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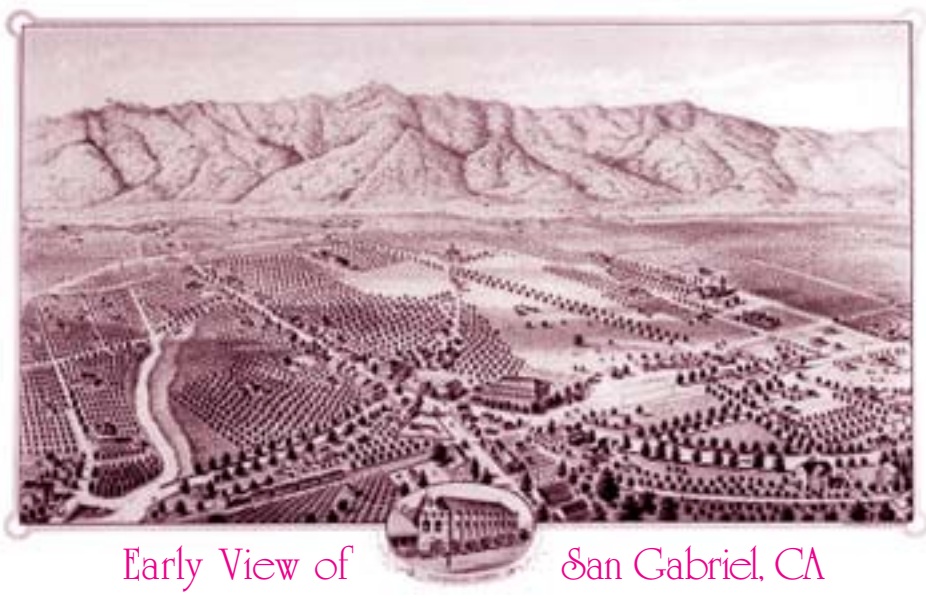
news and views from our town

San Gabriel Grapevine

AUTUMN 2003 VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 3
www.sangabrielcity.com



Early View of San Gabriel, CA

General Plan To Serve as Blueprint for The Community

The City of San Gabriel's first general plan update in more than a decade is rolling off the presses! Your new general plan will address a wide variety of community concerns, some of which include:

- Managing growth.
- Managing traffic.
- Promoting economic development.
- Documenting existing and future needs for police, fire and related public facilities.
- Helping to expand and improve open space.
- Promoting air quality, water quality, recycling and related conservation activities.
- Setting broad principles and standards for the design of private projects, public spaces, and neighborhoods.
- Setting overall policy for the protection of historically and architecturally significant resources.

An opening presentation was held on Sept. 22; a public hearing on land use, mobility and housing was held on Oct. 13. Come join us as we create a better, greener, more livable San Gabriel for future generations. For more information, please call (626) 308-2806.

GENERAL PLAN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Meeting Date	Chapters
Monday, November 10	Safety, Environmental Resources, Open Space, Noise
Monday, December 8	Community Design, Cultural Resources
Monday, January 12, 2004	Economic Development Environmental Document
February 2004	Final Recommendation and Action

Celebrate the Holiday Season with Christmas Tree Lighting

On Tuesday, Dec. 2, everyone is invited to help kick off the holiday season at the 27th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. The celebration, which will begin at 6 p.m. at Plaza Park, will include live entertainment, refreshments and tree decorating. The tree will be lit at 7 p.m. to officially welcome the holiday season. Following the tree lighting, Santa will arrive on a classic Mack fire engine.

All are welcome at this free event, 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.

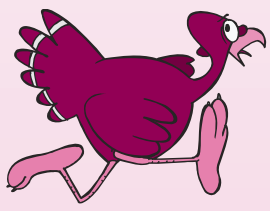
Santa's Riding into Town on a Fire Engine!

Santa will visit San Gabriel neighborhoods from Dec. 20-23, courtesy of the San Gabriel Fire Department and the San Gabriel Police Department. Santa will begin each night's journey at approximately 6 p.m. and will return to the North Pole at 9:30 p.m., weather permitting, on the dates to the right.

