

news and views from our town

POSTAL CUSTOMER
SAN GABRIEL • CA

San Gabriel

Grapevine

AUTUMN 2001 VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 4

www.sangabrielcity.com

City is Prepared for Emergencies

In light of the recent World Trade Center and Pentagon tragedies, all of us are concerned about the emergency preparedness of our communities. The City of San Gabriel has an extensive disaster plan in place.

Since the early 1980s, San Gabriel has had a multi-hazard function plan that meets all state requirements. The plan is designed to respond quickly to natural and man-made disasters. Overhead positions are established and City personnel are assigned to these positions. Periodically, drills are conducted to prepare City personnel to handle these positions.

One such disaster drill is slated for next month. The Emergency Operations Center will be mobilized to handle the impact of a simulated disaster.

The disaster drill is planned by the Los



The EOC will be activated as part of the November drill.

Angeles County Emergency Operations Center and is geared toward dealing with the potential of biological terrorism. The simulated incident will occur in a Los Angeles County city. The Emergency

Operations Center will coordinate the efforts to respond to problems created by this event on our hospital, roads, flood control, water systems and other services to the public.

Representatives of the Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works and other departments will staff the Emergency Operations Center. City Council members will also be in attendance to assist in policy decisions. Communications with surrounding agencies will be exercised to foster regional support and resource sharing.

All City employees undergo training in the Standardized Emergency Management System as required by law. This training, coupled with disaster drills such as the area-wide drill in November, prepares the City of San Gabriel staff to improve their performance during a community crisis.

Introducing the New Neighborhood Improvement Services Division



As the City of San Gabriel moves forward with the Neighborhood Improvement Services program approved by the City Council earlier this year, the responsibilities of code enforcement staff have expanded. To recognize efforts to support a more collaborative and comprehensive approach to neighborhood revitalization by encouraging community resident involvement, the Code Enforcement program is now the Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) Division of the Community Development Department.

The NIS Division uses an approach known as 'Comprehensive Community Initiatives.' The City recognizes that new

efforts need to focus on whole neighborhoods; empower residents as active participants in shaping solutions; and establish new forms of collaboration within communities, and among communities and public/private service agencies.

The demand for code enforcement will continue to increase. Proactive efforts now include getting citizens involved in educating each other about the importance of maintaining their properties and helping each other.

In addition to the successful "Christmas In April" projects of the past year, the City is currently developing an educational internship program that not only provides support services to the NIS staff, but also familiarizes college students with the day-to-day operations of local government. The program works in partnership with area colleges and universities that offer either extra credit or service credits for volunteering in the program.

To learn more about Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) or any of the community initiatives, please contact Rita Estrada, NIS Manager, at (626) 308-2807, restrada@sgch.org.



Livable Communities Program Shows Las Tunas Drive Potential

Las Tunas Drive is serving as a case study for the Livable Communities program. San Gabriel is one of only three cities in the San Gabriel Valley chosen to participate in this year's program, sponsored and funded by Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). The program is designed to give cities the opportunity to apply urban planning techniques that will improve the quality of life in a selected neighborhood or street. Major objectives include:

- Making business districts more attractive and friendly to pedestrians
- Alleviating traffic and redirecting it from residential areas

Please turn to page 3.

Halloween Harvest Haunt Will Be 'Spook'tacular!



The Halloween Harvest Haunt provides ghoulish good fun for everyone.

Get ready for some ghoulish good fun at the San Gabriel Halloween Harvest Haunt! Join us for this 'spook'tacular' event on Saturday, October 27, from 5-10 p.m.! The historic Mission District will be transformed with special effects into a spectacular Halloween festival.

The San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Charter Communications, Exodus Audio Visual and the City of San Gabriel, will bring the spirit of Halloween to this family event, which will feature food and craft vendors, live entertainment, a display of pumpkin-carving contest winners, kiddie rides and activities, spooky special effects, "trick or treats" and more!

Ghosts and goblins of all ages (adults, too!) can be a part of the costume contest with categories that include: Spookiest, Funniest, Most Original, Fairytale Fantasy & Best Look-A-Like, with a special category for adults dressed as well-known couples. For additional information, please call the Chamber of Commerce at (626) 576-2525.



