

SOUTH PASADENA NEIGHBORS

The Official Community Newsletter ❖ Volume 5, No. 3 ❖ Winter 2000

City Watch System Helps Fight Crime

The South Pasadena Police Department has a new weapon to help fight crime and get information out to residents and businesses – *City Watch*.

Send Messages to...



City Watch is a new, automated telephone notification system that will automatically call telephones, fax machines, pagers and even Internet destinations within minutes!

With this new system, a simple recording will allow the SPPD to quickly notify residents if there is an emergency. This type of automated notification system has been widely used by police departments nationwide with excellent results. Many lost/missing children have been found and burglars arrested thanks to citizens who quickly received notification from their police department.

The City will also use the system to communicate other items of importance to residents and businesses. City departments will use *City Watch* to get information to the public. For example, the City will be able to conduct surveys about police service, notify you of a proposed business or development project in your neighborhood, tell you about a public works project on your street—virtually every important piece of information about your neighborhood and what the City is doing to improve the quality of life.

Creating Safe School Corridors for Our Children

The City of South Pasadena has been awarded a \$450,000 grant from the State of California, providing funds for improvements designed to make it easier and safer for our children to get to school.

The South Pasadena Police Department (SPPD) was instrumental in helping procure the grant. Officers and supervisors conducted focus groups with children at their schools, met with PTA members, school principals, district staff, reviewed traffic accident history in the affected areas, and talked with Public Works Department officials.

The grant funding application was a citywide effort that was spearheaded by the SPPD. The City, the South Pasadena School District, various community groups, and service clubs provided input. Key project members included Officers Vaughn Vencil, Matt Ronnie, Bill Earley and Richard Lee.

The program that will be implemented after completion of engineering and other preliminary work will create a number of safe school corridors, each earmarked for improvements designed to make walking or bicycling easier and safer for our children.

Major improvements will consist of:

- **Curb cuts.** Currently, most of the curbs throughout the City are less than six inches high and lack ramping or cuts. This makes it difficult and potentially unsafe for a child on a bike or for mothers with strollers to travel along the sidewalks and then cross a street.
- **Crosswalks.** Improvements were recommended based on the traffic flow (volume and speed), the danger posed by poor visibility

and situations that indicate pedestrian or bicycle traffic will be heavy. Crosswalk improvements will consist of a number of options:

- 1) Simple painted crosswalk.
- 2) Textured crosswalk to create a heightened awareness on the part of motorists.
- 3) Addition of pedestrian countdown signals at signalized intersections.
- 4) Use of lighted warning systems that signal when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk.

- **Emergency telephones.** These free phones will allow children to immediately contact police or fire services and will be placed at locations where there are neither businesses nor public telephones. Their high visibility will provide a sense of security both for the children using the corridors and their parents.

- **Flashing warning signs.**

These school zone flashers are used to draw attention to school zones during times when school children are present. These signs would only flash when children are actually present.

- **Bicycle security lockers.** Provided to each school for students who ride bikes to school.

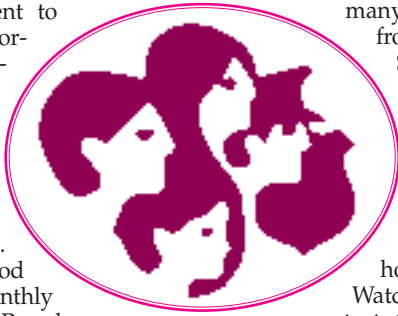
The grant program will make it easier and safer for children to walk and ride their bikes to school. If you want to learn more about the program, please call (626) 403-7240.



Neighborhood Watch Unites Our Community

What is the best deterrent to combat crime? Neighborhood Watch. With Neighborhood Watch, neighbors look after each other and call the police for any suspicious activities.

There are 44 Neighborhood Watch groups in the City and participation is growing. Residents of the Neighborhood Watch groups receive a monthly newsletter from the South Pasadena Police Department. The newsletter addresses



many important issues, ranging from recent crimes to a Crime Statistic Map that shows where any crimes were committed for the month.

Each Neighborhood Watch group elects a block captain, who works closely with the City and Police Department.

