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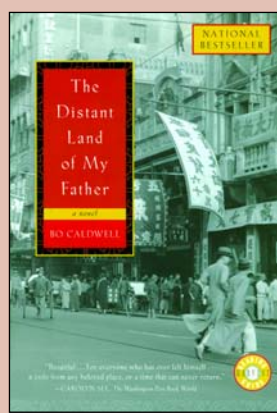
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**Etcetera . . . Etcetera**

- ✦ **Celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** on Monday, Jan. 15, at Robinson Park, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave. Breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m., with music, dancers and speakers through 1 p.m. Free. 744-7330.
- ✦ **Pasadena's 25th annual Black History Parade starts** at Charles White Park on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 10 a.m., leading to a family festival at Robinson Park from noon to 4 p.m. Join the fun! 744-7300.
- ✦ **The melodies of Haydn, Bartok and Mendelssohn** will fill the air during a free concert by Hyperion String Quartet Sunday, Feb. 25, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Caltech's Dabney Lounge. 395-4652.
- ✦ **Use a fold-up cart to wheel your groceries home!** Removing a store cart is a violation of state and local law. Abandoned carts are eyesores and safety hazards in neighborhoods. To report a problem, call 744-8227.
- ✦ **Do you own a local business?** Get a leg up on the competition with BusinessDecision, a new web-based service for small and mid-sized businesses from Pasadena Public Library. Find consumer market segmentation and demographic data, plus population forecasts. 744-4066 or www.cityofpasadena.net/library/e-resources.asp.
- ✦ **Create a living memorial for a loved one** by donating a tree for planting at a Pasadena park, school or street. Email the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation at trees@pasadenabeautiful.org or call 795-9704.
- ✦ **Learn how to get rid of household hazardous waste** or electronic waste safely by visiting www.cityofpasadena.net/publicworks and clicking on Street Maintenance & Integrated Waste Management. 744-4087.
- ✦ **A reduction of up to 50 percent – or more – in property tax** is available for property owners who agree to rehabilitate and maintain their historic buildings. www.cityofpasadena.net/planninganddevelopment (click on Design and Historic Preservation) or 744-4009.
- ✦ **Learn the fascinating history of Old Pasadena** by going on a walking tour led by Pasadena Heritage. The quarterly \$10 Saturday tours begin at 9 a.m. and include a slide presentation and 90-minute guided walk. Reservations are required. 441-6333 or www.pasadenaheritage.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.

**From Shanghai to Southern California**

**T**HE COMMUNITY WILL BE ABUZZ BEGINNING MARCH when this year's One City, One Story community reading campaign begins. Created in 2002 by Pasadena Public Library, the annual celebration nurtures a citywide fondness for reading and opens lines of communication so everyone can share their views.



From a stack of contenders, Bo Caldwell's "The Distant Land of My Father" has been selected as this year's book.

The novel delves into the life of Anna Schoene, a young girl living in Shanghai in the days before World War II, raised by glamorous parents and surrounded by servants in a luxurious villa. Anna's worldly father, the son of American missionaries, leads a secretive life as a smuggler and speculator. When Japan occupies Shanghai and Anna and her mother flee to South Pasadena, bravado leads Anna's father to stay behind. The story unfolds into a tale of a tortured prisoner, betrayal and, ultimately, the enduring love of family. Reviewers have compared Caldwell's writing style to that of a classic movie, and the novel offers details about the greater Los Angeles area in the 1930s.

Pick up a copy at Central Library, any branch library or local book store. Visit [www.onecityonestory.com](http://www.onecityonestory.com) for a full list of book discussion topics, reading groups and special events; you'll also find volunteer opportunities.

For more information call 744-4066.

**Meet the Author**

"The Distant Land of My Father" author Bo Caldwell will discuss her book Friday, March 16, at 7 p.m. in the Forum Room at All Saints Church, 132 N. Euclid Ave.

The community is invited to this free event. You'll learn her motivations for writing her vibrant and moving first novel and she will answer your questions. Whether you have finished the book by then or not, don't miss this great opportunity to hear from the author!

Born in Oklahoma City, Caldwell was raised in Los Angeles and attended Stanford University, where she began collecting a mantel full of awards. Her writing has appeared in countless journals; "The Distant Land of My Father" was published in 2001. For more information visit [www.onecityonestory.com](http://www.onecityonestory.com) or call 744-4066.

