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Pasadena Public Libraries: Just in Time for Back-to-School

FROM PRESCHOOL THROUGH YOUR GOLDEN YEARS THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW TO LEARN and Pasadena Public Library is proud to play a part!

A new homeschool collection will be unveiled Thursday, Sept. 16, at 3 p.m. at Hastings Branch Library, 3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd. This specialized pilot collection has 140 multiformat materials for check-out, including general homeschool guides, curriculum resources, educational DVDs, literacy kits and learning equipment such as a microscope, human body form, globe and more. Call 744-7262 for more information.



photo: Zack Stromberg

Children ages 5 to 12 can enjoy camaraderie and tales from the playground during La Pintoresca Branch Library's Back-to-School Fest Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 3:45 p.m. at 1355 N. Raymond Ave. Call 744-7268 for reservations.

Job seekers can learn new skills with three programs at La Pintoresca. Share job-search tips and support with other professionals from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fridays, Sept. 17 and 24 and Oct. 1 to 29; meet one-on-one with a career counselor from Women at Work from 10 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 14 and 21 and Oct. 5 to 19; or attend Job Prep 101 from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Sept. 28 and Oct. 26, to learn how to write a great resume, prepare a cover letter, answer job announcements and ace an interview. Call 744-7268 to reserve a seat.

Seasoned writers will learn new ways to make their prose pop Saturday, Sept. 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. at San Rafael Branch Library, 1240 Nithsdale Rd.

PUSD: Back in Session

Sept. 14 is the first day of school for Pasadena Unified School District students. During campus back-to-school nights Sept. 29 through Oct. 14, meet with teachers, counselors and other parents, and learn how PUSD helps prepare students for top colleges and a variety of careers. Visit www.pusd.us for dates and times of back-to-school nights at specific schools.

San Rafael Elementary School will continue to offer dual-immersion classes in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. Every middle school will offer a scholars program for advanced students, robotics classes are being expanded to middle grades, and college and career pathways programs offer exciting new learning opportunities for high school students.

The community will receive a comprehensive update, including impacts of state budget cuts, at the State of the Schools event Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 6 p.m. Watch it live on KLRN (channel 95 on Charter cable in Pasadena) and via streaming video at www.pusd.us.

For more information call 396-3606.

Etcetera . . . Etcetera

View artwork by adults with disabilities during two exhibitions: "The Illustrated Miracle Worker" depicting the life of Helen Keller from Sept. 25 to Oct. 25 at The Coffee Gallery, 2029 N. Lake Ave. in Altadena; and drawings representing the adventures of Pinocchio on Friday, Oct. 8, at Pasadena Central Library, 285 E. Walnut St., during ArtNight Pasadena. Call 744-7257 or e-mail jackiescott@cityofpasadena.net for more information.

Bring your pooch to Pasadena Humane Society's annual Waggle Walk around the Rose Bowl Loop Sunday, Sept. 26, 8 a.m. to noon. www.pasadenahumane.org or 792-7151, ext. 167 to register.

Villa Esperanza Services presents Tournament of Hope golf fund-raiser Monday, Sept. 27, with shamle format. 449-2919 or www.tournamentofhope.golfreg.com for pricing and more information.

On Wednesday, Oct. 6, take an indoor or outdoor photo of activities at your favorite Pasadena public library and upload it to www.cityofpasadena.net/library/picture_this. It could become part of an online exhibition celebrating this day in pictures! You may also upload your favorite recollection, past or present. 744-4207.

The 19th annual Craftsman Weekend sponsored by Pasadena Heritage is Oct. 15 to 17. www.pasadenaheritage.org or 441-6333 for ticket prices and more information.

Practice duck, cover and hold on, check your disaster supplies, review your family emergency plan and more during the Great California Shakeout Oct. 21. www.shakeout.org.

Use your friendly voice as a Holiday Hotline volunteer Dec. 29 through Jan. 4. With a little training you'll help callers learn where to park an RV, how to nab last-minute parade and game tickets, and more. Call 795-9311 before Nov. 21 to sign up for a shift.

Get a copy of your child's Pasadena birth certificate for sports league enrollment for \$17 from the Public Health Department, 1845 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 744-6010 or www.cityofpasadena.net/publichealth (click on Downloadable Forms).

