

# Director's Monthly Report

Human Services & Recreation Department



April 2013

Welcome to the newly formatted monthly Director's Report from the Human Services and Recreation Department. Here you will find updates on all our major programs and projects currently underway. Please also note *Commission Happenings* to stay current on the monthly activities of our various Commissions and check out the important dates such as the fundraiser for the Villa-Parke Boxing and Fitness Center on April 20, 2013, under "Save the Date." You will also see a summary of action taken following the approval of the School/City Work Plan. Most important, see the update on the new **Spring Recreation Guide** which outlines all the Activities, Classes and Special events as well as provides registration information for our many exciting summer offerings. Finally remember to check out our Department website at [www.cityofpasadena.net/humanservices](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/humanservices) to see all of the great programs and events coming up. Let us know what you think of the new format at [lfowler@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:lfowler@cityofpasadena.net). Stay healthy, active and engage in community life!



## Human Services and Recreation Projects and Programs

### School/City Work Plan 2012-2013

Since the approval of the School/City Work Plan on February 19, the increased level of collaboration

between the City, School District and community partners has produced results including: responding rapidly to jointly assist the families impacted by the Worcester fire; training in facilitation for further development of Result Work Team planning process; arranging for UCLA researcher to do Early Developmental Instrument (EDI) for PUSD kindergarten student that will serve as baseline data for the Work Plan; and collaborative proposal development for priority initiatives. These include maintaining the services of the district's Healthy Start Family Centers, improving STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education during and after school, parent engagement, and professional development for early childhood staff. A major next step will be training community facilitators so they will be ready to help bring together the over 140 city, school and community stakeholders who signed up to be part of Result Work Teams together to further develop strategies and outcome measurements starting in May 2013. For more information about the Work Plan or the Result Work Teams please email Lisa Fowler at [lfowler@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:lfowler@cityofpasadena.net) by April 8, 2013 with your name, name of organization, title and contact information. To learn more about the Work Plan, please visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/humanservices](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/humanservices).

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a population measure of how young children are developing in communities in the United States. It is helpful not only in describing how children are developing, but also in predicting health, education, and social outcomes. EDI data are a key component of Transforming Early Childhood Community Systems (TECCS), which is a partnership between UCLA and United Way Worldwide to guide local community efforts to help children reach school healthy and ready to succeed. Will Nicholas, Co-Director, National Children's Study--Los Angeles/Ventura Study Center, UCLA Center for Healthier Children Families and Communities will be guiding the effort in Pasadena.

#### **2013 Policy on Children, Youth and Families**

On March 13th, 2013, the Human Services Commission voted unanimously to approve the 2012-2013 Update on the Children, Youth, and Families Policy. The update highlighted key issues identified by the original Policy and reported current data surrounding those issue areas. The strategies for action outlined by the Policy will become measurable objectives within the 2013-2016 School/City Work Plan. In April, the Update will be forwarded to the City Council and Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education for approval and adoption. For more information about the Policy Update please visit the Human Services and Recreation website at [www.cityofpasadenana.net/HumanServices](http://www.cityofpasadenana.net/HumanServices).

#### **The Rose Program**

The selection of participants in the 2013 Summer ROSE Program (Realizing Opportunities through Summer Employment) is well underway. Applications were available at Muir, Blair, Pasadena and Marshall High Schools as well as all the Recreation Community Centers and the Teen Education Center. Youth ages 16 to 21, which have turned in their applications and required documents by April 1, 2013, will have an opportunity to compete for one of 195 available positions. Qualified applicants will be required to participate in an interview the week of April 15.

The Summer ROSE Program is designed to provide youth with valuable, first-time employment experience. Approximately 195 individuals will work a total of 160 hours at a pay rate of \$8.00 per hour. Participants will be placed in various City departments for seven weeks from July 1 through August 16, 2013. Students will also participate in a paid six-week work training program conducted by Ideal Youth, a local non-profit organization specializing in developing youth for the work place, that focuses on communication, employment training, budgeting/finance and inter-personal relationships. For more information, please contact Rozanne Adanto at (626) 744-6522. For more information about the City of Pasadena please visit [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net).