**Noticias En Breve**

**¿Que es el Estado de la Ciudad?**

El Estado de la Ciudad del 2007, esta planificado el Miércoles, 17 de Enero, en el auditorio de la Escuela de enseñanza primaria de Hamilton, localizada en 2089 Rose Villa St. El comienzo de visitas y entretenimiento empezara a las 6:30 de la tarde y el programa empezará a las 7 de la tarde.

El alcalde de Pasadena proporcionará información actualizada y los planes del futuro en asuntos importantes incluyendo el ambiente, los programas y los servicios para niños y jóvenes, el desarrollo económico, arte y cultura, la seguridad pública, el transporte, y el presupuesto de la ciudad. Una presentación de video iluminará los logros de

Se continua adentro . . .

**Avoid Wet Weather Woes**

ONE GOOD DOWNPOUR AND, DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU LIVE, you could find yourself knee-deep in mud. Prepare your property for winter rains by picking up free sand and sandbags from Fire Station 37 at 3430 E. Foothill Blvd. or Fire Station 38 at 1150 Linda Vista Ave. Fire safety officers are available to answer your questions.

You can also weather storms by following these tips from the Pasadena Fire Department:

- Clear any dead leaves, debris or overgrowth from drainage channels and rain gutters before it rains. This will help move water away from your home and prevent flooding.
- Keep your car's gas tank full; storm-related power outages could shut down gas pumps.
- During and after a storm, stay away from storm drain channels, rivers and other bodies of water.
- Allow yourself extra time and caution for travel.
- Keep your emergency kit updated with a flashlight, extra batteries, portable battery-operated radio, first aid kit and manual, emergency food and water for your family and pets, non-electric can opener, essential medications, sturdy shoes and comfort items for children.

For more information visit [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net) and click on Emergency Preparedness or call 744-7276.



**Register Now to Vote in March**



THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN PASADENA'S MARCH 6 ELECTION is Monday, Feb. 19. If you turned 18 this year, recently moved, changed your name or switched your party affiliation, or if you never registered before, pick up a registration form at 117 E. Colorado Blvd., your nearest post office, public library or the Department of Motor Vehicles. You must be a U.S. citizen.

On election day, voters will select a mayor; representatives for Pasadena City Council Districts 1, 2, 4 and 6; and Pasadena Board of Education representatives for seats 2, 4 and 6. Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Poll workers are needed! If you'd like to do your civic duty (not to mention earn \$105 to \$130), call 744-4124.

**Green Your Home With Simple Improvements**

BIG DEVELOPERS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN "BUILD GREEN." You can protect the environment, create a safer place for your family and save a bundle on water and energy with a few green home improvement projects of your own!

A series of free workshops sponsored by the city's Planning and Development Department will be held from February to June. Participants will receive certificates.

- Thursday, Feb. 1 – You'll get an overview of green building for homeowners, a virtual tour of local green homes and a demonstration of common green building products. The Neighborhood Church, 301 N. Orange Grove Blvd., 7 to 9 p.m.
- Thursday, March 1 – Experts will give you ideas for small, manageable do-it-yourself projects that will improve your home indoors and out. You'll learn about the latest technology for saving water and energy, and about money-saving rebates available from PWP. The Neighborhood Church, 7 to 9 p.m.
- Thursday, April 5 – Planning a major remodel? You'll learn tips for rolling back your water and energy use, from replacing windows and increasing insulation to planting shade trees and reusing gray water for irrigation. Art Center College of Design, South Campus, 950 S. Raymond Ave., 7 to 9 p.m.
- Thursday, May 3 – Experts will explain how drought-tolerant native plants, efficient irrigation, sustainable materials and storm water management can save thousands of gallons each year. Art Center College of Design, South Campus, 7 to 9 p.m.
- Saturday, June 2 – Wrap up the series with the Pasadena Green Building Tour from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet on the Garfield Avenue side of Pasadena City Hall for a free community tour to see green building techniques in action. Space is limited, so call 744-6646 or 744-3726 to reserve your spot!

For more information visit [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net) and click on Green Building Events or call 744-3726.

A separate workshop series is scheduled for developers.

**Take Care of Sidewalk Repairs**

ROOF, PAINT, WINDOWS, APPLIANCES, CARPETING, HEATING – keeping your home in good shape is a big job, and it extends to the parkway! In many cities, including Pasadena, sidewalk repairs are the responsibility of the property owner.

