

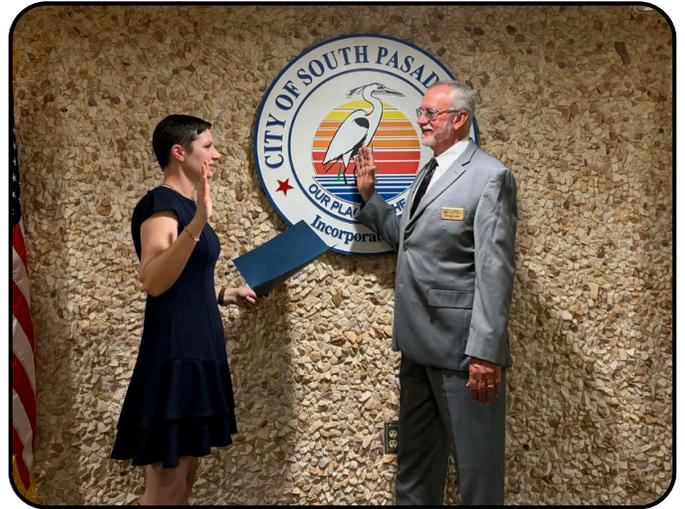


# CITY CONNECTION

Spring Newsletter - March 2026

## MAYORAL SWEARING IN

Congratulations to Mayor Arthur Penny on being re-elected unopposed! After qualifying as a candidate in November 2025, Mayor Penny was sworn in on Tuesday, March 10th and will serve a four year term. See more on Page 2.



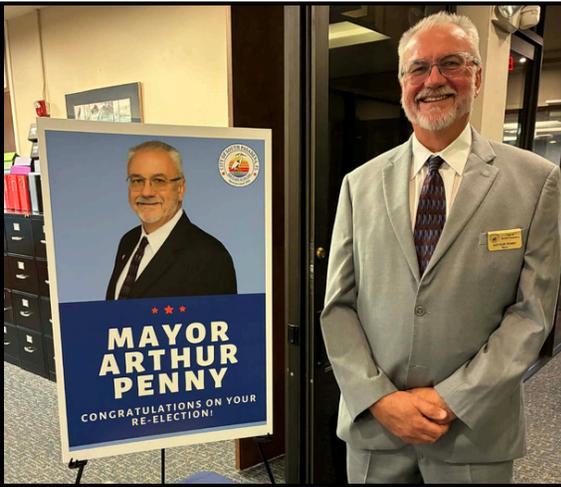
## BLOCK PARTY RECAP

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Block Party & Touch-a-Truck at Bay View Park on March 7th. Events like this truly highlight what makes South Pasadena such a special community. See more pictures on Page 8.

## ARE YOU PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON?

Join us at an upcoming hurricane preparedness seminar on May 28th to make sure you are ready when hurricane season starts June 1st. Read more on Page 12.





## 2026 COMMISSION DEPARTMENT ASSIGNMENTS

At the March 10, 2026 Regular Commission Meeting, the City Commission voted on department assignments for the coming year as follows:

- Commissioner Mark McAlees** – Community Improvement Department
- Commissioner Gail Neidinger** – Finance Department
- Commissioner Thomas Reid** – Public Works Department
- Commissioner Lynda Thompson** – Public Safety Department

Also at the March 10th meeting, Thomas Reid was re-appointed as Vice Mayor. For information about the City Commission, please contact City Hall at [cityhall@mysouthpasadena.com](mailto:cityhall@mysouthpasadena.com).

## 2026 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

At the March 10, 2026, the City Commission appointed seven volunteers to serve on the 2026 Charter Review Committee. The Committee is responsible for evaluating the City Charter and preparing a report of recommendations to the City Commission. They will meet as needed from March through May before submitting their report in June.

Meetings of the Charter Review Committee are open to the public. For information about Charter Review Committee meetings, please visit the City website.





**Arthur Penny**  
**Mayor, City of South Pasadena**  
[apenny@mysouthpasadena.com](mailto:apenny@mysouthpasadena.com)

"MY CITY: I'm Part of It, I'm Proud of It."

**Dear Friends and Neighbors,**

Thanks to everyone who attended our Block Party on Saturday, March 7th. After last year's cancellation due to storm damage, we made some adjustments and brought it back better than ever. There was food, games, music, safety demos, and a dunk tank. Special thanks to Commissioner McAlees, Public Works Director Shawn Shimko, Community Improvement Director Terri Sullivan, and Fire Chief David Mixson for taking turns in the dunk tank. Congratulations to all who dunked them!

