

Director's Monthly Report

Human Services & Recreation Department



May 2013

Greetings everyone. During May 2013, we are going to focus on our logo of *Parks Make Life Better* by demonstrating how quality leisure and recreational activities in the parks improve and enrich the lives of everyone. We continue to partner with Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) by promoting quality public education as central to a thriving and healthy community. We are starting our facilitator training for the School/City Work Plan, which was approved by the Pasadena City Council and Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education on February 19, 2013. We are also planning to take the Policy Update on Children Youth and Families to City Council for approval. We are holding our Annual Joint Human Services Commission and Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting on May 7, 2013, to review a number of ongoing projects and special programs presented by a panel of City staff members including the School/City Work Plan, School/City Joint Construction Projects, activities at the Community Centers and the Department Business Plan. May is also a great time to sign up for one of the various summer programs available to all ages, but particularly for the youth who are looking for exciting and fulfilling activities during the summer. Please take advantage of these great program offerings. As always, we welcome feedback, so let us know how we are doing at msantoro@cityofpasadena.net.



Human Services and Recreation Projects and Programs

School/City Work Plan 2012-2013

Work continues at a rapid pace with the School/City Work Plan. Community and school advocates are set to participate in facilitator training on May 20 & 21, 2013, to be conducted by Pam Ellis and Peggy Edwards, who have designed and facilitated planning sessions and trained facilitators for

communities, businesses and non-profits. Once trained, these facilitators will help convene work teams for the seven results areas of the School/City Work Plan, and using a consistent and coordinated process, develop recommendations for the broader community for implementation of the Work Plan, including governance structure, system-wide approach to service delivery, and development of common measurements and methods for monitoring progress. In the meantime, PUSD and City staff are now regularly meeting to see how they can work even more collaboratively and align resources. Key focus areas have been after school programs, health and nutrition, STEAM (science, technology, engineering and math), parent engagement, and early childhood education. Since the beginning of April, the City, PUSD and the Pasadena Educational Foundation (PEF) have submitted four collaborative grant applications that address Work Plan priorities as well as presented proposals for the California School Boards Association. Representatives from the City, PUSD and PEF will be attending the Linked Learning Intermediary Network Convening May 1-3, 2013, to learn how institutions of education, workforce and the business community can advance education and workforce development initiatives.

It is a pleasure to announce that on May 8, 2013, the feature length version of *Go Public: a Day in the Life of an American School District* will be screened during a community celebration at the Arclight Theaters at Pasadena's Paseo Colorado, exactly one year from the date when 50 film crews chronicled a single day in the lives of students, teachers, parents, volunteers and officials as they experienced the triumphs and struggles of a typical school day in the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD). Learn about the project, see all 50 short films and order tickets at www.gopublicproject.org. Although tickets for the movie itself are nearly sold out, there will be pre-screening celebration at 6:00 p.m. in the Garfield Plaza at Paseo Colorado.

2013 Policy on Children, Youth and Families

On March 13th, 2013, the Human Services Commission voted unanimously to approve the 2012-2013 Policy on Children, Youth, and Families Update. The Update highlighted key issues identified by the 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. The Update will now go to City Council and the 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.cityofpasadena.net/HumanServices.

The Rose Program Update

The City of Pasadena, Human Services and Recreation Department will once again conduct the Summer Rose Program- *Realizing Opportunities through Summer Employment*. This Program is designed to provide Pasadena youth and young adults, ages 14 to 21 years, the opportunity to gain valuable job skills during the summer months. Applicants must live in the City of Pasadena with low to moderate household income levels. 400 candidates have been interviewed for 190 positions.

Staff is working with other Departments to seek potential work sites in Pasadena where the Rose Workers can be assigned for a period of (6) six weeks from Monday, July 1, 2013 through Friday, August 9, 2013. These work sites will be responsible for scheduling and training the youth as well as providing mentoring. Work areas include placement in an office or clerical setting, youth summer day camps, public works and maintenance, and other outdoor environments.

In addition to the on-site job training employees will also receive an additional (8) eight hours of paid training to include personal finance, employment skill development, work maturity training and inter-personal skill development. For more Program information, please contact Stephanie Carter at www.scarter@cityofpasadena.net or 626-744-6544.

Neighborhood Community Workers Program

A program which takes place at Jackie Robinson Community Center and focuses on outreach and rehabilitation for former gang members is proud to announce that four of their participants are gainfully employed. They made a choice to seek employment while receiving a series of Life Skills Trainings that included a fantastic full makeover provided by their character development facilitators. Congratulations to the participants and a big thank you to all of the training facilitators.

Commission Happenings

Needs Assessment Ad Hoc Committee

The members of the Needs Assessment Ad Hoc Committee have been engaged in a collaborative effort to address some of the needs identified from the 2012 Human Services, Recreation & Housing Needs Assessment. Each of the respective Commissions has decided on a number of focus areas and is working to develop indicators, strategies for action, and identify necessary resources to help them reach their community goals. In conjunction with the Human Services and Recreation Department, the Needs Assessment Ad Hoc Committee will help foster a continuum of development along the specific issues that were identified and aim to incorporate strategies into current and future work plans. Currently the project is still in the development process, with committee members working to submit indicators and strategies. Staff is providing additional assistance so that each commission will be able to present the indicators in May, 2013.