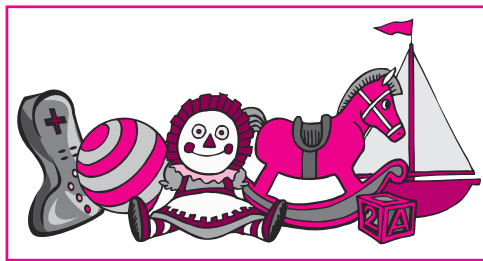
For more information on how to start a Neighborhood Watch group in your area, please contact the SPPD Crime Prevention Unit at (626) 403-7285.

Preventing Credit Card Fraud

Credit card fraud is one of the fastest growing crimes today, with yearly losses in the millions of dollars! Often victims are unaware that their credit card has been stolen until the monthly statements arrive and by then, the crook may have charged hundreds, perhaps thousands of dollars to your account.



The real nightmare comes from trying to clear up your credit rating. The South Pasadena Police Department has several brochures on how to prevent credit card fraud and other crime prevention tips available FREE to the public. For information, contact the South Pasadena Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit at (626) 403-7285.



Toys and Games Needed!

The Spark of Love Toy Drive kicks off on Friday, November 24, and runs through Friday, December 22. The toy drive is conducted by the South Pasadena Fire Department in partnership with the Los Angeles County Fire Department for burn victims and children in need.

Toys are needed for small children. Also needed are sports equipment and games for teens. Please call the Fire Department at (626) 403-7303 to find out how you can donate.

Attention All Vacationers!



Are you planning an out-of-town vacation? Will you be gone longer than a week?

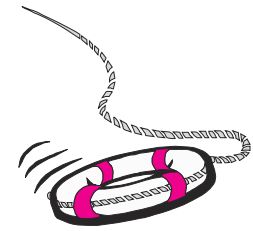
If so, please take a few minutes and contact the South Pasadena Water Department to find out when your next billing is due. You can always make an advance payment (you can also pay with Visa or MasterCard) if you anticipate being away for an extended period. We will be happy to check your account and estimate an average billing amount. For more information, please call (626) 403-7259.

"Scrooge" Coming to Library



The Imagination Company will present "Scrooge" in the Library Community Room for one night only on Wednesday, December 13, at 7 p.m. The play is adapted from "A Christmas Carol," the classic Yuletide story by Charles Dickens. Audience members will play several parts.

Mark your calendar for this FREE event now! No tickets or reservations are required. The Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library, Inc. are funding the holiday program. For more information, call the Children's Department at (626) 403-7358.



Low Income Assistance Programs Available

The City provides a program intended to assist those whose income is considered either low or moderate under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) guidelines.

For those paying water bills within the City, the waste and yard waste charges are eliminated from the billing, the rubbish rate is cut in half, and the water rates are reduced. Homeowners can also participate in the exemption of the Library Special Tax and the Lighting and Landscaping Tax, which are paid on your County Property tax bill (The City will reimburse these amounts after you have paid them). Finally, all residents who qualify can sign up for the Utility Users Tax Exemption — currently there is a five-percent utility user's tax imposed on all utilities including phone service.

The CDBG low-income standards are used for the water bill reduction. The CDBG moderate-income standards are used to qualify for the exemptions from the utility, library and landscape taxes.

If you feel you may be eligible for any of these programs and you wish further information, please contact the City Finance Department at (626) 403-7250.

CITY HALL AND LIBRARY — CLOSED —

December 25.....Christmas
(Library also closed on December 24)
January 1New Year's Day
(Library also closed on December 31)
January 15Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 19.....Presidents' Day

CITY OFFICIALS

Sean Joyce, City Manager(626) 403-7210
Gay Forbes, Assistant City Manager.....403-7210
Michael Berkow, Police Chief403-7270
Fire Department403-7300
Dennis Hallway, Finance Director403-7250
David Watkins, Com. Dev. Director403-7220
Jim Van Winkle, Public Works Director ..403-7240
Terri Maguire, City Librarian.....403-7330
Veronica Dolleschel, Comm. Svcs. Dir. ..403-7360
Sally Kilby, City Clerk403-7230

Oaklawn Bridge Will Soon Get a Facelift



The Oaklawn Bridge will be getting a much-needed facelift and structural strengthening. The bridge, designed by Green & Green Brothers in 1906, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Unfortunately, the passing decades have taken their toll, and the bridge is in need of major repairs. The City has obtained grants of \$448,000 from the Federal Highway Administration, \$150,000 from the Getty Foundation and up to \$500,000 from U.S. Representative James Rogan as partial funding for the needed improvements. Congressman Rogan recently obtained up to \$500,000 for the City, filling the funding gap that has thus far prevented the start of construction. The project, which is scheduled to begin in February 2001, will restore and retain all of the unique architectural features of the bridge.



