

news and views from our town

POSTAL CUSTOMER
SAN GABRIEL • CA

San Gabriel

Grapevine

WINTER 2012 VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 1

www.sangabrielcity.com



School Grant Funds for Improvements near Roosevelt Elementary

San Gabriel has been awarded a \$342,000 grant from the State of California as part of the 2011 Cycle 3 Federal Safe Routes to School program administered by Caltrans. The Safe Routes to School program improves safety for students in grades K-8 who walk and bicycle to and from school. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) allocated more than \$66 million to 139 projects statewide.

With support from the San Gabriel Unified School District and Los Angeles County Public Works, the City submitted the application to install missing sidewalk sections, speed feedback signs, and cross-walk improvements on Walnut Grove Avenue between Broadway and Frandsen Street.

For more information, contact Associate Civil Engineer Angela Cheng at (626) 308-2806, ext. 5131 or scheng@sgch.org.

The Safe Routes to School program improves safety for students in grades K-8 who walk and bicycle to and from school

SGPD Awarded \$139,000 Grant to Fight Drunk Driving

Sadly, accidents involving drunk drivers almost always leave innocent victims severely or fatally injured. However, many of these tragic accidents can be avoided through preventative measures, which start with you, the motorist.

In the continuing effort to save lives, the San Gabriel Police Department was recently awarded a \$139,000 traffic safety grant for a year-long anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries.

The enforcement grant allows for the addition of officers that target impaired driving offenders, as well as to educate the public on the dangers of impaired driving, which is one of America's deadliest crimes. Drivers caught driving impaired can expect jail, license suspension, and insurance increases, as well as fines, DUI classes, and other expenses that can exceed \$10,000.

"All too often, innocent law-abiding people from our community are senselessly injured or killed on our local roadways by impaired drivers. The loss of loved ones due to this careless disregard for human life must stop," said Chief David A. Lawton. "Our message is simple and clear: If you drive drunk in San Gabriel, you will be arrested, and you will go to jail."

The major goals of the grant are to make the streets of San Gabriel safer by detecting and stopping impaired drivers before they injure themselves or others. This will be done through the use of DUI/driver's license checkpoints, saturation patrols, stakeouts, warrant sweeps, court stings, and through media relations.

In addition, law enforcement agencies across the nation are asking for the public's continued help by calling 911 if they see a suspected drunk driver. This call to action comes on the heels of good news – there has been a 27 percent reduction of DUI related deaths in California over the last five years, according to statistics gathered from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information, please contact the San Gabriel Police Department's Traffic Bureau at (626) 308-2860.

Lunar New Year Celebration Welcomes the Year of the Dragon

Entering its 21st year, the Annual Lunar New Year Event celebrates the "Year of the 'Dragon.'" One of the most significant ethnic events in the region, the month-long celebration consists of an art exhibit at Alhambra City Hall, and the popular street festival on Valley Boulevard. The event, which is supported by the City of San Gabriel and brought to you by the City of Alhambra, is expected to draw thousands of attendees from throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Admission is free at this event, which includes entertainment, carnival rides and games, and more than 250 booths, giving attendees a taste of the Chinese culture

The art exhibit, which runs from January 5th to the 31st at Alhambra City Hall, serves as an official kick-off for the New Year celebration. Stretching over five city blocks, the Street Festival will be held on Saturday, February 4th from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The festival will be located on Valley Boulevard, between Garfield Avenue and Almansor Street, in the heart of one of the largest Chinese-American commercial districts in the southland.

Admission is free at this event, which includes entertainment, carnival rides and games, and more than 250 booths, giving attendees a taste of the Chinese culture. Experience the colorful, festive celebration of the New Year, and be sure and stop by the City of San Gabriel booth to see an assortment of department displays. The City of San Gabriel has participated in the event since its inception, and it is proud to be a part of this cultural celebration welcoming the Year of the Dragon.

For more information about the Lunar New Year celebration and/or booth space, contact K & K Communications at (626) 395-9995 or visit www.lunarnewyearparade.com.





Upcoming Events at the Mission Playhouse

Music! Dance! Theater!

SUN., FEB. 5, 2:30 p.m.

LA Theatre Organ Society
Presents
Jonas Nordwell – Wurlitzer Theatre Organ
Concert
For info/tickets call (888) 528-6722
www.latos.org

SAT., FEB. 11, 7 p.m.

Jenny An Dance Studio
For info/tickets call (626) 287-0602

SUN., FEB. 12, 3:30 p.m.

