



SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

The Official Community Newsletter ♦ www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us ♦ Vol. 8#2 ♦ Autumn 2003

Key Findings of The Ad Hoc Budget Committee

- The committee can work to develop long range budgeting for both operations and capital expenses, and to communicate with taxpayers in terms they can understand and believe.

- The City provides two major benefits to taxpayers: physical infrastructure (streets, sewers, lighting) and human services (police, fire, community services, and library). Current levels of taxes will not support current levels of service. The community's expectations for proactive and efficient services will not be maintained without increased taxes.

- Long deferred improvements and major overhauls are needed for deteriorating streets, water and sewer systems.

- State mandated employee retirement contributions will increase by 30% in two years.

- If taxes do not support these items, services will have to be cut.

- The most significant areas for cost reductions are the police, fire, and library departments that constitute almost 70% of the City's operating budget.

- The community would not support cuts in these important departments.

- There ought to be frank, public discussion about the wage and benefit level the City wants to offer its employees compared to comparable cities.

- Key issues need to be prioritized and an action plan developed and maintained by the City Council.

- A review should be conducted of all user fees to assure cost coverage.

- Business as usual is not an option for the City.

A copy of the report is available at the City Clerk's office, (626) 403-7230.



State Budget Uncertainties Affect City Revenues

Despite significant financial challenges, the City Council adopted a \$27,566,824 budget for FY 2003-2004 that keeps basic services in place. Some modifications may be required, however, since any approved state budget scenario will likely include significant reductions in revenues to local jurisdictions.

In this economic climate, where many cities have been forced to make major service and staff reductions, it is a major accomplishment to design and adopt a budget without major decreases in services and programs. We have learned from past and present State budget crises that the Legislature's budget ax will continue to impact cities disproportionately, and we can predict that the future holds even more serious challenges for South Pasadena. In addition, due to dramatic declines in the stock markets, the City's contributions to police and fire personnel retirement costs will increase by as much as \$770,000 in 2005. The City Council was forced to reject proposals for compensation packages from employee bargaining groups. In some cases, salary increases were last granted to employees more than three years ago.

Before adopting the budget, the City Council appointed a nine-member ad hoc committee to review and make recommendations regarding the City's budget format as well as proposed revenues and expenditures. In a multi-page report to the City Council, the committee made several important conclusions. The first is that the City's current revenue sources are not sufficient to sustain City services as currently provided. New revenue sources will be needed even to retain current services, and especially to provide additional basic services, such as street and sidewalk improvements. The community takes pride in being a full-service city — with high expectations for individualized customer services offered by its own police and fire departments. The committee also recommended long-term financial forecasting and policy analysis of service priorities. The results of these forecasts will be presented at public meetings in the fall.

Other highlights of the City Council budget discussions included the need to closely examine the fee structure to make sure that the fees charged actually cover the City's costs. The budget committee favors increasing sewer and water fees to fund these much-needed improvements to ensure safe, reliable drinking water and sewer systems. Accordingly, the City Council adopted a revised fee schedule in August.

New Community Redevelopment Commission Established

In recognition of the significance of downtown South Pasadena, the City Council has established a seven-member Community Redevelopment Commission (CRC). The CRC will act as an advisory board to the City Council and Community Redevelopment Agency on matters regarding planning and development of downtown, and use of redevelopment and housing set aside funds.

The redevelopment area is bordered by Fair Oaks, Mission Street, Fremont or Mound Avenues, and Monterey Road or Lyndon Street, and includes both Rite Aid and the Bristol Farms Centers. South Pasadena has used different forms of advisory and decision-making bodies since the inception of the Redevelopment Agency in 1953, including a redevelopment commission from 1985-1988.

The newly appointed commissioners are Ernie Arnold, Ellen Daigle, Karen Durfee, Patricia Ford, Peter Kwong, Cary Lowe and John Vandercook. There will be a joint study session of the City Council and CRC to kick off the commission's responsibilities on September 10 in the Library Community Room. For further information, call the City Clerk's office at (626) 403-7230.