We launched our "Pledge to Evacuate" initiative at the Block Party, and the community responded very positively. Everyone who signed received a bag containing storm-preparedness information and a bag of helpful supplies. Anyone interested in signing the pledge can do so at the Community Improvement Department office, located at 6940 Hibiscus Avenue South.

**Public Works Update**

Rain barrels are simple systems that collect rainwater from rooftops through downspouts and gutters for later use. They help reduce stormwater runoff carrying pollutants into rivers and lakes. The stored water is useful for gardens, lawns, indoor plants, and outdoor cleaning, helping homeowners lower municipal water use and bills. Rainwater is softer and free of chemicals, often better for plants. During droughts, rain barrels provide an extra water source and can enable limited outdoor watering under regulations. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and environmentally friendly, offering a practical way to conserve water, support healthier landscapes, and encourage responsible household water management.

**Community Improvement Update**

The building permit application for a Chipotle Restaurant at 900 Pasadena Avenue South has been received and is currently under review. And in February 2026, we received 59 permit applications, down from 101 in February 2025. We issued 94 permits in February 2026, compared to 106 in February 2025. In February 2026, we conducted 367 inspections, up from 315 in February 2025.

**Reminder: All repair work to restore a structure to its pre-damaged state requires a permit. Submit a completed substantial damage packet with the permit application.**

**Public Safety Update**

The South Pasadena Fire Department reminds residents to check their smoke alarms. Working alarms are essential for early fire detection. The National Fire Protection Association reports that nearly 60% of home fire deaths occur where alarms are not working. Residents should test alarms monthly and replace units that are over 10 years old. The Florida Fire Prevention Code now requires smoke alarms to have sealed 10-year batteries for continuous protection. For more information on smoke alarms and other fire safety topics, please call the South Pasadena Fire Department at 727-344-1666.

Sincerely,

*Mayor Arthur Penny*



# Your City in Action

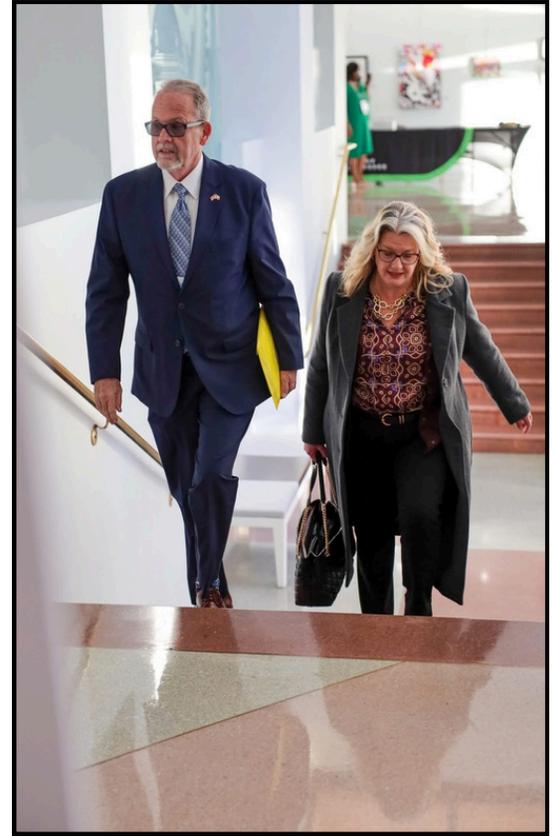
*Serving, supporting, and strengthening South Pasadena.*

## **FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES' LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS**

In January, Vice Mayor Tom Reid traveled to Tallahassee for the Florida League of Cities' Legislative Action Days. The FLC organizes this annual opportunity for city officials to meet with state lawmakers to advocate for local decision-making on issues impacting municipalities.

During the visit, Vice Mayor Reid met with numerous state officials including Representatives Rayner, Gonzalez-Pittman, Cross, Valdés, and Minority Leader Driscoll, as well as Senator Hooper to discuss the City's appropriations request, property taxes, sovereign immunity, and proposed legislation.

For more information about the FLC Legislative Action Days and the advocacy efforts of your local officials, check out [www.flcities.com](http://www.flcities.com).