SANTA'S VISITS

Saturday, Dec. 20	Southwest Area
Sunday, Dec. 21	Southeast Area
Monday, Dec. 22	Northwest Area
Tuesday, Dec. 23	Northeast Area

Come Participate in The Turkey Trot

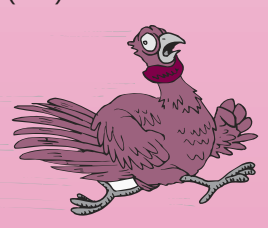


The San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Department is gearing up for its 28th Annual Turkey Trot, which will be held Saturday, November 8, at Vincent Lugo Park at the corner of Wells and Ramona in San Gabriel. This fun event will include something for everyone—a 5/10K Race, a Youth 1K Run, and a 5K Fun Walk. All proceeds will benefit San Gabriel youth.

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. 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 San Marino Toy and Book Shoppe.

Race-day registration begins at 7:15 a.m. with the event starting at 8 a.m.; however, participants are encouraged to register early. 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. Race fee is $15.00 for the 5K/10K Run or $5.00 for the Youth Run/Fun Walk, on or before October 24. After Oct. 24, the fee is $20.00 for the 5K/10K Run or $10.00 for the Youth Run/Fun Walk. 2003 Turkey Trot T-shirts will be available for $12.00 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 for the whole family!



Upcoming San Gabriel Civic Auditorium Events

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27
Theatreworks USA, 10 a.m.
Theatre for Children
For information/tickets call (800) 497-5007

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
American Chinese Dance Association, 7 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 309-9075

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9
Chinese American Dance Association, 7 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 359-0867

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13
American Theatre Arts for Youth, 10 a.m.
A Children's Theatre Performance
Tickets available through local school districts
For information/tickets call (213) 563-3501

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13
Rio Hondo Police Academy Graduation, 11 a.m.
Free admission

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22
Verdugo Hills Show Time Chorus, 7:30 p.m.
"The Sweet Adelines"
For information/tickets call (323) 257-3817

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23
Stage Inc. presents the Best of Broadway, 5 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 918-0950

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
"Much Ado About Nothing," Mariachi style
For information/tickets call (626) 308-2868

DECEMBER 5-7, 10-14, 17-21
Pasadena Dance Theatre presents
The Nutcracker
Ticket sales begin Nov. 1 at the Civic Auditorium Box Office
For information/tickets call (626) 683-3459

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9
Temple City HS Department of Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 548-5160

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10
Jefferson Middle School Music Dept., 7:30 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 287-5260

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11
Arcadia High School Music Dept., 7:30 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 821-1788

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4
San Gabriel Chinese Opera Company, 2 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 576-5055

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11
Olympia Youth Orchestra, 3 p.m.
Fung Ho, conductor
For information/tickets call (626) 447-5839

MONDAY, JANUARY 12
San Marino Celebrity Series, 10:30 a.m.
Elliot Engle, speaker
For information/tickets call (626) 287-5705

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16
Temple City High School
Department of the Performing Arts
Annual Dance Concert, 7:30 p.m.
For information/tickets call (626) 548-5160

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17
Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society
Dave Wickerham in concert, 8 p.m.
The Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ
For information/tickets call (888) 528-6722

All events and artists are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Always call the auditorium to confirm dates. To hear recorded event information, call (626) 308-2868. Unless indicated, all tickets are sold by the producing company presenting the event.

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

Holiday Fire Prevention 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 to ensure that all smoke detectors are working properly. Remember to change the battery in your smoke detectors when you change your clocks.

HALLOWEEN

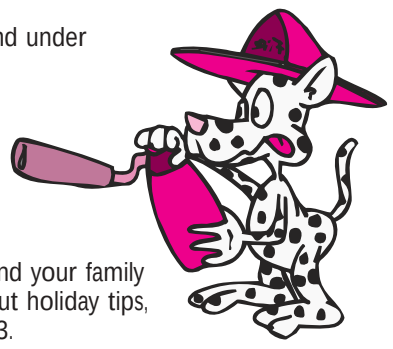
- Costumes and decorations should only be made of flame-retardant materials. Avoid loose, flammable clothing.
- Each mask, wig, and costume must be easily seen at night.
- Use battery-powered lights for jack-o-lanterns, not candles.
- Keep decorations away from sources of heat, such as exposed bulbs 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 holiday tips, please call the Prevention Bureau at (626) 308-2883.