EastWest Cultural Organization & GV
World Love
For info/tickets call (626) 922-2759
www.gvwl.com

WED., FEB. 15, 10 a.m.

Theatreworks USA presents
Theatre for Young People
“Junie B. Jones”
Tickets are available at your local school
district
For more info call (800) 497-5007
www.theatreworksusa.org

SUN., FEB. 19, 7 p.m.

Carmelite Sisters in Concert
Seasons of the Soul
For info/tickets call (866) 598-4389
www.carmelitesistersocd.com

SAT., FEB. 25, 7 p.m.

Pasadena Civic Ballet
For info/tickets call (626) 792-0873
www.pcballet.com

FRI./SAT., MARCH 9-10, 7 p.m.

Temple City High School
Performing Arts Department presents
Annual musical theatre show
For info/tickets call (626) 548-5000
www.tcusd.net

FRI., MARCH 16, 6 p.m.

Arcadia High School Choral Competition
“Pow Wow”
For info/tickets call (626) 821-1785
www.ahs.ausd.net

SAT., MARCH 24, 8 p.m.

Pasadena Shakespeare Club
“The Music Man”
For info/tickets call (626) 367-2428
www.shakespeareclub.org

SAT./SUN., MARCH 31

- APR. 1, 7 p.m.
Jin's Dance Studio
For info/tickets call (562) 985-5068

TUES., APR. 3, 10 a.m.

American Theatre Arts for Youth
Theatre for Young People
“Cinderella”
Tickets are available at your local school
district
For info call ((215) 563-3501
www.atafy.org

SAT., APR. 7, 6 p.m.

IFGF presents
“The Inside Out”
For info/tickets call (626) 358-7700
www.ifgfla.com

THURS., APR. 12, 10 a.m. & 12 p.m.

Theatreworks USA presents
Theatre for Young People
“Fancy Nancy”
Tickets are available at your local school
district
For info call (800) 497-5007
www.theatreworksusa.org

SAT., APR. 14, 7 p.m.

American Chinese Dance Association
For info/tickets call (626) 643-9434

SUN., APR. 15, 2 p.m.

Esperanza Flores Dance Group
For info/tickets call (626) 488-0761
www.esperanzaflares.com

MORNING PERFORMANCES WEEK OF APRIL 16

Theatre Experience of Southern California
presents
Theatre for Young People
“Schoolhouse Rock”
For info/tickets call (800) 514-2787
www.tesocal.org

THURS., APR. 26, 10 a.m.

American Theatre Arts for Youth
Theatre for Young People
“Ellis Island”
Tickets are available at your local school
district
For info/tickets call (215) 563-3501
www.atafy.org

The San Gabriel Mission Playhouse is owned and operated by the City of San Gabriel. The Mission Playhouse is pleased to be the venue of choice for the events listed above. All events are presented by independent producers and are subject to change and/or cancellation without notice. Always check the event hotline for newly added events and performances (626) 308-2868 or the event calendar online at www.missionplayhouse.org.



Sabino Cici
2011 Outstanding Older American

City Searching for Outstanding Older American

The City of San Gabriel, in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, is calling for nominations of older Americans to participate in the 47th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day. The Parks and Recreation Department is asking for your input in the search for San Gabriel's Outstanding Older American.

This program is designed to seek out and honor an older adult who is actively involved in serving others in the community and who exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism. Criteria for the Outstanding Older American are:

- Man or woman, age 65 or older
- Has performed outstanding volunteer service for the San Gabriel community
- Has not been recognized with this award in previous years. Former award winners since 1994 are: Helen Kennedy (1994); Marian Brittingham (1995); Lynn Backus (1996); Marie Lopez (1997); Sarah Duncan (1998); Geri Reece (1999); Al Baker (2000); Carl Bonenberger (2001); Ellie Andrews (2002); Don Morrison (2003); Helen Hoffmann (2004); Harold Hansen (2005); Philomena 'Phil' Tobin (2006); Jack Vrtar (2007); Mary Cammarano (2008); Dorothy Griffio (2009); Margaret McIntosh (2010); and Sabino Cici (2011)

This program is designed to seek out and honor an older adult who is actively involved in serving others in the community and who exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism

Nominations should include the Older American's name, age, address, telephone number, and a typed or printed narrative description of the volunteer activities that would warrant this award. Nominations for this award will be accepted through February 20.

Please send all information to Older American Award, 250 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776. For additional information, call the Parks and Recreation Office at (626) 308-2875.

