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**“Mayor’s Cup of Joe” Column 3:  
THANK YOU South Pasadena!**

Let me start this column by THANKING YOU, South Pasadena residents and businesses! Thanks to the Special Olympics South Pasadena Host Town committee, South Pasadena Beautiful, and Moms for Community, as well as South Pasadena Arts Council, the High School, the Kiwanis Club, and many others. By working together to bring the Special Olympics delegations from Morocco and Paraguay to town, you helped bring the world to South Pasadena. I am so proud of the Host Town organizing committee, especially Laura, Lisa, and Mary, who showed that our City cares, that our City shares, and that our City steps up!

The Special Olympics athletes from these two countries enriched our lives while they were here, spreading enthusiasm, joy, and excitement. At one point early in the Host Town festivities, I saw two athletes sitting together, one from Morocco and the other from Paraguay. They looked as though they had known each other for years. I wondered how they could be communicating, let alone getting along like old friends, and asked the nearest interpreter. She explained that sign language brought them together and gave them a means to communicate. Everyone who was involved in the Host Town events got to experience these types of moments where people from opposite ends of the world had a chance to connect.

I also want to thank our whole community for the diligent work everyone has done to reduce water consumption! We asked you to reduce water use, and you significantly reduced usage. As noted in a recent edition of the Los Angeles Times, water use by the community as a whole was down 22% in April, 31% in May, and 30% in June!

This is a great step forward, and I encourage everyone to keep it up so that we can continue to be an example to the region. There are many ways to conserve water, but the easiest is by irrigating more efficiently. The

City offers information on proper irrigation and rebates for water conserving devices at [www.southpasadenaca.gov/water](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/water). As Debby Figoni, our water conservation expert, recently told me, our community is doing a great job reducing their water consumption. One excellent example is the Brist family. By pragmatically (1) tweaking their irrigation system, which had been modified dozens of times over the years, (2) fixing their leaking hose, and (3) adjusting watering times for sunny and shady areas, the Brist family was able to see a significant reduction in their water bill. Mr. Brist also mentioned that his children educated him and his wife with a variety of indoor watering tips.

Another example is the local School District. "Over the last year, the South Pasadena Unified School District (SPUSD) has worked with Valley Crest, our landscaping company, to implement various water saving procedures. We have converted thousands of square feet of turf grass to low maintenance, drought tolerant plants at our elementary schools and installed artificial turf in the milling areas of the Middle School. We make a conscious effort to "police" our vast irrigation systems and repair issues usually within 24 hours of them being brought to our attention." said Tim Whinney, Director - Facilities & Maintenance at SPUSD.

Another big "Thank You" goes out to all of those who made our Fourth of July Festival of Balloons so special. The Kiwanis Club did a wonderful job holding their annual pancake breakfast. The Festival of Balloons committee deserves special recognition for all of their hard work. With around 5,000 people participating in the parade and attending the fireworks show respectively, the committee members had their hands full. But they pulled it off with aplomb and gave us all a great time in the process. I was excited and inspired by the number of groups participating and the number of people in attendance. So many families and children decided to spend their Saturday with the community, and so many children got involved in various aspects of the event; it really exemplifies the small-town atmosphere that makes South Pasadena so special.

One final, heartfelt "Thank You" goes to Dr. Marina Khubesrian, my colleague on Council and the Vice Chair of the Connected Cities and Communities (C3). Councilmember Khubesrian and the entire C3 have done a great deal to promote the "Beyond the 710" initiative, an alternative to the State Route 710 that will improve mobility

throughout the region, and we should all be grateful for their efforts. As always, feel free to email me at:  
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-Robert Joe, Mayor of South Pasadena