

“The Kite Runner” Soars as One City, One Story Selection

STUDENTS AND COMMUTERS, employees on lunch breaks, moms pushing strollers, seniors on treadmills: Everywhere you look in Pasadena beginning March 1, someone will be reading Khaled Hosseini’s gripping novel “The Kite Runner.”

The page-turner has been selected for Pasadena’s 2005 One City, One Story community reading project, a popular annual tradition that encourages literary reading citywide.

Throughout March, you can find extra copies of the novel at Pasadena Central Library and all branches plus local stores. The book is also available in audio format at Central Library for people with visual impairments.

Once you start reading, log on to www.onecityonestory.com for a full list of book discussions, special events and activities planned citywide. This year’s line-up includes a book club summit Saturday, Feb. 12, at Pasadena Central Library; a kite-flying contest at the Rose Bowl Saturday, March 12; an evening with the author Friday, March 18, at All Saints Church; and more.

Hosseini’s first novel, “The Kite Runner” hit the New York Times Bestseller List, received the Borders Books 2003 Original Voices Award and was named a 2003 Breakout Book by Amazon.com. Told in three segments, it’s an epic tale of fathers and sons, loyalty and betrayal, set in Afghanistan over the past 40 years as a wealthy young boy named Amir flees then returns to his homeland. The author is an Afghanistan native whose family was granted political asylum in the U.S. after the Soviet invasion of their country. A U.S. resident since 1980, Hosseini earned a degree in medicine from UC San Diego and is married with two children. Visit www.onecityonestory.com for more information or to volunteer, or call 744-4066.



Pasadena’s Collective Wisdom

Pasadenans are fortunate to live in a community that promotes learning and literacy. Pasadena’s libraries, schools, museums, churches, households and non-profit groups all contribute to our city’s “collective wisdom.”

Pasadena’s mayor will expand on that theme during his 2005 State of the City address Thursday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. at Pasadena City College’s Lillian Vosloh Forum (on Bonnie Drive on the east side of the campus).

The annual presentation will provide updates and future plans for a number of issues while tying in Pasadena’s commitment to lifelong learning.

Entertainment and refreshments will be provided.

Open to the public, the free event will be cablecast live on 55 KPAS and on the Internet (www.cityofpasadena.net) and will be repeated often. For more information call 744-4311.

ARTS Riders Get a Boost

ARTS BUS RIDERS, WE HEARD YOU! In response to requests from passengers, the city is rolling out several improvements to the popular Pasadena ARTS shuttle system beginning in mid-February. For just 50¢ a ride (or 25¢ for children, seniors and riders with disabilities), the buses operate on six routes, taking you nearly anywhere you want to go in Pasadena.

The most exciting change is that all routes will now start an hour earlier at 6 a.m. to help commuters connect with early morning Metro Gold Line rides. Another route will also be added to link residents in southwest Pasadena to the Metro Gold Line. This new Route 70 will run Monday through Friday from 6 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 8 p.m., covering Orange Grove Boulevard from Colorado Boulevard to Columbia Street and connecting to the Fillmore Station.

To further help the morning hustle, an extra bus will be added to the three busiest routes – 20, 31 and 40 – before and after school to help the buses stay on schedule and accommodate many more high school students trekking to and from Blair, Muir, Pasadena and Marshall.

Other routes will be changed to improve service. Route 10 will provide better connections at Caltech, Pasadena City College and the Gold Line Allen Avenue Station while providing stops along Del Mar Boulevard. (Route 10's service will soon end two hours earlier on Friday and Saturday nights, at 8 p.m.)

Route 31 will provide direct service to the Metro Gold Line Sierra Madre Villa Station; its Pasadena High School stop will be switched from Sierra Madre Boulevard to Altadena Drive to eliminate duplication of service.

Route 32 will be changed to provide better service to the Sierra Madre Villa Station while discontinuing some stretches of Sierra Madre Boulevard and Hastings Ranch Drive that had few riders. Lower Hastings Ranch Drive will continue to be served by Route 60 in the morning and afternoon.

Route 60 will be revamped to tie the Sierra Madre Villa Station to Del Mar Boulevard, an area where, until now, there hasn't been much bus service. The shuttles will run one hour longer, until 10 a.m., in the morning and start one hour earlier, at 3 p.m., in the afternoon.

You'll find new routes and schedules at all branch libraries, www.cityofpasadena.net/trans/transit or 744-4055.



