117 E. Colorado Blvd. P.O. Box 7115 Pasadena CA 91109-7215

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rdman@cityofpasadena.net (626) 744-4755 City web site: www.cityofpasadena.net Chris Holden, Steve Haderlein, Victor Gordo, Steve Madison, Sid Tyle

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PASADENA

NOVEMBER 2008

Protecting Our Urban Forest

ORE THAN 60,000 TREES LINE PASADENA'S STREETS, beautifying our community, keeping us cool, attracting wildlife and freshening the air. And that's just city-owned trees! Thousands more, including Pasadena natives, rare specimens and age-old landmarks, can be found in yards across the city.

Pasadena's Tree Protection Ordinance, created in 2002, has helped save hundreds of special trees that might otherwise have been removed and has led to extensive planting of replacement trees.

Six years later, it's time for an update. The city is now seeking public input on ideas to improve the ordinance, especially

changing the regulations for removal of protected trees on private property. The Design Commission and Urban Forestry Advisory Committee kicked off the conversation with a public workshop last month that involved other city commissions and committees. Future meetings will focus on specifics.



The team is hoping to gather input from throughout the community, including homeowners, developers, arborists, architects, neighborhood associations and community groups. To get involved, visit

www.cityofpasadena.net/treeprotection for updated meeting notices, progress reports and background research, plus an online form where you can post your comments and suggestions (www.cityofpasadena.net/planningcomments).

You can also call 744-4342, fax to 396-7759 or email your comments to estadnicki@cityofpasadena.net.

Beauty and Traffic Flow on Arroyo **Parkway**

Motorists are finding their

own little oasis along Arroyo Parkway thanks to the recent installation of more than 200 date palms. The 20-foot beauties were recently planted along medians and parkways as part of the 1.25-mile $streets cape\ enhancement$ project to welcome visitors

Gabriel mountains at the parkway's southern entrance near the Pasadena 110 Freeway, the palms can grow to 65 feet and were chosen for their "super canopy," unique

and bring in new shops and

tenants. Framing the San

bark and durability. The improvements between Colorado Boulevard and Glenarm Street also include decorative crosswalks, landscaped

medians and dramatic lighting

for the palms. Not all of the enhancements are cosmetic. The project also included modified medians for longer left-turn lanes and wider through-traffic lanes, rubberized asphalt for a smoother and quieter drive, and new sidewalks for pedestrian safety.

For more information on the Arroyo Parkway project, call the Public Works Department at 744-4191.

Etcetera ... Etcetera

- ♥ Celebrate Arlington Garden (Arlington Drive at Pasadena Avenue) with refreshments and walking tours Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to noon. Yoko Ono's "Wish Trees" will be planted; volunteers and donors will be honored.
- ₹ Learn how to download digital books and music to your PC or portable device during a free workshop Saturday, Nov. 15, 10:30 a.m. at Allendale Branch Library 1130 S. Marengo Ave. 744-7260.
- A free concert by Occidental-Caltech Symphony Orchestra featuring Berlioz, Chopin and Moussorgsky kicks off the 2008-2009 season Sunday, Nov. 16, 3:30 p.m. at Caltech's Ramo Auditorium. 395-4652
- ✓ Are you ready for the Pasadena Marathon on Sunday, Nov. 16? www.pasadenamarathon.org to register, volunteer, learn about street closures, parking restrictions and more, 797-7238
- ♥ Submit your favorite family recipe for "One City, One Cookbook" to benefit local charities. Pick up an entry form at any Pasadena Public Library this month. 744-4066.

- **№ Walk around the 3.3-mile Rose** Bowl Loop with Pasadena's vice mayor, Tournament of Roses president, Rose Queen and her court Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7:45 a.m. Meet at Gate A at the stadium. 831-2980 or www.upandmoving.org.
- ♥ Celebrate the season with $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{holiday refreshments} and live \\ \end{tabular}$ entertainment at the annual tree-lighting ceremony at Pasadena City Hall Thursday, Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m. 744-4755.
- Tour the historic Castle Green, 99 S. Raymond Ave., all decked out for the holidays Sunday, Dec. 7, 1 to 5 p.m., rain or shine. \$20; children 12 and under free. www.castlegreen.com or 577-6765.
- See an exhibition of posters by Art Center College of Design students at Pasadena Central Library, 285 E. Walnut St.. depicting many of the articles in the United Nations Universal **Declaration of Human Rights** throughout December and the first week in January. 744-4066
- ♥ City Hall is known for its $\textbf{majestic beauty} \ \text{as well as}$ friendly volunteers in the information booth. Join this helpful team by calling 744-4748.

