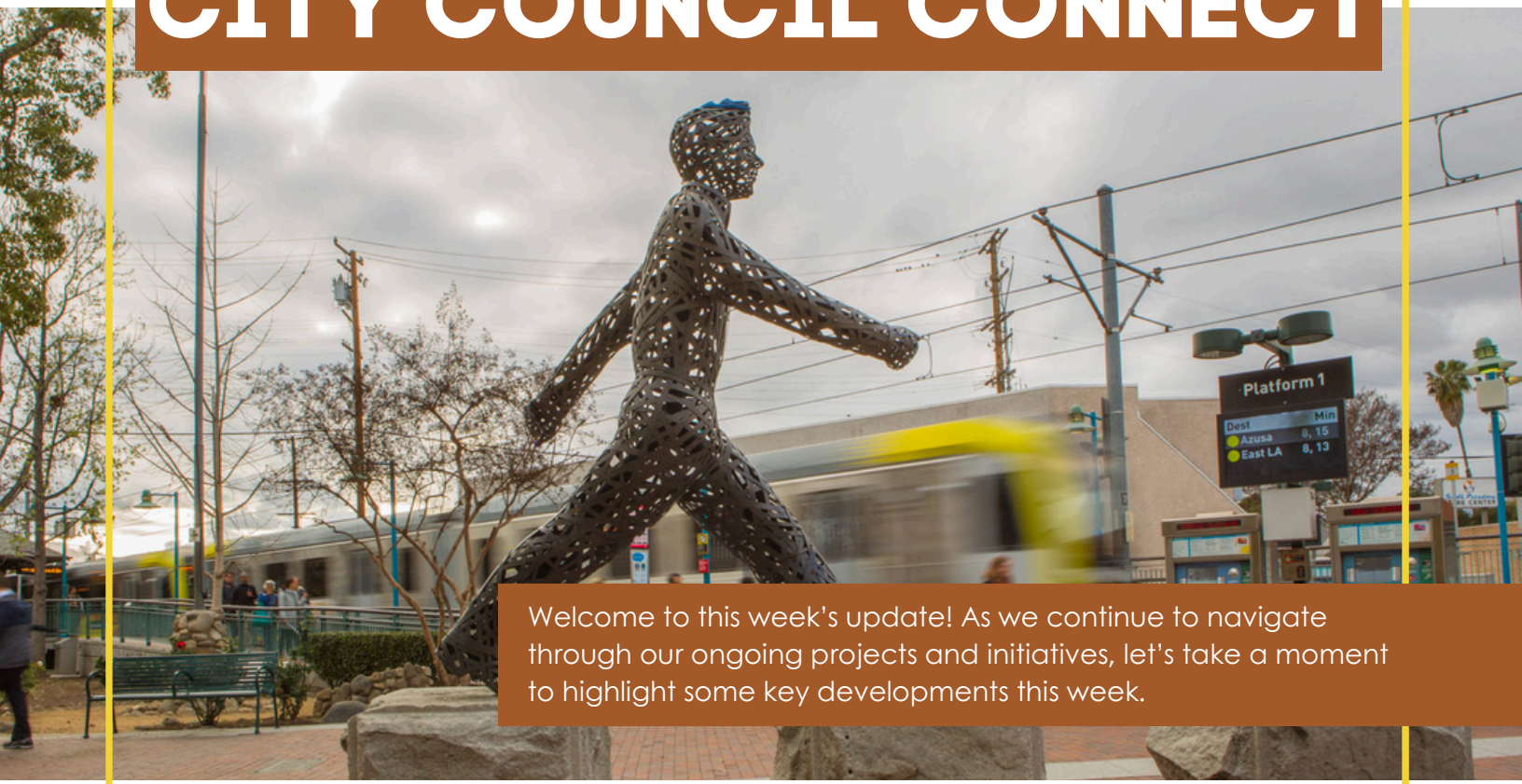
October 15, 2026 SouthPasadenaCA.gov

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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Upcoming Events
Oct. 18 - 24, 2026

Event/Location	Date/Time
City Council Meeting Council Chambers, 1424 Mission St.	October 21 at 7:00 p.m.
Finance Commission Meeting Council Chambers, 1424 Mission St.	October 22 at 6:30 p.m.
Boo Bash Orange Grove Park, 815 Mission St.	October 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Dates are based on current website calendar listings. Visit the calendar for official date and location changes.