Planning News — Grant Awarded to Complete Historic Inventory Survey

The City of South Pasadena Planning Department was awarded a second Certified Local Government (CLG) grant for \$8,000 to fund the second segment of the survey and analysis of the City's Cultural Heritage Inventory. The first CLG grant was awarded in 2002 for \$20,000.

People, Pooches, and Parks—Know the New Rules!

After extensive public input, the City Council adopted a new law that allows dogs in all city parks, subject to the following restrictions:

- Your dog must be kept on a leash no more than six feet long and held by a person capable of controlling the dog
- The leash cannot be connected to a post, bench, tree or other stationary object
- Dogs are prohibited from being on any playground, tennis court, volleyball court, basketball court, skate area, batting area or city-established picnic area
- You must clean up after your dog within five minutes
- Dogs are not permitted in Garfield Park on the Fourth of July or during Concerts in the Park



The City will be installing new signs and bag dispensers to allow owners to clean up after their dogs. For more information, please call the South Pasadena Police Department at (626) 403-7270.

South Pasadena City Officials

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Help Prevent Polluted Storm Water Runoff



You know those rectangular openings found in curbs throughout the City? They're called 'catch basins' — South Pasadena has several hundred of them. Chances are your home or business isn't located too far from one.

Catch basins are an important component of our flood-control system and come in various sizes and shapes all with the same function — to catch storm water and send it to the ocean through an underground network of pipes and tunnels. Storm-water runoff in South Pasadena flows into the Los Angeles River, which also acts as a flood-control channel, before being discharged into the ocean.

Unfortunately, catch basins also transport polluted runoff to the river and ocean. Pollutants include oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and trash.

Each day in Los Angeles County, 100 million gallons of polluted urban runoff enter the ocean untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our surf and over 4,300 tons of trash on our beaches.

Runoff pollution contaminates the ocean, closes beaches, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

What can you do?

- Sweep-up trash and debris (never flush with water into the street or catch basin).
- Store trash and other pollutant materials in a manner that prevents contact with rain (in a container with a closed lid or under cover).
- Recycle used oil, concrete, broken asphalt, metals, etc.
- Avoid applying pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals during the wet season (October through May).
- Never dump materials into the storm-drain system (street, gutters, catch basins).
- Report illicit discharges to 1.888.CLEANLA.

South Pasadena's 4th Annual Household Hazardous and E-Waste Roundup



Saturday, Sept. 20
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
South Pasadena Unified School District
Parking Lot
1020 El Centro St.

For more information call South Pasadena Public Works Department at (626) 403-7240 or L.A. County Department of Public Works at 1-888-CLEAN-LA (253-2652).

Dumpster Day: October 11



Clean out your back yard, empty your closets and garages, and dispose of your items!

When: Saturday, October 11, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Corner of Mission Street and Arroyo Drive

What: Citywide clean-up day sponsored by the City of South Pasadena, Athens Services and Out Of The Closet.

Cost: Athens Services will provide the dumpsters for all disposable items that are too bulky or heavy to place into regular trash containers such as old furniture and appliances. This service is offered at no charge to South Pasadena residents with proof of residency.

Free Pickup for Seniors: Senior citizens who need assistance with removing bulky items from their homes may call the Senior Citizen's Center at (626) 403-7360 by Thursday, October 9, 10 a.m. to arrange for a pick-up. When you call, please leave your name, address and a description of the items. Please have all items collected in one readily accessible location for easy pick-up.

What Not: This event is not to be confused with Household Hazardous Waste special Roundup Events that are held regularly throughout Los Angeles County to provide assistance to residents interested in disposing of such items as motor oil, pesticides, car batteries, etc. Call 1-888-CLEAN-LA (253-2653) for a schedule of upcoming events (see box above).

Budget Committee,

continued from page one.

Members of the Ad hoc Budget Committee authoring the report were Robert Cook, Steve Felice, Andrew Krinock, Pius Lee, Brian Masterman, Victor Robinette, Eric Steen, Peter Tripodes. Committee member Bob Magilligan provided a separate report.

