



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

March 16, 2023

To the Honorable City Council
of the City of Pasadena

Mayor and Councilmembers:

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

1. Playhouse Village Park Award of Excellence in Design – Park Planning:

Lola Osborne, Acting Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, and the department are proud to announce that the Playhouse Village Park has been awarded a prestigious California Parks and Recreation Society (“CPRS”) Award of Excellence in Design-Park Planning. See the attached memorandum for additional details accompanied by the award letter from CPRS.

2. Pasadena Public Library Celebrates the 21st Anniversary of One City, One Story:

To celebrate the anniversary of One City, One Story, a month-long series of free events including book discussions, programs, films, and more are planned throughout March highlighting themes from this year’s selection, *Sparks Like Stars* by Author Nadia Hashimi. The author will discuss her experiences writing the novel on Friday, March 24 at 7 p.m. at the Pasadena Presbyterian Church, 585 E. Colorado Blvd. A question-and-answer session will immediately follow. The event is free and open to the public.

One City, One Story was established to encourage and promote the importance of reading by recommending a compelling book that links the community together in a common conversation. The attached memorandum from Tim McDonald, Acting Director of Libraries and Information Services, provides additional details of the author and event. To learn more about these activities visit <http://cityofpasadena.libguides.com/onecityonestory>.

3. Leaf Blower Ordinance Update:

In March of 2022 the City Council approved a ban of gas-powered leaf blowers with an extended implementation date to allow ample time for the public to prepare. The first phase of the ban applied to City facilities with an effective date of February 28, 2023. Effective April 28, 2023, the use of gas-powered leaf blowers will be banned everywhere in the City

The Planning and Community Development Department has been overseeing an extensive outreach program to inform the public of the new regulations. Communications are being provided in English and Spanish. The attached memorandum from Jennifer Paige, Director of Planning and Community Development, provides greater detail of the implementation of the ordinance.

4. Housing Element Certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development:

On July 18, 2022, the City Council adopted the 6th Cycle Housing Element for 2021-2029. On March 10, 2023, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (“HCD”) certified the City’s Housing Element.

Jennifer Paige, Director of Planning and Community Development, reports that in California, every city is required by State Law to prepare a Housing Element update for certification. The Housing Element allows each city to prepare a community-specific approach to “how” and “where” housing will be addressed to meet the needs of the community by analyzing existing housing conditions, describing existing and future housing needs, and identifying opportunities to improve and expand the City’s housing supply. Following the certification of the Housing Element, the City is committed to implementing the policies and programs set forth in the document. The 2021-2019 Housing Element is available online: <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/planning-division/community-planning/general-plan/housing-element-update/#2021-2029-housing-element>

5. Pasadena in the News:

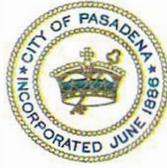
Below are this week’s top five clips of Pasadena in the News as submitted by Lisa Derderian, Public Information Officer.

1. [Pasadena Girls Fire Camp](#) - CBS LA
2. [Replica gun found at Pasadena High School, lockdown lifted](#) – San Gabriel Valley Tribune
3. [Public Works Completed Reconstruction of 11,000 Damaged Sidewalk Locations Inventoried in City’s Sidewalk Repair Program](#) – Pasadena Now
4. [Pasadena Electric Rate Will Increase](#) – ColoradoBoulevard.net
5. [Honoring Hahamongna: Arroyo Seco Foundation celebrates 30th year anniversary](#) – Pasadena Weekly

Respectfully Submitted,



NICHOLAS G. RODRIGUEZ
Assistant City Manager



MEMORANDUM
LIBRARIES & INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

DATE: March 15, 2023

TO: Miguel Márquez, City Manager

FROM: Tim McDonald, Acting Director, Libraries and Information Services TM

RE: Pasadena Public Library Celebrates the 21st Anniversary of One City, One Story

Pasadena Public Library is celebrating the 21st anniversary of One City, One Story, an annual community reading program. One City, One Story was established to encourage and promote the importance of reading by recommending a compelling book that links the community together in a common conversation. It has done just that each year sparking lively community discussions and open dialogue on the significant issues raised by the selected book.

