

INSIDE SOUTH PASADENA



2026 SPRING NEWSLETTER



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City of South Pasadena

Message from the City Manager



Dear Residents,

We are pleased to introduce our new quarterly newsletter, Inside South Pasadena, as a way to keep residents informed and engaged with the work happening across our City. This publication reflects our commitment to transparency, improving communication, and staying connected with the community we serve.

Last year, the City Council established its 2025 priorities across five key areas: finance, infrastructure, housing, governance, and operational efficiency. Thanks to a fully staffed executive team, improved financial stability, expanded housing opportunities, and significant infrastructure projects now underway, we have made measurable progress in each of these areas.

Looking ahead, the City Council has developed a robust workplan that includes essential capital improvement projects, enhanced community engagement, modernized development standards, and fiscal responsibility. We continue to remain focused on thoughtful planning and responsible growth, working in partnership with our residents to ensure South Pasadena continues to be a vibrant, welcoming, and connected community for years to come.

Sincerely,

Todd Hileman
City Manager

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

A Year in Review

Last year marked a pivotal chapter for the City of South Pasadena, defined by new leadership, progress, and community-focused achievements.

The City welcomed a new City Manager and Assistant City Manager/Chief Financial Officer, who filled all vacant Department Director positions and added key roles in public affairs, information technology, finance, and customer success.

The City advanced local infrastructure through street and sidewalk repair projects, transitioned to a three-stream waste collection system, and introduced two new pocket parks for residents to enjoy. Affordable housing opportunities are expanding through the acquisition of former Caltrans properties, an Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, and a Senior Affordable Housing Project in development.

Our public safety force maintains a strong presence through increased traffic enforcement—especially around higher-risk intersections and school zones—and community events including Coffee With a Cop, Citizen Police Academy, and the Community Emergency Response Team. With approximately 23,500 police calls for service and 2,700 fire department responses, our teams showed quick response and diligence.

The City of South Pasadena is proud of the progress made over the past year and remains committed to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

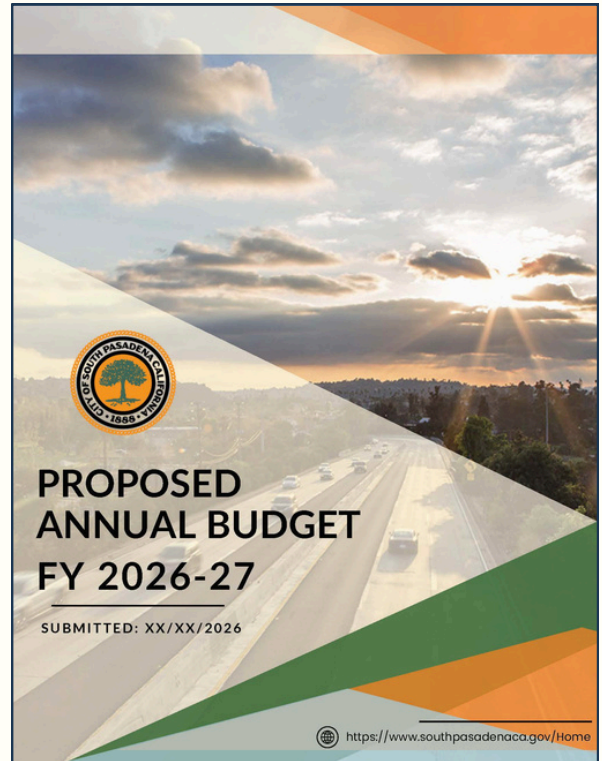


BUDGET SEASON IS HERE

Let's Shape South Pasadena's Future Together!

It's budget season in South Pasadena, and that means big decisions are being made about the projects, programs, and services that keep our city running. Planning for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget started back in November, and now the Finance Department is pleased to begin sharing a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year with the community later in May.

The City's budget is more than numbers—it's a roadmap for South Pasadena's strategic planning initiatives. It provides funding plans for essential services, community programs, and essential infrastructure maintenance.



We Want to Hear from You!

The City will be hosting a series of community meetings to discuss the budget development process and budget outlook, along with information about the state of our local infrastructure and long-term investment plans. Attendees will receive an overview of the Proposed Budget and Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and be invited to provide feedback on solutions for the path forward.

Residents are invited to attend any of the following:

May 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 1424 Mission St., South Pasadena, CA 91030

May 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Library Community Room, 1115 El Centro St., South Pasadena, CA 91030

May 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 1424 Mission St., South Pasadena, CA 91030



INFRASTRUCTURE

South Pasadena is a 3.44 square-mile city with an extensive network of infrastructure that is utilized daily. City staff work to maintain 69 miles of streets, dozens of traffic signals, 83+ miles of water mains, 60 miles of sewer lines, and 454 fire hydrants.

The City's investment in our infrastructure has been demonstrated through \$1.65 million currently allocated for minor road repairs over the next five fiscal years, beginning in Fiscal Year 2026-2027; \$7.5 million street improvement project providing water, concrete, and asphalt improvements to multiple residential streets during the current fiscal year; \$46 million grant-funded Huntington Drive and Fremont Avenue Corridor Improvements Project, funded by Metro and Caltrans, which is tentatively scheduled to begin construction in early 2027; and ongoing federal and regional grant-funded projects for traffic signals.

Residents are encouraged to visit the City website for information about our current infrastructure projects:

www.southpasadenaca.gov/public-works

DID YOU KNOW?

Public Works Department staff repair more than 1,000 potholes throughout the city every year!

Addressing Traffic Hot-Spots

The City of South Pasadena is committed to maintaining safe, reliable streets and infrastructure for residents and visitors. As part of that commitment, the City works closely with South Pasadena Unified School District, local community organizations, and residents to address traffic safety concerns.

