

Director's Monthly Report

Human Services & Recreation Department



September 2013

Message from the Director ~

On behalf of the Human Services and Recreation Department, I want to thank the public and School/City staff for all your support in the development of the School/City/Community Work Plan. The effort was officially launched August 29, 2013, at a community meeting where the Mayor, School Board President, City Manager, Superintendent and Pasadena City College Trustee recommitted their vision and support for this collaboration. Community input in how this effort will grow and take shape going forward will make the Plan a success, and ultimately improve public education and quality of life in Pasadena. The ideas shared on how youth, parents, stakeholders and educators would like to see the work move forward in invaluable to us. We will update the Joint Work Plan website early in the month so you can stay connected to next steps. Please visit www.cityofpasadena/humanservices to keep up with developments.

Below is a link to an article from *Pasadena Now* that highlights what came out of the community meeting:

<http://www.pasadenanow.com/main/community-work-plan-set-in-motion-thursday>

“Almost 100 Pasadena, Altadena, and Sierra Madre residents and organization representatives participated in Thursday’s School/City/Community Work Plan Kick-Off Meeting. The Community Work Plan seeks to join and align efforts with the School District, the City, and the whole community to narrow the achievement gap in schools and improve the quality of life for all citizens of Pasadena. The formal kick-off brought the vision beyond the city and school district to involve community organizations.”

Please stay connected to this Plan and do check out our many program offerings for fall. We continually align our programs to support the School/City/Community Work Plan. We want to remind you that most of our programs feature our commitment to a healthy and active lifestyle. Have a great September everyone!



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Human Services and Recreation Projects and Programs

Update on Children's Garden at Villa-Parke

Community Meetings to gather design and program ideas pertaining to the Villa-Parke Children's Garden Project were conducted on August 20th and 24th, 2013 at the Villa-Parke Community Center. The meetings were conducted by the Los Angeles Conservation Corp, Little Green Fingers, a local non-profit responsible for the actual planting, and City staff. Members from the Pasadena Community Garden Conservancy also participated by providing recommendations for various fruits and vegetables to plant and children in attendance were able to create art designs of their visions for the garden.

A meeting with Options, the new local recipient of the Federal Head Start grant, is scheduled for this week to develop the design elements for the garden area. Teachers are also working with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to develop the appropriate curriculum for children attending Options' Head Start Program. Improvements for the project in the Head Start area of Villa-Parke may include a shade structure, small water element feature and raised planting beds.

Funding for this project comes from a grant awarded by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, First Five L.A. in the amount of \$350,000 and a grant from the Pasadena Community Garden Conservancy in the amount of \$20,000 for 5 years, totaling \$100,000.

It is anticipated that the Community Build Day for the garden project at Villa-Parke will take place on Saturday, October 12, 2013. The community is welcome to attend this event and assist with the building of the garden. Free gardening, nutrition and cooking classes will subsequently begin in late October. For more information please contact Rozanne Adanto at radanto@cityofpasadena.net

Linked Learning Update and Retreat

The School/City/Community Work Plan team held a retreat on August 26, 2013, to discuss the alignment of Linked Learning, Youth Internships and Employment Opportunities and the goals outlined in the 2012 Economic Development Strategy. Representatives from Pasadena Unified School District, Pasadena City College, the City, the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and the community were present to understand more fully how Linked Learning connects academic work with real world work experience and better prepares students for future careers. The purpose of the meeting was to regroup with those who are involved in developing a group of community advocates with a link to improving work-based opportunities and community engagement in Pasadena. A coalition of community organizations is required to ensure that students are actively involved in learning and the community. A follow up meeting is planned for late September to develop an action plan going forward.

After School Adventures Program Update

The Human Services and Recreation Department is excited that the After School Adventures Program's (ASAP) is now underway with the start of the school year on Wednesday, August 14th, 2013, at eleven Pasadena Unified School District sites. ASAP provides affordable, flexible and convenient after school child care for students from Kindergarten through age 14.

