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## Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

**R**ECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF A WORLDWIDE TEAM TO PROTECT THE REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT - and to make sure our community's voice is heard in related federal and state legislation - the Pasadena City Council recently pledged support for two far-reaching agreements.

The United Nations Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords include 21 recommended actions for cities to take by 2012 to contribute to global efforts, including reducing fossil fuel emissions, increasing our tree canopy, reducing waste and more. In response, the council approved a comprehensive environmental action plan for Pasadena that lays out hundreds of ideas for improving urban design, water and air quality, traffic congestion, waste reduction, parks and open space, energy conservation and environmental health.

The United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement calls on America's cities to help reduce global warming. By mid-October, the pact had been signed by about 300 mayors representing more than 49.2 million Americans, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas and Pasadena. The agreement recommends creating pedestrian and bicycle-friendly amenities, increasing the use of green power and Energy Star appliances, promoting sustainable building practices, adopting alternative-fuel vehicles and more.

By supporting these agreements, Pasadena continues a proud tradition of environmental stewardship. The city council recently created the Environmental Advisory Commission, made plans for a low-emission and no-emission green auto fleet, and developed a comprehensive "green building" program. Pasadena has been recognized for smart growth planning that focuses new development near transportation and city services, and for protecting our community's urban forest that includes thousands of trees on public property.

For more information on Pasadena's environmental programs and how you can take part, call 744-4000 or visit [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net) (click on The Green Report).



*A technological marvel, the 22-foot, 22-passenger hybrid-electric Ebus runs on an electric motor that relies on a battery pack. The packs are charged periodically with an external electrical charger, but they can also*

*be juiced up as needed by an "on-board" Capstone MicroTurbine. This combined use of electric batteries and a turbine results in ultra-low emissions, bringing bluer skies and a greener Pasadena!*

*Not only have the buses changed, Route 10 itself has changed from the early years when it was known as the "Downtown" route. For just 50 cents a ride (and 25 cents for youths, seniors and riders with disabilities), Route 10 buses transport more than 124,000 passengers each year to destinations such as Old Pasadena, the Civic Center, the Playhouse District, Pasadena City College, Caltech and the Gold Line Allen Station.*

*Complete ARTS maps and schedules are available on the buses and at all libraries, most city offices, institutions and employment centers citywide. You can also call 744-4055 or visit [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net).*

## Etcetera . . . Etcetera

Free, award-winning films at Pasadena Central Library every third Thursday are selected from Sundance, Cannes, Toronto and other top festivals. Nov. 16 - "Aaltra" about two paralyzed neighbors who trek across Europe seeking revenge for their conditions (French with English subtitles). Dec. 21 - "A Peck on the Cheek" in which adopted Amudha searches through strife-torn Sri Lanka for her biological mother (Tamil with English subtitles). Screenings begin at 7 p.m. 744-4066, option 6.

The Doo Dah Parade parodies its way through Old Pasadena on Sunday, Nov. 19, starting at 11:30 a.m. Bring a lawn chair for this annual revelry. 205-4029 or [www.pasadenadoodahparade.info](http://www.pasadenadoodahparade.info).

Help welcome thousands of New Year's visitors by answering the Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau's 23rd annual Holiday Hotline. Dec. 28 to Jan. 2. Call 795-9311 by Nov. 20 to volunteer.

The mayor and a special guest from the North Pole will preside over the city of Pasadena's tree-lighting ceremony Friday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. at Paseo Colorado's Garfield Promenade, with plenty of live entertainment, refreshments and much more. 744-4755.

Decorate your favorite set of wheels and travel down South Lake Avenue during Kidspace Children's Museum's Rosebud Parade on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 8 a.m. 449-9144 to register or for more information.

Join the candlelight Posada through Pasadena's Civic Center on Saturday, Dec. 2, 5 to 7 p.m., sponsored by AIDS Service Center. The route starts and ends at Paseo Colorado. 441-8495, ext. 243 or [www.posadaaidswalk.org](http://www.posadaaidswalk.org).

The historic Castle Green, 99 S. Raymond Ave., will be decked from top to bottom for a special holiday tour Sunday, Dec. 3, 1 to 5 p.m. \$20 entry fee funds restoration projects. 577-6765 or [www.castlegreen.com](http://www.castlegreen.com).

"Our Good Nature" is the theme of the Rose Parade on Monday, Jan. 1, at 8 a.m., followed by the Rose Bowl Game at 2 p.m. The post-parade Showcase of Floats is Jan. 1 from 1 to 5 p.m. and Jan. 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Plenty of other events will round out the festivities in Pasadena! 449-4100 or [www.tournamentofroses.com](http://www.tournamentofroses.com).

