



# CITY CONNECTION

**Season's Greetings!**

City of South Pasadena  
7047 Sunset Dr. S.  
South Pasadena, FL 33707

Winter

Quarterly Newsletter

website: [www.mysouthpasadena.com](http://www.mysouthpasadena.com)

December 2024



*Happy Holidays  
& Happy New Year  
from the City Commission  
and Staff!*

*(Pictured From Left to Right)*

**VICE MAYOR GAIL NEIDINGER**  
Public Safety Department

**MAYOR ARTHUR PENNY**  
Administration Department

**COMMISSIONER THOMAS B. REID**  
Public Works Department

**COMMISSIONER BEN THOMAS**  
Finance Department

**COMMISSIONER LYNDA THOMPSON**  
Community Improvement Department  
(Not pictured)

## NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to all registered voters within the corporate limits of the City of South Pasadena, Florida, that a general election will be held on March 11, 2025 in the City of South Pasadena for the election of two Commissioners. Qualifying ended at 12 noon on November 15, 2024 with three residents qualifying as candidates as follows: Benjamin Thomas, Lynda Thompson, and Mark McAlees.

For more information about City elections, please contact the City Clerk's office at [cityhall@mysouthpasadena.com](mailto:cityhall@mysouthpasadena.com) or 727-347-4171.

## City Events Update

Due to Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, the City had to make the difficult decision to cancel this year's Holiday Tree Lighting and Holiday Lighted Boat Parade. The damage to City parks and facilities was extensive and marine debris created safety concerns for boaters. In lieu of the City's traditional winter events, a holiday party was held on Friday, December 13th at Barbara Gilberg Habitat. Attendees enjoyed festive refreshments, music, decorations, and a visit with Santa. Thank you to everyone who was able to join the City Commission and staff for some holiday cheer to end the year.

Though the City continues to work toward recovery after the difficult storm season, event facilities and equipment are not expected to be ready in time to host the City's regularly scheduled spring events, Artspring and the Block Party, in 2025. Please follow the City's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CityofSouthPasadenaFL](http://www.facebook.com/CityofSouthPasadenaFL) for announcements and updates on future events. Thank you for your patience and understanding as the community works together to rebuild.



### Thanks to the Mike Alstott Family Foundation



Thank you Mike Alstott and the Mike Alstott Family Foundation for personally delivering a Thanksgiving turkey dinner to Fire Station 20 again this year. Alstott and his family have a tradition of delivering turkey dinners to fire stations throughout Pinellas County every Thanksgiving for those that will be on shift during the holiday. Thank you for your continued support of our firefighters!



### Hibiscus Hall Update & Polling Place Change

Due to damage sustained during Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, the City's event room, Hibiscus Hall, is not available for classes or events for the foreseeable future. Those needing assistance at City Hall are advised to use the front ramp to enter the building directly into the second floor.

Please note Hibiscus Hall is not expected to be repaired in time to serve as a polling place for the City's March 11, 2025 election. The polling location for the election will be:

Pasadena Community Church  
227 70<sup>th</sup> Street South  
St Petersburg, FL 33707

For more information about the election, please visit [www.votePinellas.gov](http://www.votePinellas.gov).



**Arthur Penny**  
**Mayor, City of South Pasadena**

[www.mysouthpasadena.com](http://www.mysouthpasadena.com)

[apenny@mysouthpasadena.com](mailto:apenny@mysouthpasadena.com)

**MY CITY: I'm Part of It, I'm Proud of It**



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we near the end of the year, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for those in our community that came together during the days of hardship we faced in 2024. The road to recovery is long but I know our staff, residents, and businesses are all working hard to move forward.

**Storm Recovery Update**

Following Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, I want to acknowledge that the process to rebuild is often a complicated one. Regulations related to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) are complex and resources have been scarce. Staff has been working tirelessly to streamline and expedite procedures as much as possible while remaining in compliance with appropriate standards. I echo your frustration in the process but I believe the City is doing what is necessary. Staff is working to address your questions, some of which have been compiled as frequently asked questions on pages 5-8. If you have additional questions, I encourage you to contact the Community Improvement Department. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.

**Hurricane Recovery Meeting Update**

On Friday, December 6th, the City hosted a meeting in partnership with FEMA, the Small Business Administration (SBA), and the State of Florida. Representatives from each agency worked with City staff to address questions from the public and review disaster assistance cases. Staff received positive feedback from the event and is actively working to schedule another session in early 2025.

**City Events Update**

Thank you to everyone who attended the City's Holiday Party on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Barbara Gilberg Habitat. Unfortunately this year's Holiday Tree Lighting and Lighted Boat Parade had to be canceled because of storm damage to the area, but it was comforting to spend the evening celebrating the holiday season surrounded by lights and friends.



Sincerely,

*Mayor Arthur Penny*



The City of  
*South Pasadena*  
Florida  
"Our Place in the Sun"

[www.mysouthpasadena.com](http://www.mysouthpasadena.com)

[www.facebook.com/CityofSouthPasadenaFL](https://www.facebook.com/CityofSouthPasadenaFL)



*2024  
Holiday  
Party!*





# City of South Pasadena

## Community Improvement Department

Physical Address: 6940 Hibiscus Avenue South, South Pasadena, FL 33707

Mailing Address: 7047 Sunset Drive South, South Pasadena, FL 33707

Phone number: 727-343-4192

Email address: [buildingdepartment@mysouthpasadena.com](mailto:buildingdepartment@mysouthpasadena.com)

## **HURRICANE RECOVERY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What are Substantial Damage and Substantial Improvement?**

**SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE** - Damage of any origin sustained by a building or structure whereby the cost of restoring the building or structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the building or structure before the damage occurred.

**SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT** - Any combination of repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, alteration, addition, or other improvement of a building or structure taking place during a twelve-month period, the cumulative cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the building or structure before the improvement or repair is started. If the structure has incurred substantial damage, any repairs are considered substantial improvement regardless of the actual repair work performed.

### **How is market value established?**

When related to substantial damage, market value refers to the value of buildings and structures, excluding the land and other improvements on the parcel. Market value may be established by a qualified independent appraiser, actual cash value (replacement cost depreciated for age and quality of construction), or tax assessment value adjusted to approximate market value by a factor provided by the property appraiser.

### **What does the substantial damage process mean to you?**

**ALL REPAIRS AND RECONSTRUCTION WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT AND INSPECTION PRIOR TO ANY ITEMS BEING REPLACED, WHETHER YOUR PROPERTY HAS MINOR DAMAGE OR HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY DAMAGED.**

When repair of damage is necessary, the cost of the work must include all labor and materials necessary to fully restore the structure to its pre-damage condition, even if the owner proposes to perform less work or to do the work over time. In addition, the value of volunteer labor (including work performed by owners) and donated materials must be included. Substantial damage determinations must consider the value of the labor and materials required, even if the property owner is able to obtain discounted or free labor and/or materials.

(continued on page 6)

---

---

(continued from page 5)

### **Is the substantial damage determination result in my letter considered final?**

No. Initial substantial damage assessments and preliminary determinations have been performed by licensed inspectors, building officials, and floodplain managers in order to provide a baseline for the recovery process. These assessments were based on a cursory view of your structure from the exterior, which may or may not have allowed for all damage to be identified. A thorough inspection of your structure will be required prior to any permits being issued, during which time additional damage may be found, which could change a property's substantial damage result. Conversely, a property may have sustained less damage than perceived during the initial substantial damage assessment process, which could also change the property's substantial damage result.

### **My property was determined to be substantial damaged. What does that mean?**

If your property has been deemed substantially damaged, any repairs or reconstruction must comply with current floodplain management and Florida Building Code requirements. This typically means:

- Elevating the lowest floor to above Base Flood Elevation + 2' which is the Design Flood Elevation (DFE).
- Flood damage-resistant materials must be used below Base Flood Elevation + 2' (DFE).
- Elevating utility and building service equipment to above DFE.
- Areas below the DFE can be used only for storage, parking and access.

### **How do I begin the repair/reconstruction process?**

Permits from the City of South Pasadena are required before proceeding with repairs. Our team will work closely with you to ensure compliance with Florida building codes and FEMA regulations.

- Permit Application: You will need to submit an application for a building permit, detailed plans and a substantial damage packet. All work needed to bring the home to its pre-damaged condition is required to be included in the substantial damage packet, even if you do not intend to complete all of the repairs. If you are acting as your own contractor, you are required to supervise all work being performed. Any unlicensed contractor must be employed by you per Florida Statute 489.103(7).

### **How do I appeal my substantial damage determination result?**

If you believe your substantial damage determination result is incorrect, you have the right to appeal the decision. [The Substantial Damage Determination Appeal Form](#) can be found on the City website at [www.mysouthpasadena.com](http://www.mysouthpasadena.com) or contact the Community Improvement Department.

(continued on page 7)

---

(continued from page 6)

### **How do I know what needs a permit? Have any changes been made to permit requirements?**

Building permits are required for most work with few exceptions. Such exceptions include changing flooring, painting, replacing screens for existing screened-in rooms, replacing screen doors, and replacing a toilet in the same location using existing water supply/drain. However, exceptions like these may require a building permit if conducted as part of a remodel, addition, alteration, new construction, or repair due to storm damage.

There have been no changes to what requires a building permit in response to Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton. The requirements remain the same as pre-storm policies. To discuss the specifics of your repair or construction permitting needs, please contact the Community Improvement Department.

### **What happens if work is conducted without a permit?**

If you begin construction without the required permit(s), a stop work order may be issued. You will be required to apply for an after the fact permit and pay additional fees (2X the building permit fee). Any work that has been covered may be required to be opened back up so that it can be inspected. In some cases, the work that was performed may not be permitted per City Code. If this is the case, you may be required to remove the work and restore it to its original condition. If the property is considered to be substantially damaged, you may have to elevate or demolish the structure.

### **Is the City waiving any fees in light of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton?**

Yes. At the December 10, 2024 Regular Commission Meeting, the City Commission approved Resolution No. 2024-10, temporarily waiving building permit fees for demolition and repair of hurricane damage for residential and commercial structures. The fee waiver is retroactive to October 1, 2024 and extends through March 31, 2025. The waiver applies to building permit fees only and does not extend to other fees including but not limited to application fees, plan review fees, re-inspection fees, and surcharge fees.

Permit applicants who paid building permit fees from October 1, 2024 to December 10, 2024 must submit a [Hurricane Helene/Hurricane Milton Building Permit Fee Refund Request Form](#) by January 10, 2025. Forms may be found on the City website and must be submitted to the Community Improvement Department.