## **BUILDING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE DAY**

Representing the City of South Pasadena, Community Improvement Director Terri Sullivan attended a Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF) Legislative Day

in January. Attendees met with state legislators to promote policies that strengthen building codes, protect lives, and safeguard property—while building connections with professionals from communities across Florida.



# Happy Retirement, Jim Graham!

After 28 years of dedicated service, Finance Director Jim Graham retired from the City of South Pasadena on January 15th, 2026.

His commitment, professionalism, and contributions for nearly three decades helped shape the City and the people he worked alongside.

Thank you, Jim, for your years of hard work and dedication. Wishing you a well-earned and happy retirement!



## Recognition of Service

The following employee is celebrating a milestone anniversary with the City:

**Xavier Velez, Horticulturalist**  
**20 Years**

**Congratulations!**

LET'S  
CELEBRATE



## About Town in South Pasadena



**“About Town in South Pasadena” is a series designed to highlight local businesses or organizations that make the community great. Want to be selected by the City Commission to be featured in the About Town series? Contact the City at [cityhall@mysouthpasadena.com](mailto:cityhall@mysouthpasadena.com) for more information.**

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM, HEATHER!



Heather Guadagnoli joins our team as Finance Director. She brings strong knowledge in budget management, forecasting, auditing and financial reporting, along with extensive previous experience working with municipal agencies, including the City of South Pasadena. Heather is known for her collaborative approach, attention to detail, and ability to translate complex financial information into clear, actionable insights.

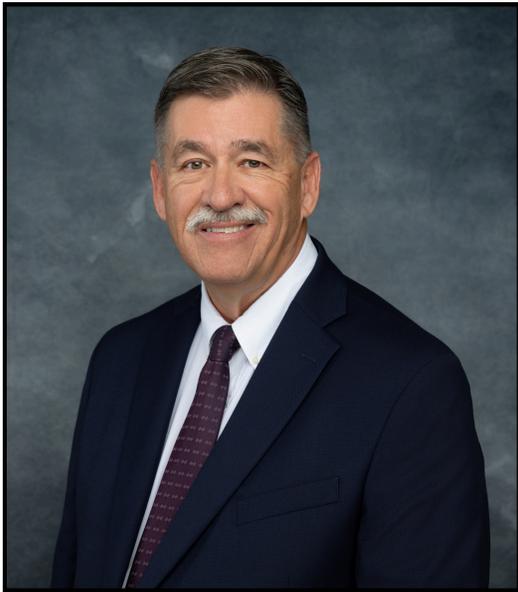
## PERMIT REMINDER

Be sure to only hire licensed contractors when having work done at your house, condo or business. Almost all items require a permit. These items must be included in substantial improvement/damage packets per FEMA guidance.

All contractors must have an active state license and submit certificate of liability and worker’s compensation documentation from their insurance company before they can work or be issued a permit in the City of South Pasadena. This is done to ensure that only qualified, licensed and insured contractors are doing work for the residents of our community.



Remember, as the property owner, it is your responsibility to make sure that a permit has been obtained and posted prior to work being performed. If there are any questions as to whether or not a permit is necessary, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Improvement Department at 727-343-4192 between the hours of 7:30 am and 3:30 pm.



## Mark McAlees Commissioner, City of South Pasadena

### One Year of Service – Thank You, South Pasadena

It is hard to believe that one year has already passed since I was elected to serve as a City Commissioner. I want to begin by saying thank you to everyone who voted for me and gave me the opportunity to serve the community I love so much. It has truly been an honor.

Over the past year, I have learned a great deal about how our city operates. I have worked through the yearly budget process and seen firsthand how carefully decisions must be made to balance the needs of our residents. I have also seen the impact that hurricanes have had on our city and our neighbors. The damage and recovery efforts are real, and the challenges continue long after the storms pass.

While I have learned a lot about city government, my biggest lesson has been about the people. Before becoming a commissioner, I did not fully understand how many dedicated individuals work every day to keep South Pasadena running smoothly. These are people who give their time, energy, and expertise to make sure our city remains a place we are proud to call home.

Many of you already know Mayor Penny, Vice Mayor Tom Reid, and Commissioners Gail Neidinger and Lynda Thompson. What I did not know before taking office is that each Commissioner oversees one of our five City departments. The Mayor is always assigned to the Administration Department and the four Commissioners are assigned to the other departments each year.

