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Going Green Wins Gold

WHEN IT WAS FIRST COMPLETED IN 1927, PASADENA CITY HALL SERVED AS A SYMBOL of our city's strength and beauty. Eighty-one years later, after a top-to-bottom renovation, the towering structure spotlights Pasadena's commitment to the environment.

The landmark was recently awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED is the internationally respected rating system that recognizes buildings that meet high standards in sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design.

During a three-year renovation led by the Public Works Department, Pasadena Water and Power provided funding and expert advice to transform the building into a model of efficiency and environmental stewardship. The project was completed in spring 2007 ahead of schedule and under budget.

New heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems have made the building 20 percent more energy efficient than state standards and the building is the first city-owned facility in Pasadena with 100 percent green power. Efficient plumbing fixtures have cut water use by 50 percent. Only low-emission and high-recycled-content materials were used and the janitorial crew now uses green cleaning products. Bike storage, showers and preferred parking encourage employees to walk, bike, carpool and drive low-emission vehicles to work. Smoking is prohibited in the building and on the grounds.

Pasadena became one of the first U.S. cities to adopt LEED guidelines for privately owned buildings and now requires a minimum LEED Silver certification for municipal buildings with 5,000 square feet or more of new construction.

For more information about the City Hall project visit www.cityofpasadena.net/cityhall or call 744-4695.



photo: Karen Balchunas

Celebrating Historic Preservation

With more than 1,000 historic landmarks, Pasadena has much to celebrate during National Historic Preservation Month in May.

The community is invited to a special ceremony Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m. in the courtyard at Pasadena City Hall where selected property owners will earn Pasadena Historic Preservation Awards for their efforts to restore some of our community's architectural treasures.

The event is sponsored by the Historic Preservation Commission, a group whose mission is to protect and recognize the important Pasadena landmark properties that link us to the past. To date, the commission has helped draw attention to more than 1,000 Pasadena properties that are now listed on the National Register for Historic Places, more than 50 fine examples by architects Greene & Greene, 80 landmarks and 16 landmark districts. In the process, historic preservation has become one of Pasadena's proudest achievements.

For more information call 744-4009.

Etcetera . . . Etcetera

John Muir High School is being reinvented with small, specialized learning academies. Learn more Thursday, May 15, 6:30 p.m. at Robinson Park Center, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave. 798-7881.

Enjoy a concert by Crown City Symphony in honor of library volunteers Friday, May 30, 7:30 p.m.; and young Los Angeles Opera singers in concert Monday, June 30, 6 p.m. Free at Pasadena Central Library, 285 E. Walnut St. 744-4066.

The Courage to Write is a free workshop for adults Mondays at 2 p.m. from June 2 to July 7 at La Pintoresca Branch Library, 1355 N. Raymond Ave. Find your own voice while sharing your work in a supportive environment. 744-7268 to reserve your spot.

Get up and moving with Pasadena's mayor at 7:45 a.m. the first Wednesday of every month for a walk around the Rose Bowl Stadium. Special guest walkers are actor and talk-show host Barry Gordon on June 4 and Pasadena Fire Chief Dennis Downs on July 2. 831-2980 or www.upandmoving.org.

California State Senior Olympics will be in Pasadena June 7 to 22! If you are 50 or older and have

athletic abilities, enter at www.pasadenaseniorencenter.org or call 685-6754.

Free first-time home buyers seminar in English and Spanish on Saturday, June 14, 9 a.m. to noon at 649 N. Fair Oaks Ave., second floor, is sponsored by city of Pasadena and Pasadena-Foothills Association of Realtors. RSVP to (877) 795-2455.

Pasadena Chalk Festival is June 14 and 15, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. with 600 artists creating spectacular murals on pavement at Paseo Colorado. Free. 795-9100 or www.pasadenachalkfestival.com.

Enjoy food, music, raffles and 150 shiny entries at Pasadena Police Classic Car Show on Sunday, June 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Colorado Boulevard between Marengo and Euclid avenues. 744-4501 or www.cityofpasadena.net/police.

Follow the yellow brick road to Mothers' Club Family Learning Center's benefit "There's No Place Like Home" Sunday, June 22, 5 p.m. www.mothersclub.org or 792-2687, ext 122.