Upcoming San Gabriel Civic Auditorium Events

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Theatre Works of NYC Presents
"Reading Rainbow," 10 a.m.
Tickets available through local school district

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Hanyee Presents
"An Evening of Chinese Culture," 7:30 p.m.
For information/tickets call (310) 404-2867

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Verdugo Hills Showtime Chorus, 7:30 p.m.
Barbershop Harmony Presented by the Ladies
For information/tickets call (562) 497-1654

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Chinese/American Dancing Group, 7 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 359-9867

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6-7

Music Theatre of Southern California presents
Dance Corps of Pasadena
Ballet For Children, 9:30 a.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 281-9444

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Los Angeles Chinese Classical Orchestra
7:30 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 284-6940

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

American Chinese Dance Association, 2 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 309-9075

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, NOV. 17-18

Pasadena Civic Ballet Presents "Cinderella"
Saturday: 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Sunday: 2 p.m. & 5 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 792-0872

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, NOV. 24-25

Li's Studio of Dance
Saturday: 7 p.m.
Sunday: 7 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 285-4888

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8-9, 15-16, 22-23

Pasadena Dance Theatre Presents
"The Nutcracker Ballet"
Saturdays: 7:30 p.m.
Sundays: 2 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 308-2868

Local High School Holiday Student Concerts:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Temple City Unified School District, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

San Gabriel Unified School District, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Arcadia Unified School District, 7:30 p.m.

All events and artists are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Always call the box office prior to arriving at the theater.

The Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.



Call: the Auditorium Box Office at (626) 308-2868 for more information.

Economic Development Workshop Update

On July 3, the City Council held an Economic Development Workshop to review the City's economic development program and to discuss and evaluate existing and future strategies. The workshop discussed the East San Gabriel Commercial Redevelopment Area, Las Tunas Corridor and the Mission District to identify visions for each area, issues and steps to be taken. The visions for the various commercial areas are outlined below.

Recruitment Vision:

To promote and reach out to the existing business community, acknowledging their importance to the economic strength of the City and help them to grow and expand.

Redevelopment Area Vision:

To create a vibrant commercial area, that uses redevelopment tools (such as site assembly, fee waivers and sales tax sharing) to encourage developments that combine nationally known 'big box' retailers, housing units and other uses. This will maximize the development potential,

acknowledge market trends and development feasibility.

Las Tunas Corridor Vision:

A landscaped commercial corridor with a strong and active business community of boutique-type stores, which are interconnected with business clusters that complement each other and build on the strength of each business.

Mission District Vision:

A historic district for people to gather to experience culture, art, and commerce, which draws upon the local and greater community as well as the tourist trade, and enhances the City's commercial experience.

The City Council and staff are dedicated to fulfilling the visions identified and working towards their implementation. The Council will continue the workshop discussion at a future meeting to further discuss the Mission District and Valley Boulevard.

For more information, please contact Erlinda Romo, Economic Development Specialist, (626) 308-2800, ext. 713, eromo@sgch.org.



Smith Park Pool Replastered



Smith Park Pool was recently replastered.

The Smith Park Pool has undergone a facelift! South Coast Pool Plastering recently replastered the pool. The project entailed removing the existing plaster, pressure washing the surface, removal and installation of new rubber expansion joints, and application of a new plaster coat.

Work began on September 10 and took about three weeks. The project is welcome news to the San Gabriel Sea Gulls and high school swim teams that use the pool throughout the winter season. All residents can enjoy the new pool when the public swimming season opens in the spring.

Victorian Era Comes Alive in San Gabriel

The San Gabriel Historical Association invites you to visit the San Gabriel Historical Museum and tour the Bovard-Wilson-Hayes House. This lovely Victorian house, built in 1887 by George Findley

house and its contents to the San Gabriel Historical Association.