Mayor Penny oversees the Administration Department, led by Carley Lewis. This team is often the first point of contact when you call City Hall. They also make sure we follow all required rules and regulations.

Vice Mayor Reid currently oversees Public Works, led by Shawn Shimko. This department keeps the water flowing, wastewater managed, parks maintained, landscaping beautiful, and decorations displayed throughout the city – including the flags we see on holidays.

Commissioner Gail Neidinger currently oversees Finance, led by Heather Guadagnoli, following the recent retirement of Jim Graham after 27 years of service. This team handles all City accounting and manages audits that seem to take place almost year-round.

Commissioner Lynda Thompson currently oversees Public Safety, led by Chief David Mixson. This department is responsible for fire services, EMS, and emergency response. They also report on the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office activity within our city.

I currently oversee Community Improvement, led by Terri Sullivan. This department handles code enforcement, permitting, and regulations that impact our flood insurance ratings. Recently, the team worked hard to improve our rating, which helped lower insurance premiums for our residents.

I cannot stress this enough – each department is made up of dedicated professionals who truly care about our city. Their focus, commitment, and teamwork are what make South Pasadena special.

After one year of service, I am even more grateful for the trust you placed in me. Our city's greatest asset is its people, and I am proud to serve alongside them.

Sincerely,

*Mark McAlees*



# BLOCK PARTY & TOUCH A TRUCK

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Bay View Park

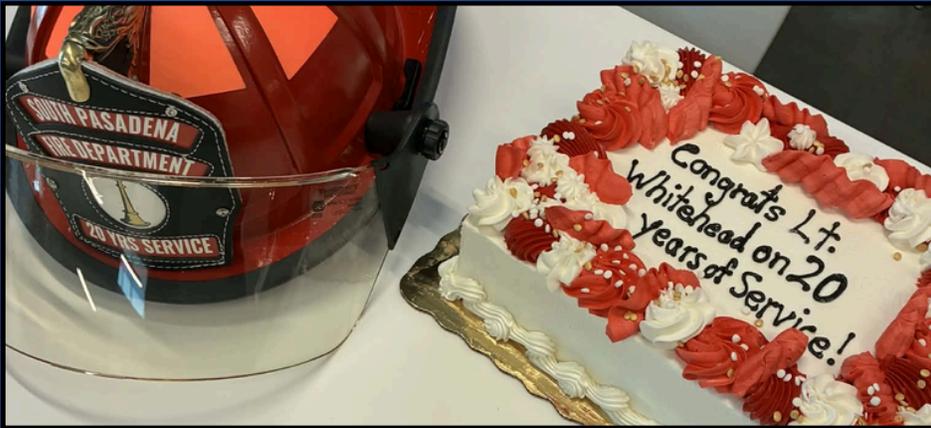


## Celebrating Lt. Whitehead!

### Twenty years of answering the call.

In February, we proudly presented Lt. Whitehead with his 20-Year Helmet in honor of his service to the City of South Pasadena.

Thank you Lt. Whitehead for your dedication to protecting our community and mentoring the next generation of firefighters. We are grateful for your leadership and commitment.



## Congratulations, Firefighter/EMT Stephen Weaver!

The South Pasadena Fire Department is excited to announce that Firefighter/EMT Stephen Weaver has successfully completed his probationary year. Stephen began his career with the department on January 6, 2025.

Firefighter/EMT Weaver will continue his professional development and is required to obtain his State of Florida and Pinellas County Paramedic Certification within three years of his hire date.

We congratulate Firefighter/EMT Weaver on this important milestone and look forward to his continued service and dedication to the South Pasadena community.



# FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

The South Pasadena Fire Department is committed to continuing education and hands-on training to keep firefighters ready for any situation.



## HIGH-RISE TRAINING IN ACTION!

Recently, members of the South Pasadena Fire Department completed high-rise training to hone their skills for aerial rescues. This training tested decision-making and problem solving to ensure that crews are prepared to efficiently and safely respond to the needs of the community.

Participants: Lt. Nick Rasmussen, FF Kevin Massey, FF Michael Brewster, FF Josh Martinez, FF Jeff Ulevich

Photo Credit- Fireground 24 Photography

## GOLD HELMET DEPARTMENT RECOGNITION

The South Pasadena Fire Department is proud to be recognized as a Gold Helmet Department, a distinction that reflects our commitment to firefighter health and safety.