Accessibility & Disability Commission

The Accessibility & Disability Commission welcomes 4 new Council appointed members: Eugene Brooks (District 3), Judy Post (District 4), John Orr (District 6), and Jennipha-Laurén Nielsen (At-Large). The purpose of this important Commission is to assist Pasadena in making programs and facilities within the City more accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities. A wide variety of services are available to both children and elderly who have disabilities and our 4 new members bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Commission.

Pasadena Human Relations Commission

The City of Pasadena Human Relations Commission presented their Annual Awards Ceremony and Reception in the Donald Wright Auditorium of Pasadena Central Library on May 1, 2013. The recipients of the Harry Sheldon Memorial Awards were as follows: Mr. Robin Salzer of Robins BBQ Restaurant and Mr. Randy Ertll, Executive Director of El Centro De Accion Social. The recipient of this quarter Models of Unity Award was Mr. Khatchik Chahinian, Chairman of the Armenian Community Coalition. Ms. Kimberly Knudson, teacher at Wilson Middle School, was the recipient of the Dr. Raymond J. Pitts Award for promoting Human Relations in education. This year's winners of the 20th Annual High School Essay Contest titled "What Can I do to Improve Human Relations in Pasadena?" were introduced and presented awards from the Human Relations Commission: Reid Isaac Sun - 1st Place from Marshall High (\$500); Bennett Pearson – 2nd Place from Blair High (\$300) and Jose A. Lopez – 3rd Place from Marshall High (\$200). The winners read their essays for the audience in attendance.

Human Services and Recreation and Parks Commissions

The Human Services Commission and the Recreation and Parks Commission will hold their annual Joint Meeting on May 7, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Yards. This year's agenda will feature a panel of City staff who will present updates on a variety of Department programs and projects including the School/City Work Plan, Capital Projects, Neighborhood Connections, Programs at the various Community Centers and the Department Business Plan.

Monthly Projects, Events and Programs

Summer Farmer's Market returns to Playhouse District

The Pasadena Certified Farmer's Market is happy to announce the return of the Summer Market, which will open in the Playhouse District beginning Wednesday, April 17, 2013, and continue through October 30, 2013. This year's location is 535 East Union Street (between Madison and Oakland Avenues, next to the Fuller Seminary Garden). Come and enjoy fresh California fruits and vegetables, honey, fish, eggs, and more. New items this season will be kettle corn and Kimchi, a Korean variety of pickled vegetables with cabbage. Hours of operation will be 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and will take advantage of the longer daylight hours.

The Pasadena Certified Farmer's Market supports programs in the Human Services and Recreation Department. For more information contact Kenny James at 626-744-7500 or kjames@cityofpasadena.net.

VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program at Villa-Parke

Villa Parke Community Center staff members along with the assistance of six volunteers recently completed the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program for 2012 returns. Low income residents received free tax preparation services from February 1 to April 15, 2013. The following is a breakdown of the program results:

Returns Prepared

Number of Tax Returns Prepared	501
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Tax Credits Received

Child Tax Credit (CTC)	\$141,712
Additional CTC	\$112,550
Earned Income Credit (EIC)	\$251,498
Education Credit	\$ 8,471

Total Refunds	\$581,072
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Other Information

Average Refund	\$ 1,550
Average Earned Income Credit	\$ 1,677
Average Filer Income	\$ 18,334

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program has been offered at the Villa-Parke Community Center for the last 12 years and provides a valuable service to both residents and the Community at-large. The value to the Community is new revenue in the amount of \$581,072 which can potentially be reinvested by consumers in Pasadena. For more information contact Rozanne Adanto at 626-744-6522.

Villa-Parke Community Container Garden Project

The Villa-Parke Community Container Garden Project 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 Project. 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.

May Calendar of Events for the Department and the Teen Center

Click [here](#) to open the monthly calendar of events for the Department. Click [here](#) to open the calendar for the La Pintoresca Teen Education Center.

Capital Improvement Program Project at Muir High School Field

Muir High School Field Project Update

The improvements to the Muir High School Soccer Field were first presented at the Joint City Council/Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board Meeting: February 19, 2013. On March 12, 2013, the Project received unanimous support from the Recreation and Parks Commission. There was a community meeting for input at Muir High School on the evening of March 13, 2013. This Project was presented and discussed at the Pasadena Unified School District Facilities Subcommittee Meeting on March 19 and April 2, 2013. At the Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee Meeting on March 26, 2013, the Project was supported. However, it was recommended that further public outreach be done. On April 9, 2013, the Project received unanimous support with recommendations by the PUSD Board of Education.

To date, approximately 80 correspondences offering support for the Project have been received by City staff. The draft proposal is under staff review and will be submitted to the State in June, 2013. The Project is included in the FY2014 City Capital Improvement Program Budget with \$200,000 proposed funding for design and environmental review.