Fair Housing Council

The Fair Housing Council of the San Gabriel Valley is a non-profit organization whose goal is to support and promote freedom of residence to all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, familial status, disability, marital status, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, income source, or gender. The Fair Housing Council provides extensive outreach and education through various workshops and presentations. It also provides landlord/tenant counseling to educate the community about fair housing laws and regulations.

The Fair Housing Council provides a free fair housing workshop on the first Thursday of every month. The workshop is held at the Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Avenue in Pasadena at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call (800) 346-2883, or email them at fhcsgv@earthlink.net. You may also visit their website at www.fairhousingsource.org or contact the City Manager's Office at (626) 403-7210.

Read Club Helps Families

The South Pasadena Arcadia Reading Center (SPARC), the literacy program of the Arcadia, Monrovia and South Pasadena Public Libraries, is closely aligned with the Families for Literacy (FFL), a state-funded family component of the California Literacy Campaign. The SPARC Families for Literacy Reading Club extends the library's literacy services to the entire family of those adults having preschool-age children. The ultimate goal of FFL is to break the cycle of illiteracy in the family.

The SPARC Families for Literacy Reading Club meets monthly, and offers free storytime activities and crafts to qualifying families. SPARC also offers free, confidential, one-to-one tutoring for adults.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m., December 9, at the South Pasadena Public Library, 1115 El Centro St. Winter meetings will be held January 13, February 10, and March 10, 2001 at 10:30 a.m. at the Arcadia Public Library Auditorium, 20 West Duarte Rd.

For more information please call (626) 403-7356.



Improvements For Mission Street!



Next January, the City will begin repaving Mission Street from Pasadena Avenue to Fair Oaks Avenue. Wheel-chair ramps will be installed on sidewalks along the entire length of the project. The four-month, \$365,000 project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration (60 percent) and the City's share of the State Gas Tax revenues (40 percent).

The City also has an \$887,000 grant from the MTA to do streetscape improvements on Mission Street between Fair Oaks and Meridian Avenue, and the Mission Street Blue Line Station, which is scheduled to open in July 2003.

WINTER CALENDAR

LIBRARY EVENTS

DECEMBER 9, JANUARY 13

Library Families for Literacy Program, 10:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 13

Children's Winter Library Program, 7 p.m.

JANUARY 8 – MARCH 14

Grandparents and Books Read-Alouds
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays (all ages), 3 - 5 p.m.

JANUARY 9 – MARCH 16

Library Storytimes

Family Storytime (all ages), 7:30 - 8 p.m.
Pajama Storytime (ages 3 - 5), 7 - 7:30 p.m.
Preschool Storytime (ages 3 - 5), 10:30 - 11 a.m.
Toddler Storytime (ages 1 - 2), 10:30 - 10:50 a.m.

JAN. 20, FEB. 24, MARCH 24

Children's Internet Instruction (ages 7-14)

Library, 11 a.m. - noon

Call (626) 403-7358 to register

FEBRUARY 4

Library Restoration Concert, 4 p.m.

CITY EVENTS

DECEMBER 4

Registration for Winter Leisure Classes Begins

DECEMBER 4, DECEMBER 11

Community Redevelopment Agency

Downtown Workshop

Middle School, 6-9 p.m.

DECEMBER 8

Winter Parents' Night Out

Community Services, 6 - 11 p.m.

DECEMBER 9

Tiger Run

(5K, 10K and Tiger Cub Run for Ages 10 & under)
Sponsored by So. Pasadena High School Booster Club
Call (626) 403-0752.

DECEMBER 26–JANUARY 5

Winter Day Camp

Community Services, 7 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9

Valentine's Day Parents' Night Out

Community Services, 6 - 11 p.m.