Every member of the department has participated in a nationwide firefighter cancer survey, helping advance research, awareness, and prevention efforts for firefighters everywhere.



# GOLD HELMET DEPARTMENT



# Cereal for Summer

1 in 4 children in our area face hunger, and the need increases during summer when school meals aren't available.

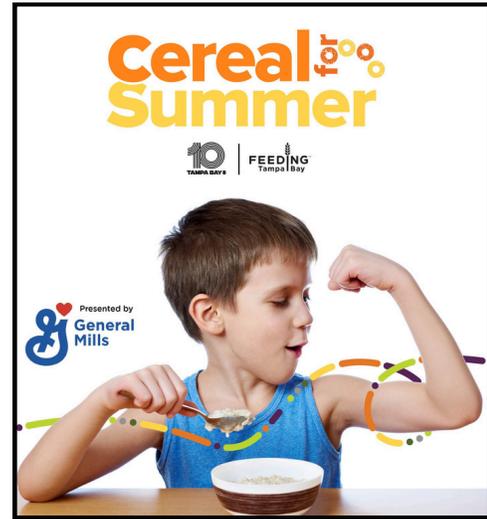
You can help by donating cereal and non-perishable breakfast items at City Hall—look for the Cereal for Summer box in the second-floor lobby.

This is the 10th year 10 Tampa Bay and Feeding Tampa Bay have teamed up to fight child hunger, and the City of South Pasadena is proud to contribute. You can also donate online at: [www.CerealForSummer.org](http://www.CerealForSummer.org).

You can drop off your boxes of cereal and other breakfast items at:

**City of South Pasadena City Hall**  
**7047 Sunset Drive S.**  
**South Pasadena, FL 33707**  
**May 1st - June 4th**

For more information about this year's drive, contact 10 Tampa Bay's Shannon Hannon Oliviero [soliviero@ftb.org](mailto:soliviero@ftb.org).



## Thank you South Pasadena Community Band!

The South Pasadena Community band held a concert in Galatea Garden on Sunday March 22nd. The band has recently made the difficult decision to temporarily pause operations going forward after being significantly impacted by the 2024 storm season.

While this marks the start of their hiatus, the band hopes to return in the future once they have had time to regroup. The concert was a memorable opportunity to honor the band's contributions to the city and thank them for sharing their time and talents for over 40 years.





# Hurricane Preparedness Presentation

**Thursday, May 28 at 10am  
Fire Station 20  
1477 Pasadena Ave S**

**Join us for a presentation of hurricane season information and storm readiness tips, hosted by the South Pasadena Fire Department.**

**Seats are limited - email [marketing@mysouthpasadena.com](mailto:marketing@mysouthpasadena.com) to secure your spot!**

**Those unable to attend in person are welcome to virtually attend presentations via Zoom. The slide presentation will also be uploaded onto [YouTube](#).**

## Virtual Presentations:

Thursday, May 7 at 2 pm

Webinar Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84505592556>

Thursday, May 21 at 9 am

Webinar Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89237837954>



**These links are also posted on the City's website at [www.mysouthpasadena.com](http://www.mysouthpasadena.com).**

**Interested in having a live hurricane preparedness presentation at your business, condominium, or homeowner's association?**

**Contact the South Pasadena Fire Department at 727-344-1666.**

# 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 not put oil and grease in covered collection containers.
- Do not scrape food scraps from dishes into trash cans and garbage bags and dispose of properly. Avoid using the garbage disposal.
- Do not 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**