This year's spring selection is *Sparks Like Stars* by author Nadia Hashimi. The author will discuss her experiences writing the novel on Friday, March 24 at 7 p.m. at the Pasadena Presbyterian Church, 585 E. Colorado Blvd. A question-and-answer session will immediately follow. The event is free and open to the public. There are many nearby restaurants to dine in before the event or have a coffee in afterward. Parking is available on-street and in adjacent pay parking lots and garages.

In *Sparks Like Stars*, the daughter of a prominent family, Sitara Zamani lives a privileged life in Afghanistan's thriving cosmopolitan capital, Kabul. The 1970s are a time of remarkable promise under the leadership of people like Sardar Daoud, Afghanistan's progressive president, and Sitara's beloved father, his right-hand man. But the ten-year-old Sitara's world is shattered when communists stage a coup, assassinating the president and Sitara's entire family. Only she survives.

Smuggled out of the palace by a guard named Shair, Sitara finds her way to the home of a female American diplomat, who adopts her and raises her in America.

Thirty years after that fatal night in Kabul, now a New York pediatrician known as Dr. Aryana Shepherd, Sitara's world is rocked again when an elderly patient appears in her examination room—a man she never expected to see again. It is Shair, the soldier who saved her, yet may have murdered her entire family. Seeing him awakens Aryana's fury and desire for answers—

and, perhaps, revenge. Aryana embarks on a quest that takes her back to Kabul and through shadowy memories of the world she loved and lost.

Nadia Hashimi is a pediatrician turned internationally bestselling author with translations in 17 languages. Her novels for adults and children are inspired by the people, culture, and history of Afghanistan but take on the global themes of displacement, conflict, patriarchy, and colonialism. She is a member of the US Afghan Women's Council, Afghan American Foundation, Welcome.US, and serves on the boards of non-profit organizations. Originally from New York, she lives with her husband, four spirited children, and one exceptionally hungry dog in Potomac, Maryland.

A month long series of free events including book discussions, programs, films and more are planned throughout March highlighting themes from the book. To learn more about these activities visit <http://cityofpasadena.libguides.com/onecityonestory>.

One City, One Story is sponsored by The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library and Pasadena Literary Alliance – Pasadena Festival of Women Authors.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Miguel Márquez, City Manager

FROM: Jennifer Paige, Director of Planning & Community Development

DATE: March 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Leaf Blower Ordinance Update

Although small, gas-powered leaf blowers have highly polluting engines which can result in significant health impacts for the community, but particularly the equipment operators. In addition to smog-forming emissions and toxic fumes, gas-powered leaf blowers also create carbon-dioxide emissions that contribute to the climate crisis. Using a gas-powered backpack leaf blower for just one hour generates the same smog-forming emissions as a car driven for 1,100 miles.

In March of 2022 the City Council approved a ban of gas-powered leaf blowers with an extended implementation date to allow ample time for the public to prepare. The first phase of the ban applied to City facilities with an effective date of February 28, 2023. Effective April 28, 2023, the use of gas-powered leaf blowers will be banned everywhere in the City. The State of California will be banning the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers starting in 2024.

The Planning and Community Development Department has been overseeing an extensive outreach program to inform the public of the new regulations. Communications are being provided in English and Spanish. Education includes the following with a ramped up effort in March/April leading into the citywide effective date:

- Pasadena In Focus publication
- Press releases
- Social media postings
- City dedicated webpage with information and FAQ's
- Direct mailing to all landscapers with business licenses
- Posters on transit shelters
- PWP bill insert
- Field staff distribution of informational materials
- KPAS Public Service Announcement
- In-person workshops for landscapers with hands on demonstration/education

California CORE, through their incentive project, is offering a \$400 point-of-sale voucher. There are currently three authorized dealers who sell battery-powered commercial leaf blowers with the \$400 discount. Additional details can be found at www.CaliforniaCore.org. There is also a rebate of up to 75% off the cost of an electric leaf blower offered by the South Coast AQMD via

their Commercial Lawn & Garden Equipment Exchange program (late March/April rollout). The AQMD rebate can be combined with the CORE voucher, please visit www.AQMD.com for additional details.