中文 www.sangabrielcity.com español www.sangabrielcity.com



Centennial Adopts Official Logo

SAN GABRIEL



San Gabriel's Centennial Committee has announced the selection of an official logo for the City's Centennial Celebration, which will start next year and culminate in a grand civic celebration in April, 2013.

The stylishly modern logo features a reverse-print image of the legendary Mission Playhouse and palms against a large-scale rendition of “100,” symbolizing the 100th anniversary of San Gabriel's incorporation on April 24, 1913.

Developed by designers at Ready Art, located in our own Mission District, the new logo includes references drawn from a student art competition that generated a widest possible array of creative concepts. Students participating in that effort were honored at a City Council meeting in November, and it is from their creative adventures that the final logo design was developed, polished and refined.

“We're pleased to launch this vibrant logo,” said Centennial Co-Chair Mary Cammarano. “It will become the signature image used to promote all Centennial activities, and a visual reminder of the contributions our local school students provided us in generating ideas.”

Vice Mayor and Centennial Co-Chair Kevin Sawkins concurred, noting, “We are proud of the way that San Gabriel citizens are rallying around the Centennial effort, and look forward to receiving even more creative ideas as the result of our float design contest.”

For more information about the Centennial, check out the City's Centennial page at <http://www.sangabrielcity.com/contact/centennial.shtml>, or call City Hall at (626) 308-2803.

The stylishly modern logo features a reverse-print image of the legendary Mission Playhouse and palms against a large-scale rendition of “100,” symbolizing the 100th anniversary of San Gabriel's incorporation on April 24, 1913

中文 www.sangabrielcity.com español www.sangabrielcity.com



Get Ready for an “Eggs”traordinary Spring Celebration

Grab your baskets and hop on over to Smith Park for the 68th Annual Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt sponsored by the San Gabriel Kiwanis Club and the Parks and Recreation Department. On Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m., every boy and girl age 6 and under is invited to hunt for eggs at this free event at Smith Park, 232 W. Broadway, San Gabriel.

Festivities include a Pancake Breakfast, Pancake Races and an Egg Hunt. The morning's activities will get underway with the Pancake Breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m. During breakfast, you will be entertained by the Gabriellino High School Jazz Band. The breakfast donation – \$5 for adults, \$2 for children under 10 – will benefit the Kiwanis scholarship program.

Bring your pancake turner from home to be part of the exciting Pancake Races which begin at 9 a.m. This popular one-of-a-kind event will include races for children and adults of all ages. Contestants will run 100 feet while trying to balance a pancake on a pancake turner. Local businesses have donated a variety of great prizes for the winners in each category.

Mr. Bunny invites everyone to come out and join the fun at this “eggs”traordinary celebration!

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 308-2875.

Improvements Come to San Gabriel Boulevard

San Gabriel Boulevard is looking and feeling a bit better as streetscape improvements are substantially completed between Grand Avenue and El Monte Street. The planting of Sycamore trees provide a burst of green color and a shade canopy for the boulevard. These trees are a major component for beautifying and revitalizing the business district.

Pedestrians will now be able to safely cross the street and enjoy seating areas and improved lighting. Bike racks will encourage bicyclists. Business owners will benefit from a more inviting environment for their customers. Finally, motorists may be enticed to stop and visit the business district as the landscape medians and night lights catch their attention.

This project is the first phase of improvements for the boulevard between Elm and Central, a 1.2 mile area within the former redevelopment project area. The City expects to bid the next phase of improvements in 2012, depending on the availability of funding.

Katherine Spitz & Associates prepared the streetscape master plan for San Gabriel Boulevard. The sources of funds for this project come from the federal Community Development Block Grant program, the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, and the San Gabriel Redevelopment Agency. The current public investment in this important business district is approximately \$800,000.

For more information, contact Robin Scherr, Acting Economic Development Manager, at rscherr@sgch.org or (626) 308-2806. To learn more about the streetscape project, visit the City's blog at www.sangabriel-streetscape.ning.com.



Bell Award Winners Announced

Five San Gabriel locations have received awards for outstanding design as part of the City's fourth biennial design awards program.

Known as The Bell Awards after San Gabriel's famous mission bells, the program is conducted every other year to honor exceptional building design that promotes and improves the unique character of San Gabriel's residential and commercial neighborhoods. The program also includes the Martin E. Weil Award, which promotes historic preservation/conservation.

A panel of judges comprised of community members, Steve Kuchenski, AIA of Onyx Architects, Romain Gilli of Westfield Corp., and former Bell Award recipient, Alex Chang reviewed all the entries and evaluated them based on the nomination criteria.