Great CA ShakeOut

City staff participated in the Great CA Shakeout on Thursday, October 15, at 10:15 a.m. as part of an annual statewide effort to practice safely responding during an earthquake. The drill started with Drop, Cover, and Hold On, where staff got into position under their desks for 60 seconds. Afterward, staff participated in an evacuation to designated sites outside of their workplaces.









Fire Department Supports Breast Cancer Awareness Month

South Pasadena Fire Department proudly supports Breast Cancer Awareness Month 🎀

You may spot our firefighters wearing our pink ribbon shirts as a reminder of the importance of awareness, early detection, and supporting those affected by breast cancer.



Reminder: Free Smoke Alarm Installations on October 24

As part of the Sound The Alarm campaign, Red Cross will be offering free smoke alarms to South Pasadena residents on October 24, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Appiontments will take approximately 30 minutes. Red Cross volunteers will come to your home to install the alarms and provide home fire safety information.

Prior registration is required.
To register, residents can visit www.redcross.org/LAHomeFire or call (310) 445-9914. Residents can also sign up at the Emergency Preparedness and Community Fair on Saturday, October 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the South Pasadena Fire Station, 817 Mound Avenue.



South Pasadena Fire Department Supports West Covina with Arson Investigation

Kudos to Firefighter Paramedic and Investigator Kevin Soto for his assistance with the case outlined in the press release below.

WEST COVINA FIRE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Fire Chief Greg McKeown

West Covina Fire Department Announces Four Arson Charges in Galster Wilderness Park Fires

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2026

WEST COVINA, CA — The West Covina Fire Department announces that four arson charges under California Penal Code Section 451(c) have been formally filed by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office against Christopher Ramirez on October 13, 2026, in Los Angeles County Superior Court. The charges were filed in connection with a series of four brush fires that occurred at Galster Wilderness Park between May and August of 2026.

The charges are the result of an extensive criminal investigation led by the West Covina Fire Department Arson Unit, which identified Ramirez as the suspect in connection with the fires. On Friday, October 9, 2026, a coordinated operation involving West Covina Fire Department Arson Investigators, West Covina Police Department detectives, and investigators from the Verdugo Fire Investigation Task Force resulted in Ramirez being apprehended without incident. He was subsequently booked into the West Covina Police Department Jail, where bail was set at $1,000,000.

The four fires collectively burned approximately 20 acres of the 40-acre Wilderness Park, threatened nearby hillside neighborhoods, and required additional resources from fire departments throughout the San Gabriel Valley and neighboring communities. Aerial firefighting resources were deployed to help contain the fires and protect nearby homes, while firefighters on the ground operated in challenging conditions that included steep terrain, dense vegetation, and high temperatures.

Regional Cooperation and Investigation: The West Covina Fire Department extends its sincere appreciation to the West Covina Police Department for its partnership, assistance, and support throughout the investigation and coordinated apprehension operation. The department also recognizes the significant contributions of arson investigators from agencies participating in the Verdugo Fire Investigation Task Force, Area E Regional Arson and Explosives Task Force, and South Bay Arson Task Force. Investigative assistance was provided by fire departments from Culver City, La Verne, Montebello, Sierra Madre, Pasadena, Burbank, South Pasadena, Arcadia, and Alhambra.

The West Covina Fire Department also recognizes the collaboration of our federal partners at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). ATF Special Agent in Charge Kenny Cooper of the Los Angeles Field Division provided the following statement: "ATF's mission is to protect communities from violent criminals who use acts of arson as their tools of intimidation. Alongside the West Covina Fire Department's Arson Unit, our task force officer from Arcadia Fire Department pooled resources, expertise, and intelligence that assisted in identifying and apprehending the person responsible for this series of fires. Friday's arrest shows what is possible when federal and local partners work together."

Commitment to Community Safety: The West Covina Fire Department remains committed to protecting the residents of West Covina, preserving property and the environment, and maintaining a safe and resilient community.

Ramirez is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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PLHA Rental Assistance Pilot Program

The City is accepting applications for the PLHA Rental Assistance Pilot Program, which provides 6 months of partial rent assistance to income-eligible South Pasadena households experiencing financial hardship, with payments made directly to the landlord. This assistance is made possible by a grant from the State's Permanent Local Housing Allocation Program (PLHA) and the Los Angeles County Development Authority. Residents can contact the Housing Division at (626) 403-7219 or housing@southpasadenaca.gov for more information.