Save the Date!

- Please calendar the date of Friday, May 10, 2013, for McKinley Gym Groundbreaking Event at 9:30 a.m. in the construction area near the corner of El Molino and Del Mar. Support PUSD's and the City's efforts to work collaboratively to offer more recreation opportunities to the community. For more information contact Adam Wolfson at 626-396-3606 or wolfson.adam@pusd.us.
- On Saturday, May 11, 2013, Reese's Retreat Play Date will take place at Brookside Park from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This event is intended for everyone, with or without disabilities. The theme of this year's event is "A Pirate's Life for Me." For more information contact Jackie Scott at 626-744-7500 or Jscott@cityofpasadena.net.
- One of the great annual Department events will again take place on May 25, 2013. The Family Fun Day will return to La Pintoresca Park from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. Come out and enjoy a multitude of activities and learn more about the City's services. For more information contact Rozanne Adanto at 626-744-6522 or radanto@cityofpasadena.net.
- Pasadena will again be treated to a Football Clinic hosted by the University of Michigan. This event will take place on May 30, 2013, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Robinson Park Multipurpose Field. For more information please contact Kenny James at 626-744-7509 or kjames@cityofpasadena.net.

City-wide Recreation

Summer 2013 Recreation Program Guide

Summer Is Just Around The Corner. What Do You Want To Do Today?

You are invited to check out a variety of specialized camps, aquatics programs and other offerings for all ages by visiting our online site www.cityofpasadena.net/reserve, chock full of recreation activities, sports programs, enrichment classes and services. Summer camps are being offered at all Community & Recreation Centers and various park locations during the summer months. There are more toddler and youth classes, teen enrichment programs, adult sports, leisure activities and senior offerings than ever before. Special events designed to treat your whole family will also be held. The hard-copy version of the Summer Recreation Brochure, which also outlines the program details and fees, will be available at the end of the month at all community centers and library branches, or call Victory Park Center at 626-744-7500 to request a copy. The summer brochure will be on line the last week of May, 2013. 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.

Adaptive Recreation Special Event

On Saturday, May 11, 2013, the City of Pasadena Adaptive Recreation Program and Ability First, a local service provider, will be sponsoring a free play date at Reese's Retreat Universally Accessible Playground located at Brookside Park, 360 North Arroyo Boulevard (behind the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center) from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The theme of this year's play date is "A Pirate's Life for Me." According to Mercy Santoro, Director Human Services and Recreation, activities will include arts and crafts conducted by the Armory Center, outdoor play activities, play and participation on the playground equipment, healthy snacks and an information table for all parents and guardians. All families and children are welcomed and encouraged to attend and children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information on Adaptive Recreation Programs, please contact either Jackie Scott, Adaptive Recreation Specialist, at 626-755-7257 or jackiescott@cityofpasadena.net or Delia Valenzuela, Program Supervisor at Ability First, at 626-768-7026 or dvalenzuela@abilityfirst.org.

Community Partners

Flintridge Center Highlights

On April 11, 2013, Flintridge Center hosted *Insights*, a community conversation about the Apprenticeship Preparation Program (job training for the hard to employ and underemployed in our community) which was moderated by Dr. Eric Walsh of the City of Pasadena's Public Health Department. Panelists included Ibrahim Naeem from Pasadena City College's Community Education Center, Flintridge Center's Director of Community Organizing, Brian Biery, and several graduates of the Program. Special guests included District 3 Councilmember Joel Bryant, District 1 Councilmember Masuda's field representative Noreen Sullivan and City of Pasadena's Chief Information Officer Phillip Leclair.

Also in April, Flintridge Center's Youth of Promise Mentorship Program, in collaboration with Pasadena Unified School District, particularly Washington Middle School, as well as the Pasadena Police and Fire Departments, introduced a *Mentee of the Month* program to recognize participants in the Program who have shown the greatest improvement in a number of areas including grades, attendance, attitude and behavior. April's mentor of the month was Pasadena Police Department's Commander Chris Russ and his mentee, Rogelio Campos. Congratulations to both!

Pasadena Senior Center Social Services

Pasadena Senior Games

May 24 – June 30

Competitive Sporting Events for Men and Women Age 50 or over are just around the corner at the Pasadena Senior Games. For approximately six weeks, the 2013 Games offer 28 different sporting events for men and women age 50 and older ranging from Archery to Basketball to Swimming to Track and Field. For more information, please visit www.pasadenaseniorsenior.org and click on "Senior Games." Or contact Cynthia Rosedale at 626-685-6724 or CynthiaR@pasadenaseniorcenter.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Senior Olympics Department is looking for volunteers to work in a variety of capacities both before and during the Games in June. The success of the Games depends, in large part, upon the diligent efforts of our volunteer corps. If you are interested, please contact the following Volunteer Coordinators:



Clerical and Special Events

M.M. Rozell – 62-685-6754

On-Site at Sporting Events

Dionne Tate – dionnetate@lvcovmail.com