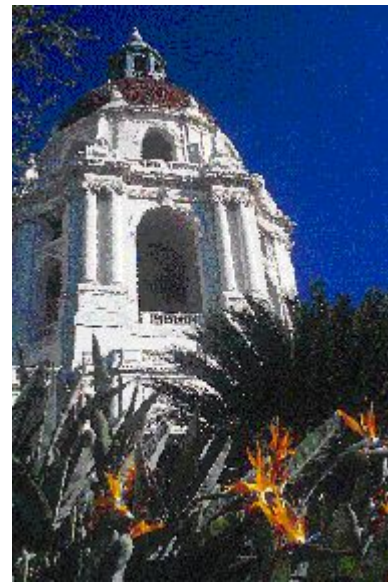
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City Hall Closed for Retrofit

PASADENA CITY HALL WAS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC in late July to prepare for the seismic retrofit that will keep city offices in other locations through summer 2007.

In January the City Council is scheduled to approve the general contractor for the retrofit. By spring a buzz of activity will begin. Then the buzz of activity will begin: A construction fence will be installed around the entire building, trailers will move onto the existing northbound lane of Garfield Avenue and construction materials will begin to be delivered on the Garfield side. Heavy equipment will be brought in to dig holes for a "moat" that will surround City Hall, demolish walls throughout the basement



and shore up the building while this work is being done. On the Euclid Avenue side of City Hall, everything that is dug out or demolished will be hauled away. An important part of this phase of the project will be dust control to protect City Hall's neighbors.

Throughout the three-year project, the general contractor will be encouraged to consider hiring Pasadena subcontractors who are registered with the city and specialize in trades including earthwork, demolition, concrete, electrical, equipment, finishes, hazardous materials abatement, masonry, mechanical, moisture protection and more.

We'll keep you updated in each issue of *Pasadena In Focus* about specific work that is being done at City Hall. For more information, including interim locations of city offices and answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.cityofpasadena.net and click on City Hall Project or call 744-7073.



Opening the Door to Your New Home

LEARN TIPS FOR BUYING YOUR FIRST HOME at a free seminar Saturday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to noon on the second floor at the Renaissance Plaza Shopping Center, 649 N. Fair Oaks Ave. (new home to the city's Housing and Community Development Office).

You'll learn all about down payment requirements, special assistance programs, how to reduce your closing costs and more. Lenders and realtors will be on hand to answer all your questions. Seating is limited for this popular workshop, sponsored jointly by the city and the Pasadena-Foothills Association of Realtors. To reserve your spot, call (800) 925-2721. For more information on homebuyer assistance programs visit

<http://cityofpasadena.net/housing/homebuyer.asp> or call 744-8316.

There's Still Time to Visit The Tender Land



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF VISITORS have been enjoying special exhibits, concerts, films and tours since October as part of The Tender Land: Pasadena Festival of Art, History, Music and Science. More than 30 of Pasadena's top cultural attractions will present special offerings through Jan. 31.

Major participants include the Armory Center for the Arts, Art Center College of Design, Caltech, The Huntington Library, Norton Simon Museum, One Colorado, Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena Museum of History, Pasadena Symphony, Shumei Arts Council of America and Southwest Chamber Music.

Several special events are slated before the citywide program comes to a close. First, join theater troupe We Tell Stories at Norton Simon Museum on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. for exciting tales from the land, sea and air. At 3 p.m. that day, hear a panel speak on the method and meaning behind the Re-Photographing Pasadena exhibition at Pasadena Museum of California Art. Bring the kids to a family festival of ecological art Saturday, Jan. 22, at 11 a.m. at Armory Center for the Arts. Next, Southwest Chamber Music performs the music of composer Joan Huang on Sunday, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m. at the Armory, and music by Huang, Lou Harrison and W.A. Mozart on Saturday, Jan. 29, at 8 p.m. at Norton Simon Museum.

For a full list of events and information on specific venues, go to www.tenderland.org or call 793-8171.



Yorkshire Development's Tricom Building on East Walnut Street is the first "green building" in the San Gabriel Valley, incorporating earth-friendly materials including recycled carpet, rebar, sinks, floor tiles and mirrors. Its adhesives, paints, carpet

and linoleum contain little or no volatile organic compounds. The building is one of six winners of the city's 2005 Outstanding Recycler Awards. Other winners are students of La Salle High School's Environmental Science course; Armory Center for the Arts; Path to Freedom; Eaton Canyon Nature Center; and PWP staffer John Hoffner. For more information visit www.cityofpasadena.net and click on City News or call 744-4721. Photo: Jerry Robin



Happy Birthday, ADA!

