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## Saving the Earth, One Soda Bottle at a Time

**W**HEN IT COMES TO TRASH, Pasadenans are a happy bunch. More than 2,000 residents responded to a recent recycling survey and an overwhelming majority are satisfied with the city's refuse and recycling service. Many wrote enthusiastic comments such as "good job," "thank you very much" and "keep up the good work!"

With weekly pickups by city trucks, Pasadenans recycle more than 9,000 tons of paper, plastics, jars, cans and bottles every year, saving dwindling space in local landfills and turning recyclables into new products.

Ready to get on board? You and your family can get a new outlook on recycling and lots of new ideas at the Greening the Earth Day event Saturday, April 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Memorial Park.



Sponsored by the city's Public Works Department and Pasadena Water and Power, the fun event will include activities, entertainment, food and information galore. Browse through booths from city departments, Armory Center for the Arts, Whole Foods Market, Patagonia Pasadena and more, then stay for performances by RePercussion, a drum squad that uses recycled objects as instruments, the Washington Middle School Glee Club, a Mexican folklorico dance group and the Little Safety Officers Kidz Club. Bring beverage containers marked with California Refund Value (CRV) for exciting raffle prizes.

PWP electric customers can bring in up to two incandescent light bulbs and receive energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs in return. (Bring your City of Pasadena utility bill to show eligibility.)

And, of course, you can talk one-on-one with city staff about water and energy conservation, or ask questions about your trash or recycling service.

Greening the Earth Day is funded in part by the California Department of Conservation. For more information call 744-4721.

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### **Answers to Frequently Asked Recycling Questions**

**Q. What happens to recycling after it's picked up?**

**A. Materials are taken to the Allan Company in Baldwin Park, where they're sorted and sold to brokers who sell them to companies that manufacture new products.**

**Q. What can I do about scavengers?**

**A. Put your recycling out on the morning of our pickup rather than the night before and bury beverage containers with CRV value under a pile of junk mail, newspapers and cardboard.**

**Q. If the holiday schedule is "one day late," is that for the whole week?**

**A. Yes. If a pickup is one day late, then all days following in that week will be one day late. Friday pickups are done on Saturday.**

For information on the city's recycling program, visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/publicworks](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/publicworks) or call 744-4087.

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## Tap Into Your Creative Side

**MEET ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST PROLIFIC POETS** Thursday, March 11, at 7 p.m. Lyn Lifshin's works have appeared in nearly every literary and poetry magazine in the country.

Delve into Giuseppe Verdi's "Il Trovatore" Wednesday, April 7, at 7 p.m. during L.A. Opera's "Opera Talks!" program.

Attend the "How to Get Published in Magazines" workshop Tuesday, April 20, at 10 a.m. Co-sponsored by the American Library Association and *Woman's Day* magazine, the session will be led by Kathy Sena, an award-winning writer. Reservations are suggested for this event.

All events are free in Central Library's Donald R. Wright Auditorium, 285 E. Walnut St. For more information call 744-4067.



## Historic Tax Break

**THROUGH THE HISTORIC PROPERTY CONTRACT PROGRAM**, the city is offering up to 75% off tax bills to anyone who qualifies. If you own a historic home or commercial/industrial building designated as a landmark, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, in a city landmark district or National Register district, or designed by famed architects Greene and Greene, you may be eligible.

In return for the tax break, you must agree to rehabilitate and maintain your property's historic features. Once you have signed a city contract, the property will be reassessed by the L.A. County tax assessor at a lower rate.

Applications for this year's program are available at the Permit Center, 175 N. Garfield Ave., and are due on or before May 1, 2004. For complete details, visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/planning](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning) and click on Design and Historic Preservation, then on Mills Act, or call 744-6754.



## Everyone Deserves a Home

**EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN PASADENA** should have a roof overhead and a bed to sleep in. But we all know homelessness is a tough problem that needs a citywide, organized solution.

Here's where you come in: The city is launching its biggest and broadest effort yet to stamp out homelessness in Pasadena. Over the next year, we'll be holding community meetings on the first Thursday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave. By next spring, we hope to have a 10-year strategy.

Join the effort! Come to a meeting or call 744-6701.



## Take a Bus or Ride a Bike!

**IT'S EASIER THAN EVER BEFORE** to get around Pasadena without ever touching a steering wheel.

### A Great Ride

The Pasadena ARTS Bus system is celebrating its 10th year of zipping riders around town, and six routes now travel over 100 miles of city streets.