- ✓ La Casita del Arroyo, owned by the City of Pasadena and celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, was designed by Myron Hunt and built in 1933 at 177 S. Arroyo Blvd. To reserve it for a wedding, family reunion, meeting
 - ♥ Volunteer to sit on a city commission, committee or board. Download an application at www.cityofpasadena.net/ commissions or call 744-4222

or other event, call 744-7275.

- ₹ The city's MASH (Maintenance Assistance and Services to Homeowners) program provides window repairs, house painting, rodent proofing, yard cleanup, wheelchair ramps, general maintenance and more. It's free to qualified seniors and residents with disabilities; MASH+ is available to all homeowners for a reasonable fee. 744-7627 for more information, estimates and job
- 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

Noticias En Breve

Prepárese para la Estación

Justo a tiempo para los días de fiesta, el programa MASH (Asistencia en el Mantenimiento y Servicios a Propietarios de Casa) puede ayudarle a limpiar y terminar pequeñas reparaciones adentro y afuera del hogar.

MASH proporciona reparaciones seguras y asequibles para ventanas, escaleras y canaletas; pintura de la casa; a prueba de roedores; limpieza de jardines; instalación de cerrojos, rampas para sillas de ruedas, pasamanos y barras para sostenerse; y trabajos excepcionales generales de mantenimiento.

El programa también proporciona capacitación laboral para residentes locales, estimulándolos hacia trabajos a tiempo completo.

Los servicios de MASH son gratuitos para personas mayores que cumplen con los requisitos y residentes con discapacidades; MASH+ es un nuevo servicio disponible para todos los propietarios de casa por una tarifa razonable.

Para un estimado gratis o más información, llame al 744-7627.

Save Gas: Ride Metro

WHETHER YOU'RE GOING TO WORK, SIGHTSEEING or out for a night on the town, Metro Gold Line gets you there quickly, making a dozen stops in Pasadena, South Pasadena, Highland Park, Chinatown and L.A.'s Union Station – all for \$1.25 or less one way. Reduced fares are available for students, seniors and riders with disabilities. Imagine no traffic snarls, no gas guzzling, no worries!



Parking is a breeze now that 160 free spaces are available at Metro's Fillmore Street garage, 682 S. Raymond Ave. Another 950 free spaces are available at Metro's Sierra Madre Villa garage, 149 N. Halstead Ave. (Show proof of ridership to park free.) About 100 spots are available at Metro's Lake Avenue garage, 393 N. Lake Ave., for \$28 a month. Call (800) 997-0197 for information.

You can also take your pick of two city-owned parking structures that are steps away from Metro Gold Line stations. The Memorial Park garage at 150 E. Holly St. offers 340 spots for \$6 a day or \$70 a month; the Del Mar Boulevard garage, with entrances at 198 S. Raymond Ave. and 207 S. Arroyo Parkway, offers 400 spaces for just \$2 a day. Call 744-7665 for more information.

For maps, timetables, transfers and other handy Metro Gold Line tips, visit www.metro.net or call (800) 266-6883.



Do You Need a Zoning Permit?

TO MAINTAIN PROPERTY VALUES AND BEAUTIFUL STREETSCAPES, the city of Pasadena requires zoning permits for fencing, retaining walls up to four feet high, driveways and paving, detached sheds up to 120 square feet, window awnings, and canopy tents for parking and other uses, and other additions.

If you're planning a project, stop by the Pasadena Permit Center, 175 N. Garfield Ave. Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon or call 744-6777 to find out if your project needs a Zoning Permit. The fee is \$17 for single-family homes and \$34 for all other properties.

Bring a written description and dimensions of your project; a site plan with property lines, your home and garage, setbacks and your proposed project; elevation drawings of your project with the height and design; photos of the proposed location; and information about nearby trees that might be affected (location, species, trunk width and setback). If the application package has all of the required information and meets the code, the permit may be issued during your visit although fences and retaining wall permits require a week for review. For more information call 744-6777 or visit www.cityofpasadena.net/planning.