- If your sidewalk is damaged or uplifted by tree roots and you'd like it fixed, you have two options.
- Get a permit from the Public Works Department (744-4195) and hire your own contractor.
- Call 744-4191 to schedule a visit by a city engineer who will inspect the sidewalk and give you an estimate, based on the approximate cost of \$10 per square foot for sidewalks and \$15 per square foot for driveways. You'll be asked to submit a check to the city to cover the costs and your project will be added to the city's annually scheduled list of needed concrete repairs. (If you think your sidewalk is hazardous and you need help right away, you can receive temporary asphalt patch repairs at no charge; call the Public Works Maintenance Yards at 744-4158.)

Damaged sidewalks and driveway approaches must be repaired (or fees paid) before any Pasadena home is sold; failure to do so will delay escrow! Damaged sidewalks must also be fixed before the city will issue a building permit for home improvements worth \$20,000 or more. For more information visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/publicworks](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/publicworks) and click on Engineering or call 744-4191. For questions about city street trees, call 744-4321.

**Base Isolators**

After a thorough analysis of seismic strengthening options, their relative cost and long-term protection of the building and its occupants, a state-of-the-art technology known as base isolation was chosen to safeguard Pasadena City Hall. Base isolators installed beneath the building will serve as shock absorbers during future earthquakes. The isolators will work in tandem with a moat that will encircle the building and enable it to "float" in any direction during an earthquake with its structure intact, producing gentle lateral rolling instead of the violent reactions the building experienced in the past.



photo: Karen Balchunas

240 base isolators have been installed between the foundation and basement

**Infrastructure Improvements**

In addition to seismic issues, there are infrastructure realities: Pasadena City Hall was designed long before anyone could have predicted the future demands of air conditioners, computers and other modern technology. The retrofit project includes:

- mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades
- new fire sprinklers and other life safety systems
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades
- elevator upgrades

**Architectural Elements**



The barrel-vaulted ceiling in the grand entrance

Visitors experience a purposeful progression of exterior spaces as they enter Pasadena City Hall from Garfield Avenue, walk through the magnificent grand entrance with its barrel-vaulted ceiling and are embraced by the natural beauty of the courtyard.

For 80 years residents, architects and preservationists have stood in awe of Pasadena City Hall's magnificence. No other building characterizes Pasadena's pride in the same way. The architecture is significant not only to this community but to Southern California and the nation. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In a 2004 poll conducted by Pasadena Heritage, Pasadena City Hall was identified by visitors and residents as their favorite historic building in this community.

Not surprisingly, the exquisite architectural elements of the building's interior and exterior have deteriorated and suffered damage over time. To the casual observer, the building appeared to be aging gracefully; but 80 years of wear and tear, weathering, earthquake activity and lack of consistent maintenance took a serious toll. Plaster was cracked and decorative elements needed to be cleaned, repaired and resecured. Architectural features including the lanterns atop the historic dome and the massive medallion at the front building entrance needed urgent repair.

**The Budget Challenge**



Stairwells were among the areas with significant earthquake damage

In autumn 2004, when the construction project went out to bid, a sharp escalation in building material costs forced the Pasadena City Council to streamline the project and move many of the finishing touches and high-level restoration work onto a list of unfunded priorities.

When the city council approved the funding plan, about \$7.5 million was left unfunded. Every effort is being made to raise these funds through grants and individual community donors.

Project funds have been secured through a combination of local tax revenues, the sale of bonds and an increase in the percentage of electricity revenues that are annually transferred from the city's light and power fund to the general fund. The project is supplemented with grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of California, and contributions from individuals and foundations

The total budget is \$117,594,083. Of that amount, \$82,046,786 has been allocated for construction. The remainder is for other costs including:

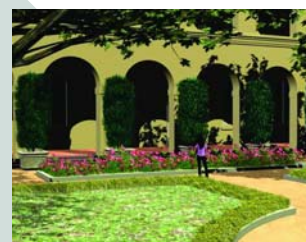
- moving of employees and furnishings out of and back into City Hall
  - leases for temporary office space
  - new technology infrastructure
- Specific elements that remain in the project but are part of the unfunded balance include:
- accessibility features including new building entry ramps, new courtyard ramps and handrails
  - perimeter landscaping
  - courtyard landscaping including California live oaks, palm trees, shrubs, groundcover, pots, plants and cast stone planter urns,
  - new courtyard furniture including cast stone benches and curved wood benches
  - restoration of existing historic building elements including the courtyard fountain and light poles, and the city council chamber

About \$4 million in additional grant funding has been secured to date for these unfunded priorities. Few other municipal buildings in the nation inspire communities and delight individual senses. Pasadena City Hall is resplendent with architectural details that are found throughout the building. It will be seismically safe and its mechanical systems state-of-the-art, but its architectural elegance and breathtaking beauty now hang in the balance. The historic preservation and restoration work included on the "wish list" may have to be delayed far into the future unless additional funds are found.