City Budget at a Glance

Total Budget.....	\$27.5 million
Total Operating Budget.....	\$14 million
Personnel Costs.....	\$10 million (71%)
Police, Fire and Library.....	\$8 million (80% of the 71%)
Total Property and Utility Tax Revenues.....	\$6,855,000

Local History Video



The library recently received a grant from the California Council for the Humanities that was matched by the Friends of South Pasadena Public Library and the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation. The grant enables the library to accomplish several local history projects.

The library is conducting video oral-history interviews of a select population of residents to be placed in local archives. Portions of these interviews will be made available on the Internet, or for check-out on CD or DVD.

In addition to the interviews, the library is creating a DVD of South Pasadena history, including a 45-minute film and many special features of particular historical significance. The DVD will be delivered free of charge to South Pasadena teachers to be used in their classrooms.

The DVD will also be available for purchase in the Friends of South Pasadena Public Library Bookstore, and at various local events. There is a limited number of DVDs available for purchase. If you would like to be placed on a purchase list, please contact Rebecca Groeneveld at (626) 403-7325.



Library's iBistro Serves Up Complete Web Menu of Historical Materials

Have you seen the new web-based catalog at the South Pasadena Public Library? Last fall, the library purchased 'iBistro.' With this innovative system, you can look up books, place holds on items and check your account from either the library's terminals — or from home!

But even more exciting is what the iBistro catalog will offer this fall. The library has received grant funding over the past several years from the California State Library to organize, process and digitize the library's local historical photo collection. In addition, the library has purchased software to house, catalog and display the digital format of photos that will be searchable in the library catalog, as well as accessible over the Internet.

The library continually adds materials to its historical archives that have been donated by patrons. If you have photos, letters or memoirs you would like to see as part of the City's history collection, there are several options. You may donate your individual or collection of items — donors will be properly noted in the catalog. Alternatively, if you would like to hold onto your items, consider loaning them for a short period so the library can scan and/or transcribe the items, then return the originals to you.

So swing by the library and let iBistro enhance your learning experience!

New Businesses

South Pasadena continues to attract businesses from all walks of life. Here are a few new businesses that recently opened their doors:

- ★ Bistro K, 1000 Fremont Avenue — serving cuisine that incorporates all the international flavors found in the San Gabriel Valley.
- ★ Chinese Phoenix Food Boutique, 456 Fair Oaks — serving Chinese food.
- ★ Curves for Women, 906 Fair Oaks — personal training facility for women.
- ★ Sterling Optical, 1103 Fair Oaks — optical services.
- ★ The UPS Store, 1107 Fair Oaks — shipping and mailing services.
- ★ Crown Books, 900 Fair Oaks — discount book retailer.

AUTUMN CALENDAR

CITY EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 1

Labor Day
City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

OCTOBER 4-5

Mission West Street Festival
Sat., 9 a.m.- 6 p.m., Sun., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

OCTOBER 11

Dumpster Day
Sat., 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

OCTOBER 13

Columbus Day
City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

OCTOBER 24

Parents Night Out

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans' Day
City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

NOVEMBER 27, 28

Thanksgiving
City Hall, Library, Community Services Closed

LIBRARY EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 21

Restoration Concert
Trio de Medici
Library Community Room – 4 p.m.
Call (626) 799-6333 for more ticket information

OCTOBER 18

Parents' Internet Classes
Library, Children's Dept., 10-11 a.m.
Call (626) 403-7358 to register

OCTOBER 19

Restoration Concert
Gary Foster Jazz
Library Community Room, 4 p.m.
Call (626) 799-6333 for more ticket information.

OCTOBER 19-25

Teen Read Week - Library

NOVEMBER 16

Restoration Concert
Los Angeles Children's Chorus
Library Community Room, 4 p.m.
Call (626) 799-6333 for more ticket information.