Calling all kids: Enjoy puppet shows, stories and more Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr. 398-5420.

Register for Pasadena Local Emergency Alert System at www.cityofpasadena.net/fire/PLEAS for updates on wildfire danger, red flag parking restrictions and more.

Protect your recyclables by exchanging your current blue-lidded bin for a locking one at a cost of only \$2.68 on your regular refuse bills. The bins will be available in October on a first-come, first-served basis for this pilot program. 744-4087.

High-volume water customers – most with very large landscapes – who are eligible for Block 4 and 5 water-use credits may donate their rebates to the Pasadena Educational Foundation, which supports a variety of Pasadena Unified School District programs. If you are eligible, you will receive a special mailing in October with details about this opportunity, recently approved by the Pasadena City Council. 744-6970.

Note: All dates and times listed in Pasadena In Focus are as of the publication date. Call the numbers listed to confirm information. All phone numbers are in the (626) area code unless otherwise noted. All events are free unless otherwise noted.

Noticias En Breve

Biblioteca Pública de Pasadena: Justo a tiempo para el regreso a la escuela

Niños entre las edades de 5 a 12 años pueden disfrutar del compañerismo y los cuentos del playground durante el evento de regreso a la escuela el viernes 22 de septiembre a las 3:45 p.m. en la biblioteca la Pintoresca, 1355 N. Raymond Ave. Para reservaciones llame al 744-7268.

PUSD está de nuevo en sesión

El 14 de septiembre es el primer día de clases para el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pasadena. Los planteles educativos tendrán sus eventos de regreso a la escuela entre el del 29 de septiembre al 14 de octubre, reúnanse con los maestros, consejeros y otros padres y familiarícese como PUSD ayuda a preparar a los estudiantes para las mejores universidades en diferentes carreras. Visite la página de Internet www.pusd.us para saber la fecha y la hora de la noche de regreso a la escuela en su escuela en particular.

Para mayor información llame al 396-3606.

Sumérjase en el Arte y la Música

ArtNight Pasadena es el viernes 8 de octubre de 6-10 p.m. Este año es el doceavo año de ArtNight Pasadena,

Se continua adentro . . .

Pasadena: Big City or Small Town:



IN SUMMER AND FALL 2009, MORE THAN 3,000 PEOPLE HELPED

identify what they cherish about Pasadena and what they would like to see improved. This was known as phase one of the General Plan Land Use and Mobility Elements update, and all comments were organized into an Outreach Summary Report approved in May by the Pasadena City Council.

Now it's time for phase two, when we'll consider our options, make some tough decisions and create a city that reflects our community's diverse wishes.

Should Pasadena continue to grow into a more metropolitan city or should we slow down to maintain our small-town feel? Is there a healthy balance between the two?

State your opinion during one of two community workshops at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St.:

- Saturday, Sept. 25, at 9 a.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 30, at 6:30 p.m.

Each workshop will include a short presentation on some of the challenges facing Pasadena, such as housing affordability, the local economy, housing laws and climate change. Then breakout groups will discuss the existing guiding principles of the General Plan, pinpoint areas of the city that are fine just the way they are, and determine if, how and where any new growth should occur.

Input from the September workshops will be used to draft alternatives that address concerns identified in the Outreach Summary Report. In spring 2011, you'll be invited to another round of workshops to choose which alternatives will be included in the updated General Plan.

The Land Use and Mobility Elements make up the roadmap that helps guide Pasadena's future. To ensure the plan reflects all areas of our community, we need input from residents, property owners, business people, non-profit organizations – people of all backgrounds, ages and interests.

In addition to attending community meetings, stay involved by visiting www.cityofpasadena.net/generalplan where you can find more details on workshops, pore through documents and join an e-mail list. You may also call 744-6807.

Make your mark on Pasadena's future!



photo: Zack Stromberg

Immerse Yourself in Art and Music

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST, FREE ART, MUSIC AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL will be right outside your doorstep during Pasadena ArtWeekend.