Spread Holiday Cheer Throughout San Gabriel

The holidays are just around the corner, which means it's time to start planning your holiday decoration displays! The Holiday Decorations Award Program is co-sponsored by the City of San Gabriel and the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce. The program was established six years ago to honor residents and businesses for their participation in spreading the holiday cheer.

The Holiday Decoration Award program was created to publicly acknowledge those persons who have made an outstanding contribution toward making San Gabriel a wonderful place to live and work. Residential winners will receive a sign for temporary display and a certificate of recognition, as well as a special gift. Commercial winners will receive a plaque for permanent display.

A Selection Committee from the Women's Division will review the nominations and visit each site after 5 p.m. on Dec. 9-11. One residential and one commercial winner will be selected from each of the following four areas of the city: northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast. The committee will base their decision, in part, on originality, seasonal theme, and effort expended. Winners will be recognized at a City Council meeting.

For more information on the Holiday Decoration Awards, please contact NIS Manager Rita Estrada at (626) 308-2800, ext. 807 or restrada@sgch.org.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AWARD PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM
(Co-Sponsored by the Women's Division, Chamber of Commerce)

Address _____

Nominee _____

List those special qualities about the display that you believe merit consideration

(optional) _____

_____

Nominated by (optional) _____

Nominations are due no later than 12 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2003. They may be dropped off or mailed to 425 South Mission Dr., or faxed to the Community Development Department at City Hall: (626) 458-2830. You may also nominate a property by email at restrada@sgch.org or visit the City's website at www.sangabrielcity.com.

Neighborhood Improvement Services Welcomes New Staff

Ash Nikravan has joined the Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) Division of the Community Development Department staff as the newest NIS officer. Ash has a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from UC-Irvine and has been employed as an Air Quality Inspector II with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Ash works part-time with the City of San Gabriel and has been working Saturdays and Mondays since last June. He is responsible for enforcing temporary signage, including banners and portable signs; the tree-preservation ordinance; dumped items in the public right-of-way; business license enforcement; the shopping cart retrieval program; graffiti removal; and other municipal code violations. If you would like more information or need to report a violation, Ash can be reached at (626) 308-2800, ext. 809; anikravan@sgch.org.

Bruce Mattern Named City Engineer

Bruce Mattern, PE, has been appointed city engineer. Bruce has served the City for the past three years as a contract engineer with the firm of Norris Repke, an Orange County firm specializing in municipal engineering services. By appointing Mattern, the City Council has reaffirmed its desire to have engineering services managed in-house.

In addition to overseeing San Gabriel's Millennium Miles street improvement program, Mattern's experience includes both public and private sector engineering work. He has served as Director of Public Services/City Engineer with the City of Costa Mesa and in management capacities with Boyle Engineering and Norris Repke. Mattern's recent work includes roles with the cities of Rancho Palos Verdes and Santa Monica. He is registered as a civil engineer and traffic engineer.

Evan Zeisel Appointed Building Inspector

Evan Zeisel has joined the City's Building Division, increasing the capacity of the Building Division's inspection staff to provide reliable and courteous service. Evan is certified by the International Conference of Building Officials, and has worked for both private firms and public entities. He will assist the senior building inspector in managing the City's inspection schedule, providing service to patrons at the counter, and ensuring that plan checks are handled expeditiously.

Learning School Pedestrian Safety

With the start of the new school year, the San Gabriel Police Department is providing an increased presence near both public and private schools in the City. The key objective again this year is to re-educate parents and school children on the importance of pedestrian safety and safe driving habits, especially around the schools.