The regular one-way fare is just 50¢ and the fare for seniors, riders with disabilities and students is 25¢. Transfers between ARTS routes are free and you can buy a transfer to other local bus systems or the Metro Gold Line for just 25¢ when you first board the ARTS Bus (compare this to the regular Gold Line fare of \$1.25!).

The ARTS system is part of the Regional L.A. County EZ Pass Program. With just a flash of your monthly EZ Pass you can board ARTS, MTA, Foothill Transit buses and the Gold Line, plus most other transit systems in L.A. County. For more information, go to [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net) or call (800) COMMUTE.

For ARTS bus routes, schedules and a system map, go to [www.cityofpasadena.net/trans](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/trans) and click on Transit Operations or call 398-8973. You can also pick up a schedule at City Hall, community centers, libraries, the city's Department of Transportation offices at 221 E. Walnut and on ARTS buses.

### Attention Cyclists!

A new pocket-sized map shows all designated bike lanes in Pasadena and unincorporated areas of Altadena and Lamanda Park. Class II bike lanes, at the edge of the roadway, are just for cyclists and are marked with special signs and pavement paint. Class III lanes, bike routes and roadways are streets that are recommended for bicycle use and often connect bike-only lanes.

Printed as part of the effort to make Pasadena more bicycle-friendly, the maps also show bike lockers and Metro Gold Line stations, offer bicycle safety rules and tips and point out recreation sites, civic attractions and other great destinations. View the map now online at [www.cityofpasadena.net/trans](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/trans). Watch for printed copies in April at city libraries, major bike shops and other cycling spots. Call 744-6470 for more information.



Photo circa 1928

*Have you seen me? Three of my fellow historic, cast stone urns and I vanished several years ago. When City Hall was built in 1927, we surrounded the courtyard fountain. All four of us were about four feet high and sat on concrete pedestals about a foot high and two feet square – a little wider at the top. Here's where the story gets intriguing: Sometime around the '50s or '60s (no one's quite sure when), we went missing. Historians doubt we were trashed; we may have been "borrowed" by an urn devotee or donated to an organization. We would love to be returned to our original home by the fountain – especially as the city gears up for the retrofit and top-to-bottom restoration of City Hall. Email [ardman@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ardman@cityofpasadena.net) if you know our whereabouts or call 744-7073 or 744-4000. You'll urn our undying gratitude.*

*Information about City Hall tours will be in the May/June issue of Pasadena In Focus.*



## Planning a Future of Arts and Culture

**M**ORE THAN 4 MILLION PEOPLE VISIT PASADENA'S MUSEUMS, galleries and theaters every year. What's more, Pasadena spends five times more on the arts than other cities of comparable size and 25% more than the national average.

During the 12-month "Cultural Nexus" planning process, Pasadena will draft a 10-year plan to ensure that arts and culture are entwined with industry, retail, scientific research, design, tourism, education, social services, health care, recreation, neighborhoods and more.

We need your ideas! Community workshops have been set for April 7, 8, 14, 16 and 20. We'll review our findings during a town hall meeting on June 19, then start drafting the plan, which we hope to have in place by June 2005.

For workshop locations and other updates, call 744-7062 or visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/arts/nexus.asp](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/arts/nexus.asp).



## Celebrate Health at the Cherry Blossom Festival

**DISCOVER A WORLD OF HEALTHIER LIVING** and two fun-filled days of cultural activities at the Pasadena Cherry Blossom Festival Saturday and Sunday, April 3 and 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Victory Park.

This 3rd annual event will feature fun, outdoor activities for all ages, including entertainment, martial arts demonstrations, food, craft and vendor booths, a fashion show and parade.

The Pasadena Public Health Department is organizing the festival's Health, Nutrition and Fitness Expo with free giveaways and information on department programs.

The event coincides with National Public Health Week, so the Public Health Department is using this opportunity to educate the community about the value of public health. For more information on the festival, visit [www.pasadenacherryblossom.org](http://www.pasadenacherryblossom.org) or call 744-6099.