The criteria are as follows: (1) architectural quality and compatibility with the neighborhood; (2) addressing aspects of the 2002 Commercial Design Guidelines, the 2003 Single-Family Residential, and the 2006 Multi-Family Design Guidelines. Criteria for the Martin Weil Award were based on the 2004 Mission District Specific Plan and the Resources chapter of the 2004 Comprehensive General Plan, Ingredients for Success.

There were five winning nominations this year. The categories and winners are as follows:



New Commercial: 1400 S. San Gabriel Blvd., Jenny Ho (Property Owner) for a re-use opportunity, complementary to the existing community fabric.



New Single Family Residential: 912 Euclid Ave., Manuel & Esther Vargas (Property Owners) and David Lin (Designer) for a Spanish style house with graceful massing and pleasing proportions, where the transition between the house and its surroundings create an attractive neighborhood.



Multi-Family Residential: 228 S. San Marino Ave., Esper Kanaan (Developer) and Andy Yu (Architect), for a multifamily development that is designed to respect the architecture of the existing buildings on the street and its neighborhood.

Historic Conservation: 549 Twin Palms, Alex Varga and Linda Moravec Varga (Property Owners) for their efforts to conserve the integrity of this historic home.

The San Gabriel City Council recognized honorees at a meeting on November 15, 2011. Advertisement and outreach for nominations for the next award program will be distributed and held in 2013. For more information about the program, please call Associate Planner, Larissa De La Cruz, Planning Division at (626) 308-2806, ext. 4625.

The program is conducted every other year to honor exceptional building design that promotes and improves the unique character of San Gabriel's residential and commercial neighborhoods



City Employees Recognized for Achievements

Employees are honored and commended for achievement in Overall Work Performance, Leadership, Teamwork, Customer Service, Emergency Response and Innovation

The City of San Gabriel's employees take great pride in their work and are dedicated to serving the community. To recognize employees for exceptional achievement, each year, the City accepts nominations for outstanding employee contributions through the Employee Recognition Award Program.

Nominations for recognition are made by the employees' subordinates, peers, supervisors or department head, and can also be initiated by employees outside the nominee's department.

Employees are honored and commended for achievement in Overall Work Performance, Leadership, Teamwork, Customer Service, Emergency Response and Innovation.

Everyone in the City-family congratulates these outstanding employees!

Everyone in the City-family congratulates these outstanding employees

*Customer Service
Human Resources Analyst
Rayna Ospina*



*Leadership
Police Sergeant
George Jamgotchian*



*Teamwork
Police Lieutenant Darren Perrine, Planning Manager Carol D. Barrett,
Deputy City Attorney Lisa Kranitz and Revenue and Collections
Administrator Janet Sherman*



*Innovation
Acting Economic
Development Manager
Robin D. Scherr*



*Overall Work Performance
Recreation Coordinator
Theresa M. Johnson*



*Emergency Response
Fire Battalion Chief
Bryan Frieders*



City & School Board Meetings

SAN GABRIEL CITY COUNCIL

1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS
7:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

SGUSD GOVERNING BOARD

2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS
7 P.M., DISTRICT OFFICE
VISIT SGUSD.CSBAAGENDAONLINE.NET
FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETING
SCHEDULE UPDATES

PLANNING COMMISSION

2ND MONDAY
6:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

1ST MONDAY
7 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

4TH MONDAY
7 P.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A,
2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JAN. 27

Free business networking breakfast
San Gabriel Country Club – 7-9 a.m.
Reservations required: (626) 576-2525

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

Networking mixer – 6-8 p.m.
Asian Pacific National Bank, 333 W. Valley Blvd.
\$7/person, \$10/couple

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

Free business networking breakfast
Almanson Court – 7-9 a.m.
700 So. Almanson St., Alhambra
Reservations required: (626) 576-2525

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Taste of San Gabriel, Grapevine Park
6-8 p.m.
For more info, call (626) 576-2525

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Free business networking breakfast
Elks Lodge, 1373 E. Las Tunas Dr.
Reservations required: (626) 576-2525

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

Networking mixer – 6-8 p.m.
Pizza Place California, 303 S. Mission Dr.
\$7/person, \$10/couple

FRIDAY, APR. 27

Free business networking breakfast
Elks Lodge, 1373 E. Las Tunas Dr.
Reservations required: (626) 576-2525

To make a reservation or for more information,
please call the Chamber office, (626) 576-2525,
or email rosco_sandy@yahoo.com.