Pasadena's mayor invites you to the annual State of the City event Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m., at Hamilton Elementary School, 2089 Rose Villa St. Learn about city accomplishments and future plans. Refreshments will be served. 744-4311.

Low-income, elderly and disabled Pasadena residents can receive free home repairs from Rebuilding Together Pasadena. Call 798-6176 for details. Apply at 1384 E. Walnut St. or [www.rtpasadena.org](http://www.rtpasadena.org)

Recruit a friend and help deliver hot lunches for Pasadena Meals on Wheels. It's a vital service for residents who are disabled, elderly or ill. 449-6815

Female voices needed! No auditions. Arroyo Singers meet Tuesday evenings. (323) 256-5332.

Pasadena Education Network promotes family participation in public education and reaches out to families of preschool-aged children to help them overcome misinformation. (866) 216-7334 or [www.penfamilies.org](http://www.penfamilies.org).

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

## Noticias En Breve

### Pensando Globalmente y Actuando Localmente

Recientemente el Consejo de la Ciudad de Pasadena se comprometió a apoyar dos trascendentales acuerdos medio ambientales.

En respuesta a la Declaración de Ciudades Verdes y Acuerdos del Medio Ambiente Urbano de las Naciones Unidas, el consejo aprobó un plan integral de acción medio ambiental para Pasadena con cientos de ideas para mejorar el medio ambiente local.

El Acuerdo de Protección del Clima de los Alcaldes de Los Estados Unidos solicita a las ciudades americanas que ayuden a reducir el calentamiento global. Para mediados de Octubre, el pacto será firmado por aproximadamente 300 alcaldes - incluyendo el de Pasadena. Todas las ciudades afectadas crearán programas en sus áreas locales para proteger el medio ambiente, lo cual causará un impacto positivo en toda la nación.

Para más información llame al 744-4000.

### Las Llaves de su Nuevo Hogar

Para fines del 2007 "Fair Oaks Court" ofrecerá 31 nuevas casas unifamiliares (townhomes) de precio asequible en Fair Oaks Avenue y Peoria Street, más nueve casas sencillas que han sido arregladas; y dos casas

## TOPEK Dispenses Temporary Overnight Exemptions

BEGINNING MONDAY OCT. 23, phone requests for temporary overnight parking exemptions will no longer be accepted.

Instead, go to a Temporary Overnight Parking Exemption Kiosk (TOPEK) available at five outdoor locations: Pasadena Police Department, 207 N. Garfield Ave.; Fire Station #32, 2424 E. Villa St.; Fire Station #33, 515 N. Lake Ave.; Fire Station #34, 1360 E. Del Mar Blvd.; and Fire Station #36, 1140 N. Fair Oaks Ave.

Each TOPEK dispenses temporary exemptions for \$3 per night per vehicle, for up to 10 consecutive nights. Receipts must be displayed clearly inside vehicles. Exemptions are valid from 2 to 6 a.m. on residential streets. Complete instructions are listed on the kiosks. TOPEK accepts coins, \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills, most major credits cards, and debit cards that display Visa or MasterCard logos.

For more information visit [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net) (click on Parking Permits) or (800) 317-7177.

Residents who need long-term parking permits should visit the city's Business Services Section at 280 Ramona St. or call (626) 744-4166.



*The seismic retrofit and restoration of Pasadena City Hall is nearly complete and the building will reopen in mid-2007! Most recently, the finial on the northeast stair tower was replaced, restoration of cast stone elements (lion, fruit garlands, castles, crowns, keys, etc.) was completed, the main tower was painted and all of the base isolators were installed. Currently, additional structural elements are nearing completion, reconstruction of the east arcade (also known as the bridge) is underway, painting of the rest of the building is taking place and implementation measures are in progress to ensure that "green building" certification is on schedule. For more information visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/cityhall](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/cityhall) or call 744-7073.*

## Picture Yourself as a Homeowner



THROUGH A RANGE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMEBUYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, the Office of the City Manager / Housing and Community Development wants to make sure the keys to your new home are within reach.

One of the most exciting developments is Fair Oaks Court, a collection of 40 new townhomes—including 34 affordable units—at Fair Oaks Avenue and Peoria Street with landscaped courtyards, underground parking and a small commercial/office complex, plus nine spruced-up, single-family homes; and four single-family homes at Carlton Street and Cypress Avenue.

