

CITY COUNCIL CONNECT



Welcome to this week's update! As we continue to navigate through our ongoing projects and initiatives, let's take a moment to highlight some key developments this week.

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Traffic Hot Spots Report

Weekly updates on the City's efforts to address frequently reported road segments within South Pasadena.

LOCATION: Orange Grove Avenue between Columbia Street (City of Pasadena) and 110 Freeway

ISSUE: Unsafe street conditions including road alignment (horizontal curve) and turning movement from/into side street (Oliver Street).

UPDATE: Staff met with community members on July 20 and shared the traffic study's findings. Staff will present the findings to the Public Works Infrastructure Commission (PWIC) at their meeting on August 12.

LOCATION: Arroyo Drive Corridor between Mission Street and Columbia Street

ISSUE: Unsafe street conditions due to speeding motorists on high pedestrian-volume street

UPDATE: Staff contacted community members to set a meeting in mid-August to advise them on the Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant that the City is applying for.

LOCATION: Indiana Street at Monterey Road

ISSUE: Collisions at subject intersection, and unsafe street crossing for pedestrians.

UPDATE: All short-term improvements have been completed.

Upcoming Events

July 26 - August 1, 2026

Event/Location

Date/Time

Concert in the Park

Garfield Park,
1000 Park Ave.

July 26 at 5:00 p.m.

Community Meeting: Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act

Community Room,
1115 El Centro St.

July 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Art Commission Meeting

Council Chambers,
1424 Mission St.

July 27 at 6:00 p.m.

City and SPUSD Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Council Chambers,
1424 Mission St.

July 28 at 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

July 26 - August 1, 2026

Event/Location

Date/Time

Natural Resources and Environmental Commission Meeting

Council Chambers,
1424 Mission St.

July 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety Commission Meeting

Council Chambers,
1424 Mission St.

July 29 at 5:30 p.m.*

Community Meeting: Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act

Council Chambers,
1424 Mission St.

July 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Police Department Recognized for Policy Management and Training

The South Pasadena Police Department has been recognized by Lexipol for excellence in policy management and training. Through the Lexipol Connect program, our department's performance was measured across five key metrics that track success in policy management. We earned "ELITE" status, the highest recognition by consistently and effectively disseminating policies to our personnel, keeping those policies current as laws change, and ensuring the department receives ongoing training.

This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and daily commitment of our officers and staff. Strong, consistent training remains central to our mission of serving, engaging and protecting the South Pasadena community, and we are proud to be recognized for that continued commitment. This recognition reflects the everyday work our personnel put in to stay engaged with training, uphold accountability, and maintain operational readiness.



Police Chief Engages with Community

Although South Pasadena Police Chief Elmore has only been with the department for a few months, he has already made significant strides in community outreach. He has visited the Senior Center and Library, served meals at the Holy Family Giving Bank, attended community events, visited a local school supporting students with special needs, met with business owners, and stopped by local lemonade stands to support young entrepreneurs, all while staying closely connected with his team.

The department will continue building on these efforts by hosting community events such as Coffee with a Cop, helping him become an even more familiar face throughout the city he serves.



Commissioner Convening

On Tuesday, July 22, 2026, we proudly hosted our 2026 Commissioner Convening, a Special Joint Meeting of the City Council held in the Community Room of the South Pasadena Public Library. The evening was a celebration of the dedicated volunteers who serve on our nine advisory bodies and the remarkable work they accomplished over the past year. Chairpersons from each commission took the podium to present their commission's accomplishments and upcoming work plans, highlighting everything from design and preservation reviews to budget guidance, environmental initiatives, and public safety efforts. Mayor Sheila Rossi shared her heartfelt gratitude to the commissioners for their service, and outgoing commissioners were recognized with certificates of appreciation for their contributions to our community. Thank you to all of our commissioners for the time, talent, and care you give to South Pasadena!