The San Gabriel Grapevine

SAN GABRIEL CITY COUNCIL

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Kevin B. Sawkins, Vice Mayor
Juli Costanzo, Councilmember
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John R. Harrington, Councilmember

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The San Gabriel Grapevine is published
quarterly by the City of San Gabriel.
For more information, call the City
Manager's Office at (626) 308-2805.

El San Gabriel Grapevine está publica-
do trimestral por la Ciudad de San
Gabriel. Para mas información, llame a
la Oficina del Administrador de la
Ciudad a (626) 308-2805.

The SAN GABRIEL GRAPEVINE 是由
聖蓋博市政府出版的季刊，
如需索取進一步資料，請
與市府的行政主管辦公室
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中文 www.sangabrielcity.com
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These icons direct readers to the
City's website for articles translated
into Chinese and Spanish.



City of
San Gabriel
www.sangabrielcity.com

Holiday Decorations Award Winners Bring a Little Good Cheer to their Neighborhoods

The 2011 winners of the Holiday Decorations Awards received a visit from Santa Claus, the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, and the San Gabriel City Council on December 15th.

Winners received a certificate of recognition and signs were posted in the front yards of each winner so that the community could celebrate the award winning decorations! Businesses and homeowners who decorate their buildings are why the holidays are merry and bright in San Gabriel.

The Holiday Decorations Contest is sponsored by the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce with support from the Community Development Department of the City of San Gabriel. This is the 13th year for the program.

The Residential winners of the 2011 Holiday Decorations Awards Program are:



420 Segovia – Northwest Winner



729 N. California – Northeast Winner



530 Ramona Street – Southwest Winner



1223 Euclid – Southeast Winner

Businesses and homeowners who decorate their buildings are why the holidays are merry and bright in San Gabriel

McGruff's



PAW PRINTS

S.G.P.D.

- Stopping at the curb or corner and looking left-right-left before proceeding to cross a street while continuously checking for oncoming or turning vehicles
- Crossing streets at intersections and looking for signs or signals that help pedestrians cross safely
- Not assuming you are completely safe or have the right-of-way in marked crosswalks.

Despite the many reasons for pedestrian-caused accidents, the greatest contributing factor is driver negligence. Drivers have to take responsibility and exercise caution on our roads as well as in parking lots, sidewalks, around schools, etc. Drivers who disregard a crosswalk, disregard a pedestrian crossing the road, disregard traffic control devices, speed, talk or text on cell phones, or drive while intoxicated are acting recklessly and without regard for the safety of others.

Defensive driving is imperative, and drivers must always be cautious and alert to their surroundings while driving a vehicle. Drivers are responsible for the pedestrians in the area. So, slow down, pay attention to signs and crosswalks, don't be distracted, use caution when driving near a school or park, and most of all, obey the rules of the road.

Remember, pedestrian safety is everybody's business. Be safe! Be patient! And, pay attention to the road!

For more information on this and other topics, contact the San Gabriel Police Department Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846.

Pedestrians Can Take Steps to Prevent Accidents, Protect Themselves

While it is easy to blame drivers, they are not always responsible for accidents. All too often, pedestrians are also at fault. At times, pedestrians are unaware of their surroundings, cross the street without regard to oncoming traffic, jaywalk or dart out mid-block in front of a vehicle, etc. All of which are contributing factors to pedestrian/vehicle accidents.

Pedestrians can help prevent accidents and protect themselves by:

- Obeying the rules of the road
- Walking defensively
- Being vigilant and aware of their surroundings



San Gabriel Library
500 S. Del Mar Ave.
(626) 287-0761

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

KIDS

Tuesdays 6:30pm **Family Story Time**
All ages welcome for stories, music, and art activities.

Wednesdays 10:30am **Toddler Story Time**
For emergent readers ages 1-5. Stories, music, and art.

2nd Thursday of the month 4:30pm **1st-2nd Grade Reading Group**
Lets read a book together.

3rd Thursday of the month 4:30pm **3rd-5th Grade Reading Group**
Share books and snacks.

TEENS

3rd Friday of the month 4pm **Board Game Extravaganza**
Come and play classic board games and learn to play some new ones too.

ADULTS

3rd Wednesday of the month 4pm **Book Club & Discussion Group**
Light refreshments & good company.

Thursdays 1pm **Adult Gentle Exercise**
Strength, flexibility and balance.

NEW HOURS

Sunday CLOSED
Monday CLOSED
Tuesday 10AM-8PM
Wednesday 10AM-8PM
Thursday 10AM-8PM
Friday 8AM-6PM
Saturday 8AM-6PM