### **What is the City doing to address the increased volume of permit applications?**

Immediately following Hurricane Helene, the City of South Pasadena requested support from the State of Florida in the form of personnel to assist with substantial damage assessments, plan review, inspections, and permitting. Unfortunately, the devastation from Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton was so widespread that support resources have been scarce. To date, three inspectors have been sent by other jurisdictions, each for a period of 8 days. Though brief, this assistance was greatly appreciated. The City's request for support personnel has remained active since Hurricane Helene while staff works diligently to process permits and assist the public with the recovery process.

(continued on page 8)

---

---

(continued from page 7)

### **What happens if the City does not follow the appropriate processes to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)?**

If the City does not adhere to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) guidelines established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the City's existing Floodplain Management Ordinance, there is risk of being suspended from the NFIP. If the community is suspended from the program, the following sanctions may occur:

- No property owner or renter will be able to purchase a flood insurance policy.
- Existing flood insurance policies will not be renewed.
- No federal grants or loans for development may be made in identified flood hazard areas under programs administered by federal agencies.
- No federal disaster assistance may be provided to repair insurable buildings located in identified flood hazard areas for damage caused by a flood.
- No federal mortgage insurance or loan guarantees may be provided in identified flood hazard areas.
- Federally insured or regulated lending institutions, such as banks and credit unions, must notify applicants seeking loans for insurable buildings in flood hazard areas that there is a flood hazard and that the property is not eligible for federal disaster relief.

For more information, please contact the Community Improvement Department at 727-343-4192 or via email to [buildingdepartment@mysouthpasadena.com](mailto:buildingdepartment@mysouthpasadena.com).

## **Community Improvement Update**

The City of South Pasadena has nearly completed mailing substantial damage determination letters to residents and businesses in response to Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. These letters contain information about a structure's value, the cost of repairs, and information for next steps. Also included with each letter is a page of frequently asked questions to help provide guidance on the process. Building permits are required for all repairs. As part of the building permit process, a [FEMA Substantial Improvement Substantial Damage Worksheet](#) is required to be submitted. This worksheet must be filled out for all work required to bring the property back to pre-damage condition.

If you have questions after you receive your letter, please review the FAQ information and contact Community Improvement Department at [buildingdepartment@mysouthpasadena.com](mailto:buildingdepartment@mysouthpasadena.com).

### **HURRICANE RECOVERY RESOURCES**

Florida Chief Financial Officer Disaster Information and Resources  
[www.myfloridacfo.com/division/consumers/storm/resources](http://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/consumers/storm/resources)

Pinellas County Disaster Assistance Resources  
[www.pinellas.gov/emergency-assistance/](http://www.pinellas.gov/emergency-assistance/)

# About Town In South Pasadena

## A Series from Commissioner Lynda Thompson



South Pasadena has had its test of time with two hurricanes back-to-back, but we are a strong community, and we will overcome and come back bigger and better.

I thought that this was the perfect time to let you know a little history of our town we call South Pasadena. In 1955, South Pasadena was born on July 1, with 150 residents, one police officer, a meeting hall and a mayor. As of 2023 there were 5,288 residents and a newly built fire station with a Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, certified paramedics and EMT's, firefighters and an administrative secretary.

The city's boundaries that were established in 1889 are simply the same today. In 1876, unimproved land on the water was selling from \$75 to \$150 an acre. Today 0.44 acres is \$1,049,000. The 2020 census recorded a population of 5,353. South Pasadena gives you a sense of belonging and identity.

South Pasadena has many other names. It was called Davista after city pioneer F.A. Davis. In 1921 it was changed to Pasadena on the Gulf by Jack Taylor who bought it with his partners in 1955. Residents remained adamant about their identity and today South Pasadena lives.

Still today, the brick streets of the Pasadena Development -Date Palm, Mango, Hibiscus and Villa Grande extend into South Pasadena.

Something that I always wondered about are two coquina rock gates on 64<sup>th</sup> St So. near 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. which were erected in Pasadena and approved as the first piece of structural beautification in Pasadena. When they were originally built the sidewalks on either side led pedestrians into Pasadena. If you look closely, you will see the Pasadena Coat of Arms.

A high percentage of the homes sold in the past would indicate it's a up and coming town. It has a high walking volume to grocery stores, parks and dining options. It has a gentle blend of coastal charm nestled along the shores of Boca Ciega Bay.

South Pasadena with the small-town feel has a complete plethora of what the average person is looking for. Surrounded by beaches, churches, grocery stores, shopping and coffee shops. We have it all. So, what are you looking for?

**In the *About Town in South Pasadena* series, the City Commission will be selecting local businesses to be featured in the City Connection Newsletter. If you are interested in having your business included in the series, please contact City Hall at [cityhall@mysouthpasadena.com](mailto:cityhall@mysouthpasadena.com).**

### Sun Benches



### Sponsor Your Sun Bench Today!

Want to make your mark on South Pasadena? Consider sponsoring a Sun Bench! For a one-time cost of \$400, a personalized plaque will be added to the available bench of your choosing.

For more information, visit:

[www.mysouthpasadena.com/community/sun\\_benches.php](http://www.mysouthpasadena.com/community/sun_benches.php).