TOURNAMENT OF ROSES ASSOCIATION EVENTS

DECEMBER 29

Tournament of Roses "Crunch Time Party"

6 - 10:30 p.m., Behind Wells Fargo Bank

MISSION WEST ASSOCIATION EVENTS

DECEMBER 7

Mission West Holiday Open House, 4 - 8 p.m.

FEBRUARY 7

"Sweet on Mission West," 4 - 8 p.m.

Free Raffle to win night at The Artists' Inn and dinner for two at La Fiesta Grande

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

DECEMBER 14

Chamber of Commerce Holiday Mixer

Granite State Bank, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

DEC. 12, JAN. 16, FEB. 20

"Good Morning South Pasadena"

Chamber of Commerce Breakfast

La Fiesta Grande, 7:30 a.m.

JANUARY 17, FEBRUARY 21

Chamber of Commerce Legislative Meeting

Gus's Barbecue, 8 a.m.

Plan for Your Downtown!



On August 31, the City's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) kicked off a downtown revitalization program with a community workshop that provided an overview of the planning process and a framework for making decisions on how the agency can invest in the downtown area.

Major themes included: (1) Desired mix of uses and activities; (2) Urban design and new development; (3) Aesthetics; (4) Parking and traffic; (5) Identity for downtown as a destination; and (6) Economics and marketing.

Everyone is encouraged to come to a pair of follow-up community workshops to develop a design and action plan to revitalize the downtown: two **Mondays, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11**, from 6-9 p.m. at the Middle School Cafeteria. Watch your mail for the flyer or call (626) 403-7220!



FARMERS' MARKET

Open Thursdays 4-8 p.m., local businesses are open every Thursday until 8 p.m. Come visit and support your local businesses!

City to Open Skate Park in New Arroyo Recreation Park

Skateboarders and inline skaters will soon be able to practice and show off their "ollies" and "grinds" at a new 10,500 square-foot skate park, scheduled to open next summer. The skate park will be only one of the new facilities proposed for the new Arroyo Recreation Park on the old recycling center site. The 1.25-acre site has sufficient space to provide batting cages as well as amenities that include parking, a picnic area, drinking fountain and landscaping.

The skate park portion of the project is being jointly funded by the South Pasadena City Council, which allocated \$154,000, and with a \$100,000 grant from Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor Michael Antonovich. Community help with donations of cash, materials and labor is needed for the adjacent amenities.

The Skate Park Task Force conducted nearly a dozen community meetings over the past eight months to determine the location, size and design of Arroyo Recreation Park. The City Council-appointed Task Force includes representatives from the City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, Youth Commission, Police Department and community at large, working with the Community Services Department to implement the project.

Our community youth and young adults of all ages have and continue to play a key role at all stages of the project. A survey of 4th to 12th graders, conducted by Youth Commissioner Jeffrey Hsu, indicated that 70 percent of them preferred a skate park to a roller hockey court. The final skate park design came from their ideas and wishes during several community meetings, keeping in mind that amenities were needed for all skill levels.

The fundraising committee, led by Mike Verdugo and Brad Thiel, is still in need of cash, material and labor donations to complete the project. For more information or to be added to the mailing list, contact Veronica Dolleschel in the Community Services Department at (626) 403-7360.



San Dimas Skate Park.



An elegant new sign identifying the War Memorial Building, contributed by South Pasadena Beautiful, is the latest evidence of the generosity of local civic clubs and organizations in enhancing the City. A member of the group, architect Petrie Wilson, designed the sign. Park Supervisor Jesse Barajas, right, and Mario Ale, senior maintenance worker, prepare a flower bed below the sign, which will be illuminated at night.

CITY COUNCIL

Dorothy M. Cohen, *Mayor*
 David Rose, *Mayor Pro Tem*
 Harry A. Knapp, *Councilmember*
 David Saeta, *Councilmember*
 Paul Zee, *Councilmember*

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

SOUTH PASADENA **Neighbors** is published by the City of South Pasadena and is distributed as a public service to City residents and businesses. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please call the City Manager's Office at (626) 403-7210.



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 South Pasadena, CA 91030

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