Learn local laws about barking dogs and other nuisance animal issues at a community meeting sponsored by the Code

Enforcement Commission on Thursday, June 26, 6 p.m. at Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave. 744-4633.

In June, Los Angeles Children's Chorus is looking for boys and girls ages 8 to 12 who love to sing. www.lachildrenschorus.org or 793-4231 for audition appointment.

Volunteer to help with dances, art programs and music classes provided by the city's Adaptive Recreation Program for children and adults with disabilities. 744-7257.

The city of Pasadena is partnering with Arroyo Seco Foundation on restoration of the Central Arroyo stream. Volunteers are needed. 303-3417.

A city permit is required before installing an alarm system. Download an application at www.cityofpasadena.net (click on E-Government) or pick one up from Room N106 at Pasadena City Hall, 100 N. Garfield Ave. Four-year permits are \$103. 744-4166.

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

iLa Alcaldía de la Ciudad Gana el Reconocimiento de Oro por Ambientalista

Cuando se termino por primera vez en 1927, la Alcaldía de Pasadena, sirvió como un símbolo de la fortaleza y belleza de la ciudad, ochenta y un años después, y luego de una remodelación de arriba hasta abajo, esta imponente estructura central realza el compromiso de Pasadena hacia el medio ambiente.

El Edificio recientemente recibió el premio de Liderazgo en Energía y Diseño Ambiental (LEED) certificación de Oro por el Consejo Estadounidense al Edificio Verde.

Nuevos sistemas de calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado han hecho que el edificio tenga un 20 por ciento de mejor eficiencia de energía que el estándar estatal. Este edificio es el primero de propiedad de la ciudad en Pasadena que cuenta con 100 por ciento de energía verde. Eficientes artefactos de plomería han reducido el uso del agua un 50 por ciento. Únicamente se utilizaron materiales de baja emisión y de alto contenido de material reciclado; asimismo, el equipo de conserjes ahora usa productos de limpieza verdes. El depósito de bicicletas, las duchas y estacionamiento privilegiado ahora alienta a los empleados a que caminen, monten bicicleta, compartan el transporte y manejen vehículos de baja emisión para trabajar.

Se continua adentro . . .

Protect Your Recyclables

THE RECYCLABLES YOU'VE SAVED FOR YOUR BLUE-LIDDED BIN — plastic bags, jars, cans, bottles and more — are taken to the Allan Company in Baldwin Park where crews sort them and sell them to manufacturers that turn them into brand-new products. Revenues help offset our costs of collection, promote waste diversion programs and support environmental education.

With this process, we can be sure Pasadena is doing its best to conserve natural resources and divert trash from local landfills.

Unless, of course, scavengers get to them first! It's against the law to interfere with city trash collectors or take recyclables from bins, but scavengers have found that this can be profitable.

While the city is working hard to fix this difficult problem, you can help. Put your recycling bin at the curb no later than 7 a.m. on your collection day rather than the night before to stop nighttime and early morning scavenging. Place beverage containers with CRV value at the bottom and pile newspapers and other items on top.

Never confront scavengers. If you spot scavengers in your neighborhood, call Pasadena Police Department at 744-4241 and provide a description of the perpetrators.

For more information about recycling, call the Public Works Department at 744-4087.



photo: Zack Stromberg

Lamanda Park Branch Library celebrates the big 4-0 Saturday, June 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with children's activities, prizes and more. Do you have special memories, photos or other memorabilia to share? Send to Memory Book, Lamanda Park Branch Library, 140 S. Altadena Dr., 91107. (626) 744-7266.



What is it? It lets blind and visually impaired pedestrians know they're about to leave the sidewalk and enter the street. Bumps and the bright color give tactile and visual warnings. "Truncated domes" are being installed on curb ramps in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and state building codes. 744-4782.



photo: Zack Stromberg

In Memory of Fallen Soldiers



U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN SERVICE to their country will be honored during very special events in commemoration of Memorial Day.

Sunday, May 25, Music Under the Stars in front of Pasadena City Hall will include a special musical tribute to America's armed forces. A free family festival at 5:30 p.m. will be followed by the 7:30 p.m. free concert by the Pasadena Pops. Bring a picnic or visit the food court. 793-7172.