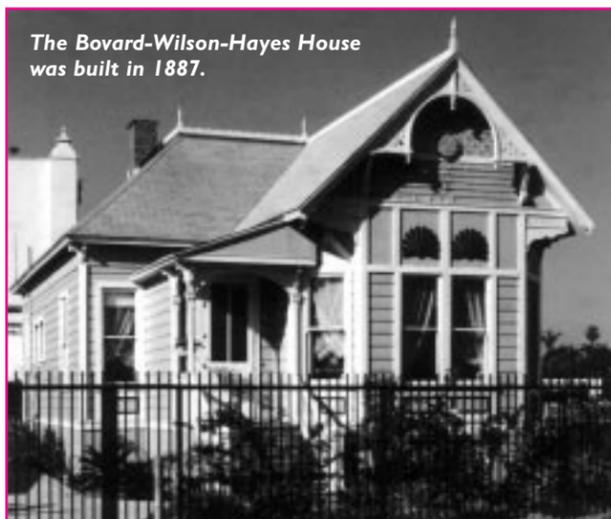
The San Gabriel Historical Museum houses a collection of pictures and research materials, as well as many fascinating artifacts illustrating life in San Gabriel through its rich, colorful history.

Located at 546 W. Broadway, the Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays (except in August) from 1-4 p.m. The Victorian House next door is open for touring only two weekends each year.

This year, visitors may take the free tour at the Holiday Open House on Saturday and Sunday, December 1-2, from 1-4 p.m. Next spring, the house will again be open during the City's birthday,

April 27-28, 2002, from noon to 6 p.m.

Interested in getting involved in San Gabriel's history? Contact the San Gabriel Historical Association for membership or general information at (626) 308-3223.



The Bovard-Wilson-Hayes House was built in 1887.

Bovard (later Chancellor and President of USC), was purchased in 1893 by Milton Scott Wilson. The Wilson family descendants lived in it for the next 97 years. His granddaughter, Mary Ruth Hayes, left the

Volunteers Needed for Patrol Program

The San Gabriel Police Department is currently recruiting qualified men and women over 55 to participate in the City's Patrol Volunteer program. The program is geared toward providing support to the Police Department staff and to assist in building community awareness in general law enforcement and crime prevention.

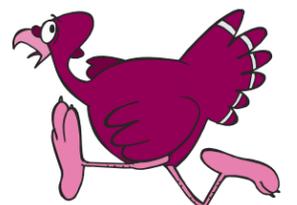
The program offers opportunities to senior citizens to join in our efforts to enhance community safety through crime prevention. Volunteers will wear uniforms and be proficient in the use of the police radio. They will be involved in numerous collateral duties, including but not limited to office duties (such as data entry and filing), directing traffic, parking enforcement, assisting with crime scene control, patrolling in a specially marked patrol vehicle and other law enforcement-related duties.

Applicants must be a minimum of 55 years of age (with no maximum age limit), in good health, have a valid California Driver's license and be able to volunteer a minimum of 16 hours per month. They will be asked to fill out an application, be fingerprinted and sign a release form so a background investigation can be completed. Applicants will also be required to undergo an oral interview.

Applicants accepted into the Volunteer program will be required to attend an orientation class and complete training classes to be held at the San Gabriel Police Department. Please contact Sergeant Ed Hache of the San Gabriel Police Department at (626) 308-2828, or stop by the department and pick up an application.

Turkey Trot has Something for Everyone

The San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Department is gearing up for its 26th Annual



Turkey Trot, which will be held Saturday, November 10, at Vincent Lugo Park at the corner of Wells and Ramona in San Gabriel. This fun event, which supports youth activities in the community, will include something for everyone—a 5K/10K Race, a Youth 1K Run, and a 5K Fun Walk.

Race highlights include post-race refreshments, free blood pressure screening provided by San Gabriel Valley Medical Center, and a door-prize raffle along with the awards ceremony. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. with the event starting at 8 a.m. The 5K/10K Race First Place winners in each age category will receive a turkey and a medal. The First Place winners in the Youth 1K will receive a medal and a gift certificate to the San Marino Toy and Book Shoppe.

Registration will be accepted at the San Gabriel Recreation Office, 250 S. Mission Drive, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may also register online at www.sangabrielcity.com. The race fee is \$10.00 for the 5K/10K Run or \$5.00 for the Youth Run/Fun Walk, on or before October 26. After October 26, the fee is \$13.00 for the 5K/10K Run or \$8.00 for the Youth Run/Fun Walk. 2001 Turkey Trot T-shirts will be available for \$8.00 each.

