Director's Monthly Report

Human Services & Recreation Department



August 2013

Message from the Director ~

Human Services and Recreation Department Opens its First Community Garden at Villa-Parke

The City of Pasadena Human Services and Recreation Department is very proud of the Community Garden at Villa-Parke that will be introduced to the community this month. Villa-Parke Community Center was competitively selected to be the recipient of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Los Angeles County Children and Families First 5 LA grant, totaling \$350,000, for the purpose of constructing a community garden at the Villa-Parke Community Center. The City is working with the Pasadena Community Gardens Foundation who has committed \$20,000 in private funds toward the project over the next 5 years. Please see the article featured in the *Star News* on July 30, 2013, for more details:

Larry Wilson: Digging in with the Pasadena Community Gardens Foundation

Construction is expected to commence in August, 2013, with completion by October 11, 2013. The Villa-Parke Community Garden aligns with one of the major indicators in the School/City Workplan, which increases outside of school learning opportunities as well as the 2012 Quality of Life Index. This project emphasizes the City's commitment to healthy eating. Come out and support the efforts of all farmers. Villa-Parke is located at 363 East Villa Street in Pasadena. The fall 2013 Recreation Guide will feature physical fitness activities for persons of all ages, workshops, and healthy recipes. Have a great month in August and visit the parks!

We hope you all have a fun summer with family and friends. Please enjoy the activities and energy captured in Pasadena's 2013 Parks Make Life Better Public Service Announcement. To view the PSA, chick here.

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Human Services and Recreation Projects and Programs

Update on School/City/Community Work Plan

Superintendent Jon Gundry and City Manager Michael Beck are strongly supportive of the School/City/Community Work Plan, including its facilitated planning process, and will be stating this commitment as well as their priorities at an **All Result Teams kickoff meeting scheduled for**

August 29, 2013, from 4:30 to 7:00 pm in the Cafeteria of Pasadena High School. The plan is for these statements to be followed by a large group session facilitated by Brian Biery and Pat Bowie. Drafts of the facilitation design for both the large group meeting as well as the program design developed for the individual Results Teams are attached here.

Showdown in the Desert Boxing Tournament

During the week of July 8 through July 13, 2013, six members of the Villa-Parke Community Center Boxing Club competed at the Desert Boxing Showdown World Championships in Indio, CA. Participating in the tournament were over 800 competitors from 20 different states and international representatives from Tahiti, Japan, and Canada. The following Pasadena community members competed in their respective weight classes:

- Fatima Martinez, (Washington Middle School), category 13-14 years, 178 lbs. Champion
- Christian Camarena, (Pasadena High School.) category 17-18 years, 141 lbs.
 Quarter Finals
- David Mijares, (Pasadena High School) category 17-18 years, 141 lbs.
 2nd Place Silver Medal
- Tamara Espinet, category 19-40 years of age, 119 lbs. Champion
- Brandon Newberry, 19 40 years of age, 141 lbs. Quarter Finals
- Louis Davis, 19 40 years of age, 200 lbs. Champion

Four of the competitors were able to reach the finals with three boxers coming home with Championship belts. Mercy Santoro, Director of Human Services and Recreation, also wanted to acknowledge Fausto De La Torre, Boxing Coach at Villa-Parke, for his outstanding work and leadership with these young boxers.

Participation in tournaments such as the Desert Showdown is essential for amateur boxers in their growth and development while building a solid foundation for their boxing career. Competition not only builds confidence and strong character, but it teaches important life lessons about how to win and lose.

For more information, please contact Bill Davis at bdavis@cityofpasadena.net.

World Wide Wave to Spacecraft Cassini

"Wave at Saturn," an event pushed by Cassini's education and public outreach team, took off via social media Friday as Cassini pointed a lens toward Earth just before 2:30 p.m. The space shutter snapped Earth's, and our, photos while simultaneously utilizing the rare opportunity to image Saturn and its rings. Villa-Parke's Enrichment Day Camp participants were able to be part of this special event. Please click here for a photo. Click here to view photo.

Linked Learning Update and Retreat

The School/City/Community Work Plan team is holding a retreat on August 26, 2013, to discuss the alignment of Linked Learning, Youth Internships and Employment Opportunities and the goals outlined in the 2012 Economic Development Strategy. Linked Learning connects academic work with real world work experience and better prepares students for future careers. The purpose of this meeting is to gather those who are involved in developing a group of community advocates with a link to improving work-based opportunities and community engagement in Pasadena. The timing is important for community leaders to develop this now because there are potential funding sources and grant opportunities available in this calendar year for implementation that will require a coalition of community organizations to ensure that students are actively involved in learning and the community. www.cityofpasadenana.net/humanservices.