For \$25 per week, students will be well-supervised, experience exciting and fun activities, express themselves through art, music and drama, socialize and meet new friends, have homework assistance, build their self-confidence through positive play and sports, learn the benefits of healthy eating and an active lifestyle, and feel a part of the ASAP family and Pasadena Community.

Children are already gearing up to provide performances for this year's Halloween event at Victory Park and the Mayor's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting event at City Hall.

Annual Fall Festival

The City of Pasadena will host its annual Fall Festival on Thursday, October 31st at Victory Park 2575 Paloma St. Pasadena CA 91107 from 5:00pm to 8:30pm. The event offers an enchanting night of safe, family fun with activities for the entire family! All are welcome to come out and enjoy live entertainment, carnival games, face painting, big slide, sticky wall, haunted house a train ride around the park and, of course, delicious food! Admission is free and special costume contests for all age groups are planned for Toddler, Youth, Teens, Adults and Seniors at 7:30 p.m. With special zones designed for toddlers, youth and teens, there is something for everyone! Our scary Haunted House is suitable for ages 8 & up. Everyone will want to take part in the costume contest so start planning your costume and accessories now! Admission into this fun family event is free! Major attractions such as the haunted house, train ride, slides and food will require nominal fees. Tickets for these attractions will be sold onsite. For more information call 626-744-7500.

Commission Happenings

All Commission Chair and Vice Chair Meeting to be Scheduled September 19th

The All Commission Chair and Vice Chair meeting has been scheduled for **September 19, 2013**, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Conference Room (S038) in the Basement of City Hall. This meeting will feature upcoming Commission Workplans for 2013/2014, develop opportunities for joint commission projects and refine the issue areas selected by each commission as a result of the 2011 Needs Assessment.

Human Relations Commission

The regular Human Relations Commission meeting of September 3, 2013, has been cancelled due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Recreation and Parks Commission

The Recreation and Parks regular meeting of September 4, 2013, has been cancelled due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Senior Commission and Accessibility and Disability Commission

On September 18, 2013, the second meeting of a task group working to better integrate the needs of people with disabilities into the City's emergency plan will meet at the Pasadena Senior Center. Participants will include staff from Human Services & Recreation, Fire, and Public Health Departments and representatives from the Senior Commission, Accessibility and Disability Commission, and Pasadena Senior Center. The group's initial focus is planning for shelter and care within the City's Emergency Plan. These items are being examined and recommendations are being developed to update the City's Shelter Annex. In addition, the Task Force is reviewing best practices around a model referred to as Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST). Trained FAST members know how to assist shelter staff in identifying the needs of people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs. A FAST team is activated when a shelter site is opened.

Monthly Projects, Events and Programs

100 Citizens Get Fit Diabetes Prevention Program

On September 16, 2013, Pasadena residents will have another opportunity to participate in the 100 Citizens Get Fit Diabetes Prevention Program, a 12-week session that will be held at

Robinson Park Center, 1081 North Fair Oaks. Classes start at 7:00 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday and Friday and are 60 minutes in length. This program is jointly sponsored by the Department of Kinesiology at California State University Northridge.

Former participant Shawn Downey remarked, "Wow, I had the best twelve weeks of an excellent program. I truly benefited from attending three days a week of cardio and strength training. I would recommend the diabetes prevention program to others." Lisa Wilson, also a participant, said: "This program has turned me into someone who feels a physical need to exercise and moving has become easier. As well, I'm making smarter food choices, sleeping better and have lost 8 pounds!"

Dr. Eric Walsh, Director of the City's Public Health Department, also encourages community members to take advantage of this opportunity. He emphasized that the 100 Citizens Diabetes Prevention Program is a dynamic, free service which offers rich support for clients who are interested in taking charge of their own health and marking a permanent path for wellness and minimizing the risk for developing chronic conditions. He also reminded the community that the Public Health Department has a number of programs available such as an Immunization Clinic, Public Health Laboratory, Tuberculosis Clinic, Substance Abuse Prevent and Counseling Program and Nutrition and Physical Activity Education and Outreach. Additional Public Health Department programs are listed on their website at www.cityofpasadena.net/publichealth

For more information regarding the 100 Citizens get fit, please contact Maricela Galvez at mgalvez@cityofpasadena.net or 626 744-7304.