The Craftsman-style homes will end blight and overcrowding that once existed there, create a beautiful addition to the neighborhood, increase Pasadena's growing number of affordable and workforce housing units and meet requirements of the Fair Oaks/Orange Grove Specific Plan.

Construction began in August and is scheduled to be completed in late 2007. The homes are priced from \$85,000 to \$490,000 and will be sold to buyers who earn from 80 percent (low income) to 180 percent (workforce income) of Los Angeles County's median income limits. Financing is also provided by Pasadena Community Development Commission.

Fair Oaks Court is the first in the nation to qualify for federal New Market Tax Credits (NMT), an important community and economic development tool administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and created to encourage business investment and jobs in low-income areas.

The developer is Heritage Housing Partners, which promotes historic preservation and neighborhood revitalization by creating affordable homeownership opportunities.

If you think you or someone you know may qualify for homeownership at Fair Oaks Court, call 403-4663.

For more information about city of Pasadena affordable housing programs, call 744-8300 or visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/housing](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/housing).

## Buying or Selling a Home? Get an Inspection!

WHETHER YOU'RE BUYING OR SELLING A HOME, make sure it receives a check-up through the city's Occupancy Inspection Program (OIP) before any money changes hands.

To set up an inspection, visit Window #1 at the Pasadena Permit Center, 175 N. Garfield Ave., where you'll fill out an application, pay the fee and make an appointment. On the day of the inspection, a code compliance officer will check the home inside and out, including roofs, chimneys, windows, door frames, electrical, plumbing, heating and ventilation systems, floors and walls. The inspector will point out any potential hazards or health and safety issues, such as rodent infestations.

If a violation is found, the seller is given a reasonable time to make repairs. Common problems include lack of smoke detectors, major work done without permits, water heaters without seismic bracing, leaky plumbing, inadequate parking, and illegal garage conversions.

If you are the buyer, you are not responsible for any repairs unless you have made an agreement with the seller and have signed a waiver promising to make repairs within 30 days of the inspection.

Once repairs are made, the buyer receives a Certificate of Occupancy that is valid until the next time the property is sold. (Apartment complexes with three or more units aren't included in OIP because they're inspected every four years by the city.)

For more information, visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/planninganddevelopment](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/planninganddevelopment) (click on Building and Neighborhood Services and look under Code Compliance for Occupancy Inspection Program) or call 744-4633.

más en Carlton Street y Cypress Avenue.

Los precios de las casas serán entre \$85,000 a \$490,000 y serán vendidas a compradores que ganen de 80 por ciento (bajos ingresos) a 180 por ciento (ingreso de la población laboral) del ingreso medio en el Condado de Los Ángeles.

Para saber si usted cumple con los requisitos para ser propietario de una de las unidades de Fair Oaks Court, llame al 403-4663.

### ¿Está Comprando o Vendiendo una Casa? ¡Haga una Inspección!

Si está comprando o vendiendo una vivienda, asegúrese que sea inspeccionada a través del Programa de Inspección para Ocupar una Vivienda (OIP) antes que el dinero cambie manos.

Para programar una inspección visite la Ventana # 1 en el Centro de Permisos de Pasadena, 175 N. de la avenida Garfield; en ese lugar rellenará una solicitud, pagará una tarifa y hará una cita. El día de la inspección, un oficial que se encarga que se cumplan los códigos inspeccionará dentro y fuera de la vivienda e indicará cualquier peligro potencial o asuntos de salud y seguridad.

Si se encuentra algún incumplimiento, al vendedor se le dará un período de tiempo razonable para hacer las reparaciones. Los problemas comunes incluyen falta de detectores de humo, un trabajo muy grande sin permisos, termas de agua caliente sin abrazaderas sísmicas, goteras en las tuberías, estacionamiento inadecuado, y conversiones ilegales de los garajes.

Si usted es el comprador, usted no es responsable por ninguna reparación a menos que usted haya hecho un acuerdo con el comprador y haya firmado una exoneración prometiendo hacer las reparaciones dentro del período de 30 días, a partir de la fecha de inspección.

Una vez se hagan las reparaciones, el comprador recibe un Certificado para Ocupar la Vivienda que es válido hasta la próxima vez que se venda la propiedad. (Los complejos de apartamentos con más de tres unidades no están incluidos en OIP debido a que la ciudad los inspecciona cada cuatro años.

Para más información llame al 744-4633.

