

INSIDE SOUTH PASADENA



2026 SUMMER/FALL NEWSLETTER



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City of South Pasadena

Message from the City Manager



Dear South Pasadena Residents,

As we begin a new fiscal year, the City remains focused on delivering essential services while making thoughtful decisions that strengthen our long-term financial stability. Through a careful evaluation of priorities, we have made targeted budget adjustments that maintain operational efficiency, fiscal responsibility, and investment in initiatives that reflect community needs.

This year's funding priorities emphasize improvements to infrastructure, traffic safety, and customer service. Residents will see continued investment in projects designed to improve traffic flow, address frequently reported intersections and roadway concerns, and enhance safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. We are also making it easier to connect with City services by streamlining processes for reporting street issues, applying for permits, requesting assistance, and improving access to City information and services.

We are grateful for the continued engagement of our community and the strong participation we've seen throughout the summer at our free, family-friendly events. We have also expanded community meetings on topics including wildfire preparedness, implementation of new state requirements, and upcoming infrastructure improvements. As we continue to enhance communication and transparency, I encourage you to stay connected by visiting our city website, social media channels, and future editions of this newsletter for the latest updates.

Sincerely,

Todd Hileman
City Manager

SUMMER IN SOUTH PASADENA

A Season for the Books!

The Community Services Department stayed busy with two International Soccer Watch Parties, the 4th of July Celebration, and annual summer activities including Movies, Concerts, and Shakespeare in the Park! The City's beloved 4th of July Celebration featured a community parade, festival in Garfield Park with entertainment and family-friendly activities, and a spectacular fireworks show that brought the day to a memorable close. The first International Soccer Watch Party drew an enthusiastic crowd, and its tremendous success led to a second watch party, giving even more residents the opportunity to gather and cheer on their favorite teams. Summer events in Garfield Park continued through mid-August.

Summer Camp Med offered nine weeks of activities while school was out of session that included themed days, field trips, games, and lasting memories with new friends.

The Library hosted its Summer Reading Program, including a kick-off party and Wonderful Wednesdays, which featured weekly entertainment such as a puppet show, wild animals, percussive dance, magic, and more.

With a new school year in session, staff are preparing for exciting fall events such as an eclectic series of special Library programs with a limited-edition Library Card starting in September and the annual Boo Bash and a Public Safety Open House in October.



Stay up to date at southpasadenaca.gov!

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Critical Infrastructure Upgrades are Underway

The City of South Pasadena is pleased to demonstrate continued progress on our capital improvement projects, which are set to strengthen infrastructure, improve safety, and enhance traffic mobility throughout the community.

2025–2026 Street Improvement Project

This \$7.59 million project is nearing completion with close to 1.5 miles of essential water, concrete, and asphalt upgrades made to segments of Arroyo Verde Rd., Maple St., Oneonta Knoll, Pine St., Edgewood Dr., and Milan Ave. The City's contractor has been installing new water mains, improving sidewalks, and creating smoother, safer roads for travelers. Construction is expected to conclude in fall of 2026.

Huntington & Fremont Corridor Improvements Project

Funded by \$46 million in grant funding, this project will improve mobility, enhance safety, and boost traffic flow for pedestrians, cyclists, bus riders, and vehicles along Huntington Drive and Fremont Avenue. After hosting three community meetings earlier this year, staff selected design concepts and presented them to the City Council. Additional community meetings are being scheduled to update residents on the project status and design development.

North-South Fair Oaks ITS Project

This project will upgrade the entire traffic signal system along the Fair Oaks Avenue corridor to improve traffic circulation and to reduce travel time for motorists, pedestrians,

and cyclists. Upgrades include new signal poles, mast arms, pedestrian signal head and push buttons, illuminated street name signs, and smarter technology that better detects cars, bikes, and pedestrians at the intersection. The new system will also help emergency vehicles and buses move through intersections smoothly. Construction is expected to begin in fall of 2026, with residents being notified as timelines are finalized.

Traffic Safety Improvements Around Arroyo Vista Elementary School

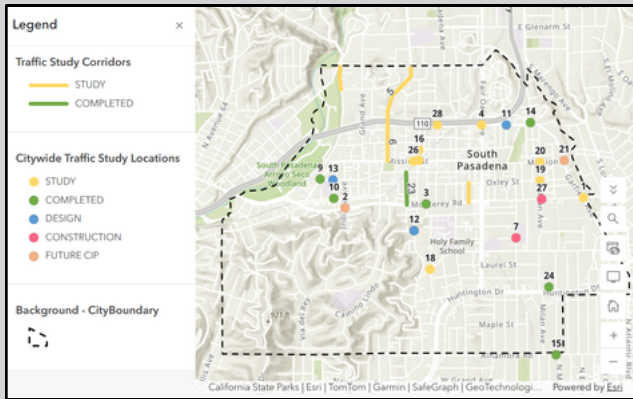
Since last summer, the City has completed a variety of traffic safety improvements around Arroyo Vista Elementary School, including new signage, enhanced intersection controls, turn restrictions during peak hours, and “All-Way” stop control at the intersection of Cawston Ave. and Hawthorne St. Most recently, staff installed painted curb extensions with robust bollards at the intersection of El Centro St. and Pasadena Ave. to enhance crosswalk visibility and reduce crossing distance for pedestrians, with decorative painting planned for future installation.