#### **Commission Happenings** **Needs Assessment Ad Hoc Committee**

The members of the Needs Assessment Ad Hoc Committee are working on selecting and submitting

the issue areas from the 2012 Human Services & Housing Needs Assessment that their respective commissions have decided as focus areas and to develop indicators. The next steps are to refine the issue areas and identify indicators for those issues that will be measurable and succinct. Committee members are invited to attend a meeting either April 1, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. or Monday April 8, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held at Robinson Park and will provide everyone with an opportunity to work together, review data and create the necessary indicators for the issue areas that were selected. Afterward staff will be providing technical assistance remotely to move the project along, with the goal of having a final meeting at the end of April, 2013, that will prepare each commission to present the indicators in May, 2013.

#### **Accessibility and Disability Commission**

Disability rights advocates throughout the country are forming a Celebration Committee to promote awareness of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 2015. The Accessibility and Disability Commission is planning a local celebration in the City of Pasadena. The group is one of several committees of The Legacy Project, which aims to preserve the history of the disability rights movement; celebrate disability rights legislation, and encourage continuing process for inclusion, access, and equal rights. The Celebration Committee will develop a traveling presentation program to raise awareness of disability history; plan an ADA anniversary celebration in Washington, DC; and distribute a Tool Kit of materials to local disability rights advocates to assist them develop celebration activities for 2015.

#### **Pasadena Youth Council**

The Pasadena Youth Council will be presenting their Work Plan at a joint meeting with the Human Services Commission at City Hall-Grand Conference Room, on Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Pasadena Youth Council will be hosting a “*Youth Networking Event*,” during the month of May focusing on bullying. Invitees will include local middle school, high school and Pasadena youth agencies. For more information contact Maricela Galvez at [mgalvez@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mgalvez@cityofpasadena.net)

### **Monthly Projects, Events and Programs**

#### **New Staff Member on Board to Oversee Neighborhood Connections**

The Human Services and Recreation Department welcomes William Syms as the new Program Coordinator for the Neighborhood Connections Program located at the Jackie Robinson Community Center. Over 300 candidates initially applied for the position. The recruitment process also included a community and internal interview panel review.

As Program Coordinator, Mr. Syms will oversee the day-to-day operations of Neighborhood Connections, assist with organizing the Pasadena Neighborhood Leadership Institute, and review and restructure the weekly e-newsletter sent to all City neighborhood associations. He will also be a part of the Jackie Robinson Community Center’s management team. Mr. Syms brings extensive knowledge of the Pasadena community as well as attended local schools in the Pasadena area. He also earned his Master’s Degree in Public Administration from California State University at Northridge. After receiving the offer of employment, Mr. Syms remarked, “I am elated to join the City of Pasadena family and I can’t ask for a better team to be a member of”.

Mr. Syms comes to us with a wealth of professional knowledge and experience having worked for Congressman Adam Schiff, the National Office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Amnesty International. We are very happy Mr. Syms is joining our team and look forward to the new ideas he will bring to the Department.

For more information about Mr. Syms or Neighborhood Connections, please contact him at

[wsyms@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:wsyms@cityofpasadena.net) or 626-744-7295.

### **Villa-Park Boxing and Fitness Center Fundraising Event**

On Saturday, April 20, 2013, The Villa-Parke Community Center will host the Knock Out Committee's Kick Off Fundraiser for the new Villa-Parke Boxing Ring and Fitness Center. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. and includes a VIP Reception, Dinner & Awards Program, Celebrity Boxing Exhibition and Entertainment with Dancing. Featured boxers will include 'Sugar' Shane Mosley, Ricky 'Showtime' Quiles and Zack 'Attack' Padilla. The Capital campaign will raise funds to expand the boxing ring and fitness facility. The expansion of the facility will support a robust Boxing Program which includes partnering with national and international boxing organizations to host regional competitions. Individual ticket prices start at \$200 and opportunities for greater sponsorships and advertising also are available. Villa-Parke Community Center is located at 363 East Villa Street in Pasadena. For more information contact Rozanne Adanto at 626-744-6522.

### **Villa-Parke Community Container Garden Project**

The Villa-Parke Community Container Garden has been in the planning phase for months and is about to be launched. The project will include an art tile project, gardening classes, community information sessions, nutrition classes and a container garden to be located on the second floor of the Center and in the Head Start play yard.