Drop, Cover and Hold On!

FIRST COMES THE FAMILIAR RUMBLE, then the unsettling jolts and finally the violent shaking. We have been fortunate that there has not been a major earthquake with substantial damage since the

Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) predicts that a magnitude 7.8 earthquake on the southern San Andreas Fault is likely in our lifetime and could cause massive destruction to the greater Los Angeles area.

The Great Southern California ShakeOut (www.shakeout.org) is one opportunity to practice your earthquake survival skills. These kinds of drills train us to act quickly – to "Drop, Cover and Hold On" immediately to minimize injury. The Pasadena Fire Department continually spreads the word to Pasadena residents, neighborhoods, schools, the faith community, businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout the community, and emergency crews review preparedness plans to make sure they're as complete as possible.

Here are the steps you should take whenever you train for an earthquake:

- 1. Drop to the ground, take Cover under a table or desk, and Hold On to it as if a magnitude 7.8 earthquake were happening. Stay down for at least 60 seconds. Practice now so you can protect yourself immediately during a real earthquake.
- While still under the table or desk, look around and imagine what would happen in a major earthquake when shaking may last for one to two minutes. What would fall on you or others? What would be damaged? What would life be like in the immediate moments after? What will you do before the actual earthquake happens to reduce losses and recover quickly?
- 3. Practice what you will do after the shaking stops.
- 4. Complete your disaster plan and emergency preparedness kit as soon as possible. For vital tips, a video and to sign up for Pasadena Emergency Response Team (PERT) training, visit www.cityofpasadena.net/disaster or call 744-7276.

Protect Yourself Properly

A local newspaper as well as several email chains have described a "Triangle of Life" position to be taken during major earthquakes, under the assumption that most Americans will have their homes and workplaces collapse around them.

Don't believe it! The fact is that there is no research to suggest that the "Triangle of Life" position works. However, it has been proven time and time again, during documented scientific research, that the Drop, Cover and Hold On technique is the best method for survival in the U.S.

If you're not near a desk or table, drop to the floor against an inside wall and protect your head and neck with your arms. Do not go outside and do not go under a doorway! If you're in bed, stay there and hold on, protecting your head with a pillow. In a multistory building, do not be surprised if sprinkler systems or fire alarms activate. If you're outdoors when an earthquake strikes, move to a clear area if you can do so safely. Stay away from power lines, trees, signs, buildings, vehicles and other hazards.

Quick Tip for a Greener, More Sustainable Pasadena

What you can do:

When renovating your home or property, salvage or recycle as many of the building materials as possible because they consume a huge amount of natural resources and take up valuable landfill space; however, much of it can be reused.

How we can help:

Pasadena's Construction and Demolition Ordinance adopted in 2002 requires that at least 50 percent of debris be diverted from landfill for certain additions, improvements and new structures. It's easier than you think! Get started by downloading the forms and recycling resources at www.cityofpasadena.net, click on Department of Public Work's recycling program or call 744-4721. Visit www.cityofpasadena.net/greencity and click on Green Events for future meetings.

Se continua adentro . . .

se continua . . .

Tómese un Feriado de las Restricciones de Estacionamiento.

Todos descansan en el parquímetro en nueve feriados cuando los oficiales que hacen cumplir las restricciones de estacionamiento tienen su día libre. Los parquímetros son gratis durante los siguientes feriados:

- Día de año nuevo
- Día de Martin Luther King, Jr.
- · Día del Presidente
- Día festivo en los Estados Unidos en honor a los americanos caídos en la guerra
- Cuatro de Julio
- Día del Trabajo
- Día en honor a los que han servido en las fuerzas armadas
- Día de Gracias
- Navidad

Las restricciones de estacionamiento durante la noche están completamente en vigencia durante muchos de estos feriados, ¡asegúrese que usted y sus invitados tienen sus permisos en su lugar! Sin embargo, el estacionamiento durante la noche es permitido sin permiso desde el 19 de diciembre al 2 de enero para acomodar a los invitados que llegan de otras ciudades.

Para más información llamen al 744-6470.

Conozca a Quien Viene a Leer su Medidor

Recientemente los ladrones se han hecho pasar por los empleados que vienen a leer los medidores de servicios públicos en Los Ángeles y Glendale. Así es como puede ver la diferencia entre un técnico de Pasadena Water & Power y un impostor.