Since July 2025, the City has completed a variety of traffic safety improvements around Arroyo Vista Elementary School, including enhanced safety signage, intersection control through stop sign installation and road painting, turn restrictions during peak traffic hours, red curb painting, an all-way stop at the intersection of Hawthorne St. and Cawston Ave., and crosswalk enhancements to increase pedestrian safety. Looking ahead, the City is preparing to install a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at the intersection of El Centro St. and Cawston Ave. and is exploring further improvements, such as decorative painting, that consider both safety and beautification.

Staff have also conducted traffic studies and have/are implementing safety measures at the following road sections:

- Orange Grove Ave. between Columbia St. (City of Pasadena) and 110 Freeway
- Indiana St. and Monterey Rd. intersection
- Marengo Ave. between Alhambra Rd. (City of Alhambra) and Huntington Dr.
- Meridian Ave. between Bank St. and Rollin St.
- Arroyo Drive Corridor between Mission St. and Columbia St.

SUMMER EVENTS



4th of July Celebration

This year's special celebration blends South Pasadena's cherished holiday traditions with a spirit of patriotism, reflection, and community pride. Residents and visitors are invited to enjoy a full day of family-friendly activities, entertainment, and celebration across the city.

The day begins at 7:00 a.m. with the Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast at the fire station, followed by a 10:30 a.m. opening ceremony at the South Pasadena Public Library and an 11:00 a.m. parade along Mission Street. Parade participants must register by May 28.

Festivities continue at Garfield Park until 2:00 p.m. with games, music, and food vendors. The celebration concludes with a live concert and fireworks at South Pasadena High School Stadium. Presale tickets are \$15, or \$20 at the gate, if available.

Parade registration, ticket purchases, and other event details are available on the City's event webpage:

www.southpasadenaca.gov/events

International Soccer Watch Party

June 12

Our summer events kick off with a special soccer watch party, where the community can come together to cheer on Team USA as they take on Paraguay in an exciting international soccer matchup. This event will offer a festive atmosphere for soccer fans and families alike.

Concerts in the Park

June 28 | July 26 | August 2 | August 16

These outdoor concerts offer a perfect way to spend a summer evening with family and friends while enjoying live music. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic dinners to make the most of the experience.

Movies in the Park

July 10 | August 7

These outdoor movie nights provide a fun and relaxed atmosphere for the whole family. Residents are invited to come early, find a good spot, and enjoy a memorable evening under the stars. Movies begin at sunset.

Shakespeare in the Park

July 18 | 19

Enjoy theatrical performances while outside! This special event offers a unique cultural experience and an opportunity for residents to enjoy classic theater in a casual and accessible environment.

Locations and times will be determined soon. Visit the event webpage on our website for the latest information and updates!

DESIGNED TO FIT

Housing for Our Community

In 2026, the City launched two key initiatives focused on supporting housing development while preserving South Pasadena's architectural character and complying with State housing laws.

The first initiative is the development of **Objective Design Standards (ODS)** for new multi-family and mixed-use projects, along with updates to design guidelines for single-family homes. ODS establish clear, measurable standards that allow housing projects to be reviewed through a streamlined, ministerial process, as required by State law. At the same time, they ensure that new development is compatible with the City's existing architectural character, scale, and neighborhood patterns.

Work on the ODS began in January 2026 and is anticipated to be completed by December 2026. To date, the City has engaged the community through focus groups, a "Walk and Talk" event, a public survey, and a joint meeting of the Planning Commission and City Council. Additional opportunities for community input will be available as the standards are developed.



The second initiative is the creation of a comprehensive **Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Guidebook**, which will include pre-approved plan sets to streamline the development process for detached ADUs. The program will offer a selection of floor plans in multiple architectural styles, helping homeowners save time and reduce design costs while ensuring high-quality, context-sensitive design. Initial engagement included a homeowner's survey and workshop.

The ADU Guidebook is expected to be completed by November 2026. Community members will have an opportunity to preview and provide feedback on the proposed designs at an upcoming Planning Commission meeting on May 19, 2026.

STAY UP TO DATE

Visit our website for the latest Planning News:
www.southpasadenaca.gov/planning-news

Download Our City App!



LOG INTO THE SOUTH PAS MOBILE APP TO:

- Report street and sidewalk damage, illegal dumping, code violations, and other issues
- Request services such as bee removal, graffiti removal, or streetlight and pothole repairs
- Sign up for emergency alerts through Connect South Pasadena
- Notify the City of water main breaks, traffic signal outages, fallen trees, and other urgent issues
- View information on business licenses, facility rentals, recreation programs, and more!

The app is available for download on the App Store and Google Play.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Business License.....	(626) 403-7258
City Hall.....	(626) 403-7200
Code Enforcement.....	(626) 403-7220
Pasadena Humane.....	(626) 792-7151
Water Division.....	(626) 403-7370
Waste and Recycling (Athens Services).....	(888) 336-6100
Police (non-emergency)...	(626) 403-7270
Fire (non-emergency).....	(626) 403-7300
Emergency.....	9-1-1

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sheila Rossi, Mayor
 Omari Ferguson, Mayor Pro Tem
 Janet Braun, Council Member
 Jon Primuth, Council Member
 Michael Cacciotti, Council Member

CITY MANAGER

Todd Hileman

South Pasadena City Hall

1414 Mission Street
 South Pasadena, CA 91030
 Open Monday - Friday
 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
www.southpasadenaca.gov

Follow us on social media for the latest updates!

@southpasadenaca