Monday, May 26, at 11 a.m. the community is invited to a free ceremony at Memorial Park. The color guard will include JROTC from John Muir High School; Gold Star banners will be unveiled, each with the name of a Pasadena soldier killed in action in Iraq or Afghanistan; soldiers throughout the San Gabriel Valley killed in action will be remembered while a bell is tolled at the reading of each name; and "Taps" will be played by echoing buglers at opposite ends of the park. The banners will be displayed in the near future along the perimeter of the park. 795-8141.

Immediately following this event, a barbecue with all the trimmings at Pasadena Senior Center at the south end of the park will include an old-fashioned sing-along of patriotic songs. Pre-paid reservations are required. Email CynthiaR@pasadenaseniorencenter.org or call 685-6706.

See Pasadena in a Whole New Way



BIKE WEEK PASADENA IS MAY 12 TO 17, with free activities and rides to promote bikes as healthy alternatives to cars.

Three guided tours will start at One Colorado at 6 p.m. Ladies Night on Tuesday, May 13, will lead women cyclists to the Rose Bowl Stadium, ending with mini clinics and refreshments in the One Colorado courtyard; the Co-ed Road Ride on Wednesday, May 14, will wind its way through quaint neighborhoods; and the Friday Night Social Ride on Friday, May 16, will be leisurely and scenic.

The Urban Bicycle Commuter Expo on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at One Colorado will feature bicycles, fashion and gear plus workshops, entertainment and more, followed by a film screening.

One Colorado is bordered by Colorado Boulevard, Union Street, Fair Oaks Avenue and De Lacey Street.

Bike Week Pasadena highlights bicycling as an easy way to exercise, cut traffic and air pollution, and save on gas money. This weeklong salute is presented by the Transportation Department, One Colorado, Cyclists Inciting Change through Live Exchange (CICLE) and Metro. For more information visit www.CICLE.org or call (323) 478-0060.

Help Reduce Wildfires

TO GEAR UP FOR THE SUMMER WILDFIRE SEASON, Pasadena Fire Department is conducting brush clearance inspections through June to ensure that properties in high-risk areas comply with the Pasadena Municipal Code. During the inspections, firefighters will be available to answer your questions about fire codes and ordinances, hazardous vegetation and brush clearance.

To help make your property safe from wildfire damage, keep grass and weeds mowed, trim back shrubs and trees that are less than 18 feet apart and cover slopes with high moisture content groundcover no higher than 18 inches. Do not clear native chaparral because it plays an important role in stabilizing slopes and controlling soil erosion.

Clean leaves, needles and twigs from your roof gutters, soak trees and shrubs monthly to maintain leaf moisture, prune trees properly, cover beds with three inches of mulch to suppress weeds and keep your property free of flammable material such as dried vegetation, cuttings or wood piles.

For more information call 744-4668.

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Está prohibido fumar en el edificio y en los jardines o patios. Para más información llame al 744-4695.

No Deje que las Personas que Buscan en la Basura Saqueen sus Reciclables

Es contra la ley interferir con el personal de la ciudad que recoge la basura o de sacar reciclables de los contenedores colocados por el borde de la banqueta.

Para ayudar a prevenir a que las personas que buscan en la basura saqueen su contenedor de reciclables, ponga su contenedor de reciclables al borde de la banqueta a más tardar a las 7:00 a.m. el día que se colecta en vez de la noche anterior, para que paren de buscar en el contenedor durante la noche y temprano en la mañana.

También puede tratar de poner los contenedores de bebidas con valor de CRV en el fondo de su contenedor y poner los periódicos, cartones y otros artículos encima.

Haga lo que haga no confronte a los que buscan en la basura. Si usted los ve en su vecindad llame al Departamento de Policía de Pasadena al 744-4241 y proporcione una descripción de los perpetradores.

Para más consejos o información adicional acerca del reciclaje, llame al Departamento de Servicios Públicos al 744-4087.

Estamos Aquí para Ayudarle

Usted o alguien que conoce puede cumplir con los requisitos para los programas de asistencia financiera del Departamento de Agua y Energía de Pasadena. Ya sea si sus necesidades son de ingreso – o relacionadas con su salud, nosotros tenemos un programa para ayudar.