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, the landmark law that supports the inclusion of people with disabilities in all parts of the community, will reach its 15th anniversary on July 26. The Celebration 15 Network, a team of local organizations and volunteers, is planning an entire year of events to mark this important milestone including TV shows, parade entries, an accessible carnival and a special day for disabled children at Kidspace Museum. You can also watch for wheelchair basketball with members of the L.A. Lakers and Clippers, a horseback riding demonstration and a special talk by a Hollywood producer.

Join the fun! The Celebration 15 Network meets every third Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave. Please come whether you'd like to help at an event or need assistance planning your own. For more information call 744-4782.



Cozy Up to the Fire – Safely

A GLOWING FIREPLACE certainly warms the heart – and cold hands. Follow these safety tips from the Pasadena Fire Department:

- Test all of your smoke alarms and replace batteries if needed.
- Always burn wood or fire logs, never trash, in your fireplace.
- Never use charcoal starter, lighter fluid or gasoline.
- Open the flue before you start your fire to prevent smoke from filling up your house.
- Use a fireplace screen to help prevent embers and sparks from burning people, pets and rugs.
- Creosote, an oily liquid with a bad odor, can coat the inside of your chimney and form a hazardous build-up. Seasoned wood has less creosote than unseasoned wood and is less likely to cause problems.
- Choose hardwoods like maple, poplar and oak, which produce less creosote than soft woods such as pine. Soft wood also gives off more ash, reducing heat and causing heavy soot.
- Burn “pressed wood logs” made from sawdust and wax only in an open fireplace, never in a wood-burning stove.
- Teach small children (and pets) to stay away from the fire.
- Have an expert inspect your fireplace annually for creosote build-up and structural damage to chimneys. Have chimney caps put in place to keep out small animals and birds.

For more information call 744-4675.



Big Plans for Water Cleanup at Jet Propulsion Lab



WATER WELLS THAT HAVE BEEN OUT OF COMMISSION FOR YEARS may soon be back in business thanks to a new treatment plant that will open soon at Jet Propulsion Laboratory. With support from Pasadena Water and Power, NASA built the plant to clean up a decades-old mess left over from a time when it was common to let wastewater seep into the ground. Nearby groundwater has tested positive for perchlorate and other chemicals.

The new facility will clean up the water directly beneath JPL – the area where the most pollution was found – by pumping 125 gallons per minute, treating it and then injecting it back into the ground. If it works well, NASA plans to double the capacity. Treating this water at the source will help stop the spread of chemicals and reduce the need for water treatment at PWP's nearby wells. A second plant is now removing chemicals from JPL's soil. A treatment plant is being planned to clean the water from four closed city wells nearby, which could be back in operation by 2006. This state-of-the-art facility will use ion-exchange to clean more than 4,000 acre feet of groundwater every year. Once the facility is up and running, water from the nearby wells will comply with all state and federal standards for drinking water quality, helping to boost our local supply for PWP customers.

Photo courtesy NASA

A treatment plant under construction at JPL will clean water beneath the property.



PWP Supports Planet Earth

PWP HAS ALWAYS BEEN COMMITTED TO PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT. Now that commitment is in writing. Pasadena is the newest member of the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR), voluntarily agreeing to measure and report all greenhouse gas emissions produced by PWP operations including power generation, power distribution equipment and vehicles.

CCAR is a private non-profit group created by California legislators to promote the reduction of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming. Greenhouse gases aren't yet regulated; members participate voluntarily. The group now works closely with more than 40 major companies, municipalities and other government agencies and non-profit groups statewide.

Starting in 2006 PWP will report all carbon dioxide emissions to CCAR. After three years we'll also include a report on other greenhouse gases included in the international Kyoto protocol. Once each report is submitted, results are certified by an independent organization. By joining the registry, PWP gains access to the latest information and workshops about emissions reductions and will be able to use the CCAR logo to prove its commitment to the environment. We'll join a growing number of community-owned utilities, including Anaheim, Los Angeles and Sacramento, working together to promote environmental responsibility. PWP was already committed to environmental stewardship. State-of-the-art gas turbines at the Glenarm Power Plant as well as the recent \$7 million retrofit of our other two natural gas turbines have helped us reduce harmful emissions. What's more, PWP is continually building a portfolio of "green power" and encouraging customers to adopt solar power and hybrid vehicles. Visit www.climateregistry.org or call (213) 891-1444 for more information on the registry.