The celebration will kick off Friday, Oct. 8, from 6 to 10 p.m. with ArtNight Pasadena. Now in its 12th year, this popular event provides free admission to the best cultural hot spots in the community, with free shuttles throughout the evening. Venues include Alliance de Française de Pasadena, Armory Center for the Arts, Art Center College of Design, Kidspace Children's Museum, Lineage Dance, Norton Simon Museum, One Colorado, Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena Central Library, Pasadena City College, Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena Museum of History, Pasadena Symphony and POPS at the Ambassador Auditorium, and Shumei Arts Council.

The Playhouse District will be transformed into an open-air marketplace for ArtWalk from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, with original paintings, photography, sculpture and new media. Little ones can take art classes and older children, teens and adults will enjoy dramatic readings, music, art demonstrations and a gallery walk.

Also on Oct. 9: The Latino Heritage Parade will wind its way to La Pintoresca Park at 11 a.m. for children's crafts, music, folklorico dancers and booths until 5 p.m.; shops along South Lake Avenue will host the Art of Food outdoor festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Paseo Colorado will present ArtRhythm, an outdoor concert from 5 to 9 p.m.

ArtWeekend concludes Sunday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with ArtPerformance, an international dance festival at Old Pasadena's Levitt Pavilion featuring amateur and professional dancers of all ages, plus on-the-spot dance lessons.

For more information visit www.pasadenaartweekend.com or call (800) 307-7977.



West Nile: Avoid the Bite

SUMMER IS WINDING DOWN BUT WEST NILE VIRUS SEASON IS JUST GETTING STARTED. The Pasadena Public Health Department warns that mosquitoes can thrive through October and are the only pests known to transmit West Nile Virus to humans.

While most people wouldn't have symptoms other than itchy mosquito bites, the virus can cause serious complications in young children and senior citizens.

West Nile Virus has been found in Los Angeles County, although no humans have become ill in California so far this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Even so, with the help of Pasadena Police Department helicopters, the Environmental Health Division of the Pasadena Public Health Department is monitoring our community for infected mosquitoes and checking abandoned and foreclosed homes with pools that could provide breeding grounds.

You can protect yourself – and your neighbors – by following these tips:

- Dump out water from planters, buckets, wading pools and bird baths
- Avoid using outdoor light bulbs that emit white light that may attract bugs
- Make sure your window screens are in good shape to keep mosquitoes out
- Avoid going outside at dawn and dusk – peak mosquito-bite hours. If you do go outside, consider wearing long pants and sleeves as well as insect repellent that contains DEET.

For more information call 744-6004 or visit www.cityofpasadena.net/westnilevirus.

este popular evento ofrece entrada gratis a los mejores lugares culturales de la comunidad con transportación gratis durante toda la noche. Los lugares incluyen la Alianza Francesa, el Centro Armory para las Artes en Pasadena, El Centro para las Artes del Colegio Comunitario de Diseño, el Museo de Kidspace para los niños, Baile de Linaje, el Museo Norton Simon, One Colorado, Museo Pacifico Asiático, Biblioteca Central de Pasadena, Colegio Universitario de la Ciudad de Pasadena, Museo de Pasadena de Arte de California, Museo de Historia de Pasadena, Sinfónica y POPS en el Auditorio Ambassador y el Consejo de Arte Shumei.

Para mayor información visite la página Web www.pasadenaartweekend.com o llame (800) 307-7977.

Su voto es su voz

Durante la próxima primavera, los votantes elegirán a los líderes de las escuelas y la ciudad. Las nominaciones se aceptarán a partir del 15 de noviembre hasta el 10 de diciembre para alcalde, concejal de la ciudad de los distritos 1,2,4 y 6 y de la junta de educación del distrito 2,4 y 6. El plazo para los nombramientos será prolongado al 15 de diciembre para los asientos donde el funcionario titular elige no buscar la reelección. Usted puede encontrar información más detallada en la página de Internet www.cityofpasadena.net/cityclerk/election, incluyendo las declaraciones de los candidatos y detalles sobre cualquier medida local que estará en la boleta electoral.

También usted puede inscribirse para trabajar en los puestos electorales u ofrecer su casa como un recinto electoral. Se necesitan voluntarios y recintos electorales para la elección consolidada de las primarias de la ciudad y PUSD del 8 de marzo de 2011 así como también para elección municipal (de desempate) del 19 de abril de 2011. Especialmente lo necesitamos si usted habla armenio, chino, japonés, coreano, español, tagalo o vietnamita. ¡ le pedimos su colaboración para que nos ayude a ofrecer un servicio importante para la comunidad!