Rev. 04/2025



## 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.



Rev. 04/2025

## 2026 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)

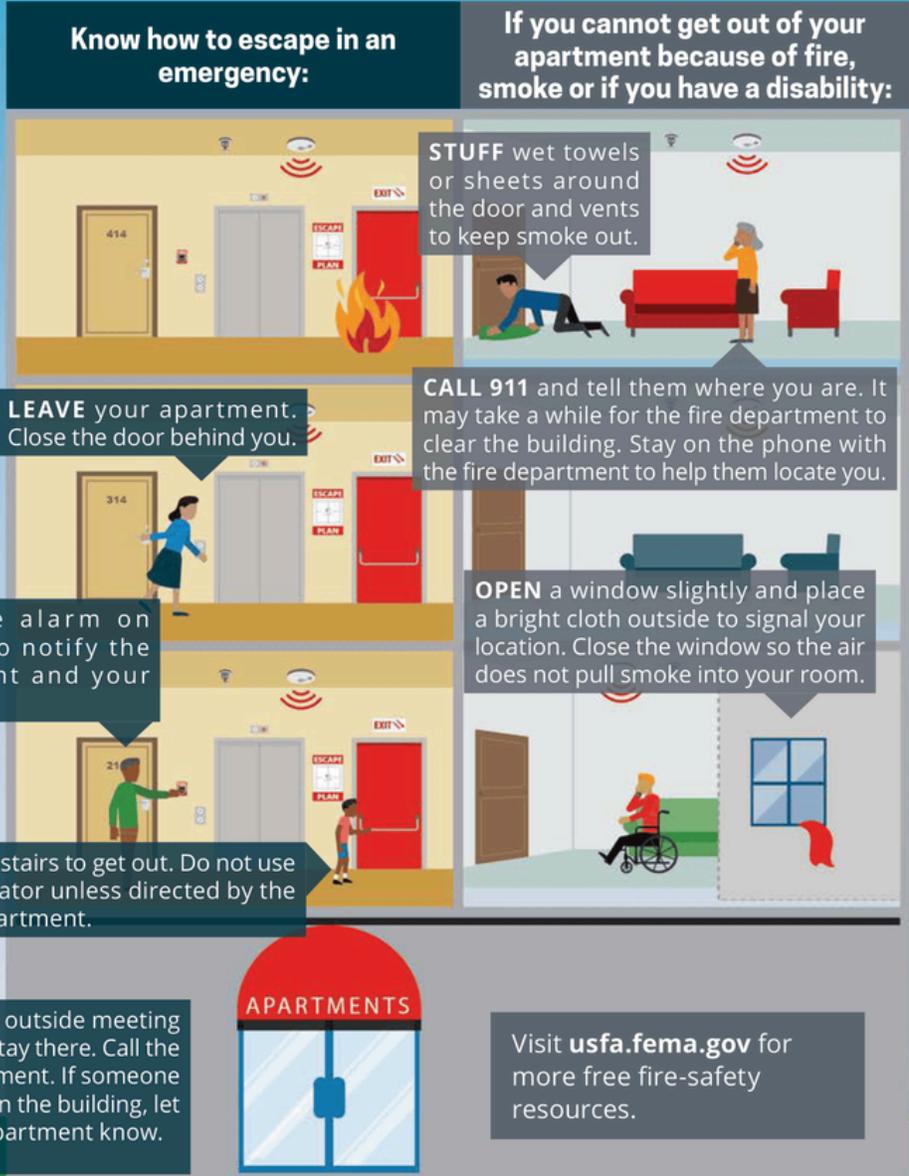


# High-Rise Apartment and Condominium Fire Safety

Fires in high-rise and condominium buildings are especially dangerous. Make sure you know where all the exit stairs are in your building. If you do have a fire in your building, here are steps you can take to stay safe.

**Know how to escape in an emergency:**

**If you cannot get out of your apartment because of fire, smoke or if you have a disability:**



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

# 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 stormwater 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**

#### REPORT ILLICIT DISCHARGES

##### 169-25. ILLICIT DISCHARGES

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 containing any materials in violation of federal, state, county or municipal laws, rules, regulations, orders or permits is prohibited.

**Stormwater 24-Hour Watchline**  
**727-464-5060**

Rev. 04/2025



# SURVIVING THE STORM

## IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



### STORM PREPAREDNESS GUIDELINES

The City of South Pasadena suggests utilizing the following guidelines in helping you prepare for the upcoming Hurricane Season. As we've seen in past seasons, even a single storm can have a dramatic impact on the community. The South Pasadena Fire Department urges all residents to prepare for hurricane season, regardless of the forecasted activity, as storms can affect us in unexpected ways. Be sure to have your emergency plans in place and stay informed as the season approaches.