As is current practice for leaf blower complaints, Code Compliance will respond as soon as possible or conduct a follow-up inspection at the same day and time. A Warning Notice with a 30-day compliance period will be issued to the landscape business owner/operator and a door hanger will be placed at the property being serviced informing them of the regulations.

Additional key regulations for use of electric-powered leaf blowers include the following:

- May only be used Monday - Friday between 8 A.M. and 6 P.M., Saturdays, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. and prohibited on Sundays
- Noise levels are restricted to 65 decibels when measured from 50' away
- Allowed to be used up to 15 minutes per hour for parcels less than ½ acre and 30 minutes per hour for parcels greater than ½ acre
- Debris blown beyond the property line is required to be cleaned up within 15 minutes

For additional information regarding the Leaf Blower Ordinance please visit the city's dedicated webpage at bit.ly/leaf-blower-ban.



PASADENA

PARKS · RECREATION · COMMUNITY SERVICES

DATE: March 15, 2023

TO: Miguel Márquez, City Manager

FROM: Lola Osborne, Acting Director

SUBJECT: Playhouse Village Park Award of Excellence in Design – Park Planning



The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCS) is proud to announce the Playhouse Village Park has been awarded a prestigious California Parks and Recreation Society (“CPRS”) Award of Excellence in Design-Park Planning. The CPRS Award of Excellence recognizes the outstanding achievements of agencies and individuals in the areas of facility design, park planning, marketing and communication, and community improvement and programming. The Public Works Department managed the design of the new park which features open space for recreation, a kid’s accessible play area with a rubberized surface, dog area for large and small dogs, Van Halen stage, 48 on-site parking spaces with four electric vehicle charging spaces, two single-user gender neutral restrooms, and walking paths.

The PRCS Department will be featured in the “Best of the Best Showcase” exhibition at upcoming conferences and trainings statewide, and will receive the award on April 5, 2023 at the annual CPRS conference held in San Diego.



March 7, 2023

Congratulations! Your agency has been selected as a 2022 California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) *Award of Excellence* recipient for **Playhouse Village Park** in the **Excellence in Design - Park Planning** category. The CPRS awards program recognizes outstanding achievement in the areas of facility design, park planning, marketing and communication, and community improvement and programming. You should be proud that your project met the highest standards for achieving excellence!

As an *Award of Excellence* winner your agency will receive:

- A one of a kind mosaic plaque, hand made by our friends at [Piece by Piece](#)
- Statewide recognition video at [CPRS CONNECTIONS](#) (Conference & Expo) during our general session, Wednesday, April 5, 2023.
- Statewide recognition at [CPRS CONNECTIONS](#) (Conference & Expo) through our Best of the Best area in the Expo Hall and our 2022 Best of the Best Recognition Wall!
- Statewide recognition in the Spring issue of California Parks & Recreation and on the CPRS website, <https://www.cprs.org/resources/cprs-awards>
- Electronic Award of Excellence logo for agency promotional purposes

The CPRS Award Chairs, Board and Staff are eager to celebrate you at YOUR next Board, Council, or Staff meeting. Invite us to come present your award in front of your community, leaders, and team members!

The Awards Program is a very worthwhile program and would not be possible without support from our sponsors, [RJM Design Group](#), [Little Tikes Commercial Play Structures](#), and [SVA Architects](#). Please stop by these sponsors' booths in the CONNECTIONS Expo Hall and thank them for their support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Again, congratulations on your award! We look forward to highlighting you as one of the past year's Best of the Best!

Sincerely,

[Stephanie Molina](#), West Side Recreation & Park District
[Leah Martinez](#), Town of Danville
Awards Co-Chairs