After School Adventures Program Update

The Human Services and Recreation Department is excited that the After School Adventures Program's (ASAP) kick-off will be on **Wednesday**, **August 14**th, **2013**, for the 2013-14 School Year. ASAP provides affordable, flexible and convenient after school child care for students from Kindergarten through age 14.

ASAP will be at the following Pasadena Unified School District sites in 2013-14:

- Jefferson School
- Madison School
- San Rafael School
- Willard School
- Jackson School
- Longfellow School
- Webster School
- Don Benito School
- Field School
- Hamilton School
- McKinley School

For \$25 per week, students will be well-supervised, experience exciting and fun activities, express themselves through art, music and drama, socialize and meet new friends, have homework assistance, build their self-confidence through positive play and sports, learn the benefits of healthy eating and an active lifestyle, and feel a part of the ASAP family and Pasadena Community.

Online registration is available by visiting http://www.cityofpasadena.net/reserve. Walk-in registration is also available at all the Recreation Centers. Financial assistance is provided for qualifying families and scholarship applications are available as well. For more information, please call Charlene Porter at (626) 744-7330.

Partnership with Pacific Oaks for Fall 2013

Human Services and Recreation staff prepare to head back to College as we enter into a second year of partnership with Pacific Oaks College. Our program staff are earning additional units in Child Development to strengthen their professional skills. This additional education is particularly important to the After School Adventures Program staff, whose Site Coordinators are required to have 12 units in Child Development. Since the beginning of this partnership in 2012, 12 staff members have grown professionally and the improvements in day to day planning and curriculum development have been immediate. Students are very excited about returning on September 3, 2013, for the final year. We expect a total of 15 students. Emphasis for this semester's learning will focus on anti-bias curriculum and dealing with the impacts of bullying. Staff has already completed a child growth and development class as well as gained experience working in a diverse community.

Ellie Kaucher, Acting Dean of the College states: "On behalf of Pacific Oaks' leadership and community, we are humbled and honored for the opportunity to partner with the City of Pasadena to promote quality early education and care for the families and children in our community. Pacific Oaks is a partnership-based institution and strives to build reciprocal partnerships with agencies and organizations that share the same mission and goals. We are grateful for the continuing partnership with the City of Pasadena and for this worthwhile initiative led by the Pasadena City with the leadership of Mercy Santoro."

Fall/Winter Brochure

Fall 2013 / Winter 2014 will be out mid-August 2013, with postcards sent to all Pasadena households mid-month advertising the brochure. Hard copies of the Brochure will be available at any of the Community Centers, the Information Booth at City Hall, the counter of the Human Services and Recreation Administrative offices, the Pasadena Public Library branches and the Pasadena Senior Center. Of note this fall is the fabulous Fall Festival on October 31, 2013 at Victory Park, which will feature a costume contest, game booths, special events, entertainment and food for sale. This event promises to be fun for the whole family. The brochure will also outline the details about the Winter Camp which will run from December 23, 2013, through January 3, 2014, with the exception of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Featured on the cover of the brochure will be our new community garden at Villa-Parke.

Commission Happenings

Pasadena Youth Council

Pasadena Youth Council (PYC) is currently accepting applications for the 2013-2014 school year. PYC is hoping to replace 5-members that have graduated high school this year along with increasing its current membership of 23 to 30 members. **On August 5, 2013**, the City council will consider increasing the Youth Council Membership from 20 youth to 30. This advisory body reports to the Human Services Commission. For more information contact Maricela Galvez at (626) 744-7304 or Mgalvez@cityofpasadena.net.

Pasadena Human Relations Commission

The Human Relations Commission is actively involved in the Vision 20/20 Initiative and regularly participates in Core Team and Planning Committee meetings. The Vision 20/20 Pasadena-Altadena Community Violence Intervention-Prevention Institute and Network is holding training for its CLASS 9 at Flintridge Center. The Human Relations Commission Staff facilitates the 9 week/36 hour Training held each Friday. The dates for the current session are June 7, 2013 – August 9, 2013. Graduation will take place on **August 16, 2013.** There have been 8 graduating classes with 106 graduates to date.

For more information about the series or the Human Relations Commission, please contact Sonya Amos at (626) 744-4234 or samos@cityofpasadena.net.

All Commission Chair and Vice Chair Meeting to be Scheduled

Staff is working with Commission Liaisons to find a September date for the All Commission Chair and Vice Chair meeting. This meeting will feature upcoming Commission Workplans for 2013/2014 and refine the issue areas selected by each commission as a result of the 2011 Needs Assessment. We will let you know as soon as a date and location have been finalized.