## Protect Yourself and Your Family

**JUST AS DANGEROUS AS FIRE**, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless and tasteless gas that can be deadly. If you're not careful, this silent killer could flow from your furnace, wood burning or fuel-fired appliances, water heaters or vehicles. Stay safe and follow these tips from the Pasadena Fire Department:

- Have a qualified technician regularly tune up your furnace, water heater and fireplace.
- Have your chimney inspected annually for cracks, blockages or other problems.
- Make sure the chimney flue and outside openings of all exhaust vents are clear of insulation, leaves, bird nests or debris.
- Never leave your car running in the garage for even a minute. Once you start the car, pull it outside to warm up.
- Never light a barbeque indoors.
- Keep the area around any fuel-fired equipment clear. This ensures good airflow that will help the appliance work properly.
- Stop by the hardware store and buy a carbon monoxide detector for your home.

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



## City Braces For Budget Cuts

**FOR MANY YEARS** the state of California has spent much more than it has received. This year, Sacramento reported a whopping \$38 billion budget deficit.

To make up for this, the state is poised to siphon more funds than ever before from every municipality in California – revenues from property taxes, vehicle license fees and other sources that help pay for critical city services including public safety, parks, street maintenance and housing. For some cities this news is absolutely catastrophic; in Pasadena, thanks to the forward thinking of city officials through the years, healthy reserves have been waiting for such a rainy day as this. But even with these reserves, Pasadena will have to cut \$3 million or more from its budget in the coming months. This comes on the heels of \$2.5 million in budget cuts made in July to help brace Pasadena for the state's ambush of municipal budgets.

Of course the city's day-to-day operations and long-range planning are continuing in the midst of a serious re-evaluation of budget priorities as well as a hard look at the kinds of services we should provide. We value your input. Visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/citymanager](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/citymanager) to offer your feedback or call 744-4000.



## Cool Trees Shade a Hilltop Home

**WHEN CAROLYN AND JOHN NABER UPROOTED THEMSELVES** from their Pasadena home of 20 years and settled in a new place above the Arroyo Seco, they took on a new backyard covered with brush. With help from her trusty gardeners, Carolyn quickly set out to transform the hilly half-acre into livable space.



**“If I have a choice of plants and trees, I’m going to side with the drought-tolerant varieties that can make it on their own with much less maintenance.”** – PWP customer Carolyn Naber, shown above with husband John.

The team tore out quick-growing bamboo and non-native shrubs that threatened to take over the property. In their place, Carolyn carefully chose native plants that would thrive with less water and maintenance, help stabilize the hillside and provide a fire buffer around the 1949 home. Carolyn went for a cool, green look with plenty of flowering, low-growing ground covers.

“If I have a choice of plants and trees, I’m going to side with the drought-tolerant varieties that can make it on their own with much less maintenance,” she said. “Some plants just don’t fit. I didn’t want an English garden that required a lot of fussiness.”

Already a model for water conservation, the Nabers’ yard soon became a living testimonial for PWP’s Cool Trees Program. After reading about PWP’s shade tree rebates in *Pasadena In Focus*, Carolyn took advantage and planted flowering western redbuds for splashes of color and towering ginkgos to shade the south and west sides of their home.

Launched last year, the Cool Trees Program offers PWP’s residential customers a \$30 rebate per tree for planting any one of 37 varieties. Home gardeners who buy their new trees from a Pasadena retailer receive a \$40 rebate per tree. Each customer

can receive rebates for up to five trees. The program covers a great selection of small, medium and large species, including fruit trees and ornamentals.

Planting these deciduous trees around your home can cut air conditioning and cooling costs by as much as 20%, blocking the sun's heat during the summer while letting in warm rays during the winter. Trees also provide privacy, prevent soil erosion and beautify any space. Carolyn Naber has become a big fan of the program and plans to apply for another rebate this year. "I told my gardener and arborist about it so they can tell all of their other clients," she said.

For more information on PWP's Cool Trees Program, including a guidebook, a catalog of eligible trees and an online application, visit [www.PWPweb.com](http://www.PWPweb.com) and click on Your Home, then click on Programs and Rebates or call the PWP AnswerLine at 744-6970.



## **Water-saving Garden Blossoms on a Vacant Lot**

**A SCRAGGLY VACANT LOT** at the corner of Arlington Drive and Pasadena Avenue will soon show Pasadena residents just how beautiful a water-efficient garden can be. PWP has received a \$5,000 grant from Metropolitan Water District to help transform the 2 1/2 acre plot into a colorful Mediterranean garden.

The lot has been vacant for more than 20 years because Caltrans planned to use it as a construction staging area for the proposed 710 Freeway extension. By popular demand from residents and neighborhood groups, and with city council approval, city staff have secured a lease for the land from Caltrans. Cal Poly Pomona students were chosen to design the new garden as part of their final-semester project and their ideas will be incorporated into the final plan under the direction of a professional landscape architect.