- El personal de PWP siempre usa una identificación visible con foto con el logo de la Ciudad de Pasadena y número de empleado, y tienen el número de teléfono de su supervisor a la mano.
- Siempre busque afuera el vehículo oficial de la ciudad. Los empleados de PWP nunca usan vehículos personales para hacer sus llamadas de servicio.
- El personal de PWP que lee los parquímetros y la calidad de agua por lo general no tiene que entrar a su hogar a menos que su medidor este localizado en el área del porche de servicio o que usted haya solicitado específicamente una inspección interior.

Si tiene alguna pregunta acerca de cualquier miembro del personal de PWP, llame al 744-4409 durante horas normales de trabajo, o al 744-4472 los fines de semana.

Ceremonia de la Iluminación del Árbol

Celebre la estación con refrescos y entretenimiento en vivo en la ceremonia anual de la iluminación del árbol en la Municipalidad de Pasadena, el jueves 4 de diciembre a las 5:30 pm. 744-4755.



Pasadena's General Plan: We Want to Hear from You!

INFLUENCE PASADENA'S FUTURE WITH A FEW CLICKS OF YOUR MOUSE. The Planning and Development Department is working with the community to update two of the seven main elements of Pasadena's General Plan.

The Housing Element projects Pasadena's housing needs, analyzes current resources, and sets policies and programs that promote quality housing for all Pasadenans; the Open Space and Conservation Element sets goals and priorities for preserving public access to Pasadena's open space and conserving energy, water, trees and other natural resources.

The Mobility Element and Land Use elements of the General Plan will be updated in the near future.

To review and comment on the draft documents, visit www.cityofpasadena.net/planningcomments or call 744-4009. We welcome your opinions!



Help Shape Neighborhood Design Guidelines

Take a look at the first draft of updates to Pasadena's design guidelines for neighborhood commercial areas and multifamily residential districts. Comments are encouraged during a meeting of the Design Commission on Monday, Nov. 24, at 6 p.m. at Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St.

We want to hear from you! If you can't make it to the meeting, watch for the draft guidelines at www.cityofpasadena.net/guidelines, where you'll view maps of affected areas, browse through important documents, and submit your comments and suggestions.

You can also email kevinjohnson@cityofpasadena.net, call 744-7806 or mail comments to Pasadena Planning and Development Department, 175 N. Garfield Avenue, Pasadena CA 91101-1704

A final draft will be unveiled to the community next month and the guidelines will be presented for final approval from the city council in January.



Take a Holiday from Parking Restrictions

More than 1,200 parking meters in Pasadena's busiest business/shopping districts help ensure that you'll get a convenient spot when you need one. The meters are enforced in Old Pasadena and the West Gateway area seven days a week, and Monday through Saturday near the Civic Center and on South Lake Avenue. (Read nearby signs and the meters themselves for specific operating hours.)

Everybody gets a break on nine meter holidays when parking enforcement officers are off-duty. Park free on the following holidays:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Fourth of JulyLabor Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas

Overnight parking restrictions are in full effect during many of these holidays, so be sure you and your guests have your permits in place! However, overnight parking is allowed without a permit from 2 a.m. Dec. 20 to 6 a.m. Jan. 2 to accommodate guests.

Call 744-6470 for more information.



Your Vote is Your Voice!

DURING THE MARCH 10, 2009, CONSOLIDATED CITY OF PASADENA and Pasadena Unified School District election, voters will choose representatives for City Council Districts 3, 5 and 7, and Board of Education Seats 1, 3, 5 and 7. If necessary, a runoff election will be scheduled on April 21.

You may participate if you're registered to vote. You must be at least 18 years old by the date of the election and a United States citizen. You should re-register if you have moved and/or changed your name.

Registration information and forms are available at www.sos.ca.gov/elections or pick up a registration form from the City Clerk's Office at Pasadena City Hall, 100 N. Garfield Ave., Room S228.

If you would like to run for City Council or Board of Education this spring, complete and file nominating papers with the City Clerk's Office from Nov. 17 to Dec. 12.

For complete election details including nomination procedures, visit www.cityofpasadena.net/cityclerk/election or call 744-4124.

PASADENA Water&Power

Prepare for the Big One!