Monthly Projects, Events and Programs

Hair Cut Day at Robinson Park

Michael Bryant Free Hair Cut Day Event will be held on Sunday, August 11, 2013, at Robinson Park, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Avenue from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The event is designed for Pasadena school-age youth. Boys will receive a free haircut and girls

will receive a free hairstyle or haircut. Young attendees will receive a free backpack that will include school supplies. The first 300 attendees will receive wrist bands to ensure one of the free backpacks. Attendees are encouraged to come early to take part in the back to school back pack giveaway.

This event is a tribute to Mr. Michael Bryant who was a barber in Pasadena. Mr. Bryant graciously gave his time to provide free haircuts to children in the Northwest Pasadena community in his barber shop. Upon his untimely death, the community requested that the tradition continue.

Mercy Santoro, Department Director, echoed the sentiment of Robinson Park staff by encouraging everyone to come out and enjoy free food, community and celebrate the annual return to school for our children and youth. This event is co-sponsored by the Pasadena Police Department and the Northwest Commission.

For more information and/or to become a sponsor, please contact Charlene Porter at (626) 744-7330 or cporter@cityofpasadena.net. For more information about the Human Services and Recreation Department please visit www.cityofpasadena.net/humanservices.

Youth Month

The Human Services and Recreation Department is partnering once again to support Youth Month, along with Day One, Side Street Projects and the Northwest Commission during the month of August. This year, Neighborhood Connections under the leadership of William Syms will play a key role in helping to engage our young people. Youth Month 2013 features two weeks of programing focused on raising community awareness about issues young people face every day. The schedule includes an urban beach party where participants can enjoy a manmade beach at Side Street Projects as well as other cool art installations. In addition to the beach party kick off there is a gospel brunch, game day, bike in move, music festival, service day and more. Events will be held at Day One, the Armory Center for the Arts and Side Street Projects. This collaboration was born out of the organizing group's desire to work with Neighborhood Associations around the area to increase multi-generational dialogue and build a stronger community.

Loop Assistive Listening Systems at Jackie Robinson Community Center

Human Services and Recreation will soon install the City's first assistive listening systems that uses inductive loop technology. Assistive listening helps people with impaired hearing to hear better at City meetings and events. Since the mid-1990s, the City has had systems based on FM-radio technology installed in several facilities plus several portable systems that can be used where needed. Developments with hearing aids in recent years have begun to make systems based on inductive loop technology increasingly popular. Low-cost additions to the City's FM-radio based systems will render them accessible to people who prefer loop technology. The new systems in City facilities should be loop systems which are also accessible for people who prefer FM-radio technology. Human Services and Recreation will install loop systems at four locations at Jackie Robinson Community Center: the multipurpose room, the lobby television lounge, conference room 200, and the main reception counter. Installation will be completed by mid-August at a cost of approximately \$9,000. Working with the City to implement this system has been a major Workplan item for the Commission on Accessibility and Disability. They will continue to explore placement of the loop assistive listening systems at other City facilities.

August Calendar of Events for the Department and the Teen Center

Click <u>here</u> to open the monthly calendar of events for the Department. Click <u>here</u> to open the calendar for the La Pintoresca Teen Education Center.

Capital Improvement Program

Robinson Park Construction Project Update

Staff reviewed the 17 proposals received from architectural firms in response to the City's Request for Proposals. The staff team evaluated the proposals and selected 4 of the most qualified proposers to participate in interviews, which will include two members of the Robinson Park Steering Committee. The staff team includes two members from the Public Works Department, one from the Human Services and Recreation Department and one from the City Manager's Office. A recommendation on the contract award for architectural services is expected to be presented to the City Council in September and the design phase will begin in early October, 2013. During the month of August, City staff plan to host an evening BBQ at Robinson Park Recreation Center to introduce the project and ensure everyone is invited to participate in the planning process. Planning meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Jackie Robinson Center from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and the public is welcome to attend the meetings. Lola Osborne, Manager Northwest Programs, is the contact for this project. She can be reached at losborne@cityofpasadena.net (626) 744-4791.

For additional information please visit http://cityofpasadena.net/PublicWorks/Robinson Park Community Center/

Save the Date!

- ➤ Pasadena Neighborhood Leadership Institute is accepting applications for a free ten week interactive training program designed to empower emerging locally based leaders. The application deadline is **August 5**, **2013**.
- Michael Bryant Free Hair Cut Day at Robinson Park August 11, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Positive Coaching Alliance Training August 20, 2013, 4:30 to 6:30 at Robinson Park
- Pasadena Idol at Paseo Plaza, Garfield Promenade, August 24, 2013 beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Citywide Recreation

Parks After Dark is Back for a Second Summer in Pasadena

Pasadena's popular Parks after Dark Program (PAD) has returned and will continue through Saturday, **August 17th**, **2013**. This family friendly program is brought to you by the Pasadena Police Department and the Human Services and Recreation Department. Programming appropriate for the whole family is taking place each Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings beginning at 6:00 p.m. through 10:00 at two locations: Robinson Park located at 1081 North Fair Oaks Avenue and Villa-Parke located at 363 East Villa Street. The La Pintoresca Teen Center, located at 1415 Raymond Avenue, has programming on Thursday evenings only.