South Pasadena University Kicks Off at Mid Managers Meeting

We are excited to announce the official launch of the South Pasadena University Program on July 16, 2026! Our mid-level managers group, facilitated by Assistant to the City Manager Alma Medina, is serving as the first cohort of this new initiative, which is designed to develop our staff, deepen their understanding of all City operations, and grow our next generation of leaders. Participants will meet one to two times per month, working through a series of modules



including Government 101, Finance & HR, Customer Service, Difficult Conversations, Supervisory Essentials, and Critical Thinking & Staff Reports, before wrapping up with a final capstone project. While this first cohort is underway, we're already looking ahead about the future. The program will be extended to all staff in the future through additional cohorts. Congratulations to our inaugural participants, and stay tuned for updates on their progress!

PWIC Meeting Summary

At the July 20, 2026, special meeting, the Public Works Infrastructure Commission (PWIC) welcomed new commissioner, Drew Weightman, and heard general public comment. The Commission's primary discussion focused on the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Residential Slurry Seal Project centered on the Grand Avenue corridor, where staff outlined pavement preservation needs, past Council direction to retain Class II bike lanes, and the proposed addition of a centerline. Following this extensive public comment both supporting and opposing elements of the striping plan, the Commission recommended that staff proceed with the slurry seal and restripe Grand Avenue to maintain the existing bike lane configuration, while the decision on whether to add a centerline is to be made by the City Engineer, who will report finding to the Commission at a future meeting. The Commission also approved prior meeting minutes and received updates on current paving work, traffic safety efforts near Orange Grove and Arroyo Vista, Active Transportation Program grant application, Measure M/MSP funding adjustments, and the November 2026 street repair bond measure.

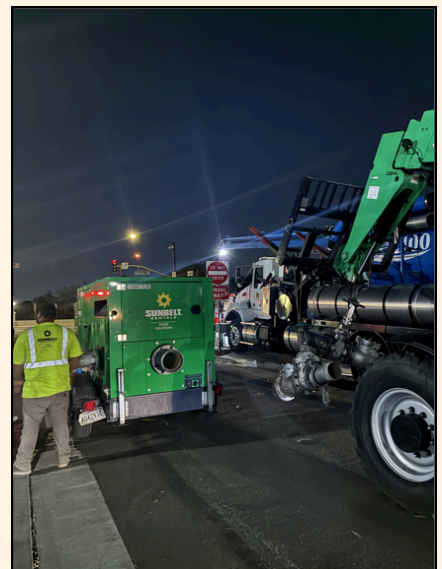
Public Works Staff Assist San Gabriel with Sewer Spill

The City of San Gabriel requested mutual aid from the City of South Pasadena to assist with a sewer emergency at one of its lift stations. In response, Chris Diaz and Richard Arriola deployed South Pasadena's Vactor truck to support emergency operations and help prevent a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO).

The incident was caused by a broken flange on Pump No. 2, which resulted in sewage continuously entering the dry well and backing up into downstream manholes. To mitigate the risk of an overflow, Vactor trucks from the Cities of San Gabriel, South Pasadena, and Alhambra operated in coordinated rotation to remove sewage and protect a nearby senior living facility from potential impacts.

While emergency operations continued, the City of San Gabriel contacted multiple vendors in an effort to secure bypass pumping equipment. In the interim, personnel from all three agencies collaborated to complete a temporary repair to the damaged flange, significantly reducing the flow entering the dry pit and allowing the lift station pumps to be safely returned to operation.

Once the temporary repair was verified to be effective and the bypass pumping operation was established, the City of San Gabriel released all mutual aid resources.



STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

CONSTRUCTION AREAS

JULY 27-31

As the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Street Improvement Project continues, construction will take place next week and may impact the flow of traffic.

LOCATION: Milan Avenue

IMPROVEMENTS: Asphalt paving operations began on July 20. During placement of the initial asphalt lift, field testing indicated that the asphalt did not achieve the required compaction standards. As a result, paving operations were suspended while the City, contractor, and asphalt supplier investigate the cause of the issue and determine the appropriate corrective action. The final 1.5-inch lift of asphalt will be placed once the issue is resolved. At this time, the contractor is anticipated to return during the week of July 27 to complete the remaining paving work.