The garden will showcase a variety of drought-tolerant native and Mediterranean plants that are perfectly suited to our semi-arid climate. Ranging from trees to flowering shrubs to groundcover, these varieties are able to thrive on just a sip of water. The site will be a perfect place for residents, landscape architects, commercial developers and schools to pick up ideas for garden planning and plant selection. After it has been completed, the garden will be maintained by Public Works Department staff with help from neighborhood groups.

Stop by and see the transformation!



## **Go Native and Save Water**

**IF SPRING WEATHER HAS YOU ITCHING TO PLANT**, you'll dig PWP's free California Friendly Landscape workshops.

Master the basics of landscape design June 5 and 9; learn all about native plants June 10 and 14; hear the ins and outs of sprinkler systems on Aug. 7 and 11; become an expert on watering and fertilizing Sept. 11 and 15. Saturday classes are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Eaton Canyon

Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr. and Wednesday classes are at La Casita del Arroyo, 177 S. Arroyo Blvd.

The list fills up quickly so reserve your spot now for any or all of the classes by calling PWP's AnswerLine at 744-6970 or visit [www.PWPweb.com](http://www.PWPweb.com) and click on Your Water for an online application.



## Be Water Wise

**WHENEVER YOU'RE OUT IN YOUR YARD OR GARDEN**, remember it's important to conserve water wherever and whenever you can. These water-saving tips will help you become conscious of the amount of water you use.

- Use mulch, such as shredded bark or gravel, to reduce areas that require regular watering.
- Install shut-off nozzles on hoses to reduce excess flow when not in use.
- Adjust watering schedules to seasons.
- Water for short intervals to ensure water is absorbed into the ground rather than forming puddles and run-offs.
- Water during early morning or early evening hours to avoid evaporation.
- Avoid watering pavements, curbs and rocky areas.

For additional tips or more information, visit [www.PWPweb.com](http://www.PWPweb.com) and click on Your Water or call 744-6970.



## Etcetera... Etcetera




**Have you given blood lately?** Make your donation March 23, 24 and 25. Call Pasadena Fire Department at 744-7178 for more information.





**Free Parenting Conference** Saturday, March 27, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Norma Coombs Alternative School includes childcare, meals and Spanish translation. 229-9750.





**Tour the famous Balloon House** and other homes designed by Wallace Neff during the Pasadena Heritage spring tour Sunday, March 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. [www.pasadenaheritage.org](http://www.pasadenaheritage.org) or 441-6333.


 **A gala dinner dance** Thursday, April 1, 7 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton, Huntington Hotel will help fund Pasadena Police Activities League youth programs. (818) 787-8742.


 **Hear expert speakers** on topics ranging from Medicare to second careers and meet more than 20 service providers at Pasadena Senior Commission's free Conference on Aging Thursday, April 15, at PCC's Community Education Center. 744-6942 to register.


 **City without Walls** is a day of community volunteer service Saturday, April 17. Paint schools, plant gardens, work with residents of all ages. Meet at 9 a.m. at City Hall. Sponsored by Leadership Pasadena Class of 2004. [chhany@pacbell.net](mailto:chhany@pacbell.net) or 793-7454.


 **Learn about exciting space exploration** from JPL Director Charles Elachi Wednesday, April 28, 8 p.m. at Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. Free. 395-4652.


 **Watch a family flick** and help raise money for cancer relief during Old Pasadena's free Cinema in the Park series Saturday nights in May at the Levitt Pavilion in Memorial Park. 666-4156.


 **The Pasadena Mayor's Prayer Breakfast** is Thursday, May 6, 7 to 8:55 a.m. at the Pasadena Hilton. \$18; \$20 after April 10. E-mail [judy@ceai.org](mailto:judy@ceai.org) or call 584-1824.

 **Pasadena Police Officers' Association's Family Variety Show** Saturday, May 22, 2 p.m. at PCC's Sexson Auditorium is preceded by a vendor fair at noon. \$35 per family. 795-8406.

 **Low-income residents** can get free tax help Tuesdays 9 a.m. to noon at Jackie Robinson Center (744-7300) and Thursdays 1 to 4 p.m. at Villa-Parke Community Center (744-6530) through April 15. Help is available at each site on alternating Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

 **Homebound residents** can have Pasadena Public Library books and materials delivered right to their doorsteps. 744-4060 to request this service or volunteer.