The Center is partnering with First 5 LA, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and Children's Garden Collaborative to secure funding for this project. Funding would be used to procure garden tools, equipment, and make site improvements. In addition, a Master Gardener will be hired to provide instruction to farmers and conduct gardening classes to the community at large. Included in the educational component are healthy cooking classes with fresh ingredients.

Villa-Parke staff successfully secured a "seed" grant in the amount of \$500 from Scott's Miracle Grow Company to initiate the program. It is anticipated that all the garden plots as well as the remaining funding will be secured by late spring so that the project can begin.

For more information about the Villa-Parke Community Container Garden Project please contact Bill Davis at [bdavis@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:bdavis@cityofpasadena.net).

### **Pricing Strategy and Cost Recovery Plan**

At its meeting of March 12, 2013, the Recreation & Parks Commission approved a six-month report regarding the recreation program pricing plan that was implemented in March 2012. Department staff also advised the Commission that new recreation program fees and a revised youth scholarship program would be brought forth for consideration at the Commission's April 2, 2013 regular meeting. If newly proposed fees and revised youth scholarship program are approved by the Commission, the Commission's recommendation, along with the approved six-month pricing plan report, will be forwarded to the City Council's Finance Committee at its meeting on April 8, 2013 and subsequently to the City Council for consideration.

### **After School Adventures Program Parent Letter**

Click [here](#) to open the letter with addresses new fees for the program, curriculum enhancements, and changes to *Passport to Fun Youth Scholarship Program* for 2013 - 2014

## Capital Improvement Program Project at Robinson Park Recreation Center

### Robinson Park Phase II Capital Project

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Robinson Center design is nearly complete. The City's Housing Department will provide the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) documents to be included in the RFP. The FRP will be routed and advertised during the next 30 days. Public Works staff is working with the City's Department of Information Services (DoIT) on the project website to be linked with both the Public Works and Human Services and Recreation Departments home pages. The Robinson Park Steering Committee has been re-convened and incoming Councilmember John Kennedy, who services District 3, has been provided documents related to the project and the Robinson Master Plan.

### Save the Date!

- Please calendar the date of Friday, April 5, 2013, for the Annual Pasadena Senior Conference. This free event offers a wide variety of services and products geared toward the needs of our senior population. The Senior Conference is very popular and always filled to capacity. It will again be held at the First Church of the Nazarene on Sierra Madre Boulevard in Pasadena. Reservations are now being accepted by calling 877-926-8300 or e-mailing [www.aarp.event.com/2013pcoa](http://www.aarp.event.com/2013pcoa).
- On Saturday, April 6, 2013, the La Pintoresca Teen Education Center is hosting Job Fair and Training for Teens. The event takes place between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Staff from the La Pintoresca Branch Library will also be on hand to assist with the training. About 100 teens are expected to attend.
- Attention all parents of children entering kindergarten this Fall! On Saturday, April 20, 2013, from 9 a.m. – Noon there will be Kindergarten Registration and a Fair. The event will take place in the Rose City Great Room located at the corner of Oak Knoll Avenue and Del Mar Boulevard in Pasadena. Families can also learn about how to prepare their child for kindergarten, what pre-kindergarten summer programs are being offered by the Pasadena Educational Foundation and other groups, and more about PUSD's state recognized transitional kindergarten program. For more information call 626-396-3600, ext. 88340.
- April 20, 2013 is the date for the Villa Parke Boxing and Fitness Center Capital Campaign kickoff event. The festivities begin at 6:30 and include dinner, a boxing exhibition, entertainment and dancing.

### City-wide Recreation

#### Spring 2013 Recreation Program Guide

Celebrate the arrival of Spring with the new Spring 2013 Recreation Program Guide which features our Villa-Parke Boxing Program on the cover. A variety of new programs and classes are now being offered for seniors, adults, youth and toddlers.

Activities include the newly added "Active JumpStart Exercise Program" and "Belly Dance for Beginners". New parents might want to consider "Mommy and Me Stroller Exercise Class." For the sports minded adult, consider joining the High Speed Kickball Program, which is growing in popularity in Pasadena and also offers an opportunity for social interaction. Creative minds might want to consider a new course entitled "Fashion on the Fly: Learning to Staple Drape" in order to create patterns for clothing without expensive tools or training. "Creative Expressions" is another class designed to provide different opportunities for youth to explore creativity, increase self-expression and increase problem solving skills. Young residents might want to consider taking "Samba of Carnival", out of Rio de Janeiro, which is an energetic dance and great fun.