Para mayor información llame al 744-4124.

Étcetera, etcétera...

Obtenga una copia de su certificado de nacimiento por \$ 17 del Departamento de Salud Pública 1845 N. Fair Oaks Ave., de lunes a jueves desde las 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. www.cityofpasadena.net/publichealth (haga un clic en Downloadable Forms) o 744-6010.

Inscríbese para el Sistema de Alerta de Emergencia Local de Pasadena en www.cityofpasadena.net/fire/PLEAS para información actualizada sobre el peligro de los incendios fuera de control, señales de alerta sobre las restricciones del estacionamiento y mucho más.

Un programa subvencionado por el estado ofrece seguro de autos para los conductores de bajos recursos de California. www.insurance.ca.gov/lowcost o (866) 602-8861.

Pre-Craftsman Beauties



photo: Kevin Johnson

AFTER NEARLY A YEAR OF WORK, THE CITY HAS COMPLETED A FASCINATING SURVEY and report on Pasadena homes built between 1883 and 1904.

As part of the city's historic preservation efforts, the Planning Department secured a federal grant last fall through the California Office of Historic Preservation to study late 19th and early 20th century architecture in Pasadena. Since then, the team has evaluated more than 870 homes.

The final report details architectural styles popular in that era, including the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, American Foursquare, Shingle and Eastlake styles, as well as simpler Folk Victorian houses and gable- and hipped-roofed cottages. The report also cites important architects, including Harry Ridgeway, Joseph Blick, George W. Stimson, John C. Austin, Frederick Roehrig, Seymour Locke, Charles W. Buchanan, Greene and Greene, and others.

Based on the findings, the team is nominating two Pasadena neighborhoods for the National Register of Historic Places – one between Cypress and Lincoln avenues (Lincoln Triangle) and West Villa Street, and the second along North Raymond and Summit avenues between Maple and Villa streets. Ten individual homes are also being nominated, including Hillmont at 1375 E. Mountain St., the Cosby House at 510 Locke Haven St. and the Hood House at 494 Ellis St. The team discovered 44 homes that may be eligible for the National Register and 38 that could be named city landmarks.

When the project is complete in October, all 870 homes will be added to the city's California Historical Resources Inventory Database at www.cityofpasadena.net/chrid, which lists all historic properties and districts in Pasadena, with related surveys, reports, forms and documents.

For more details and updates on the architectural survey, or to read the draft reports, visit www.cityofpasadena.net/planningcomments and scroll down to "Other Planning Efforts." You can also relay comments to the project manager at 744-7806, fax them to 396-7259, e-mail to kevinjohnson@cityofpasadena.net or mail to 175 N. Garfield Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101-1704.



Your Vote is Your Voice



NEXT SPRING, PASADENA

VOTERS WILL ELECT representatives for Mayor, City Council Districts 1, 2, 4 and 6, and Board of Education Seats 2, 4 and 6. The deadline for nominations is Nov. 15 and will be extended to Dec. 15

if any incumbent officials choose not to seek re-election. Detailed election information is available at www.cityofpasadena.net/cityclerk/election, or call (626) 744-4124. The web page will be updated as candidates file nomination papers or if local measures are placed on the ballot.

Poll workers and accessible polling sites are needed for the March 8, 2011, consolidated City and PUSD primary nominating election and the April 19, 2011 runoff election (if necessary). If you speak Armenian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog or Vietnamese, you are especially needed. Poll workers provide critical community service to the election process. Help your community by signing up today! (626) 744-4124.



photo: Zack Stromberg

Ground was broken recently for Reese's Retreat, a universally accessible playground that will be constructed at the south end of Brookside Park adjacent to the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center. The playground, which will have a nautical and pirate ship theme, was named by the Pasadena City Council in memory of Reese Thomas Elliott. Children with and without disabilities will enjoy a variety of sensory play experiences, including accessible features, ramps and platforms. This year is the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Plug in to Hot Tips on EVs



WHETHER YOU'RE IN THE MARKET FOR AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE OR JUST BROWSING, check out PWP's new webpage with home EV charging requirements. While most standard EVs allow you to charge with a typical 120-volt outlet, many owners of new EVs opt for a 240-volt charger upgrade offered by manufacturers and/or vendors for faster charging. If you don't already have a 240-volt outlet in your garage, you'll need to get a licensed electrician to install one, and in some cases you may need an electrical service upgrade from PWP. If you plan to stick with a 120-volt outlet, PWP has tips for avoiding a circuit overload. Visit www.cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower/ev for details.