Your support is respectfully requested to help preserve and restore these historic elements.



There were many other examples of severe damage



The courtyard landscaping plan closely resembles the original design

photo: Zack Stromberg

photo: Zack Stromberg

© Tavo Olimos, photographer

## The State of the City

THE 2007 STATE OF THE CITY EVENT IS SCHEDULED WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17, in the Hamilton Elementary School auditorium, 2089 Rose Villa St. Tours and entertainment start at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7 p.m.

Pasadena's mayor will provide updates and future plans on important issues including the environment, programs and services for children and youths, economic development, arts and culture, public safety, transportation and more. A video presentation will spotlight Pasadena's accomplishments over the past year.

Residents are encouraged to attend this free event. Spanish interpretation will be provided and refreshments will be served. Enter on Del Mar Boulevard for free parking.

The event will be broadcast live on 55 KPAS and via the Internet at [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net) (click on City News). For more information call 744-4311.



## Opera Talks Return to Central Library

LOS ANGELES OPERA'S FREE "Opera Talks" series returns to Pasadena Central Library's Donald Wright Auditorium.

The series starts Jan. 10 with a discussion of Kurt Weill's "The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny," set to coincide with L.A. Opera's performances starring four-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

The series continues with discussions of Wagner's "Tannhauser" Feb. 7, a "behind-the-scenes" chat March 7, Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" April 4 and Torroba's "Luisa Fernanda" on May 2. A free community concert will be performed June 27. All events are at 7 p.m.

Ask a librarian to direct you to the special collection of opera recordings and books.

No advance reservations are required – just show up! For more information, including parking details, call 744-4066, choose Option 7.



## New Use for an Old Army Base

ELEVEN PROPOSALS FOR THE REUSE of the Desiderio Army Reserve Center were received by the September deadline.

In December, the Planning Commission settled on four semi-finalists – the Arroyo Center for Art & the Environment, Moule & Polyzoides Architects and Urbanists, Habitat for Humanity, and City of Pasadena Green Space, Recreation and Public Safety Center.

The commission asked the four semi-finalists to return with revised proposals that show more expanded community partnerships Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 6:15 p.m. at Pasadena Conference Center, 300 E. Green St. The commission will select one finalist, which will be considered by the city council Monday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St. (the council will also review the other 10 proposals).

In April the city council will deliberate on a final plan based on the concepts in the final proposal. All meetings are free and open to the public.

For complete details on the Desiderio project, visit [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net) and click on Desiderio Army Reserve Center, call 744-4650 or email [sdewolf@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:sdewolf@cityofpasadena.net).



## Map Leads Way Through Arroyo

THE CITY'S PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION recently printed full-color maps with complete details on trails, bike routes, landmarks, streams and storm channels, plants and animals, recreational opportunities and the history of the 150-acre natural preservation area.

The lower Arroyo Seco features a natural park, fly casting pond, archery range, rubble walls, trails, a community center, memorial grove and several vista points.

In 2006 city staff and volunteers were hard at work making the area even more enticing. Trails were restored and relocated to make them safer, shade trees were planted, stone walls were uncovered, and steps and walls around the historic La Casita del Arroyo were restored. Soon plastic bag dispensers will be installed to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets!

You can enter the area at Arroyo Boulevard and Norwood Street (between California Boulevard and Arbor Street). Parking is available in the lower Arroyo Seco and at La Casita del Arroyo, 177 S. Arroyo Blvd.

For a new map or more information, call 744-4321 or visit [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net) (click on Arroyo Seco.)

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Pasadena en el último año.

Los residentes de Pasadena son alentados a asistir este acontecimiento gratuito. Interpretación en español será proporcionada y refrigerios serán servidos. Entre por la Avenida Del Mar a un lado de la escuela para estacionamiento gratuito.

El acontecimiento será transmitido en vivo en 55 KPAS y vía el Internet en [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net) (opríma Noticias de la Ciudad). Para más información llame al 744-4311.