### Digital Newsletter Coming Soon

The City will soon transition to a digital newsletter in coordination with upcoming changes to the City website.

Be on the lookout for announcements about how to get City information quicker and easier through an updated e-news format.





# ELEVATE FLORIDA

The Florida Division of Emergency Management is excited to announce Florida's first statewide Residential Mitigation program, Elevate Florida.

The goal of this program is to enhance community resilience by mitigating private residences against natural hazards.



## Elevation

Physically raising an existing structure utilizing a variety of methods



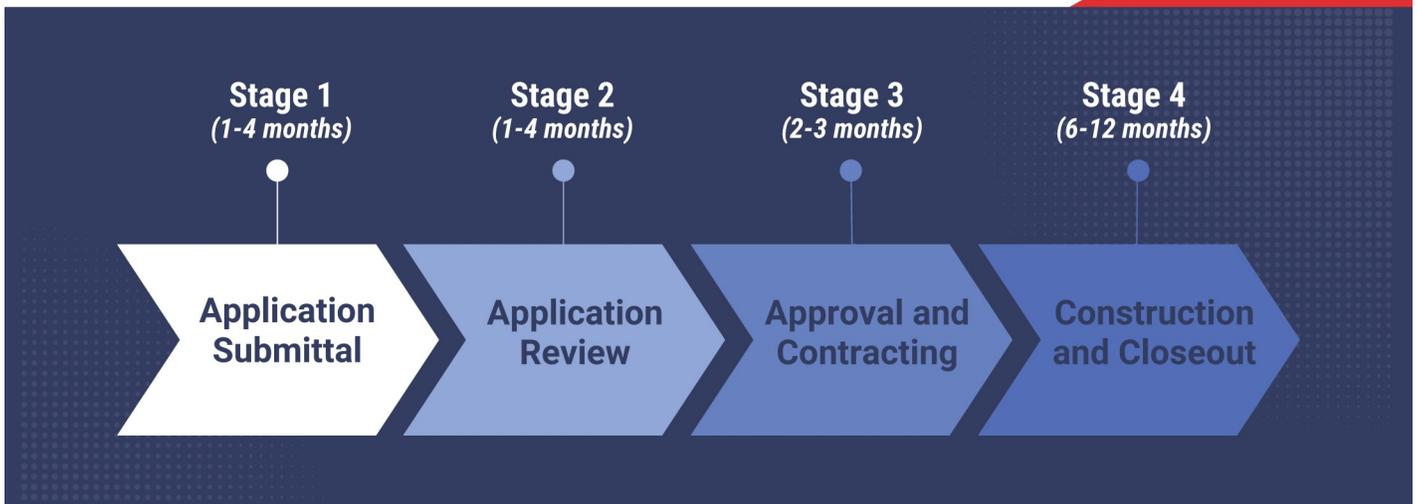
## Mitigation Reconstruction

Construction of an improved, elevated building where an existing building has been partially or completely demolished or destroyed



## Acquisition

A local community purchases a structure from voluntary sellers and it's demolished



## Next Steps

More information about how and when to apply is coming soon.

Subscribe to receive future communications by selecting at Residential Mitigation Communications at <https://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Subscription-Topics/>.

You can prepare for the application by compiling the following information:

- Photos of any flooding inside or outside of the home (if available)
- Photos of high-water marks and photos measuring the height of the marks
- Insurance claim payouts or assistance documentation (if available)
- Receipts or estimates for repairs from previous events
- Records and receipts for any disaster-related assistance received
- A list of aesthetic alterations to the home and year completed (if home is over 45 years old)
  - Window/door replacement
  - Roof replacement
  - Remodeling
  - Painting or re-siding
  - Additions, decks, landings or garages
  - Any historic use of structure



## Dedication in Action

Commissioner Thomas Reid has recently taken on several new opportunities to represent the City of South Pasadena within key organizations impacting local government. In

August, Reid was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Florida League of Cities (FLC). In September, he was named Vice Chair of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority's (PSTA) Finance Committee. He was also elected to serve on the PSTA Executive Committee for 2024/2025. In October, Commissioner Reid was elected President of the Suncoast League of Cities, a regional division of the FLC that represents 25 municipalities in the area.

Representing the community within such organizations helps promote the interest and wellbeing of the residents and businesses within South Pasadena. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the City of South Pasadena, Commissioner Reid!



## Recognition of Service

### Happy Anniversary!

Public Works Assistant Director Patrick Germack celebrated his 25th anniversary with the City on December 14th.

Thank you for your continued service to the City!

### Happy Retirement!

Firefighter/Paramedic Jeffrey Bergamo retired from the Public Safety Department on November 19th after 25 years of service.

Congratulations and best wishes in retirement!



## Keep Plastic Bags Out of Recycling

Remember to keep your recyclables clean, dry, and un-bagged when depositing them into recycling carts or local drop-off centers. Bagged recyclables aren't recycled because they can't be sorted by the recycling equipment.

Utilizing reusable bags is more eco-friendly than getting single-use plastic bags when shopping. Plastic bags can only be recycled at participating retailers. If you can't return bags to store locations, it's okay to throw them away in the garbage since all four governments use Waste-to-Energy facilities for trash disposal – turning garbage into renewable electricity.