 **Volunteer to usher**, help with office work or cook for the cast and crew at the historic Pasadena Playhouse. (818) 790-2638.

 **Treat your little ones** 10 and under to Pasadena Symphony's free Musical Circus every second Saturday from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at Pasadena Civic Auditorium. 793-7172, ext. 10.

**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**

### **Aprenda Más Acerca de Reciclaje**

Obtenga información sobre reciclaje el Sábado 17 de Abril de 11 a.m. a 3 p.m. en Memorial Park. Habrá entretenidas actividades, comidas e información. Circule por los quioscos y quédese a ver demostraciones. Y por cierto que puede conversar personalmente con personal municipal acerca de cómo conservar agua y electricidad, o hacer preguntas sobre servicios de recolección de basura y de reciclaje.

Los consumidores de electricidad de la Ciudad de Pasadena pueden llevar hasta tres focos incandescentes y cambiarlos por focos fluorescentes que ahorran energía. (Traiga su cuenta de PWP para demostrar que es elegible). Para mayor información, llame al 744-4721.

### **Autobuses Arts Proporcionan un Buen Viaje**

La tarifa normal de los autobuses ARTS es 50 centavos y la de personas mayores, discapacitadas y de estudiantes es 25 centavos. Los traslados dentro de las rutas ARTS son gratis y puede usted comprar un traslado a otros sistemas de autobuses o a la Metro Gold Line por sólo 25 centavos (compárelo con \$1.25 que es la tarifa normal de la Gold Line!) Obtenga los horarios en la Municipalidad, bibliotecas y centros comunitarios, o llamando al 398-8973.

El sistema ARTS forma parte del Programa Regional del Condado de Los Angeles EZ Pass. Simplemente mostrando su pase mensual puede abordar ARTS, MTA, Foothill Transit y la Gold Line, además de muchos otros sistemas de transporte público en el Condado de Los Angeles. Para mayor información sobre EZ Pass, llame al (800) 266-6883.

### **Celebremos la Buena Salud**

Participe en el Festival de Cerezos Floridos de Pasadena el Sábado 3 y Domingo 4 de 10 a.m. a 6 p.m. en Victory Park. Este evento, co-auspiciado por el Departamento de Salubridad Pública de Pasadena, incluirá entretenición, comida, artes y trabajos manuales, actividades infantiles, un desfile de modas y un desfile dominical.

Pasee por el parque y recoja obsequios e información acerca de los programas del Departamento de Salubridad Pública de Pasadena, que incluyen la salud de adultos y niños, vacunas, cuidado prenatal, la clínica viajera, la salud de niños negros, control de insectos y pestes, buena nutrición y un estilo de vida activo, seguro médico para niños y la prevención del envenenamiento infantil con plomo. Para mayor información, llame al 744-6099.

### **Alto a La Grasa!**

La grasa, aceite y manteca que se tiran por el sumidero o inodoro terminan pegados al interior de las cañerías de alcantarillado debajo de su propiedad y de las calles municipales. Con el transcurso del tiempo, esta materia pegajosa puede acumularse y tapar totalmente las cañerías. Al suceder eso, puede inundarse su vivienda o la de sus vecinos, al igual que los jardines colindantes, parques y calles, con alcantarillado en vivo. Proteja su propiedad y el sistema de alcantarillado municipal tirando la grasa y sobras de alimentos a la basura, jamás por el sumidero o inodoro. Llame al 744-4148 para obtener mayor información.

## Etcétera

La Sexta Conferencia Anual de Padres y Apoderados el Sábado 27 de Marzo de 8:30 a.m. a 4 p.m. en Norma Coombs Alternative School incluirá cuidado infantil, comidas y traducción al Español. 229-9750.

Los residentes con bajos ingresos pueden obtener ayuda gratuita para preparar su declaración impositiva los Martes de 9 a.m. al mediodía en el Centro Jackie Robinson (744-7300) y los Jueves de 1 a 4 p.m. en el Centro Comunitario Villa Parke (744-6530) hasta el 15 de Abril. Los Sábados se provee asistencia en ambos sitios, de 9 a.m. al mediodía.



MARCH/ARIL 2004

100 North Garfield Avenue  
P.O. Box 7115 Pasadena CA 91109-7215  
Published by the  
City of Pasadena Public Affairs Office  
100 N. Garfield Ave., Pasadena, CA 91109 744-4755  
E-mail: [aerdman@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:aerdman@cityofpasadena.net)  
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Steve Madison, Sid Tyler.