NOVEMBER 18

Children's Book Week Program
Library, Children's Dept., 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Overnight Parking Permits: One Per Household



The Overnight Parking Ordinance was amended to allow residents of single-family dwellings to purchase one annual permit without the need for an inspection; however, it limits monthly permits to one per residence at a time. South Pasadena has prohibited overnight parking without a permit since 1953, and has made several changes in the system over the years. For more information, please call the South Pasadena Police Department at (626) 403-7270.

Nature Park Construction Begins This Fall



Current entrance to be improved during Nature Park construction.

The South Arroyo Nature Park plans have been approved and construction is slated to begin this fall. The estimated completion date is spring 2004. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the South Pasadena Senior Center, located at 1102 Oxley Street. The Task Force will

consider the park name, kiosk and information display contents, and volunteer activity into the future.

The Arroyo Nature Park project is made possible by a \$250,000 grant secured by Congressman Adam Schiff via the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. For more information, contact Community Services Director Veronica Dolleschel at (626) 403-7362 or vdolleschel@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us.

Scene Around Town



You may occasionally see film company trucks and movie production personnel about town. If so, perhaps you have wondered what's filming in South Pasadena and which stars are here?

South Pasadena has recently hosted some of your favorite television shows, feature films and high-profile commercials. Some recent highlights:

- ☺ Many commercials including "Saturn," "Bank of America," "Toyota," "Nordstrom," "Chevy Trucks," "Lowe's," "John Deere," "Home Depot," "Coke," "Diet Coke," "Hometown Buffet," "Chrysler," "Hallmark," "Behr Paint," "Humira," "Plavix" and "Isuzu," "Taco Bell," "Mercedes E-Class," "Sara Lee."
- ☺ Some television shows including a third visit from both "C.S.I." and "Hidden Hills," as well as the pilots "Dicks" and "Joan of Arcadia" starring Mary Steenburgen.
- ☺ The feature films "The Girl Next Door" starring Elisha Cuthbert, "Raising Helen" starring Kate Hudson and Joan Cusack, "Untitled John Hamburg Project" starring Ben Stiller and Jennifer Anniston, "Eulogy" starring Ray Romano and Debra Winger, "Thirteen Going on Thirty" starring Jennifer Garner.
- ☺ The music video for "The Fighting Temptations" starring Beyonce Knowles.

Some recent films to hit local theaters featuring South Pasadena locales:

- ☺ "Seabiscuit" starring Toby Maguire
- ☺ "Old School" starring Will Farrell and Luke Wilson
- ☺ "Bringing Down the House" starring Steve Martin and Queen Latifah
- ☺ "Bruce Almighty" starring Jim Carrey and Jennifer Anniston
- ☺ "Legally Blonde II" starring Reese Witherspoon

Also, keep an eye open for a "Jack In the Box" commercial filmed entirely in town featuring Jack driving a red Dodge Viper through a restaurant facade!

The Location Library will soon appear on the City of South Pasadena web site! If you are interested in participating in the City's location library, please leave your name and phone number with our film liaison Joan Aguado at (626) 403-7263 or e-mail the information to: jaguado@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us.

FARMERS' MARKET



4-8 p.m.
Meridian and Mission
Every Thursday, a variety of local businesses in the Mission West stay open until 8 p.m. Come visit and support your local merchants!

October Sign-up for Paramedic Subscription Program



The Paramedic Subscription Program offers South Pasadena residents and businesses the opportunity to save money if the need for paramedic services should arise. Only \$53 per household per year covers all paramedic services not paid by your insurance. The cost for a business to enroll is \$53 per year for the first 10 employees. For each additional 20 employees, the cost is an additional \$20.

The open-enrollment period for this program is in October. Letters and applications will be sent in September to residents and businesses that are current members. For more information, please call the South Pasadena Fire Department at (626) 403-7303.

CITY COUNCIL

Michael A. Cacciotti, *Mayor*
Mike Ten, *Mayor Pro Tem*
David L. Margrave, *Councilmember*
David Saeta, *Councilmember*
Odom Stamps, *Councilmember*

Sally Kilby, *City Clerk*
Victor Robinette, *City Treasurer*

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