## Check Us Out Online!

The City of South Pasadena has launched its official YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/@CityofSouthPasadenaFL](http://www.youtube.com/@CityofSouthPasadenaFL). Check out recent Commission meetings and find out what has been going on in your community!



Don't forget to Like and Follow the City's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CityofSouthPasadenaFL> for information on exciting City initiatives and events.



**Have you found us on Facebook?**



## Fire Safety Tips for Cold Weather



As the temperature drops, the risk of home fires and related hazards increases. Heating, holiday decorations, winter storms, and candles are just some of the factors that contribute to this heightened risk. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration are working together to "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires" and share key tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe this winter.

### Heating Safety

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires and fire-related injuries in the U.S., particularly during December, January, and February. Space heaters are especially dangerous, accounting for one-third of heating-related fires and the majority of deaths and injuries. To minimize risks:

- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything flammable.
- Never leave a space heater running unattended.
- Ensure your heating equipment is properly maintained and serviced annually.

### Candle Precautions

Candle fires peak in December and January, with Christmas being the top day for incidents. From 2015-2019, an average of 7,400 home candle fires were reported annually. Simple safety steps can reduce the risk:

- Always extinguish candles when leaving a room.
- Use sturdy candle holders and keep candles away from decorations and other flammable items.
- Consider using flameless candles for festive lighting.

### Carbon Monoxide Awareness

Known as the "invisible killer," carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels like gasoline, wood, or propane do not burn completely. Heating and cooking equipment are common sources of CO, especially during winter. To protect your household:

- Install CO detectors on every level of your home and test them monthly.
- Never use portable generators or grills inside or near windows.
- Ensure proper ventilation for fuel-burning appliances.

### Preparing for Winter Storms

Winter storms can bring extreme cold, icy roads, and power outages, increasing the risk of fires and other hazards. One in every six home fires during winter involves heating equipment. Stay prepared:

- Have an emergency kit with flashlights, batteries, and non-perishable food.
- Use generators safely and only outdoors, following manufacturer guidelines.
- Avoid overloading electrical circuits with space heaters and holiday decorations.

### Generator Safety

Portable generators are invaluable during power outages but can be dangerous if misused. The most common risks include CO poisoning, electrical shock, and fire. Protect yourself by:

- Operating generators outdoors and away from windows and doors.
- Using extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- Refueling only when the generator is turned off and cooled down.

### Electrical Safety

Electrical fires are a significant risk during the winter months. Nearly half of these fires involve equipment like space heaters, fans, and holiday lights. To prevent electrical fires:

- Avoid overloading outlets or using damaged cords.
- Inspect holiday lights for frayed wires or loose connections before use.
- Turn off decorative lights before bed or leaving the house.

### Holiday Fire Safety

The holiday season brings unique fire risks from Christmas trees, decorations, and festive cooking. To ensure a safe and happy holiday:

- Keep live Christmas trees well-watered and away from heat sources.
- Use non-combustible or flame-resistant decorations.
- Stay in the kitchen while cooking to prevent unattended fires.

By taking these precautions, you can enjoy a safe and cozy winter season. For more fire safety tips, visit [www.nfpa.org/](http://www.nfpa.org/) or contact your local fire department.

10  
Tips

## Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze

It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these **10 tips** off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

- Our **furnace has been inspected and serviced** by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. *(A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)*
- Our **chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected** by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote built-up. *(Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)*
- Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is **dry, seasoned wood**.
- Our **fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass**, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- We have a **covered metal container** ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. *(The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)*
- Our children know to stay at least **3 feet away** from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
- Our portable space heaters have an **automatic shut-off**.
- Our portable space heaters will be **plugged directly into an outlet** *(not an extension cord)* and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. *(Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)*
- We have **tested our smoke alarms** and made sure they are working. *(You need smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)*
- We have **tested our carbon monoxide alarms** and made sure they are working. *(Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)*



South Pasadena Fire Department



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

727-344-1666



## DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

**Household Hazardous Waste Center (HHW)**  
2855 109th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL

Tuesday-Friday 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
1st & 3rd Saturday of each month 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Closed on Sunday and all observed county holidays.

For more information including what items to bring and what not to bring, call (727) 464-7500 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste](http://www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste).

### Automotive/Lead Acid Batteries/Used Motor Oil

**Local drop off:** Advance Auto Parts 4901 Gulfport Blvd. South (727) 323-2971  
They will accept up to 5 gallons of motor oil.  
Most auto parts retailers accept old vehicle batteries at no charge.

### White Goods/Appliances (electric or gas)

**Contact:** Waste Connections at 727-572-6800  
**NO FREON ACCEPTED**

### Household Grease

Use paper towels to absorb grease, place in regular trash.

## [2024 Pinellas County Recycle Guide](#)

For more information on items that can/cannot be recycled, call 727-464-7500 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/recycle](http://www.pinellascounty.org/recycle).



## News from the Public Works Department . . .

### What happens when fats, oils, and grease are poured down the sink?

When warm fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet they may not travel very far through your pipes before they begin to form large, nasty conglomerations with other debris and chemicals and stick to the walls of your pipes. These FOG deposits could cause future sewer backups in your home, condominium, restaurant, or other building.