El Programa Cares de Pasadena proporciona asistencia financiera para personas mayores y residentes con discapacidades, mientras que el Programa de Asistencia de los Servicios de Electricidad asiste a residentes de bajos ingresos y familias (los niveles de ingreso de elegibilidad fueron incrementados recientemente).

El Programa de Asistencia Médica es para clientes que dependen de equipo médico, mientras que los proyectos APPLE proporcionan ayuda financiera de emergencia solo una vez a través de donaciones de PWP y sus clientes. (Llame al 744-7300 si usted tiene preguntas específicas acerca del Proyecto APPLE.)

Solicite en persona en cualquiera de los siguientes emplazamientos:

- Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St.
- Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
- Villa-Parke Community Center, 363 E. Villa St.
- Victory Park Center, 2575 Paloma St.;
- Neighborhood Connections, 1382 E. Walnut St.

Para más información llame al 744-6970

Etcétera, etcétera...

Para las personas que están pensando comprar su primera casa se ha programado un seminario gratis en inglés y español el sábado 14 de Junio de 9:00 a.m. hasta el medio día en el 649 N. Fair Oaks Ave., segundo piso (junto a Vons). RSVP al (877) 795-2455.



Play it Safe on the Rose Bowl Loop

HUNDREDS OF WALKERS, JOGGERS, skaters and strollers circle the historic Rose Bowl Stadium every day. To prevent anyone from being sidelined by an injury, the city of Pasadena has launched a safety campaign with an easy-to-remember slogan: “Stay Left to Be Right!”



With the goal of helping people stay safe and respect others while enjoying the Rose Bowl Loop, all pedestrians should go in the same direction – counterclockwise around the stadium within the designated boundaries. Going counterclockwise, or “Staying Left,” will keep you from spilling into the traffic lanes as you try to avoid other pedestrians going in the opposite direction, and allows you to see oncoming vehicles and bicyclists as they approach.

There are big, graphic arrows on the pedestrian pathway to help guide walkers. Slashed lines along the buffer zone should be used only to pass another pedestrian.

Bicyclists should proceed as if they are driving cars, riding in the same direction as vehicular traffic and observing stop signs, signals and right-of-way rules.

Funding for the project has been provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information call 744-8723.



Minds will Meet for a Green Future

FRESH AIR, PURE WATER, WASTE REDUCTION, efficient buildings, less traffic, more trees – these are the hallmarks of a green city and the vision for Pasadena’s future.

The Green Pasadena Leadership Summit on Saturday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, June 8, from 12:30 to 5 p.m. is open to anyone who wants to help create the greenest, most sustainable city possible. The event will include sessions with city officials, keynote presentations and leadership training. You’ll also learn about environmental issues facing California and the innovative ways Pasadena is addressing them. Registration fee for the summit is \$170 before May 16 and \$195 thereafter.

The summit will be at Pasadena Conference Center, 300 E. Green St. For more information visit www.cityofpasadena.net/greencity and click on Green Events or call 577-5700.



Calling All Kids!

UPCOMING FREE EVENTS AND PROGRAMS have been designed especially for children and families.

Family Fun Day

La Pintesca Park will be bustling with activity including face-painting, skate park competition, talent show, arts and crafts, and much more Saturday, May 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Special focus will be given to the park and the adjacent La Pintesca Branch Library as safe, inviting places where families can enjoy a range of activities at little or no cost throughout the year. For more information call 744-8334.

“Catch the Reading Bug”

That’s the theme of the summer reading program for children in sixth grade and below at Pasadena Central Library and our nine branch libraries beginning Saturday, June 14. Once you join, you’ll win a prize each week for keeping us posted on your progress. Fun programs will include puppets, a magician, theater production, storytellers and musicians. Visit www.cityofpasadena.net/librarykids or call 744-4066.

There’s a special reading club just for teens, too, beginning June 21. Check it out at www.cityofpasadena.net/libraryteens.



Former Pasadena Mayor Kathryn “Katie” Nack passed away on March 16. A passionate volunteer for causes associated with developmental disabilities and senior citizen issues, Katie devoted untold hours to related local, state and national organizations. The Outstanding Service Award from the Governor’s Committee for the Handicapped was one of her many honors. She will never be forgotten.

PASADENA Water & Power

Reflections on Water

MAY IS WATER AWARENESS MONTH! Pasadena Water and Power wants to remind everyone that our community still faces a water shortage.