Adaptive Recreation Programs

The Adaptive Recreation program continues to provide summer recreation programs for adults with disabilities. Pioneer, Adaptive Art and Interact program are held each week at Victory park and interested persons can contact Jackie Scott, Adaptive Recreation Specialist, at (626) 744-

7257 or jackiescott@cityofpasadena.net for further information and registration. The Adaptive Recreation program cooperates with Ability First for Friday Night Social and upcoming events include a Reggae Water Carnival on Friday, August 2, 2013 and an R&B, Funk & Soul Dance on Friday, September 13, 2013. Pre-registration for the Friday Night Social program is required and interested persons can contact Maria at Ability First at (626)768-7024. The Adaptive Art program continues to exhibit "Seabiscuit" at the Armory Center (Community Room), 145 North Raymond, Pasadena until September 7, 2013. All of the artwork was created by adults with disabilities who reside in the Pasadena/ Altadena area.

Community Partners

Rose Bowl Aquatics Center

Beginning September 20, 2013, approximately 885 students will participate in the Olympic challenge including students from Altadena, Cleveland, Field, Jackson, Jefferson, McKinley, Madison, San Rafael, Washington Accelerated and Willard Elementary Schools and Hillsides Home for Children.

Each student will participate in 15 lessons of 45 minutes each and will receive a swim suit, towel service, locker room usage, water safety workbook, transportation, and a family swim pass good for five free visits to the RBAC for recreational swimming. In total, the program will provide 13,275 swim lessons.

For many PUSD students, the *Olympic Challenge* and purposeful amateur athletic activity is life-changing. Teachers estimate that for over 80% of the students, the program is an introduction to water safety and water sports.

The program provides benefits well beyond the pool deck. Learning to swim helps to save lives. Swimming also develops skills necessary for success in school and in life: listening, following directions, concentrating on tasks and setting goals. Teachers report increased attendance, fewer tardies, improved academic performance and behavior during swim programs. During the 2012-2013 Olympic Challenge, a total of 613 scholarships were awarded to low income 3rd graders.

Flintridge Center

Flintridge Center's **Youth of Promise Mentoring** program focuses on high-risk, high-need 6th-8th graders at Washington Middle School. These are kids with failing grades, high truancy and absentee rates, special learning needs, broken families and/or living in neighborhoods with gangs. Flintridge's innovative program recruits volunteers from the **Pasadena Police**, **Fire** and **City Agency Departments** as mentors. Since its inception in 2010, students have forged strong relationships with the police and firefighter mentors who are seen as inspirational role models. At the same time, the mentors have gained deeper insight into the lives and pressures experienced by youth in low-income communities of color. Many more young people at Washington Middle School are in need of a mentor's guidance and support. The Flintridge Center is currently recruiting mentors for the upcoming school year. If you would like to make a significant contribution to the life of a young person by serving as a mentor, please contact Flintridge Center's **Director of Prevention and Intervention Services, Ricky Pickens**, at ricky@flintridge.org or (626) 449-0839, Ext. 115.

Pasadena Senior Center Social Service Health Fair Friday August 16 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Health Fairs are offered the 3rd Friday of each month. Glucose screenings are provided with two-hour fasting 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.

CPR & First Aid Training

Saturday, August 17 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. \$25 for PSC Members \$35 for Business Sponsors \$40 for Non-Members

Presented by the American Heart Association/Golden State Safety

It is critical for everyone to know how and when to appropriately administer CPR and basic first aid. When performed correctly, these tools can save lives until advance support arrives. Reservations are required by calling (626) 685-6732.

AARP Driver Safety Course

Saturdays, August 17 and 24 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. \$12 for AARP Members

\$14 for Non AARP Members

Presented by AARP

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.

Social Security Planning

Thursday, August 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Presented by SSA

A secure, comfortable retirement is everyone's dream. As people live longer, more planning is required for the more time spent in retirement. Achieving the dream of a secure, comfortable retirement is much easier when you have a financial plan and know what you can expect from Social Security.

Senior Living Options

Thursday, August 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Presented by About Senior Solutions



Whether a senior wants to age in place or move into a facility, considerations abound and often confound. This presentation explores many care options to help seniors and their families make the right decisions. They'll learn about the costs of each option and get tips for preparing themselves emotionally for necessary changes. The takeaway: A step-by-step guide to a successful transition – at home or at a facility.