For more information on this event, please call (626) 308-2875. Be sure to come out and join us at this fun-filled event geared for the whole family!



Residents came together to show support for a safe and crime-free community.

National Night Out Promotes Community Support

San Gabriel's 7th annual National Night Out crime/drug prevention celebration was held on Tuesday, August 7, from 6:30 –9:30 p.m.

Residents throughout San Gabriel and the nation came together to meet their neighbors and to show support for a safe and crime-free community. Residents were encouraged to turn on their porch lights, hold block parties, cookouts and picnics and were visited by police, fire department, city officials, military personnel and MEGA 92.3 radio. Special guests were Assemblywoman Judy Chu and John Farkas, Field Representative from Governor Gray Davis' office.

"National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relations and send a message to criminals, letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back," said San Gabriel Police Chief David A. Lawton.

The nonprofit National Association of Town Watch, which helps police departments, sponsors the event. Neighborhood Watch leaders organize the annual meetings.

National Night Out has grown over the years to include more than 9,800 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, military bases and Canada, and more than 33 million people participated.

Alex Acosta, the San Gabriel Police Department Crime Prevention Officer, said that the City sponsored 36 block parties.

"National Night Out means getting the community and the police to work together. It's our way of giving crime a going-away party," Acosta said.

Chief Lawton said, "This special night was celebrated to build neighborhood unity and strengthen police-community partnerships. Neighbors meet neighbors, and citizens, City officials and local law enforcement have the opportunity to enhance relationships."

Knowing Your City Budget

The City Council passed the City's 2001-2003 Biennial Budget on June 19. The budget includes a total of \$2.4 million and \$1.8 million, respectively, in capital and special project expenditures in each of the next two years. The City's Millennium Miles Program constitutes the

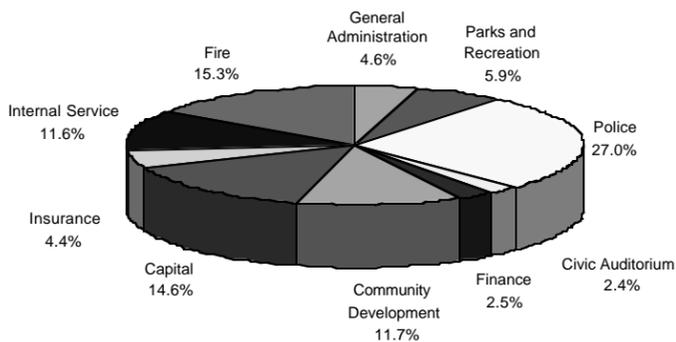
- Expand economic development activities directed toward retail development to generate jobs, shopping and entertainment opportunities, and stimulate additional sales and property tax revenues.
- The City is committed to providing the highest quality and most efficient law

enforcement and fire services, including the areas of emergency response, enforcement, education and community participation. In keeping with this commitment, funding for upgrades to safety equipment has been incorporated into the proposed Police and Fire

budgets. This includes a significant commitment to set aside funds for the purchase of a new fire engine.

- The Police Department will move forward with a plan to replace the old Police facility and construct a new facility to meet the current and future needs of the community.
- Public information, including emergency information, will be widely accessible to the Community via the Internet and enhanced communications through the cable system.

Total Expenditures — All Funds 2001-02 Fiscal Year
Total Budget: \$20,783,587



largest component of the capital and special projects budget equaling approximately \$1 million each year. In addition to the Millennium Miles Program, State Parks grants will provide approximately \$500,000 to rehabilitate Vincent Lugo Park and the Community Recreation Center, while the City's Parks and Recreation Fund will provide funding to refurbish other parks facilities.

Key goals and objectives to be completed during the 2001-03 Budget period include:

Livable Communities, continued from page one.

- Encouraging mixed-use development that combines residential and commercial space
 - Developing design guidelines to ensure quality architecture in new developments
- The internationally known architectural firm of RTKL, working closely with City staff, analyzed the entire length of Las Tunas Drive. The final product of their efforts is a planning "toolbox" that analyzes effective ways to deal with land use, traffic and design issues on this major

east-west street.