Unfortunately, drivers create problems for the children, and parents are often the primary threat to safety. Parent-driver actions seem to be based on their desire to pick up and drop off their child as close as possible to the school entrance. They also want to get to their next destination as quickly as possible. For many, this combination leads to unsafe driving practices.

Following these simple rules will keep your children safe and help avoid accidents:

As a pedestrian:

- Cross at marked crosswalks or traffic lights, not in the middle of the block or between parked cars
- Make sure drivers see you before you cross
- Cross when traffic has come to a complete stop
- At a traffic light, cross at the beginning of a green light. Do not cross once the 'Don't Walk' signal begins to flash or once the light has turned to yellow, and never cross on a red light
- Watch for traffic turning at intersections or entering and leaving driveways
- Wear bright or light-colored clothing or reflective strips when walking in dusk or darkness

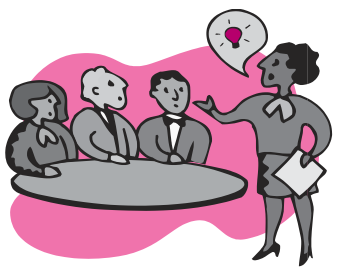
As a motorist:

- Be patient, especially with older pedestrians who need more time to cross the road
- Always look for pedestrians, especially when turning
- Remember, stay alert and slow down on residential streets and through school zones

Partnership Dedicated to Improving Neighborhoods' Quality of Life

On August 21, a group of 20 dedicated community-minded leaders met to discuss their participation in an exciting community-improvement service program that empowers the community to improve the quality of life of their neighborhoods. The volunteer-based 'Uniting Together to Make a Difference' partnership was created to include City departments, community organizations, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, businesses and residents. Representatives at the meeting came from:

- Assemblymember Judy Chu, 49th District Office
- San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce
- Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce
- San Gabriel Police Officers' Association
- San Gabriel City Council
- WSGV Association of Realtors
- St. Anthony's Church
- Gabrielino High School
- Church of Our Savior
- La Casa Community Center
- L.A. County Regional Planning
- Rebuilding Together with Christmas In April
- Business and residential community members



By taking a multi-faceted approach to involving the community to provide action-oriented, direct service to the neighborhoods, the partnership hopes to:

- Strengthen the sense of community
- Create new forms of collaboration within the community
- Develop a comprehensive approach to neighborhood revitalization
- Empower residents as active participants
- Develop special projects that are crucial to the community's future
- Coordinate resources for neighborhood improvement projects

The partnership group discussed the following possible programs:

- Year-round residential home improvements
- Youth In Action to engage the community's youth in volunteerism
- Educational and information outreach opportunities for special needs groups
- Special clean-up events such as 'Make A Difference Day'
- Rebuilding Together—Central San Gabriel Valley
- Neighborhood Associations

If you would like to attend the monthly meetings (held at San Gabriel City Hall), or would like more information about the partnership, please contact Rita Estrada, Neighborhood Improvement Services Manager, at (626) 308-2800, ext. 807, restrada@sgch.org.

Park Picnic Rentals Begin

Picnic shelters in San Gabriel parks have always been available for events on a 'first-come, first-serve' basis. Residents can now reserve picnic areas in Vincent Lugo Park and at Smith Park.

There will be one picnic area in Smith Park and three picnic areas in Vincent Lugo Park that can be rented for family and group activities. The rentals will be for the entire day, and the rental fee will be based on the location and size of the picnic area. For reservation information, please call the Recreation Office at (626) 308-2875.

Mission 261 Is Latest New Business to Join Resurgent Mission District

Mission 261, the latest addition to San Gabriel's resurgent Mission District, is already generating rave reviews from restaurant lovers and residents alike.

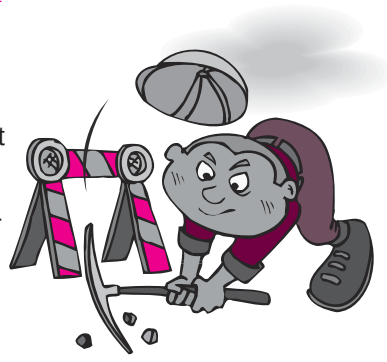
The restaurant is located in the historic Panchito's building and specializes in high-end Chinese cuisine. The new venture retains many features of the original building site, which once housed San Gabriel's first city hall. A historic grapevine patio has been lovingly refurbished and incorporated into the new restaurant.