The results of FOG buildup in pipes include:

- Severe reduction in pipe flow capacity
- Complete blockages
- Slow drains
- Sewage backups
- Contact with disease-carrying bacteria
- Unnecessary costly repairs
- Contamination of water sources

# NO GREASE

**POURING FOOD, OILS, AND GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN IS DESTRUCTIVE AND COSTLY!**

**Beware the F.O.G.**

**Prevent the CLOG**



- ✓ **Do put oil and grease in covered collection containers.**
- ✓ **Do scrape food scraps from dishes into trash cans and garbage bags and dispose of properly. Avoid using the garbage disposal.**
- ✓ **Do remove oil and grease from dishes, pans, fryers, and griddles. Cool first before you skim, scrape, or wipe off excess grease.**

**DO NOT pour oil and grease down the drain.**

**DO NOT put food scraps down the drain.**

**DO NOT rinse off oil and grease with hot water.**

**For more information contact:**

**Public Works Department  
727-384-0701**

---

---

**A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT IS IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US!  
ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!**

**Pollution Prevention Is Up To You!**

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated pollutants such as concrete, mortar, fertilizer in the grass clippings and many more flow directly into creeks, rivers, lakes and the ocean and are toxic to fish and other wildlife. Disposing of these materials into the storm drains causes serious ecological problems - and is PROHIBITED by law.

**Best Management Practices**

Best Management Practices, or BMP's, are procedures that help to prevent pollutants such as chemicals, concrete, mortar, pesticides, waste, paint and other hazardous materials from entering our storm drains. All of these sources add up to a pollution problem. But each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean. The efforts add up to a pollution solution!

**What Can You Do?**

- **Never** sweep or blow grass/lawn clippings into driveways, sidewalks, streets, gutters or storm drains.
- **Always** store both dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff and away from storm drains and waterways.
- **Keep all construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drains.**
- **Never dispose of washout into the street, storm drains, landscape drains, drainage ditches or streams.**
- Look for and clean up material that may have traveled away from your property after each days work.
- If you or your contractor keep a dumpster at your site, be sure it is securely covered with a lid or tarp when not in use.
- **Protect** dry materials from the wind. Don't allow dry products to blow into driveways, sidewalks, streets, gutters or storm drains.
- **Don't** place fill material, soil or compost piles on the sidewalk or street.
- During cleanups, check the street and gutters for sediment, refuse or debris. Look around the corner or down the street and clean up any materials that may have already traveled away from your property.

**WHO CAN YOU CONTACT?**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING, PLEASE CALL:**

**Community Improvement Department  
(727) 343-4192**

**Public Works Department  
(727) 384-0701**

Rev. 09/2022

<p><b>REPORT ILLICIT DISCHARGES</b></p> <p><b>169-25. ILLICIT DISCHARGES</b></p> <p>Specific prohibitions. Any discharge to the stormwater system containing sewage, oil, or petroleum products, grass clippings, fertilizers, paints or paint solvents, industrial waste or other waste materials or containing any materials in violation of federal, state, county or municipal laws, rules, regulations, orders or permits is prohibited.</p> <p><b>Stormwater 24-Hour Watchline 727-464-5060</b></p>
---

---

---

## ALL PROPERTY IN THE CITY LIMITS OF SOUTH PASADENA IS SUBJECT TO FLOODING!

### CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA FLOOD FACTS

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies issued or renewed in the City of South Pasadena receives a 10% premium discount. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), this discount is the result of the City's qualifying as a Class 8 in the NFIP Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. The City has achieved this rating through activities such as maintenance of drainage facilities, regulation of stormwater discharge and distribution of this information as part of the Community Outreach Program.

#### **Assistance is Available**

Publications pertaining to property protection, flood safety, etc. can be obtained at South Pasadena City Hall - 7047 Sunset Drive South, South Pasadena, FL, at the Community Improvement Department - 6940 Hibiscus Avenue South, South Pasadena, FL or through information links on the City of South Pasadena website: [www.mysouthpasadena.com](http://www.mysouthpasadena.com). Questions pertaining to flood zone, protection methods, flood elevation certificates, grant assistance, etc., please contact South Pasadena Community Improvement Department at (727) 343-4192.

#### **Flood Insurance Rate Maps**

The most recent Flood Insurance Rate Map for South Pasadena went into effect on August 24, 2021. The new flood maps are available at <https://floodmaps.pinellascounty.org/>. Since all of South Pasadena is in a Special Flood Hazard Area, it is important to know the base flood elevation of the property and the flood insurance purchase requirements. The City of South Pasadena has copies of elevation certificates for many structures in the community.

#### **Are you insured?**

Since 1851, only 18 hurricane seasons have passed without a known storm impacting the State of Florida. Property losses due to flooding are not covered under most standard homeowner insurance policies. You can protect your home and its contents with flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP is a federal program that enables property owners to buy flood insurance at reasonable rates in participating communities. In return, participating communities carry out flood management measures designed to protect life and property from future flooding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through its Federal Insurance Administration administers the NFIP.

As a Special Flood Hazard Area, flood insurance is required for all properties in the City of South Pasadena with a federally backed mortgage. To find out more about flood insurance for your property and its contents, contact your insurance agent. There is usually a waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effects, so do not wait until a storm threatens before you secure the flood insurance you need.