Now that the rainy season has ended and summer is coming, it’s urgent that we all find ways to cut water waste.

You can save hundreds, even thousands of gallons per month with simple changes. Do you turn off the faucet while you’re shaving or brushing your teeth? Take shorter showers? Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes? Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or patio? Fix leaky plumbing right away? Water the yard twice a week or less?

Adjusting your watering schedule is a quick fix with big savings. Go to www.PasadenaSavesWater.com and use the online watering calculator, which takes into account the season, types of plants, locale, soil and irrigation system to tell you how often and how long to water. In most cases, it’s less than you think!

Brush up on your water-saving skills at a free residential landscaping class Saturday, June 21, from 8 a.m. to noon at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr. The workshop will help you grow a beautiful, water-smart garden. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Email gacevedo@cityofpasadena.net or call 744-3715.



Recycling CFLs in the Bright Thing to Do

CHOOSING COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS (CFLs) means big financial and environmental savings: They use up to 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer.



Making the switch comes with responsibility. CFLs must be recycled as electronic or hazardous waste because each contains a trace amount of mercury. (Never throw away a CFL in your regular trash can or blue recycling bin.) It’s a good idea to place your used CFLs in a sealed “safe disposal pouch” before bringing them to a recycling center, just in case they break in transit.

Beginning in June, you can find these recyclable pouches, along with drop boxes for used CFLs and batteries, at the following locations:

- Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
- Villa-Parke Community Center, 363 E. Villa St.
- Victory Park Center, 2575 Paloma St.
- La Pintesca Branch Library, 1355 N. Raymond Ave.
- Hill Avenue Branch Library, 55 S. Hill Ave.
- Hastings Branch Library, 3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd.
- True Value Hardware, 409 N. Fair Oaks Ave. and 1047 N. Allen Ave.
- Berg Hardware, 495 N. Allen Ave.
- Orchard Supply Hardware, 3425 E. Colorado Blvd.
- Ace Hardware, 370 E. Woodbury Rd.

You may also recycle CFLs and batteries any Saturday or Sunday at L.A. County’s SAFE Collection Center, 4600 Colorado Blvd. at San Fernando Road on the Los Angeles/Glendale border.

Mark your calendar for the Household Hazardous and E-Waste Round-up on Saturday, June 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rose Bowl Stadium’s Parking Lot K. In addition to CFLs, you may recycle a number of materials, from pool chemicals and used motor oil to cell phones and laptops.

If you accidentally break a CFL, follow the safety guidelines for cleanup at www.PWPweb.com/CFL.



Steer Clear of PWP Street Crews

PASADENA WATER AND POWER TRUCKS AND CREWS are a common sight on Pasadena streets. They’re out there day and night, diligently working on master plans to keep the community’s water and power systems in top shape.

PWP technicians also work round the clock, rain or shine, to troubleshoot problems, handle routine maintenance and restore service as quickly as possible after wind storms, traffic collisions and other incidents.

Please keep in mind that utility jobs are already dangerous enough, and our crews must work in the street to access vital equipment. Safety is our top priority and we know it’s yours, too.

When you see a utility crew, please reduce your speed and stay clear. Watch for orange cones that delineate a safe path, obey any “slow” and “stop” signs or try an alternate route entirely. Detour signs are set up for long-term projects.



We’re Here to Help

YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY BE ELIGIBLE for Pasadena Water and Power’s financial assistance programs. Whether your needs are income- or health-related, we have a program to help.

The Pasadena Cares Program provides financial assistance to seniors and residents with disabilities, while the Electric Utility Assistance Program assists lower-income residents and families (eligible income levels were recently raised).

The Medical Assistance Program is for customers who rely on medical equipment, while Project APPLE provides one-time emergency financial help thanks to donations from PWP and its customers. (Call 744-7300 if you have specific questions about Project APPLE.)

Apply in person at any of the following locations:

- Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St.
- Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
- Villa-Parke Community Center, 363 E. Villa St.
- Victory Park Center, 2575 Paloma St.;
- Neighborhood Connections, 1382 E. Walnut St.

Learn more about these programs and eligibility requirements by visiting www.PWPweb.com/WeCanHelp or calling 744-6970.

For info, visit www.cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower or call the PWP AnswerLine at 744-6970