A Cornucopia of Sustainable Gardening Programs

OCTOBER THROUGH EARLY NOVEMBER IS THE IDEAL TIME TO START A SUSTAINABLE GARDEN. The cool weather is perfect for working outdoors, and new or pruned plants get a head-start on spring by soaking up rain from winter storms. Three free workshops are being offered as well as new rebates on turf replacement and rainwater catchment systems to help you create the garden of your dreams.

- The first workshop – Saturday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Salvation Army Pasadena Tabernacle, 960 E. Walnut St. – titled "The Not-So-Secret Garden" will emphasize sustainable, moderate- to low-water species plus turf replacement with water-smart grasses and groundcover. You'll learn the principles of pruning, watering and nourishing a variety of plants, shrubs and trees as a local horticulturist reveals secrets for maintaining a healthy garden that will mystify even the greenest of green thumbs!
- If you've had the pleasure of road-tripping around California, you've seen the wide variety of colors, textures, shapes and scents that grace the Golden State's landscape. For the second workshop, native-plant expert Lili Singer will show you how to create a stunning souvenir of California's natural beauty in your own yard at "Native Nights: The Pleasures of Going Native" Thursday, Oct. 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Donald R. Wright Auditorium at Pasadena Central Library, 285 E. Walnut St. Low-water, low-maintenance, year-round color, butterflies and birdsong await you!
- The coming rainy season will give your sprinklers and water bills a break, but you can reap the benefits of winter even more by harvesting roof and pavement runoff with a rainwater catchment system, for which PWP will soon offer rebates. Learn about the many types of systems available, some of which you can make yourself before winter rains begin, at the third workshop: "Introduction to Rainwater Harvesting" Sunday, Oct. 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Santa Monica Airport, 3223 Donald Douglas Loop S. This day-long demonstration workshop is presented by the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association and co-sponsored by PWP and the cities of Santa Monica and Los Angeles. Register for any or all of the workshops above at www.cityofpasadena.net/savewater.



PWP has partnered with the Metropolitan Water District to offer turf-removal incentives for Pasadena homeowners. Lawns typically use 50 percent more water than other plants. You can receive \$1 for every square foot (up to \$2,500) of water-thirsty grass you replace with water-wise groundcover or a water-permeable surface such as mulch, gravel or interlocking pavers. To qualify, you must replace at least 250 square feet, reserve a rebate online, and schedule a pre- and post-inspection. Fall is the best time to replace turf, so submit your plans and reserve your rebate soon. Program information is available at www.cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower/turfremoval.



Sprinkler Reminder

PASADENA IS STILL IN A LEVEL 1 WATER SHORTAGE. On Oct. 1 remember to switch your sprinklers to just one day per week – Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday – before 9 a.m. and/or after 6 p.m. One day a week during cooler seasons is enough to keep your garden green and healthy. If rain is forecast, remember to turn off your sprinklers.



Shiny New Solar Rebate for Income-qualified Customers



PASADENA HAS BIG GOALS FOR USING GREEN POWER. It's going to take everyone leaning green to keep our ship steering toward a sustainable course. The Pasadena Solar Initiative invites "all aboard" with a new, higher solar rebate for income-qualified customers. New and existing multifamily affordable housing complexes where 80 percent of the units are reserved for very-low-income residents whose household income is at or below 50 percent of the county median are eligible. The solar PV system must be connected to these units, as well as to common areas like hallways, recreation rooms, laundry rooms, patios and parking areas. Individual low-income homeowners may also be eligible.

If you qualify for the program, PWP offers 63¢ per kilowatt hour of metered output, paid in five annual payments, for systems of 1 to 1,000 kilowatts. If your system does not exceed 30 kilowatts, you can choose the upfront rebate of \$4 per watt installed. Learn more at www.cityofpasadena.net/solar.