### PRE HURRICANE SEASON MAINTENANCE

**Preparations should be completed long before the beginning of hurricane season June 1st.**

- Cut back all trees and weak branches that could contact buildings.
- Thin your foliage so wind can flow freely through branches, decreasing the chance that the trees/plants will be uprooted. Keep gutters and drains free of debris.
- Place trimmings at the curb on Tuesdays/Fridays - the trimmings should not exceed 4 feet in length and 6 inches in diameter, tied in bundles.
- Place small pieces of vegetation, such as leaves, twigs, etc., in bags or cans that weigh less than 40 lbs. When full, place at the curb on your scheduled household waste pick up day.
- Clean your yard of any items that could become missiles in a storm such as old lumber, lawn furniture, barbeque grills, etc.
- Sign up for local alerts and warnings - <http://www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas>.
- Monitor local news and weather reports.
- Prepare to evacuate by learning evacuation routes, having a place to stay and packing a "go bag."
- Protect your property by reviewing insurance documents, making sure fuel tanks are anchored, installing sewer backflow valves and categorizing belongings.
- Collect and safeguard critical financial, medical, educational and legal documents.



## ONCE A STORM HAS BEEN NAMED

- Follow guidance from local authorities.
- The City of South Pasadena is in an “A” evacuation zone.
- If advised to evacuate, grab your “go bag” and leave as soon as possible.
- Do not cut down trees, trim vegetation, do major yard work or construction projects that cause debris.
- Mass cutting places a tremendous burden on the normal collection process and there is not enough equipment or manpower to collect the additional material before the storm makes landfall. You could put not only yourself at risk but your neighbors as well.
- Do not take materials to the curb, transfer stations or landfill during a watch or warning period. Services may be suspended and facilities closed early to prepare for the storm.
- For protection from high winds, stay away from windows and seek shelter on the lowest level in an interior room. Install storm shutters on doors and windows.
- For protection from flooding, move to higher ground.
- Turn around, don’t drown. Never walk or drive on flooded roads or through water.
- Call 911 if you are in life-threatening danger.

## AFTER THE STORM HAS PASSED – PLEASE BE PATIENT!

- Return to the area only after authorities say it is safe to do so. Do not enter damaged buildings until they are inspected by qualified professionals.
- Never walk or drive on flooded roads or through floodwaters.
- Look out for downed or unstable trees and power lines.
- Wear gloves and sturdy shoes to protect your eyes and feet when removing debris.
- Keep household garbage, recycling and vegetative and/or construction storm debris in separate piles.
- The City of South Pasadena’s number one priority is the collection of household garbage.
- Secure all household garbage in plastic bags or cans on your scheduled pick up day.
- Do not place any debris near or on a fence, mailbox, power line equipment, poles, transformers, downed electrical wiring, water meters or storm drains. Place it near the road so that it can be easily picked up from the debris removal trucks.
- Be prepared to repair possible damage to yard areas from the specialized equipment used to collect storm debris.
- Contact the City of South Pasadena Public Works Department at (727)-384-0701 or City Hall at (727)-347-4171 for updates on your collection services.

Rev. 04/2025

## IMPORTANT!

\*\*There is no reimbursement provided to any individual resident or condominium association who hires a private contractor to remove and dispose of storm-related debris.\*\*

The City of South Pasadena asks all residents of the City to be our partners in restoring the City to its pre-storm state. Your cooperation and support enables the City of South Pasadena to complete the entire process in the quickest, safest and most efficient manner possible.



# SPECIAL NEEDS

## Hurricane Preparedness

The best time to prepare for an emergency is well ahead of time. When you prepare from a position of safety and calm, you and your caregivers can better cope with an emergency or disaster situation when it happens. An emergency or disaster may present unique challenges for people with disabilities and special needs. If you or someone you care for has a disability or special need, you may have to take additional steps to prepare yourself and your family.

### Here's what you need to get ready for an emergency or disaster:

#### Form a Personal Support Network:

These are the people you should involve in your emergency planning and can help you in an emergency situation. They include your nearby family, friends, caregivers, neighbors and co-workers. Be sure to give at least one trusted member of your support network a key to your house or apartment. Also, let members of your support group know where you store your emergency kit. Most importantly, you should not rely on just one person, but have at least three or more people you can call on for help.

#### Complete a Personal Assessment:

Make a list of your personal needs and your resources. You need to take into account what you will be able to do for yourself and what assistance you may need before, during and after a disaster such as a hurricane. This should include daily living needs (personal care/personal care equipment, adaptive feeding devices and electricity-dependent equipment), your ability to get around before, during and after a disaster (cleaning up disaster debris, transportation and blocked roads) and evacuating if necessary.

#### Get Informed:

Know about the specific hazards that threaten your community (hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, etc.). Learn about community disaster plans and community warning systems and find out more about special assistance programs. Local citizens with disabilities and special needs should register with <https://pinellas.gov/special-needs>.