#### **Flood Threat**

Flooding in South Pasadena can be caused by heavy rainfall that occurs in short periods of time, as is common during summer thunderstorms, and by tidal surges that accompany coastal storms, tropical storms and hurricanes. Hurricane tidal surges are the City's greatest threat and can cause flooding up to 24 hours before the "eye" of the storm reaches the coast. Because the City has low land elevations and abuts the Boca Ciega Bay, the flood threat is significant. FEMA has identified the entire City as a Special Flood Hazard Area on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. These maps establish base flood elevations for development within these areas with the lowest permitted habitable flood levels ranging from 10 to 15 feet above sea level.

#### **Flood Warning Systems**

The Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) works with the National Weather Service, the National Hurricane Center, and the local municipalities to monitor flood and storm threats. This information is then used to alert communities to the threats they are facing. Flood alerts are issued by: TV 8; TV 13; TV 10; and Bay News 9. For evacuation centers or other information on flooding, you can write to: Pinellas County Emergency Management, 10750 Ulmerton Rd., Building 1, Suite 267, Largo, FL 33778 OR visit <https://pinellas.gov/emergency-information/public-shelters/>.

#### **Storm Warnings**

- Tropical storm watch: Tropical storm conditions are possible within 48 hours.
- Tropical storm warning: Tropical storm conditions are expected within 36 hours.
- Hurricane watch: Hurricane conditions are possible within 48 hours.
- Hurricane warning: Hurricane conditions expected within 36 hours. All preparations should be complete.



### **Flood Safety Measures**

South Pasadena residents can protect themselves from flood hazards by taking measures to ensure the safety of life and property before, during, and after a flood occurs. These safety measures include:

#### **Prepare before the storm**

- Know your evacuation plan. Evacuation time for South Pasadena could take hours because the City's evacuation routes are prone to flooding early in a storm. Pinellas County has posted all primary evacuation routes with blue and white signs.
- Review your family disaster plan.
- Check your survival kit, important insurance papers, and identification ready. Verify that you have food, water, medication and toiletry essentials early to avoid long lines and shortages.
- Prepare your home and yard (be sure you have all materials and tools necessary to shutter windows)
- If you have special needs, be sure your caregiver begins to implement your plan and, you are registered for a special needs shelter if necessary.
- Gather special supplies for infants, children, seniors and pets.

Pinellas County EMS, the South Pasadena Fire Department and PSTA work together to provide evacuation assistance to those persons requiring special assistance enrolled in the County's special assistance program. If you are physically impaired or require special assistance to evacuate, write to: Pinellas County Emergency Management, Public Safety Complex, 10750 Ulmerton Rd., Building 1, Suite 267, Largo, FL 33778 or call 727-464-3800 to register. You can also call your nearest fire department or home health care provider. Do not wait for a storm to strike! Write or call as soon as possible for an application requesting placement into the program.

#### **Preparation for evacuation**

Keep a battery-powered radio tuned to local stations, and if an evacuation order is given, comply with it. Even if the evacuation order turns out to be unnecessary, leaving the area is better than potentially risking the loss of life by staying.

When preparing your home prior to evacuation, it is advisable to:

- Turn off all the electricity, with the possible exception of the power to your refrigerator;
- Fill your tubs, sinks, and any available containers with water, in case fresh water is not available after the storm (Sanitize tubs and sinks with bleach, rinse and then fill);
- Shut off your water line to prevent any contaminated water from backing up into your house;
- Move as many valuables as possible to upper floors;
- Elevate furniture, if possible;
- Create floodway openings in non-habitable areas such as garage doors;
- Seal off sewer lines to the dwelling to prevent the backflow of sewer waters. After the storm the City will be working as quickly as possible to ensure a speedy and safe return to your homes.
- Keep a battery-powered radio with you so you can listen for emergency updates and news reports.
- Use a battery-powered flash light to inspect a damaged home (The flashlight should be turned on outside before entering- the battery may produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present).
- Stay off the streets. If you must go out, watch for fallen objects; downed electrical wires; and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks.
- Do not drive through a flooded area. (Don't Drown, Turn Around)
- Keep children away from the floodwaters, ditches, culverts and storm drains.
- Clean everything that has been wet.
- Use the phone only to report life-threatening emergencies.
- Watch out for animals, especially poisonous snakes.

More people are injured after a storm due to unsafe buildings, downed power lines, contaminated water, and other unsafe conditions than are injured in the storm itself. Carefully check for structural damage prior to entering a building. Use caution when re-entering the structure. Turn on electricity one breaker at a time and watch for smoke or sparks.

#### **Property Protection**

While recent construction practices and regulations have made new homes less prone to flooding, many existing structures remain susceptible. Retrofitting non-compliant buildings is a recommended approach to reduce flooding. While the property itself remains subject to flooding, the building is modified to prevent or minimize flooding of habitable space. Several approaches to retrofitting are:

- Elevation of the structure above flood protection levels
- Construction of barriers (floodwalls, berms)

- Dry flood proofing (water tight floor and wall systems)
- Wet flood proofing (construction that allows the entry and passage of flood water). This is only allowed for non-habitable structures.
- Removing or relocating items of value to higher elevation levels.

### **Floodplain Management**

The City's Stormwater Management Regulations require new construction and substantial remodeling to meet stringent standards in order to increase the survivability of structures, reduce the cost of repair and reconstruction after a storm event, and ensure that reasonably priced flood insurance is available.