Teen Education Center in Full Swing for Fall

The La Pintoresca Teen Education Center (LPTEC) returns this fall with powerful programs to empower teens in Pasadena. LPTEC is a one of a kind facility that offers a variety of classes, field trips, special events, job training, community service opportunities, and college preparation services (ages 13 to 18), free of charge. LPTEC services a daily average of 50-60 teens from all middle and high schools in the Pasadena Unified School District, as well as home schooled students and those attending private, charter, continuation, and alternative schools in the area. LPTEC has revolutionized programming for teens in an effort to promote the five main components of its mission statement: Learn, Work, Play, Create, and Engage.

The Teen Center is not only a secure place for teens during after school hours (open from 3pm to 7pm Monday–Friday), it has also proven to be a place where teens can grow academically, socially, professionally, and even emotionally. *"The poetry class at the teen center helped me express feelings about my past that I've never shared with anyone before. I feel like I have a place to go now."* said Dejon Sutphen, age 15.

The College Bound program, a staple of the Teen Center, will continue to provide guidance through the college admission process. *"My son will be the first person in our family to go to college. Thanks to the College Bound program, he is now looking into advanced placement courses and financial aid options, which is a resource we didn't know about before."*-Nalika Vithanage, LPTEC Parent.

Beginning August 26, 2013 members will participate in a combination of new and existing classes including tutoring, homework assistance, ceramics, art, music, cooking, dance, fitness and youth mentorship programs. Teens and parents can check out a full list of classes and enroll online at www.cityofpasadena.net/reserve or call Yuriko Montes, Recreation Services Specialist at (626) 345-0708.

September Calendar of Events for the Department and the Teen Center

Click [here](#) to open the monthly calendar of events for the Department. Click [here](#) to open the calendar for the La Pintaresca Teen Education Center.

Capital Improvement Program

Robinson Park Construction Project Update

In June, the City received 17 written proposals submitted by architectural firms in response to the Robinson Park Recreation Center Renovation Request for Proposals. In July, the Robinson Park Recreation Center Renovation Interview Selection Panel comprised of four City staff members and one member of the Robinson Park Recreation Center Renovation Steering Committee, conducted interviews with the final four architectural firms. The Committee recommended the firm, Gonzalez Goodale Architects of Pasadena be awarded the job. This firm has extensive experience in the design and construction of recreation centers. On September 16, 2013 the City Council will consider this recommendation. If approved, the firm will be introduced at the Steering Committee's September 23, 2013 meeting.

Planning meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Jackie Robinson Center from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and the public is welcome to attend the meetings. Lola Osborne, Manager Northwest Programs, is the contact for this project. She can be reached at losborne@cityofpasadena.net (626) 744-4791.

For additional information please visit

http://cityofpasadena.net/PublicWorks/Robinson_Park_Community_Center/

Save the Date!

- Options Head Start opens at Villa Parke on **September 9, 2013**.
- Fiestas Patrias will be celebrated at Villa-Parke Community Center on **September 14, 2013** on the Multi-purpose Field from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Senior Day at the Los Angeles County Fair, **September 18, 2013** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. leaving from Jackie Robinson Community Center.
- All Commission Chair and Vice Chair Meeting **September 19, 2013**, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Conference Room S038 in the Basement of City Hall.
- Special celebration and acknowledgement of Seabiscuit Artwork at the Armory Center for the Arts, **September 21, 2013**, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Alpha Kappa Alpha will sponsor a Health Fair at Jackie Robinson Community Center on **September 28, 2013**, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Opening Day for Youth Flag Football and Cheerleading will take place on **September 28, 2013**, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Villa-Parke Soccer Field.
- Annual Fall Festival at Victory Park, **October 31, 2013** from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Citywide Recreation

Fall Youth Sports

The 2013 Youth Flag Football and Cheer & Dance registration is taking place now through **September 16, 2013**, for boys and girls ages 4-14. Games will begin on September 28, as cheerleaders will have an opportunity to cheer for their school or recreation flag football teams in a fun, safe, and structured environment. All flag football players and cheerleaders will learn the basic fundamentals of their respective sports while participating in pre-season conditioning, team practices, skill development clinics, league games, and playoffs. Practices will be held at respective school sites and recreation facilities while games will be held at Villa-Parke and Robinson Park. For more information, please contact the Citywide Recreation Office at 626-744-

7500.

