

DISTRICT UPDATE



CITY OF PASADENA | AUGUST 3, 2021



Welcome to

District 7

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Councilmember

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Dear Friends,

Happy August!

As of this writing, over 80% of Pasadena residents have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and 89.7% of residents have had at least one dose. Unfortunately, the significantly more transmissible Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has become the predominant strain in the U.S. causing many unvaccinated individuals to become sick and hospitalized. So while Pasadena is well vaccinated, in Los Angeles County where a large proportion of the people who work, visit, or patronize businesses in Pasadena reside, the rate of COVID-19 cases has increased to the “High Transmission” level. For this reason, on July 22nd Dr. Goh issued a new mask mandate in Pasadena for indoor public settings and businesses regardless of vaccination status. I know this is probably disappointing for many of you (including myself), but I hope this particular response will slow the spread and allow us to return to normal sooner rather than later.

We will NOT be hosting our first Thursday monthly constituent coffee this month as many are on summer vacation. Our next coffee will take place on Thursday, September 2nd.



[South Lake Business Association](#)



[Green Street Village](#)



[Playhouse Village](#)

[Pasadena COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

[Pasadena COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#)

[Pasadena PD to host Red Cross Blood Drive August 4th](#)



PASADENA JOINS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITIES TO ADDRESS THE "MISSING MIDDLE"

In May, the City Council voted to join the California Statewide Communities Development Authority ("CSCDA") and the California Community Housing Agency ("CalCHA") joint powers authorities. These agencies are working to create low- and moderate-income housing opportunities throughout California. Moderate-income housing in particular, which is typically defined as housing that serves households earning between 80% and 120% of Area Median Income ("AMI"), does not have many other funding sources. Residents requiring moderate-income housing are the Missing Middle: that segment of the public who make too much money to qualify for low-income housing but not enough to afford high market rate rents.

Both CSCDA and CalCHA finance the acquisition and operation of low- and moderate-income rental housing through the issuance and sale of governmental purpose revenue bonds. The use of these bonds eliminates the property tax burden to the projects, enabling CSCDA and CalCHA to restrict rents to low- and moderate-income affordability while still ensuring project feasibility. Although these transactions require the City to forgo property tax revenue, the City receives an equity stake in any approved project once the bonds have matured, meaning that the City is entitled to excess sales proceeds at that time (typically Year 30).

Through our partnership with these agencies, the City now has the ability to approve the financing and acquisition (by CSCDA or CalCHA) of apartment projects for conversion to low- and moderate-income rental housing on a project-by-project basis through Public Benefit Agreements. In June, The CSCDA spent \$335.1 million in investor-backed bonds to buy two Class-A apartment complexes — the 340-unit Westgate Apartments Phases II and III on DeLacey Avenue and The Hudson, a 173-unit complex on East Walnut Street. Last night, the Council approved a third project at 289 North El Molino of 105 units to be added to the program.

As we continue to enter into these agreements, we will be opening up more moderate income housing units - a very positive step in addressing the divide for our "Missing Middle."



CITY COUNCIL AND PLAYHOUSE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION BOARD CELEBRATE GROUNDBREAKING OF THE NEW PARK IN THE PLAYHOUSE VILLAGE!

Last week, members of the City Council, together with the Playhouse Village Association Board and a stakeholder's committee, celebrated the commencement of construction for the new park in the Playhouse Village. Located on Union Street between Oak Knoll and El Molino Avenues, the new park and parking lot will include the following features:

- New Community park (.67 acres) with open green space
- 48 space parking lot
- Two-stall restroom (gender neutral) and storage building
- Trellis structure for community gatherings
- Children's play area with rubberized play surface and shade structures
- El Molino entry plaza with a water feature
- Oak Knoll entry plaza
- Off-leash dog runs separated for small and large dogs

There is a project website that will be updated throughout construction: <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/public-works/engineering-and-construction/construction/playhouse-district-park/>.

Completion of the park is expected in early summer of 2022. I know we are all looking forward to attending the Ribbon Cutting for this long awaited park!

PASADENA HOSTS FREE E-WASTE RECYCLING AND DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT ON SATURDAY AUGUST 14TH FROM 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Pasadena residents can safely dispose of electronic waste and have personal and business documents shredded at the City's popular free e-waste event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 14. The event will be held in Parking Lot I outside the Rose Bowl Stadium near Brookside Park, 360 N. Arroyo Blvd.

Shredding trucks and e-waste collection sites will be arranged at different stations in Parking Lot I. Look for signs directing you to the event. Motorists and bicyclists are advised to use caution while traveling through the area.

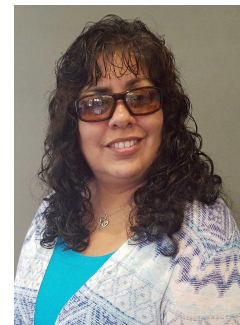
E-waste items include computers, keyboards, printers, monitors, laptops, docking stations, scanners, shredders, fax machines, computer mice, telephones, televisions, flat screens, VCRs, DVD players, PDAs, cassette players, tape drives, stereos and household batteries. Many of these products have parts that can be recycled.

Public Works is also helping residents prevent identity theft by providing free paper shredding during the event. The public can bring a maximum of three (3) legal-size boxes for shredding. Sensitive documents such as receipts, checks, pre-approved credit applications, credit card statements, outdated tax returns, pre-printed envelopes, return address labels and business cards are items that can be shredded.

Event participants will be required to show proof of Pasadena residency and the duration of the event is subject to truck capacity. The event is sponsored by the City's Department of Public Works. For more information, click [here](#) or call (626) 744-7311.

DISTRICT 7 RESIDENT DONNA POMERANTZ SELECTED TO BE THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE ROBERT GORZKI ACCESS AWARD

District 7 resident Donna Pomerantz has been selected by the [Accessibility and Disability Commission](#) as the first recipient of the Robert Gorski Access Award. The award, named after long-time City employee and disability advocate Robert Gorski, is presented to a Pasadena resident with a disability who has made significant contributions toward improving accessibility and quality of life for people with disabilities. Mr. Gorski was employed as the City's Accessibility Coordinator from 1989-2016, and continued his work as a disability rights advocate into retirement until his passing in January 2020.



As a former Chair of the Accessibility and Disability Commission, Donna advocated for several initiatives that positively impacted the quality of life of Pasadena residents with disabilities including an ordinance to ensure that people who use service animals or other mobility aids receive accessible and reliable taxi service, a project to install accessible pedestrian signals, and a successful campaign resulting in Pasadena receiving the Accessible America Award from the National Organization on Disability (2004). Donna has also served on several national and local boards and committees, including the Los Angeles Metro Accessibility Advisory Committee and Access Services Paratransit Community Advisory Committee to ensure that transportation is accessible to people with disabilities. In 2017, she and her husband Mitch were

honored by Congresswoman Judy Chu as Congressional Volunteers of the Year.

Currently, Donna serves as the Fund Manager for the Ellen Murphy Fund which provides one time grants for single women residing in California who are over 50 years of age and have a disability. She is also the President of, and Director of the Memorial Trust for, the Pasadena Lions Club.

She and her husband have resided in Pasadena for nearly 20 years where she continues her efforts to improve access for Pasadena's residents with disabilities.

Congratulations Donna!

STAY CONNECTED



Stay connected to the City of Pasadena! Visit us online at www.cityofpasadena.net; follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#); or call the Citizen Service Center, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at (626) 744-7311.