Planning Commission Updates

Joint City Council and Planning Commission Meeting – Objective Design Standards (ODS)

On Wednesday, October 7, 2026, the draft ODS for the downtown area was presented before the City Council and Planning Commission. After a thorough presentation of the Draft ODS, the Council and Commission held a robust discussion on the contents of the draft and concluded with feedback and recommendations to the draft. The revised ODS draft will be presented to the Planning Commission to make a recommendation to the City Council.

Upcoming Planning Commission Meeting/Public Hearing

On October 20, 2026, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider adopting a resolution recommending the City Council adopt an uncodified ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2414 and the Official Zoning Map to temporarily exclude 84 qualifying historic sites from SB 79, including the seven previously deferred local landmark sites and 77 additional qualifying sites consistent with AB 2576.

STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION AREAS: OCT 19 - 23

As the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Street Improvement Project continues, construction will take place next week and may impact the flow of traffic. Visit the project webpage for progress updates, construction schedule, and more.

LOCATION: Milan Avenue

IMPROVEMENTS: Asphalt paving began on July 20 but was temporarily paused due to concerns with compaction of the initial asphalt layer. Additional testing has since confirmed that the pavement meets the required compaction standards. The contractor is anticipated to complete paving of the final 1.5 inches of asphalt next week, on Thursday or Friday.

LOCATION: Pine Street

IMPROVEMENTS: The contractor began concrete improvements on Pine Avenue. Concrete work is currently paused while additional design work is completed to ensure the curb and gutter are constructed at the correct elevations. The additional design work for the concrete improvements have been completed. The contractor is anticipated to return next week to resume concrete improvements.

LOCATION: Maple Street (Meridian Avenue to Huntington Drive)

IMPROVEMENTS: Asphalt paving began on July 20 but was temporarily paused due to concerns with compaction of the initial asphalt layer. Additional testing has since confirmed that the pavement meets the required compaction standards. The contractor is anticipated to complete paving of the final 1.5 inches of asphalt next week, on Thursday or Friday.

LOCATION: Arroyo Verde

IMPROVEMENTS: Improvements will continue with installation of water main infrastructure at the intersection of Arroyo Verde. Residents can expect traffic detours near that intersection and expect road closures at the rail road crossing.

Library at Archives Bazaar

The South Pasadena Public Library participated as an exhibitor at the 21st Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar on October 10, 2026, at Cal State LA. The event brought together archives, libraries, museums, and historical organizations from across the region to showcase their collections and connect with the public. SPPL highlighted materials from the Local History Collection, including photographs, Ostrich Farm materials, and the re-vamped Memory Lab program.



Library Board of Trustees Meeting Summary

At the October 8 meeting, the Library Board of Trustees approved updates to several outdated Library policies, including the Gifts to the Library policy, the Reconsideration of Materials policy, and the Library Cards policy. The Board also received one public comment regarding Measure SOS. Staff presented an update on the Library's budget and an overview of the estimated revenue from the Library Special Tax. In addition, the Board voted to rescind an obsolete policy and received a general update on Library operations.

Senior Center Events

Flu Vaccine Clinic
In partnership with Huntington Health, the Senior Center hosted a free flu shot clinic on October 9, 2026, for older adults, individuals with disabilities, staff, and community members.



Lost Memories
The Senior Center invited Efren Moreno, Jr., MSW, to speak as part of our Lost Memories Alzheimer's series. His presentation focused on the early stages of Alzheimer's, including recognizing early warning signs and understanding the changes families may experience as the disease begins to progress. The next session will be held on November 17 at 1:00 p.m.



Mental Wellness Series
The Senior Center welcomed Dr. Haydeh Fakhrabadi, Psy.D., who presented on the important connection between sleep and emotional well-being. She shared helpful information and practical tips for developing healthy sleep habits and improving overall mental wellness. The next session will be held on November 5 and will focus on "Holiday Blues."



SPTOR Committee Meeting Summary

The South Pasadena Tournament of Roses Committee (SPTOR) held its regular monthly meeting on October 6, 2026. SPTOR conducted regular business matters.

Community Services Commission Meeting Summary

The Community Services Commission (CSC) held its regular meeting on October 12, 2026, and approved the minutes from the September 3 meeting. Discussion items included approval of field use request from the South Pasadena Little League; an Eagle Scout trail camera project at the Nature Park; and plans for a joint meeting with the Public Works Infrastructure Commission to review the draft Parks Comprehensive Plan. The Commission also received an informational report on the City's 2026 summer special events and Fourth of July celebration, along with operational updates. Additionally, CSC conducted a preliminary review of the Community Services Department's guidelines, with further discussion scheduled for its regular December meeting.