The City Council has reviewed the toolbox and directed City staff to include it as part of a comprehensive strategy to revitalize Las Tunas Drive, which would also include participation by the Economic Development, Code Enforcement and Public Works Divisions.

For more information on the Livable Communities Program, please contact City Planner Mark Gallatin at (626) 308-2800, ext. 713.

School Resource Officer Program Serves the Community

The School Resource Officer Program, created last summer, is playing a major role in improving the safety of San Gabriel's youth.

Officer Daniel V. Russo is serving as the current School Resource Officer (SRO) for the San Gabriel Police Department. The SRO is assigned full-time to the Gabrielino High School and Jefferson Middle School, serving the needs of students and faculty, and acting as a liaison between the school district and the Police Department.

The ultimate goal of the SRO program is to maintain and improve the safety of the learning environment in our schools through reduction and prevention of school violence and drug abuse. The SRO wears a standard police uniform and carries the same equipment as a patrol officer.

The SRO serves as teacher, counselor, role model and advocate for stu-

dents, families, faculty and staff. In the classroom, the SRO works as a guest speaker and along with the instructor, discusses such topics as the history of law enforcement, search and seizure, constitutional rights, criminal law and drug abuse.

The SRO's duties extend far beyond the classroom and normal workday. The officer participates in parent and faculty meetings, club projects, student social functions and sporting events.

While his primary focus is prevention and deterrence, the School Resource Officer conducts all criminal investigations on campus, coordinating activities with the school administrators. Although under the direct supervision of the San Gabriel Police Department, he is considered a member of the school faculty and as such, works closely with the principal and other school officials to determine the best course of action.

AT YOUR SERVICE!

INTRODUCING YOUR CITY EMPLOYEES ...

Meet Bike Patrol Officer Adele Boudreaux

Chances are, just about every citizen of San Gabriel has waved to San Gabriel Bike Patrol Officer Adele Boudreaux as she makes her citywide rounds on her specially designed GT bicycle.

Officer Boudreaux joined the Police Department in 1997 and spent her first two years as a regular patrol officer. A natural athlete, she requested Bike Patrol duty, and for the last two years has averaged between 15-20 miles a day on her bicycle. She completes her current two-year assignment next January.

"I love being on the bike as it provides me with a wonderful opportunity to interact closely with the community," she said. "It's a more informal atmosphere and kids especially love to see my partner and me on our bikes."

Her bike includes front suspension, a siren, red light and headlights for evening assignments. There is also a small bag mounted on the bike to carry paperwork, including citation forms.

There are two Bike Patrol schedules:



Adele Boudreaux

6 p.m. to 3 a.m., Friday and Saturday; and 1-10 p.m. during the week. Officer Boudreaux says motorists are sometimes surprised at how fast their bicycles can maneuver through traffic when necessary.

"If we need to stop someone, we usually catch them at the next signal, but if not, we radio to the next available unit to make the traffic stop," she said. "I've had a few motorists try to out drive me on my bike and I've always caught up with them!"

Officer Boudreaux regularly participates in bike rodeos and the City's annual safety expo, held in October. Prior to joining the Police Department, she spent seven years in the Castaic Division, Los Angeles County Park Police, serving as a patrol/safety officer in north L.A. County.

Officer Boudreaux enjoys running, weightlifting, rollerblading and skydiving. She graduated from the Rio Hondo Police Academy in Whittier and also studied child development at Valley College.

B.A.N. Offered to Local Businesses

"Protecting your business is one of our main concerns," states Police Chief David A. Lawton. The Business Alert Network (B.A.N.) program was created by the San Gabriel Police Department to assist and protect our local merchants and the customers who visit daily.

The concept of B.A.N. is based on the successful Neighborhood Watch Program that is currently in effect in San Gabriel. One of the principal tools used are Crime and Business Alert Bulletins, which are distributed to participating members. These bulletins, which contain information on local crimes and suspicious persons or activities, are circulated quickly by fax machine, mail or e-mail if a fax machine is not available.

Principal objectives of San Gabriel's Business Alert Network are:

- Increase awareness and cooperation between merchants and the Police Department.
- Provide merchants and their employees with information on crime prevention techniques and to create a Crime Prevention-oriented business community.
- Improve the lines of communication between the merchants of San Gabriel and the San Gabriel Police

Department.