Adaptive Recreation Programs

The Human Services and Recreation Department is pleased to announce that the Armory Center, located at 145 North Raymond Avenue, has asked the Adaptive Recreation Program to extend the exhibition of "Seabiscuit" until **September 21, 2013**. This extension will coincide with a special Armory Center celebration that is scheduled for that evening. The art teacher and the artists have also been invited to attend. The celebration will be in the Community Room of the Armory Center from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The public is welcome.

Kudos to Noreen Sullivan, Councilmember Gene Masuda's Field Representative, for working with Santa Anita Racetrack to post the "Seabiscuit Artwork" news release on the Santa Anita Racetrack website. The public relations staff there are also sending it out to their media contacts in the thoroughbred racing world too.

There is a special connection between Santa Anita and "The Biscuit" and visitors there were just delighted to help spread the word on the special Seabiscuit-themed artwork exhibit at the Armory Center by the participants in our Human Services & Recreation Dept.'s Adaptive Recreation Art Program. Check out the below link:

<http://www.santaanita.com/press/pressrelease/2013/08/%E2%80%9Cseabiscuit%E2%80%9D-themed-artwork-displayed-armory-center>

Staff are now working on the possibility of Santa Anita hosting a special VIP tour for the Adaptive Art Program participants to visit the racetrack as well as to see the bronze statue of "America's Racehorse" and possibly for the track to host a second showing of their artwork sometime next year.

Community Partners

Rose Bowl Aquatics Center

September means the start of the competitive team season for aquatics sports, and that includes the teams that represent the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center throughout the year in swim, dive and water polo. Student-athletes up to the age of 18 have the opportunity to enhance their commitment to their favorite sport on some of the most fun and competitive teams in the nation. No matter what level of expertise or experience, goal setting, a sense of teamwork and personal success all await those that make aquatics a year-round activity. Scholarships are available for these programs and more.

In addition to the competitive teams, the Olympic Challenge *Learn to swim program* starts September 20, 2013. The program will center around nearly 900 PUSD students, including 3rd graders from Altadena, Cleveland, Field, Jackson, Jefferson, McKinley, Madison, San Rafael, Washington Accelerated and Willard Elementary Schools, as well as students from Hillside Home for Children. Learning to swim helps to save lives, as drowning remains that second leading cause of accidental death for children up to age 19. Go to www.rosebowlaquatics.org to learn more.

Flintridge Center

SKILLZ SUMMER SCHOOL

Flintridge Center recently wrapped up another successful year of **SKILLZ Summer School**, a free learning experience for teens most at-risk of dropping out of school or failing to graduate. This is a collaborative project with **Day One** and **Lake Avenue Community Foundation**. By completing a mix of life skills workshops and academic classes, the students had the opportunity to earn up to

10 school credits. In addition to improving school success, SKILLZ helped increase the students' confidence, motivation and social skills. Along with Day One, Lake Avenue Community Foundation, partners of this program include the **Pasadena Public Health Department**, the **Pasadena Police Department**, and **Pasadena Unified School District** as well as over a dozen community-based organizations. This year's SKILLZ Summer School program concluded on July



11, 2013 and we are happy to report that of the 96 eighth and ninth grade students who registered, over 80% received passing grades at the close of program! On the closing day, donated backpacks were distributed to the students which were stocked with back-to-school supplies. SKILLZ Summer School gave these students a second chance and many will have new tools to begin the next chapter in their education.