Insulate to Lower Power Bills

YOU CAN CUT YOUR WINTER ENERGY BILLS by as much as 20% by blocking the flow of heat through your walls, ceiling and floor.

The simplest and least expensive way is to add attic insulation. If you have less than seven inches of fiberglass or rock wool, or six inches of cellulose, you may need more. If the insulation seems ample but your home still feels drafty, you may need a contractor to add insulation to the exterior walls or to diagnose unseen leaks or gaps. Insulation is rated based on its resistance to heat flow, with the most effective having a higher "R-value." There are several types of insulation: Batts, usually made of fiberglass or rock wool, fit between the studs in a wall or between ceiling and floor joists; rolls or blankets, usually made of fiberglass, can be laid over the attic floor; loose-fill insulation, made of fiberglass, rock wool or cellulose, is blown into the attic or walls, creating a good seal around wires, pipes and other obstacles. All of these have R-values of 2.2 to 3.2 per inch. The highest R-values of 4 to 7 per inch belong to rigid foam boards – lightweight boards that provide structural support in exterior walls, basements, foundations and crawl space. For more conservation tips, visit www.PWPweb.com or call the PWP AnswerLine at 744-6970.



Residential Landscaping Classes are Back

BEFORE THE WINTER WEATHER GIVES WAY to butterflies and blossoms, brush up on your gardening skills at a free water-saving landscaping class from PWP. The classes will cover landscape design basics, how to select and maintain native plants, sprinkler systems and how to water and fertilize your yard. (Please note that they recently have been condensed to one-time, four-hour sessions rather than a series of four classes.) Sessions

will be held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr., Tuesday, Feb. 15, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 9, from 8 a.m. to noon; and Saturday, May 21, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Space is limited, so call PWP's AnswerLine today at 744-6970 to reserve your spot. If you can't make it to a class, ask for a free interactive Heritage Garden CD-ROM, which offers hundreds of examples of drought-tolerant native plants that will suit any location. PWP is also offering landscaping classes for professional landscapers and gardeners (call 744-3715 for details).

Photo courtesy of GardenSoft

PWP residential water customers can learn about creating their own beautiful water-saving gardens.



Etcetera ... Etcetera

✧ **See rare movies** starring famous black artists including Josephine Baker, Lena Horne, Paul Robeson and more Jan. 27 to 29 at Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave. 744-7300.

✧ **Help create a shared vision** for Pasadena's open space, parks and recreational resources during a workshop Saturday, Jan. 29, as part of the proposed update of the Green Space/Recreation Element of the General Plan and the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. 744-3758 for time and location.

✧ **Pasadena Busch Gardens**, an attraction that drew visitors from around the world, would have turned 100 this month. Learn more during a special exhibit starting Jan. 29 at Pasadena Museum of History, 470 W. Walnut St. 577-1660.

✧ **Guidelines and applications** for the city's annual arts grants will be available in late January. www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/arts/grants.asp or 744-7249.

✧ **Enjoy a free screening** and discussion of director John Ford's 1946 classic "My Darling Clementine" Tuesday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m. in Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. Part of The Tender Land series. 395-4652.

✧ **Learn about camps**, art programs, overseas trips and more at the Summer Opportunities Fair for kids Saturday, Feb. 5, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Westridge School, 324 Madeline Dr. 799-1153, ext. 219.

✧ **High school and college students** can enroll in the Pasadena Sister Cities Student Exchange Program through Feb. 11. Call 793-6692 or visit www.passcc.org.


✧ **Black History Parade** is Saturday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m. on Fair Oaks Avenue from Ventura Avenue in Altadena to Robinson Park, followed by a family festival from noon to 4 p.m. including a youth area, entertainment, Black Inventions Museum, food booths and exhibits. Volunteers are needed! Call 744-7300 to sign up for orientation.

✧ **African American females** ages 13 to 21 can explore career and life goals during a conference Saturday, Feb. 26, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at PCC sponsored by Women at Work. \$5. 796-6870, ext. 18.

✧ **Watch for the city's free 2005 Survival Guide** for Individuals, Families and Groups to be printed in March listing food, shelter, childcare and after school programs. 744-6940.