### Etcétera, etcétera...

El alcalde y un invitado especial del Polo Norte presidirán la ceremonia oficial para encender las luces del árbol de Pasadena, el viernes 1ro de diciembre a las 7:00 PM en Garfield Promenade del Paseo Colorado, con mucho entretenimiento en vivo, refrescos y mucho más. 744-4755.

El alcalde de Pasadena lo invita a usted a este evento anual de la Ciudad, el miércoles 17 de enero a las 7:00 PM., en la Escuela Primaria Hamilton, 2089 Rose Villa Street. Entérese de los logros y futuros planes de la ciudad. Se servirán refrescos. 744-4311.

Los que residen en Pasadena que son de bajos ingresos, personas de la tercera edad o discapacitados pueden recibir reparaciones gratuitas para su hogar a través de Reconstruyamos Pasadena Juntos. Baje una solicitud del 2007 en [www.rtpasadena.org](http://www.rtpasadena.org) ó 1384 E. Walnut St. Para más información llame al 798-6176.

## Local Ballot Measures



**STEP UP TO THE BALLOT BOX TUESDAY, NOV. 7, AND HAVE YOUR SAY ON TWO LOCAL ISSUES.**

Measure A asks whether the city should allow the National Football League (NFL) to renovate the Rose Bowl for professional football games; Measure B asks voters to adopt or reject changes to the Taxpayer

Protection Amendment, which prohibits Pasadena public officials who approve contracts or transactions of a certain dollar amount from receiving gifts, campaign contributions or employment from the recipients of those contracts or transactions.

If you would like to take on a larger role in community issues, consider running for mayor, city council or school board. The filing period for candidates begins Monday, Nov. 13, and ends Friday, Dec. 8, for the March 6 election. That day, voters will elect Pasadena's mayor; city council representatives for districts 1, 2, 4 and 6; and board of education seats 2, 4 and 6.

Learn more about running for office at one of two special workshops hosted by the city clerk Monday, Nov. 13, at 8 a.m. and Friday, Nov. 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the fourth floor conference room at the interim Pasadena City Hall, 117 E. Colorado Blvd.

You can also make a difference by serving as a poll worker or by offering your home or business as an accessible polling site. Bilingual workers are especially needed. Help your community by signing up today! There is a stipend of \$105 to \$130.

For more information on elections, call 744-4124 or visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/cityclerk/election](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/cityclerk/election).



## Deck the Halls Safely

**THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS ALWAYS BUSY FOR LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS BECAUSE OF FAULTY DECORATIONS, CANDLES AND CHRISTMAS TREES.** Pasadena Fire Department urges you to observe these safety tips:

- Choose a fresh Christmas tree that has been kept in water at all times. The needles should be green and stay put when you pull them.
- Don't put your tree up too early or leave it up longer than two weeks after the holidays. Dried-out trees can ignite and spread fires quickly.
- Set up your tree in a safe place away from heat sources such as fireplaces and heat vents.
- Inspect your holiday lights before you use them to make sure they don't have frayed wires, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets or excessive wear. Only use lighting that is listed by an approved testing laboratory. Turn off the lights when you're not home.
- Don't overload electrical outlets or link more than three light strands unless directions say it's safe. Periodically check wires; they shouldn't be warm to the touch.
- Use only non-flammable decorations that are placed away from heat vents. If you use an artificial tree, make sure it's flame retardant.
- If you use candles, make sure they're in sturdy holders and set them where children and pets can't knock them down. Never leave lit candles unattended and never leave the house with candles burning.
- Always remember to keep fresh batteries in your smoke detectors and practice your family evacuation plans.

For more information, call 744-7276 or contact [lderderian@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:lderderian@cityofpasadena.net).



## Plant Bank Comes Back to Life



**THE PASADENA PLANT BANK IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 days a year at the southeast end of the parking lot at Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave.**

A partnership of the city and the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, the plant bank is a perfect way to recycle plants that otherwise would have been thrown away. Any Pasadena resident can "deposit" surplus shrubs, trees and flowering plants, or "withdraw" what they need for their own gardens, free of charge. No need to sign in - just leave living plants on the benches in pots, cans, milk cartons or plastic bags, with their roots covered and moistened.

For more details or to offer suggestions, call 795-9704, email [plantbank@pasadenabeautiful.org](mailto:plantbank@pasadenabeautiful.org) or visit [www.pasadena.beautiful.org](http://www.pasadena.beautiful.org).