## Municipalidad Volverá a Abrir esta Primavera

¡Los días están contados, en marcha para la gran apertura de la municipalidad de Pasadena! El edificio ha sido cerrado para restauración sísmica y histórica desde el verano del 2004.

Las oficinas de la ciudad empezarán a mudarse en Marzo y Mayo del 2007, y las celebraciones de la comunidad se están planeando para Junio. ¡Estos incluirán las visitas públicas, un concierto gratuito y más! Las fechas de los acontecimientos serán anunciados en las ediciones futuras de Pasadena In Focus.

Para más información llame al 744-4000.

## Desconecte su Refrigerador Viejo

Cada refrigerador viejo utiliza desaguaderos cerca de 1,718 kilovatios por-hora cada año. ¡(Nuevos modelos pueden ser 25 por ciento más eficientes)! El Departamento de Agua y Luz (PWP) de Pasadena quieren hacerlo mas facil para usted y comiencen a ahorrar dinero.

Si usted es cliente de servicios electricos de la Ciudad de Pasadena, PWP recogerá su refrigerador viejo o congelador independiente, gratuito y le dan un reembolso de \$25 por uno nuevo. Para calificar, los refrigeradores y los congeladores deben ser servibles y hay un límite de dos unidades por casa.

Llame al 744-6970 dos a tres semanas con anticipacion para que puedan planificar cuando podran recojer su refrigerador.

## New Meters are Easier to Read

YOU MAY HAVE READ LAST YEAR THAT PASADENA WATER AND POWER is swapping out old meters with new models called AMRs.

The electric and water meters have odometer displays that are easier to read (left to right) to help you track your usage and conserve. By checking your month-to-month consumption and using better energy-saving habits, like shutting off your air conditioning when nobody's home, you can save on your bills.

The meters are also great for PWP. AMR technology uses radio frequency to transmit billing data to handheld devices carried by our meter readers. This lets our crews walk or drive by without entering your property in most cases. This process is much faster and more accurate.

To date, more than 25,000 electric meters and more than 6,000 water meters have been upgraded, mostly in residential areas. To accommodate these improvements in your neighborhood, please remember that Pasadena's Light and Power Ordinance allows PWP crews to enter your property to inspect or replace equipment. You can help us work quickly and keep our equipment in top shape by providing easy access and offering any keys or security gate codes. Our crew members always wear official PWP identification badges and arrive in officially marked vehicles.

If you have any questions about the meter change-out program, call 744-4469.



## New Year's Resolution: Water-Wise Gardens

PASADENA WATER AND POWER'S LANDSCAPE WORKSHOPS are blooming again! Learn how native plants, smart plant selection, proper locations and good maintenance can help prune your water bills while your garden thrives.

Free to all PWP residential water customers, this series of four comprehensive classes covers the following topics:

- Landscape design basics – Saturday, Feb. 24
- California Friendly and native plants – Saturday, March 10
- Landscape sprinkler systems – Saturday, March 24
- Soils, watering and fertilizers – Saturday, April 7



© 2003 George W. Hartwell

You can sign up for individual classes or for the entire series. The classes, taught by landscaping professionals, will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr. All materials are provided. Seating is limited, so call 744-3715 to reserve your spot (you must have a reservation to attend).

If you can't make it to the workshops, look for an online tutorial covering topics similar to the classes above at [www.cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower) (click on Your Water, then FREE Landscape Irrigation & Design Courses).

Reminder: If you use sprinkler timers, be sure to adjust them this winter to reduce watering; turn them off completely on rainy days. For a current watering index, which indicates the right amount of water for plants to receive based on temperature and weather, visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com).



## Pull the Plug on Your Old Fridge



EARN SOME COOL CASH through Pasadena Water and Power's Refrigerator Recycling Program, back by popular demand!

How old is the refrigerator in your kitchen? Or, if you're like many residents, you may have an old, spare refrigerator or freezer that you hardly use plugged into your garage. Each one drains about 1,718 kilowatt hours every year. (New models can be 25 percent more efficient!) PWP wants to make it easy for you to pull the plug and start saving money.

Open to all PWP residential electric customers, the program offers free pick-up and recycling of old refrigerators and stand-alone freezers. In return, each participant receives a \$25 rebate for a fridge, a \$35 rebate for a freezer and a coupon redeemable for three compact fluorescent light bulbs. To qualify, refrigerators and freezers must be in working order and there is a two-unit limit per household. Just call PWP's AnswerLine two to three weeks in advance to schedule a pick-up straight from your home or garage (there's no need to haul the fridge to the curb).