✧ **Learn to speak with confidence** with the Toastmasters Communicators Club every first and third Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m. at Linda Vista Branch Library, 1281 Bryant St. (818) 354-5115.

✧ **Too nervous to report drug dealers**, gambling, prostitution or illegal alcohol sales in your neighborhood? Call 744-TIPS to leave an anonymous message 24 hours a day. Speak clearly and leave as many details as possible. Call 9-1-1 if it's an emergency.

 **Note:** All dates and times listed in *Pasadena In Focus* are as of the publication date. Please call the numbers listed to confirm information. All phone numbers are in the (626) area code unless otherwise noted.



Noticias En Breve

La Sabiduría Colectiva de Pasadena

Contribuyen a nuestra "sabiduría colectiva" comunitaria las bibliotecas, escuelas, museos, iglesias, residencias y grupos sin fines de lucro de Pasadena.

El alcalde de Pasadena se explayará sobre el tema durante su discurso anual 2005 el Jueves 20 de Enero a las 7 p.m. en Pasadena City College, Foro Lilian Vosloh (en Bonnie Drive, al lado Este de la universidad).

Dicha presentación anual nos informará acerca de los planes actuales y futuros con respecto a una variedad de temas, al igual que los enlazará al compromiso siempre presente de Pasadena de aprender constantemente. Para mayor información, llame al 744-4311.

Mejoras Para los Pasajeros de Arts

Respondiendo a las peticiones de pasajeros, a mediados de Febrero próximo comenzará una serie de mejoras en el sistema de autobuses ARTS de Pasadena. Por sólo 50¢ (o 25¢ los niños, adultos mayores y lisiados), los autobuses de baja emisión contaminante funcionan en seis rutas, lo que le lleva a usted a casi cualquier lugar donde desee dirigirse los siete días de la semana.

El cambio que más nos entusiasma es que todas las rutas comenzarán a las 6 a.m. y para ayudar con la hora de mayor tráfico matutino se agregará un autobús en las rutas más concurridas – 20, 31 y 40 – antes y después del horario escolar para estudiantes secundarios de Blair, Muir, Pasadena y Marshall.

Habrá pequeños cambios en otras rutas, como la Ruta 10, que proveerá mejores conexiones con Caltech, Pasadena City College y la estación de Metro Gold Line Allen, a la vez que otorgará paradas a lo largo de Del Mar Boulevard. (El servicio de la Ruta 10 terminará a las 8 p.m. los Viernes y Sábados, para quedar igual que otras rutas de ARTS).

La Ruta 31 proveerá un servicio directo a la estación de Metro Gold Line Sierra Madre Villa y su parada 'High School' cambiará Sierra Madre Boulevard a Altadena Drive.

La Ruta 32 proveerá mejor servicio a la estación Sierra Madre Villa y se descontinuarán ciertos sectores de Sierra Madre Boulevard y Hastings Ranch Drive que han tenido menos pasajeros. Lower Hastings Ranch Drive continuará con el servicio de la Ruta 60 en las mañanas y tardes. Se alterará la Ruta 60 para unir Sierra Madre Villa con Del Mar Boulevard. Los autobuses funcionarán una hora más durante las mañanas, hasta las 10 a.m. y una hora menos en las tardes, hasta las 3 p.m.

Puede usted encontrar las nuevas rutas, mapas y horarios en las bibliotecas públicas de Pasadena, en www.cityofpasadena.net/trans/transit/default.asp o llamando al 744-4055.

Abriendo la Puerta de Su Nuevo Hogar

Conozca detalles de cómo comprar su primera casa durante un Seminario gratuito a celebrarse el Sábado 5 de Marzo de 9 a.m. al mediodía en el segundo piso del Renaissance Plaza Shopping Center, 649 N. Fair Oaks Avenue (la nueva sede de la oficina municipal de Vivienda y Urbanización).

Se le informará acerca de pagos iniciales, programas especiales de asistencia, reducción de sus costos de cierre de transacción y otros temas. Estarán presentes representantes de entidades financieras y corredores de propiedades para contestar sus preguntas.

Etcétera

Contribuya a crear una visión compartida con respecto a los espacios abiertos, parques y lugares de recreación de Pasadena durante un taller a efectuarse el Sábado 29 de Enero, como parte del Plan General y del Plan de Parques y Recreación.



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005

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Published by the City of Pasadena Public Affairs Office

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