Looking ahead, the City is preparing to install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at the following intersections:

- El Centro St. and Cawston Ave.
- Meridian Ave. and Bank St.
- Grevelia St. and Park Ave.
- Mission St. and Fairview Ave.
- Mission St. and Diamond Ave.

KEEPING OUR ROADS SAFE

How the City is Addressing Traffic Hotspots



Updated August 2026



Scan the QR Code above to
view the traffic study tracker

As part of the City's commitment to improving traffic safety, staff have developed a traffic study tracker that identifies the intersections and road segments throughout South Pasadena that have been reported by residents for safety concerns. Staff are carefully reviewing the reported locations and evaluating potential improvements and safety mitigation measures to enhance overall traffic operations at each site.

To keep the process transparent, the interactive map pinpoints each hotspot location with helpful details such as the date the report was received, the type of traffic study underway, its current status, the results once completed, an estimated completion date, and the associated cost of improvements. This information is available online at southpasadenaca.gov/traffic-safety, providing regular updates to keep the public informed of each study's progress.

Parking Overnight? Don't Forget Your Permit!

Overnight parking permits are required in the City of South Pasadena if you and/or your guest plan to park on the street between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. The public can purchase daily permits for up to 3 days at one time, while residents may be eligible to purchase monthly or annual parking permits. Overnight parking permits may be purchased online or at the South Pasadena Police Department, located at 1422 Mission St.

Scan the QR Code or visit southpasadenaca.gov/parking-permits



HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT



State Law to Impact Housing Near Transit

The Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act, also known as Senate Bill (SB) 79, establishes new state requirements that affect land use and housing development standards near major transit stops. Effective July 1, 2026, the law requires cities throughout California, including South Pasadena, to allow increased residential development in designated transit areas, overriding certain local zoning regulations.

Cities can comply with SB 79 in several ways. They may apply the state law directly; temporarily exclude properties that meet specific criteria; or adopt their own local Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) alternative plan that provides the same overall housing capacity.

City of South Pasadena staff, Planning Commission, and the City Council have been exploring options to comply with state mandates while balancing local priorities and community concerns. In July, the City held community meetings to inform residents of the changes, and the City Council adopted ordinances to temporarily exclude properties with locally designated historic resources and qualifying properties in the downtown area that already allow for

high residential development. City staff are expected to present recommendations for an alternative plan to the City Council this fall.

Visit southpasadenaca.gov/planning-news for local updates on SB 79 and other initiatives in the Community Development Department.

Apply for City Permits Online!

The City of South Pasadena Community Development and Public Works Departments are proud to announce the introduction of a new and improved online building, planning, and public works permitting system on the City website for residents and contractors.

The new system allows users to seamlessly apply for all permits offered under the Community Development and Public Works umbrella, including building, temporary use, tree trimming, and more.

To access the new system, click the "Permit Portal" button on the home page of southpasadenaca.gov. Staff are available to assist with applications at South Pasadena City Hall, located at 1414 Mission Street, or by phone at (626) 403-7200.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Preventing Fires in High-Risk Neighborhoods

Southern California is no stranger to wildfire risk, especially during periods of high temperatures, low humidity and dry vegetation. In the Monterey Hills area, which contains both high and very high fire hazard severity zones, the City is implementing several efforts to help mitigate wildfire risk, protect lives, and build year-round community preparedness.

Beginning in September, the City will launch a phased tree-trimming program focused on reducing wildfire risk. Crews will trim only City-owned trees or those located within the public rights-of-way of the high and very high fire hazard severity zones. This work is intended to maintain routes of response and evacuation corridors by reducing the amount of vegetation and other combustibles.

The City is also developing a hybrid vegetation management program which

includes targeted grazing and mechanical vegetation projects. This program is intended to apply the best tools for the area with consideration to steep terrain, access, and vegetation types.

A third essential step involves evaluating road widths in key areas throughout the Monterey Hills. Many streets in this historic neighborhood are narrow, and parked vehicles can block access for fire engines and other large emergency vehicles. Expanding fire lanes in accordance with the California Fire Code will help keep critical access routes clear, allowing first responders to reach homes more quickly when every second counts.

For more information about wildfire safety and preparedness resources, please visit southpasadenaca.gov/wildfire-resilience-strategy.

Defensible Space: Wildfire Prevention Starts at Home

Defensible space includes the 100-foot zone around your structure that acts as a crucial buffer to protect your home from wildfires. Follow these steps to create defensible space around your home:

- Clear all dead plants and vegetation from roofs, gutters, and the first 5 feet around your home
- Apply smart landscaping: keep lawns mowed, shrubs spaced out, and trees trimmed to avoid contact with other vegetation
- Relocate firework piles, patio furniture cushions, gasoline, and other flammable materials away from the side of the structure





Every Drop Counts!

In South Pasadena, conserving water is a community effort. Check out these tips for practicing water-wise habits:

- Follow your local outdoor watering schedule
- Be mindful of water use when using a shower, toilet, or brushing teeth
- Inspect your sprinklers for leaks and ensure that water only lands on your lawn or garden
- Run full washing machine and dishwasher loads

Visit southpasadenaca.gov/waterconservation to view the local outdoor watering schedule, conservation tips, and information about a free water kit and rebates.

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