In addition to new classes, details about upcoming summer camps and aquatic programs are provided. A Spring Camp will also be offered during the week (March 25 – March 29) that Pasadena Unified School District is on spring break.

The Brochure is currently on line at [www.cityofpasadena.net/humanservices](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/humanservices). In addition to the online version, hard copies of the brochure are available at all of the Community Centers, all Library Branches, The Pasadena Senior Center, City Hall and the Parks and Natural Resources Division of Public Works, located at 233 West Mountain Street in Pasadena. To request that a hardcopy brochure be mailed to their home, residents can call (626) 744-7500 or email [kjames@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:kjames@cityofpasadena.net). For additional information about classes and programs offered in the brochure, contact Kenny James at (626) 744-7590. For more information about the City of Pasadena visit [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net).

### **Get Fit Pasadena**

Register in April for Get Fit Pasadena! Villa-Parke Community Center is offering a new 10-week exercise program this spring from April 22 to June 6, 2013. This program is designed to improve aerobic fitness, strength and flexibility. Get Fit Pasadena is a co-ed program geared toward adults, 18 to 69 years of age, who are committed to becoming more active and improving their health. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration is now open at the Villa-Parke front desk or online at [www.cityofpasadena.net/reserve](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/reserve). The program cost for Pasadena residents is only \$20.00 for the 10-week session and \$40.00 for non-residents. Villa-Parke Community Center is located at 363 East Villa Street, Pasadena, CA. Please contact Bill Davis at (626) 744-6523 or [bdavis@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:bdavis@cityofpasadena.net) for additional information.

## **Community Partners**

### **Flintridge Center Donates Resource Center Collection to La Pintaresca Branch Library**

Members of the public along with Pasadena Public Library Director Jan Sanders and Branch Manager Diane Walker and Flintridge Center's President Jaylene Moseley and Director of Evaluation Lisa Wilson gathered to celebrate the opening of the new Nonprofit Resource Center at La Pintaresca Branch Library. This special collection was created by Flintridge in 1993 and maintained at its offices through 2012 as a free resource library to support the work of local nonprofit organizations. The holdings include extensive reference and circulating materials on fundraising and nonprofit management. Flintridge Center has donated the special collection to the Pasadena Public Library with the intent to focus exclusively on providing critical services to reduce community violence and programs for at-risk youth. Special guests included District 1 Councilmember Jacque Robinson, City of Pasadena Housing Director Bill Huang, Lieutenant Tom Delgado and other representatives from the Pasadena Police Department.

### **Pasadena Senior Center Social Services**

#### **Pain Management**

**Thursday, April 11 at Noon**

**Presented by Arc Motion Rehabilitation Medicine Clinic**

Acute pain lasts a short period of time, and rarely does it become chronic. On the other hand, chronic pain persists for extended periods, can have a profound impact on one's life, is resistant to many medical treatments, and can cause severe health problems. Join us to learn about pain

management and treatment options.

A box lunch will be served to the first 50 individuals with confirmed reservations. Make your reservation by calling (626) 795-4331.

### **Sense of Medicare**

**Thursday, April 18 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Presented by CareMore**

Did you know that every day this year 10,000 baby boomers become eligible for Medicare? If you're one of them—or even if you already have Medicare—you may find it isn't always easy to understand the program and your options. Join us to educate yourself on Medicare and how best to gain the medical services you need.

### **AARP Driver Safety Course**

**Saturdays April 20 and 27 from 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Cars have changed as have traffic rules, driving conditions and the roads you travel every day. Learn how you can manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. After completion of the two day course, you might also gain an insurance discount so ask you agent. Registration is required by calling (626) 795-4331.

### **Health Fair**

**3rd Friday of each month from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

Glucose screenings are provided (two-hour fasting is required). Other services available include blood pressure and hearing screenings, massage, and a variety of health vendors to provide information and services. For more information, call (626) 685-6732.

### **Pasadena Water and Power Discount**

Discounts on Pasadena Water and Power bills are available to low and moderate income seniors age 50 and older by application at the Pasadena Senior Center. Applications can be completed on site with identification, proof of income, and a current Pasadena Water and Power bill.