- Become involved in the "FAX Alert," a program that will open a source of crime prevention information via the telephone.
- Send a clear message to criminals that the merchants of San Gabriel are not easy targets.

Crime, whether reported or not, creates a serious financial impact on the merchants of the community. A merchant who has suffered a monetary loss due to crime must raise the price of merchandise or cut his profit margin (or both), to make up for the loss. Higher prices will cause consumers to buy less and thereby further reduce the merchants' profits.

The solution is crime prevention. By getting involved in the Business Alert Network, you can help to reduce the crime that contributes to price increases and reduced profits.

Presently, there are over 425 businesses enrolled in the BAN program. Contact the San Gabriel Police Department's Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846. The Crime Prevention Officer will assist you in implementing a Business Alert Network program for your business. The program is offered free to local businesses.

City & School Board Meetings

SAN GABRIEL CITY COUNCIL

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

SAN GABRIEL BOARD OF EDUCATION

2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS
7 P.M., DISTRICT OFFICE

PLANNING COMMISSION

2ND MONDAY
7:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

1ST MONDAY
7:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

COORDINATING COUNCIL

1ST FRIDAY
11:45 A.M., CHEC BUILDING

DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

4TH MONDAY
7:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS



Police Crime Dog McGruff at National Night Out.

The San Gabriel Grapevine

SAN GABRIEL CITY COUNCIL

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Dominic Polimeni, Vice Mayor
Harry Baldwin, Councilmember
Sabino Cici, Councilmember
David Gutierrez, Councilmember

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Festival of Lights Celebrates 25th Anniversary

On Saturday, December 1, from 4-8 p.m., everyone is invited to attend the 25th anniversary celebration of the Festival of Lights. The afternoon will kick off with the Family Festival. The Mission District will be alive with arts & crafts vendors, food booths, live entertainment and fun for the whole family.

At 6 p.m., everyone will gather in Plaza Park for the tree-lighting festivities. The celebration will include live entertainment, refreshments and the decorating of the tree. The tree will be lit at 7 p.m. to officially welcome the holiday



season. Following the lighting of the tree, Santa will arrive on a vintage fire truck to pay a visit to all of the children.

There is no charge for this activity, which is sponsored by the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce. Please bring an unopened, non-perishable food item for the San Gabriel Coordinating Council's

Christmas Basket Program and a homemade ornament to place on the City Christmas tree. For additional information, please call the Chamber of Commerce at (626) 576-2525.



San Gabriel Fire Department Holiday Tips

Fire never takes a holiday! Learning basic fire prevention facts and taking simple precautions can make all of your holiday celebrations safe and memorable. This is also a perfect time to find that portable fire extinguisher and check to see if all smoke detectors are working properly. Remember to change the battery in your smoke detectors when you change your clocks.

HALLOWEEN:

- Costumes and decorations should only be made of flame-retardant materials. Avoid loose, flammable clothing.
- Each mask, wig and costume must be easily seen at night.
- Use battery-powered lights for jack-o-lanterns, not candles.
- Keep decorations away from sources of heat, such as exposed bulbs and open flames.

THANKSGIVING:

- Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven.
- Keep kitchen clutter and loose clothing away from the stove's heat.
- Turn pot handles in, away from a child's reach.
- Use potholders to prevent burns.
- Never throw water on a grease fire. Instead cover the burning pan with a lid.

CHRISTMAS:

- Make sure your Christmas tree is fresh. Shedding needles is a sign of a dry tree.
 - Keep your tree fresh by placing it in a stand that holds water.
 - Make sure artificial trees are flame-retardant.
 - Never smoke around the tree or flammable decorations.
 - Place trees away from direct sources of heat.
 - Never place a tree so that it blocks an exit.
 - Only buy electric lights that are approved by a national testing lab.
 - Never decorate metal trees with electric lights.
 - Always unplug lights before going to bed.
 - Never run electrical cords through doorways and under rugs.
 - Keep candles in sturdy holders and never place them near combustibles, such as curtains.
 - Avoid hanging stockings near an open flame.
 - Never burn paper in a fireplace. This is a major cause of chimney and roof fires.
- The San Gabriel Fire Department wishes you and your family a safe holiday season. If you have any questions about the holiday tips, please call the Prevention Bureau at (626) 308-2883.