### **Drainage System Maintenance**

The City continues to improve and maintain its stormwater management system. This has reduced the amount and duration of road and yard flooding during the rainy season. The City routinely inspects and performs maintenance on drainage ditches, catch basins, and culverts that comprise the City's stormwater drainage system. If you see any areas that may need additional maintenance or if you experience any localized drainage problems, please call South Pasadena Public Works Department at (727) 384-0701.

### **Permit Requirements**

The City administers flood management regulations that are designed to minimize the potential of flood losses in the City. Any development requires a permit from the City of South Pasadena Community Improvement Department, which ensures that all construction meets the Flood Insurance Rate Map (F.I.R.M.) elevation requirements. Such regulations include minimum elevations of lowest living floor areas plus an additional two (2) feet of elevation known as freeboard. Flood proofing of non-residential property will also have an additional two (2) feet of freeboard added. The placement of fill shall only be allowed for stem wall foundation and limitations on non-substantial improvements, additions and reconstruction. Following NFIP standards, the city mandates that if the cost of any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's depreciated value, then such work is considered a substantial improvement. The existing building is then required to meet the same standards as a new building.

The NFIP standards relating to substantial improvement are enforced through the development and building permitting process. Applicants for remodeling or repair of nonconforming structures (i.e. buildings which are not elevated to or above the base flood elevation) are required to submit a cost estimate of the improvement and, if necessary, an appraised value of the existing structure, to determine if the work constitutes a substantial improvement.

The building permit review is a necessary component of its participation in the NFIP, which make flood insurance available to those who want to protect their property from flood damage. Development that occurs without permits threatens the City's continued participation in the NFIP and the ability to obtain flood insurance. If you see development occurring without permits, protect your rights and immediately contact the Community Improvement Department at (727) 343-4192. Two funding programs are available to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program.

### **Flood Mitigation Assistance**

Qualified mitigation activities include elevation of the existing home or commercial structure, acquisition of the property, or relocation of insured structure out of the floodplain. The structure must be insured under the NFIP and have suffered 2 or more flood losses; each with a claim of at least \$1,000 within any ten-year period since 1978.

### **Severe Repetitive Loss Program**

A Severe Repetitive Loss property is defined as a residential property that is insured under the National Flood Insurance Program and has at least 4 Flood Insurance claim payments (building and contents) over \$5,000 each, and the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeds \$20,000 within any ten-year period; Or has at least 2 separate Flood Insurance claims payments (building payments only) have been made with cumulative amount of the building portion of such claims exceeding the market value of the building within any ten-year period.

For more information go to:

FEMA/NFIP at [www.fema.gov/](http://www.fema.gov/)

Pinellas County Emergency Management at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency)

Florida Department of Emergency Management at [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

The Official Hurricane Guide for Pinellas County at <http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/default.htm#hurricaneguide>

## COMMISSION MEETINGS

South Pasadena City Commission Meetings are broadcast live on Spectrum Channel 643 and rebroadcast the following Wednesday and Monday at 11:00 a.m.



Commission meetings can also be viewed on South Pasadena's official YouTube channel:

[www.youtube.com/@CityofSouthPasadenaFL](http://www.youtube.com/@CityofSouthPasadenaFL)



## UPCOMING SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS

Meeting dates listed are tentative and are subject to change. Please check the City's website or call the City Clerk's office at 727-347-4171 for up-to-date information about meeting dates.

- Jan. 7 9:00 a.m. Agenda Meeting followed by Administrative Workshop Meeting
- Jan. 14 7:00 p.m. Regular Commission Meeting
- Jan. 21 9:00 a.m. Administrative Workshop Meeting
- Feb. 4 9:00 a.m. Agenda Meeting followed by Administrative Workshop Meeting
- Feb. 11 7:00 p.m. Regular Commission Meeting
- Feb. 18 9:00 a.m. Administrative Workshop Meeting
- Mar. 4 9:00 a.m. Agenda Meeting followed by Administrative Workshop Meeting
- Mar. 10 7:00 p.m. Regular Commission Meeting
- Mar. 25 9:00 a.m. Special Commission Meeting followed by Administrative Workshop Meeting

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

### Christmas Holiday

- Tuesday, December 24 - City Hall Closes 12 Noon
- Wednesday, December 25
- Thursday, December 26
- Friday, December 27

### New Year's

- Tuesday, December 31 - City Hall Closes 12 Noon
- Wednesday, January 1

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day

- Monday, January 20

### Presidents' Day

- Monday, February 17



Brochures and pamphlets on environmentally friendly landscaping are available at the Public Works Department or call 727-384-0701.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL 9-1-1  
IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY,  
DO NOT CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
ADMINISTRATION NUMBER.**

### CITY HALL

7047 Sunset Drive South  
Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Mayor, Commission,  
Finance & Administration  
Departments**

Phone: 727-347-4171  
Fax: 727-345-0518

### FIRE STATION 20

1477 Pasadena Ave. South

### Public Safety Department

Phone: 727-344-1666  
Fax: 727-381-4324

### Pinellas County Sheriff

Phone: 727-582-6200

### CITY HALL ANNEX

6940 Hibiscus Avenue South  
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Community Improvement  
Department**

Phone: 727-343-4192  
Fax: 727-381-4819

**Public Works  
Department**

Phone: 727-384-0701  
Fax: 727-347-4254