Open House 12:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Visit from Santa 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

JANUARY 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

JANUARY 17 - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY

City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

FEBRUARY 21 - PRESIDENTS' DAY

City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

LIBRARY EVENTS

DECEMBER 7

Library Children's Concert:
Vivaldi's "Four Seasons"

Library Community Room - 7:30 p.m.
Call (626) 403-7358 for more information.

JANUARY 22

Parents' Internet Class
10-11 a.m. - Children's Dept.
Pre-registration required.

Call (626) 403-7358 for more information.

FEBRUARY 16

Restoration Concert: Agus-Oriondo Duo
Library Community Room - 4 p.m.
Call (626) 799-6333 for more information.

Library Concert to Feature Vivaldi's Four Seasons

The Children's Department of the South Pasadena Public Library invites families to a free winter concert on December 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library Community Room. This special program, sponsored by the Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library, Inc., will feature Vivaldi's best known concerto, "The Four Seasons."

Violinist Paul Stein and pianist Ralph Alberstrom of the Chamber Music Express have performed children's concerts with the Music Center, in libraries, and in schools. Stein has also performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Philharmonic New Music, and the Denver Symphony.

For more information about this free family holiday event, please call the library: (626) 403-7358.



Crunch Time Party

The Tournament of Roses' Crunch Time Party will be held on Wednesday, December 29th, from 7-11 p.m. at the float location. Tickets are \$20. For more information, please log on to www.sptor.com.

Breakfast with Santa



are free. For more information please call (626) 403-7385.

The City of South Pasadena Community Services Department is hosting the first annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 18, at the War Memorial Building from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Kids will enjoy fun arts and crafts, festive entertainment and a memorable picture visit with Santa. Pre-register by December 15th at Orange Grove Park, 815 Mission Street, South Pasadena, Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10, kids under two years of age

Your Water Bill Has a New Look!

Keep an eye out for the new orange invoices. The new, redesigned orange water bills contain more detailed billing information plus an annual water-usage graph. For information, call the Utility Billing staff in the Finance Department at (626) 403-7259.

FARMERS' MARKET

Open 4-7 p.m.

December, January, February

Meet Santa Claus at the South Pasadena North Pole — Thursdays in December, 3:30-7:30 p.m., in front of Meridian Iron Works Museum at the Farmers' Market.

CITY COUNCIL

Mike Ten, *Mayor*

Odom Stamps, *Mayor Pro Tem*

Michael A. Cacciotti, *Councilmember*

David L. Margrave, *Councilmember*

David Saeta, *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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Scene Around Town

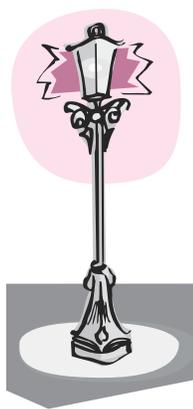
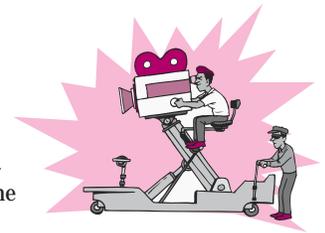
You may see film-company trucks and movie-production personnel about town. Perhaps you have wondered what's filming in South Pasadena and which stars are here?

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

- ★ Many commercials including: "GMC," "Nine Lives," ACE Hardware, "Domino's," "Wells Fargo," "Ikea," "Saturn," "Verizon," "U.S. Army," "Linens N' Things," "State Farm," and "Remax."
- ★ Some television shows including "Nip/Tuck"; the return of "Jack and Bobby," starring Christine Lahti; and "Cold Case."
- ★ The feature films including "Herbie," starring Lindsay Lohan; "Art School Confidential," starring John Malkovich; "XXX: State of the Union," starring Samuel L. Jackson; "Zathura," starring Tim Robbins; and "Sky High," starring Kurt Russell and Kelly Preston.

Would you like to host a film shoot? The City has a "Location Library" (a group of files with photos of local properties) that is free for all South Pasadena locations to join. Any property may be of interest since the companies are always looking for something different. A couple of recent examples of film-company requests include houses with large-scale rooms, Craftsman homes with lighter interiors and recently remodeled kitchens with light wainscoting.

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. A packet will be sent to you immediately explaining how it works.



Report Out-of-Order Streetlights!

Malfunctioning streetlights should be promptly reported to the Public Works Department at (626) 403-7370 in order to be quickly repaired. If the area is especially dark at night, the outage will also be reported to the Police Department so that they may provide additional police patrol until the light is repaired.

There are two separate street light systems — one owned by Southern California Edison Company and the other by the City. Edison street lights are mostly on wooden poles and often contain a pole number that ends in an "E." City street lights are on metal or concrete poles and most have no pole number.

Please provide the following information when you call:

- Name
- Phone number
- Location (provide an address or, if the light is at an intersection, identify which corner it is on; i.e. *northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest* corner)
- Pole number (usually on the pole at eye level)
- Specific problem (*out all the time, on all the time, cycling or intermittently*)

If the pole number ends in an "E," or is on a wooden pole, please call Southern California Edison Company, toll free, at (800) 655-4555; otherwise, please call the South Pasadena Public Works Department Service Facilities at (626) 403-7370.



SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

City of South Pasadena

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South Pasadena, CA 91030

PRESORTED STANDARD
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