Even without a formal grand opening, Mission 261 has experienced 45-minute waits as lunch-goers have crowded the dining rooms for a spot. Owner Harvey Ng reports, "We are pleased that we found the right place and the right time for this venture in the Mission District."

Mission 261 is located at 261 Mission Drive; for more information or reservations, call (626) 588-1666.

Engineering Division Updates

The Engineering Division has had a busy summer! Here is a brief summary of key projects:



San Gabriel Boulevard from Las Tunas to Longden

The City was recently notified by the MTA that there are STP-L program funds available to the City for street-rehabilitation projects. Staff reviewed potential projects that can be readied for construction within a short time frame.

The city engineer is recommending that San Gabriel Boulevard from Las Tunas to Longden be submitted to Caltrans/MTA for construction using the STP-L funds. The City's matching share will come from Proposition C funds.

Completed Public Works Projects

- **Civic Auditorium Finial Construction**
  New finials were manufactured and installed on the Civic Auditorium roof. The original finials were removed for safety reasons.
- **Millennium Miles Phases III and IV**
  Both phases were completed ahead of schedule and under budget. Silvia Construction, Inc. was the contractor on both projects. RKA Engineering and Norris Repke provided design services. Norris Repke provided construction administration and inspection for both projects.
- **ACE Railroad Grade Crossing Improvements (Jump Start Program)**
  The at-grade railroad crossing of Mission Road has been completed. Included was the realignment of Mission Road and improvements to Main Street. A new traffic signal was installed, which also facilitates safer exiting from the Mission Church parking lot. The project also included new landscaping and irrigation along Junipero Serra from new Mission Road to Clary.

New Mission District Initiatives Produce Results

The City Council and Planning Commission will be considering the adoption of the Mission District Specific Plan this fall. The Mission District Specific Plan looks at economic development, land use/zoning, historic preservation and cultural resources, urban design, and circulation of people and cars to set the stage for the revitalization of the Mission District.

The San Gabriel Mission District represents one of the most historic locations in Southern California. This status provides a great opportunity to create a special people-gathering place for local citizens, drawing upon the greater community by further developing the tourism market. A principal goal of the Specific Plan is to create a vibrant village atmosphere. For more information on the planning effort, please contact Erlinda Romo, Economic Development Specialist, at (626) 308-2800, ext. 733, eromo@sgch.org.

The Mission District Partnership has also been meeting regularly since July 22 to develop, promote and market the District as a destination. The Mission District Partnership includes representation from business, government, education, community organizations, residents and various entities with an ongoing interest in the success of the historic San Gabriel Mission District. Committees and goals have been created in the following subcommittees:

- Steering Committee
- Cultural activities and events
- Access and mobility
- Public information and outreach
- Business attraction and retention

The Partnership is currently in the process of identifying an action plan and setting up priorities. If you would like more information on the Mission District Partnership or if you are interested in becoming involved in this effort, contact Cynthia Smith at (626) 308-2800, ext. 722, csmith@sgch.org.

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

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

Support Your Library

There's a lot of activity going on at the San Gabriel Public Library! Recent endeavors undertaken by a team of dedicated volunteers have helped the library accomplish the following:

- $100 monthly to add new videos & DVDs
- Flyers and prizes for the children's summer reading program
- $500 for children's literature
- $500 for additional Chinese classics
- PBS videos
- New equipment
- 49 new books on tape
- Refurnishing the staff lounge
- Refreshments/decorations for community programs
- Replenishing materials and publications
- Postage and supplies
- Providing staff appreciation days
- Repairing and re-hanging draperies

Interested in becoming a 'Friend of the Library' with a contribution of $10 or more? If so, please make your check payable to Friends of the San Gabriel Library (mail or bring in to the library): San Gabriel Public Library, 500 South Del Mar, San Gabriel.