You'll receive a check in the mail and lower power bills, plus you'll reduce the load on Pasadena's power grid and help the environment at the same time. PWP has secured the assistance of Appliance Recycling Centers of America Inc. (ARCA), which has pledged to handle the old appliances using the most advanced and Earth-friendly methods available. They'll safely dispose of or recycle potentially hazardous materials, like PCBs and CFC refrigerants. All in all, this program is a great way for you to contribute to the greater good.

For more information, visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower) or call the PWP AnswerLine at 744-6970

## A Local Philanthropic Resource

The city council recently selected the Pasadena Community Foundation (PCF) as the sole receiver of local donations. A fund has been established to which Pasadena residents and others may contribute to the restoration of Pasadena City Hall. With a goal of restoring the interior courtyard and providing peripheral landscaping, a citizens committee was formed to solicit donations and direct them toward PCF.

Every donation to the PCF City Hall Fund is welcomed and appreciated. Those who donate \$999 or less receive commemorative Pasadena City Hall gifts; donors who contribute \$1,000 or more will be recognized on a distinctive plaque in the grand entrance of City Hall.

Whether you can give \$25 or \$250,000, please be assured that the combination of large and small donations will restore Pasadena City Hall to its preeminent reputation as one of our nation's most beautiful architectural monuments.

Donations to the Pasadena Community Foundation City Hall Fund can be made in a variety of ways:

- Checks made payable to Pasadena Community Foundation (write "City Hall Fund" on the memo line)
- Pledges for a particular amount over a specified time period
- Gifts of appreciated securities
- Surrender of paid-up life insurance policies
- Trusts with income directed to the project

Donations should be directed to the Pasadena Community Foundation, 260 S. Los Robles Ave., Suite 119, Pasadena, CA 91101.

Pasadena Community Foundation is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) public charity; donations are tax-deductible to the maximum extent allowable by law. Each donation will be recognized with a letter of acknowledgement.

For more information or inquiries, please call 796-2097 or email [jdevoll@pasadenacf.org](mailto:jdevoll@pasadenacf.org).

## Souvenirs Help Pave the Way

From postcards and key chains to t-shirts and cloisonné pins, all proceeds from the sale of official city souvenirs help fund the city hall project. See the entire collection at [www.cityofpasadena.net/cityhall](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/cityhall) (click on fund-raising activities), drop by 117 E. Colorado Blvd., sixth floor, during regular business hours or call 744-4755.

For more information about the Pasadena City Hall retrofit and restoration project, visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/cityhall](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/cityhall) or call 744-7073.

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2007

## City Hall will Reopen this Spring

The countdown is on for the grand reopening of Pasadena City Hall! The building has been closed for a major seismic retrofit and historic restoration since summer 2004.

City offices will begin moving back between March and May 2007. With the exception of the Transportation Department and Housing Division, all city offices that previously were located at Pasadena City Hall will move back.

Community celebrations are being planned for this summer, including public tours, a free concert and more! Event dates will be announced in future issues of *Pasadena In Focus*, at [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net) and in local newspapers.

## A Little History



The current Pasadena City Hall was built in 1927

The City of Pasadena was incorporated in 1886. The first Pasadena City Hall was built at the northeast corner of Colorado Boulevard and Fair Oaks Avenue. Later, city offices shared space in a mercantile store.

The existing Pasadena City Hall was built in 1927 to inspire a city with beauty, boldness and vision. It is an important part of this community's rich architectural heritage. The firm of Bakewell and Brown in San Francisco designed Pasadena City Hall as part of a plan to construct majestic buildings in the civic center area. Bakewell and Brown turned to the style of 16th century Italian architect Andrea Palladio, who had studied and admired the Roman architect Vitruvius, as did the California mission-building padres. Palladio represented the simple, serene, classical style of the early Renaissance, in contrast to the Gothic style of medieval times and the rococo style of the later Renaissance.

There were no seismic building codes in the 1920s, and even the greatest engineers of the day did not possess the technical knowledge available today regarding the reaction of large buildings to earthquakes. Though incredibly well built for its time, Pasadena City Hall suffered serious damage in the 1991 Sierra Madre and 1994 Northridge earthquakes, and city officials learned it would not survive another major quake without partial or total destruction and serious injury and/or loss of life.



Pasadena City Hall was very well built for its time