#### Write It Down:

Keep a copy of important phone numbers and other contact information for loved ones, medical providers and emergency services as part of your emergency communications plan.

#### Create an Emergency Kit:

Your emergency kit should have supplies specific to your special needs. A complete list of suggested items can be found on page 20.





# DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST



## General

- Two week minimum supply of medication, regularly used medical supplies, and a list of allergies
- A list of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices
- Batteries
- Flashlights  
*Do not use candles*
- NOAA Weather Radio  
*Battery operated or hand cranked*
- Cash  
*Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm*
- Cell phone chargers
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

## Phone Numbers

- Maintain a list of important phone numbers including:  
*County emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out of town contacts, friends and family*

## Clothing

- Rain gear such as jackets, hats, umbrellas and rain boots
- Sturdy shoes or boots and work gloves

## Special Needs Items

- Specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly, and family members with disabilities

## First Aid

- First Aid Manual
- Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes
- Sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Sewing needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Disinfectant wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Thermometer
- Tube of petroleum jelly
- Safety pins
- Soap
- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Aspirin or other pain reliever
- Anti-diarrheal medicine
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips

## Food and Water

- Food  
*Nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items to last at least 7 days*
- Water  
*1 gallon per person per day*
- Non-electric can opener
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Plastic cups
- Utensils

## Important Documents

- Insurance cards
  - Medical records
  - Banking information
  - Credit card numbers
  - Copies of social security cards
  - Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates
  - Other personal documents
  - Set of car, house, and office keys
  - Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership
  - Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage
  - Copy of Will
- \*Items should be kept in a water proof container*

## Vehicle

- Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline

## Pet Care Items

- Pet food and water to last at least 7 days
- Proper identification
- Medical records/microchip information
- A carrier or cage
- Muzzle and leash
- Water and food bowls
- Medications
- Supplies for your service animal

Find more disaster preparedness tips at [FloridaDisaster.org](http://FloridaDisaster.org)

# 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 the City of 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). 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 effect; 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.



Rev. 04/2025



### 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 have 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 waterline 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 home.
- Keep a battery-powered radio with you so you can listen for emergency updates and news reports.
- Use a battery-powered flashlight 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 the lowest living floor areas plus an additional two (2) feet of elevation known as freeboard. Flood proofing of a 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 makes 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 NFIP.

### **Flood Mitigation Assistance**

Qualified mitigation activities include elevation of the existing home or commercial structure, acquisition of the property, or relocation of the 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 the 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>**

Rev. 04/2025



**UPCOMING SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Meeting dates listed below 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.

April 7	9:00am	Agenda Meeting & Administrative Workshop
April 14	7:00pm	Regular Commission Meeting
April 21	9:00am	Administrative Workshop
May 5	9:00am	Agenda Meeting & Administrative Workshop
May 12	7:00pm	Regular Commission Meeting
May 19	9:00am	Administrative Workshop
June 2	9:00am	Agenda Meeting & Administrative Workshop
June 9	9:00am	Administrative Workshop
June 9	7:00pm	Regular Commission Meeting
June 16	9:00am	Administrative Workshop
June 23	9:00am	Agenda Meeting & Administrative Workshop
July 1	9:00 am	Regular Commission Meeting

**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)

**Sign up for e-news on the City’s website to receive the latest news and future newsletters via email. Visit [www.mysouthpasadena.com](http://www.mysouthpasadena.com)**

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

**Holiday Schedule**

**City offices will be closed on the following dates:**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 - CITY HALL CLOSED 12 PM

**MEMORIAL DAY**

MONDAY, MAY 25 - CITY OFFICES CLOSED

**JUNETEENTH**

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 - CITY OFFICES CLOSED

**INDEPENDENCE DAY- OBSERVED**

FRIDAY, JULY 3 - CITY OFFICES CLOSED

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

**CITY HALL**

7047 Sunset Dr. South

**City Commission,  
Finance & Administration  
Departments**

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

Hours: Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

**FIRE STATION 20**

1477 Pasadena Ave. South

**Public Safety Department**

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

**Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office**

Phone: 727-582-6200  
Non-Emergency

**CITY HALL ANNEX**

6940 Hibiscus Ave. South

**Community Improvement Department**

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

Hours: Monday - Friday  
7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Open to the Public: 7:30 am - 12:30 pm

**Public Works Department**

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