Holiday Decoration Awards to Recognize Energy Savers

The holiday season is right around the corner and that means it's time to start planning your holiday decoration displays and maybe win an award for your creativity! This year you may also be awarded for your conservation.

As in recent years, the City and the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce will be taking nominations,

driving around the City in mid-December and judging the best examples of the holiday spirit. Unlike previous years, this year's electricity crunch has prompted a special award for the holiday decoration display that best exemplifies energy conservation. So get busy and start thinking about any "bright" ideas you can come up with to display your holiday spirit and save energy in the process.

For more information on the Holiday Decorations Awards, please contact City Planner Mark Gallatin at (626) 308-2800, ext. 713.

Santa's Riding Into Town on a Fire Engine!



For the last 22 years, residents of San Gabriel have seen Santa riding atop a classic 1957 Mack fire engine brightly decorated with hundreds of lights and playing Christmas carols. This "tradition" was started by the firefighters after the tree-lighting ceremony in Plaza Park.

While returning Santa to his sleigh, they drove around a few City streets wishing everyone a "Merry Christmas" and the tradition began. Firefighters volunteer their time to decorate and drive the engine around the streets of San Gabriel for the enjoyment of residents.

Santa will begin each night's journey at approximately 6 p.m., weather permitting, and will return to the North Pole at 9:30 p.m.

Santa's Sleigh Schedule for 2001

The City will be divided by Del Mar and the railroad tracks.

Dec. 20 and 21, Southwest
Dec. 22 and 23, Northwest

shortTAKES

National Kids Day Recognized

On August 5, the City of San Gabriel joined with cities nationwide to recognize the first Annual National Kids Day. Established to celebrate the importance of America's children, Kids Day was designed to encourage people to spend meaningful time with children.

The City of San Gabriel held the event in conjunction with the annual Penny Carnival at Smith Park. Children and their families were invited to join in picnic games including a dunk tank, free swimming, a raffle drawing, free popcorn and a barbecue hot dog lunch. Over 600 attended this kickoff event, and the City is already looking forward to next year. Thanks to all who made this event a success!

Council Endorses Mills Act Contracts with Owners of Historic Properties

Last August the City Council voted to establish a Mills Act program in San Gabriel, which provides property-tax reductions in exchange for preserving historic buildings. The City Council also directed City staff to establish a City historic register and document other non-City-designated structures on a master database. Any City-designated historic resources (those not designated by another entity) may only be added after public notice and hearing as provided by the San Gabriel Municipal Code.

California's Mills Act encourages preservation of our community heritage by permitting cities to enter into contracts with the owners of historic structures. Property taxes recalculated using the Mills Act assessment method can be reduced by 50 percent or more.

The state law enables the City Council to enter into 10-year contracts with owners of historic properties if the owners agree to maintain, and if necessary, rehabilitate their historic structure.

To qualify for the Mills Act in San Gabriel, a building must either be designated as a local landmark or be a contributing structure within a designated local historic district or older neighborhood. The City has adopted a policy to guide applications. You can get a copy by calling the Community Development Department at (626) 308-2806.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

Halloween Harvest Haunt, 5-10 p.m.
Historic Mission District

WED., NOVEMBER 28

Muffins & Matters Breakfast, 7:30-9 a.m.
San Gabriel Valley Medical Center
CHEC Building, 261 Junipero Serra Dr.
Topic: Human Resources 101

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Festival of Lights - 25th Anniversary of San Gabriel's Tree Lighting, Plaza Park 2-4 p.m.: Craft Workshop 6-8 p.m.: Tree Lighting and Santa's Visit

WED., DECEMBER 19

Chamber Mixer
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
San Gabriel Valley Medical Center
CHEC Building
261 Junipero Serra Drive, San Gabriel
(Annual Holiday Mixer)

WED., JANUARY 16

Chamber Mixer
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
San Gabriel Firefighters' Association
1303 South Del Mar Avenue
San Gabriel