## Support for Energy Efficiency

**PASADENA WATER AND POWER PLEDGED ITS SUPPORT** for a cleaner, greener nation this summer, joining numerous electric and gas utilities, state policy makers and other leaders in backing the new National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency.

Presented by the California Public Utilities Commission, the plan aims to preserve natural resources, cut greenhouse gases, save money for consumers and set goals for energy efficiency. PWP signed the pact to demonstrate broad support for the nationwide effort.

The document was crafted by a leadership group designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, based on successful energy efficiency programs already in place across the country. It calls on gas and electric utilities, like PWP, to recognize energy efficiency as a priority and to commit to promoting energy efficiency programs among customers. If fully implemented, experts say, the plan could help defer the need for 40 new 500-megawatt power plants, prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of over 35 million vehicles, lower the costs of air pollution controls and cut the price of natural gas.

With our growing portfolio of clean, green power, generous rebates on energy saving appliances, a residential solar power program and energy efficiency incentives for developers and building owners, PWP is already at the front of the pack.



## Clean Power from Landfill



**AN AGING LANDFILL IN WEST COVINA IS THE NEW SOURCE OF CLEAN, GREEN POWER** for Pasadena.

Trash breaks down in landfills, creating potent emissions including methane. The Minnesota Methane plant, located at the BKK/West Covina Landfill, diverts this methane and uses it to produce electricity. This helps reduce greenhouse gases and offsets the need for "non-green" power plants that burn fossil fuel.

Support the cause by switching to green power for an additional charge of just 2.5¢ per kilowatt hour through PWP's ongoing "Go Green!" program. Residential customers can choose a \$5, \$10 or all-green option; commercial customers can switch part of or their entire monthly load.



## Cool Weather Savings

**CHILLY WEATHER WILL SOON BE CREEPING INTO YOUR HOME.** Stay warm, conserve energy and save money with these simple tips from PWP:

- Properly installed insulation is the single most effective way of conserving energy. It's like wrapping a thermal blanket around your home. (R-30 is recommended for ceilings and R-19 for walls.)
- Weather-strip your doors, windows and any other spots where air leaks in or out.
- Set your furnace/heater thermostat to 68 degrees during the day and 55 degrees at night.
- Check your thermostat regularly to make sure it's working properly.
- Clean or replace filters regularly to keep your heater running efficiently.
- Fix defective plumbing or dripping faucets, which can waste significant amounts of water and energy.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), which produce the same quality of light but last up to eight times longer and use up to 75 percent less energy. (Read lamp directions carefully to make sure a CFL is compatible.)
- Don't block vents or heating units with furniture or drapes.
- Use appliances such as dishwashers and clothes dryers only when they are full.
- Check for air leaks in all ductwork.
- Close window coverings at night to limit heat loss; open them during the day to let sunshine in.
- When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper closed.



## New Groundwater Storage Reservoir Designed

**PASADENA WATER AND POWER RECENTLY TOOK A BIG STEP** in creating a groundwater storage reservoir that will hold nearly 25 billion gallons of water to be used during future droughts and emergencies. PWP was responsible for the preliminary engineering design and environmental documentation for the project; costs were reimbursed by Metropolitan Water District.

The agreement is part of the ongoing Raymond Basin Conjunctive Use Program, created by MWD, the city of Pasadena, Foothill Municipal Water District and Raymond Basin Management Board to boost our local water supply.

Raymond Basin is a 40-square-mile natural underground aquifer that runs from La Cañada to Santa Anita Canyon and from the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains to the Raymond fault near the Pasadena/South Pasadena border. The basin is normally fed by mountain runoff from the Arroyo Seco, Eaton Canyon and other streams, collecting about 30,000 acre-feet each year. PWP diverts water from the Arroyo Seco to spreading ponds east of the Devil's Gate Reservoir. Sixteen utilities, including PWP, have rights to pump water from the basin, which is managed by the Raymond Basin Management Board.

MWD is making the most of the aquifer's unused capacity by asking PWP to reduce its groundwater pumping and inject water into the Raymond Basin, taking more MWD-imported Northern California and Colorado River water during non-drought years. During drought years, PWP will pump the stored water, reducing the need to take water from MWD.

The new reservoir will store up to 75,000 acre-feet of water, giving Pasadena and Southern California more protection against water shortages, a more reliable water supply and more flexibility. While MWD will fund construction, the facilities will be built, owned and operated by PWP and FMWD.

PWP will need to install three new groundwater wells and restore to service wells affected by perchlorate contamination. The preliminary design and environmental documentation is expected to be completed by the end of 2007.