EARTHQUAKES OF ANY MAGNITUDE, NEAR PASADENA OR FAR, can interrupt your power and water supply. Here are some tips to help you prepare:

- Communication supplies: Keep a battery-operated radio (and plenty of spare batteries), a
 hand-crank charger for your cell phone, and a traditional corded phone since cordless
 phones won't work without electricity.
- Emergency water supply: Store at least one gallon of water per person in a cool dark place, and prepare for a minimum of three days. Strap your water heater to wall studs to protect it from damage; it may be your best source of drinkable water after an earthquake. If the city issues a "Boil Water Notice," boil tap water at a rolling boil for at least five minutes, or treat each gallon with eight drops of unscented liquid chlorine bleach.
- Protect from surges and circuit overloads: Install a surge protector to prevent damage to
 computers and other equipment, and back up important files regularly. During an outage,
 unplug computers, monitors etc. to protect them from surges, and unplug major appliances
 to avoid overloading circuits.
- Learn more at www.cityofpasadena.net (click on Emergency Preparedness).



New Characters Liven Up Water Ads

YOU ALREADY KNOW LANA AND LARRY AND DAVE. Now meet Busted Sprinkler Bruno, Tap-On Tina and Light Load Loretta. These new characters from PWP's "Usual Suspects" campaign are prime examples of what Pasadena can't afford to tolerate: conspicuous, careless water waste.

Our community continues to face extreme challenges to the water supply due to ongoing restrictions on water imports to our region, multiple years of drought and the fact that we technically live in a desert climate. As a matter of principle, we must remain vigilant about eliminating water waste wherever it occurs and find every opportunity to conserve our most vital natural resource.



Fix broken sprinklers immediately. Cut your irrigation schedule to two days a week during cooler months and no more than three days a week during warm months. Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes. Turn off the tap when brushing or shaving.

Find more tips and valuable rebates on water-saving fixtures and irrigation equipment at www.cityofpasadena.net/savewater.



Know Your Meter Reader

RECENT INCIDENTS OF BURGLARS POSING AS METER READERS in Los Angeles and Glendale prompts us to remind all of our customers about PWP's inspection protocol and procedures. Here's how to tell the difference between a PWP employee and an imposter:

- PWP personnel will always wear a visible picture ID, with the city seal and an employee number, and have their supervisor's phone number on hand.
- Always look for a city vehicle outside. PWP employees never use personal vehicles to make service calls.
- Our meter readers and water quality staff generally don't need to go inside your home, unless your meter is located in a service porch area or you've specifically requested an interior inspection.

If you have a question about any PWP personnel, call 744-4409 during normal business hours, or 744-4472 or 744-4673 on weekends.

If you suspect that someone is impersonating a city employee with the intent to commit burglary, call the Pasadena Police Department at 744-4241.



"Money Down" No Longer Sky High

BEGINNING IN 2009, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE A 30 PERCENT TAX CREDIT on all solar installations for the next eight years. This legislation marks an impressive increase over the previous capped rate of \$2,000 per residence. PWP customers receive even more savings with rebates through the Pasadena Solar Initiative: up to \$3.50 per watt.

To maximize your savings, submit your application by Dec. 19, 2008. PWP will lock in your rebate at the 2008 rate for installations completed in 2009 and will pick up the check for your permits, too! For most home installations, the potential savings is more than \$15,000.

Going solar continues to be an outstanding financial and environmental investment in the long run. You should see your electric bill decrease immediately, and imagine the satisfaction you'll get from generating your own power (and savings) for decades to come!

Register for the next free "Going Solar" workshop or start the application process today at www.cityofpasadena.net/solar.



Notify Your Neighbors When You Install Solar



California Senate Bill 1399, which went into effect on July 22, 2008, requires property owners to notify their neighbors via certified mail prior to installing solar panels. This new law also exempts certain trees and shrubs from the Solar Shade Control Act, which states that no shadow shall cast on a solar panel between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Exceptions include trees and shrubs planted prior to a solar installation; replacements for those pre-existing trees and shrubs subsequently removed for the protection of public health, safety or the environment;

and trees and shrubs subject to Pasadena's Tree Protection Ordinance.

Visit www.cityofpasadena.net/solar for more information.

Visit www.cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower or call the PWP AnswerLine at 744-6970