LOCATION: Pine Street

IMPROVEMENTS: The contractor has begun connecting the newly installed water infrastructure to the City's existing water distribution system. This work is expected to continue through August 4, with intermittent road closures and traffic delays. Concrete improvements along Pine Street between Diamond Avenue and Ramona Avenue are scheduled to begin on July 29 and continue through the end of August.

LOCATION: Glendon Way

IMPROVEMENTS: Concrete improvements along Glendon Way between Monterey Road and Lyndon Street are scheduled to begin on July 27 and continue through mid August.

LOCATION:

Maple Street (Meridian Avenue to Huntington Drive)

IMPROVEMENTS: Asphalt paving operations began on July 20. During placement of the initial asphalt lift, field testing indicated that the asphalt did not achieve the required compaction standards. As a result, paving operations were suspended while the City, contractor, and asphalt supplier investigate the cause of the issue and determine the appropriate corrective action. The final 1.5-inch lift of asphalt will be placed once the issue is resolved. At this time, the contractor is anticipated to return during the week of July 27 to complete the remaining paving work.

LOCATION:

Arroyo Verde

IMPROVEMENTS: Improvements include additional potholing to prepare for water main line infrastructure installation.



Visit the project webpage at
www.southpasadenaca.gov/street-improvement-project
to read progress updates, construction schedule, project
background, and more.

Summer Camp Med Week 6 Recap

Camp Med continues to provide exciting summer experiences as campers wrapped up Week 6: Minion Mayhem. Highlights included a field trip to John's Incredible Pizza, where campers enjoyed rides, games, and a day filled with fun and team-building. Throughout the week, campers also participated in a variety of Minion-themed crafts, games, and activities that encouraged creativity and active play.

Campers are now enjoying Week 7, which features an exciting excursion to Crypto.com Arena to watch the Los Angeles Sparks. This unique field trip provides campers with the opportunity to experience a professional sporting event while creating lasting summer memories. Camp Med continues to offer engaging weekly themes, educational experiences, and recreational activities as the program heads into its final weeks of summer.



Shakespeare in the Park

The City was pleased to once again partner with Shakespeare by the Sea to present Macbeth at Garfield Park on July 18 and 19. The free outdoor performances welcomed approximately 200–300 attendees each evening, providing residents and visitors with the opportunity to enjoy professional live theater in a beautiful park setting.

The annual event continues to be a popular summer tradition, bringing the community together for two evenings of arts and culture under the stars. The Community Services Department thanks Shakespeare by the Sea, City staff, and all attendees for helping make another successful weekend in the park.



Library Activities

Summer Reading Program

Our Summer Reading Program wrapped up on July 18 after another fantastic season of reading, learning, and fun. A total of 1,866 readers of all ages signed up and earned a variety of South Pasadena Public Library (SPPL) branded prizes throughout the summer, including our popular SPPL collectible pin.

We wrapped up the program with our final Wonderful Wednesday event featuring Jungle Drum Circles with Chazz Ross, where more than 300 people joined us for an afternoon of music and excitement. Guests also enjoyed free Kona Ice snow cones, generously provided by our Friends of the Library. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this year's Summer Reading Program such a memorable success!



Toddler Dance Party

Monday's Toddler Dance Party was a wonderful success with more than 75 attendees joining us for a morning filled with music, movement, and fun. Little ones and their caregivers enjoyed dancing, singing, and making new friends in a joyful and energetic atmosphere. We look forward to seeing you at our next Toddler Dance Party!



Employee Updates: Welcome to the Team!



Ulysses Gerardo
Human Resources
Analyst

Ulysses brings a strong background in human resources, recruitment, employee relations, and HR operations, with extensive experience supporting public sector organizations and diverse teams.

Most recently with the County of Riverside, Ulysses has led full-cycle recruitment efforts, developed and administered examinations, analyzed recruitment data, and partnered with departments across public safety and county operations to support effective hiring strategies.

His previous experience includes employee relations, onboarding, compliance, payroll support, and HR program administration. We are excited to have Ulysses on board and look forward to the positive impact he will make in this role. Welcome to the team, Ulysses!