The San Gabriel *Grapevine*

SAN GABRIEL CITY COUNCIL
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Harry Baldwin, Vice Mayor
Mary Cammarano, Councilmember
Juli Costanzo, Councilmember
Chi Mui, Councilmember

P. Michael Paules, City Manager
Cynthia Trujillo, City Clerk
John Janosik, City Treasurer

Neal Leavitt, Editor
Fast Graphics, Graphic Design

The San Gabriel Grapevine is published quarterly by the City of San Gabriel. For more information, call the City Manager's Office at (626) 308-2803.

El San Gabriel Grapevine está publicado trimestral por la Ciudad de San Gabriel. Para mas información, llame a la Oficina del Administrador de la Ciudad a (626) 308-2803.

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聯絡，電話是 (626) 308-2803.

City of San Gabriel
www.sangabrielcity.com

Coping with Identity Theft

With identity theft now the fastest-growing consumer fraud in the nation, it is estimated that about seven million Americans were victims of identity theft in 2002. Being a victim of identity theft can be devastating.

The San Gabriel Police Department reminds you — don't be a victim of identity theft. Safeguard all your account numbers. Identity theft happens when someone pretends to be you and uses your personal financial information when applying for loans, credit cards or leases. The thief takes advantage of your good credit record, leaving behind bad credit in your name.

The identity thief gets your personal information by:

- Stealing your purse or wallet
- Pilfering information from your mailbox such as bank statements and pre-approved credit-card applications
- Posing as your employer, loan officer or landlord to get your credit report
- Watching your transactions at automated teller machines and phone booths to capture your personal identification number (PIN)
- Going through trash for credit-card receipts or loan applications

Protect yourself by guarding information about you. Here are a few tips:

- Properly dispose of papers with personal information. Tear up charge receipts, bank statements, expired credit cards, credit offers. Consider purchasing a shredder to ensure these documents can't be used once discarded.
- Give out your Social Security number only when required. Don't have it printed on your checks.
- Reduce the number of cards you carry. Don't carry your Social Security number, birth certificate or passport with you.
- Get a copy of your credit report at least once a year to check for errors.
- Be aware of others nearby when entering your PIN.
- Don't give your credit-card or bank-account number over the phone unless you have placed the call and know the business.

The San Gabriel Police Department Crime Prevention Office provides identity-theft presentations to Neighborhood Watch groups and civic organizations in the City of San Gabriel. If you would like a detailed brochure on additional ways that you can protect your identity, please contact the Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846.

New Thermal Imagers Will Help Firefighters with Search and Rescue Efforts

The San Gabriel Fire Department recently took delivery of two Bullard Model MX Thermal Imagers. The thermal imagers are state-of-the-art and feature microbolometer technology, which provides a well-defined picture. Each imager is equipped with a temperature gauge, low-battery warning light, and a four-channel transmitter that allows a firefighter to transmit what is being seen to a receiver screen in the battalion chief's command vehicle.

Bullard Model MX Thermal Imager

Thermal imagers, developed in the 1960s by the U.S. military, operate on the principle that all objects have a certain temperature, and emit waves of energy called infrared radiation. A thermal imager 'sees' these waves and translates them into a viewable image on a screen.

On the thermal-imager screen, hot objects appear white and the coolest objects are black. Other objects are shades of gray, depending on their temperature. For instance, by scanning a dark or smoke-filled room, one can see differences in the heat signature of objects and people, and 'see' the room almost as if it were normally illuminated.

Thermal imagers are ideal for search and rescue. They not only find victims in a smoky building, but also in cold environments by "seeing" the contrast between body heat and surrounding cold.

With a thermal imager, firefighters no longer need to crawl through and around rooms looking blindly for victims. By scanning with a thermal imager, differences in the heat signature of furniture, walls, appliances and people are very apparent, allowing firefighters to quickly locate and extricate victims.

In cases where the origin or extent of a fire is unknown, a quick scan of the area with the thermal imager will show the 'hot spots' and guide firefighters.

Pointing the thermal imager at liquid-filled containers, firefighters can determine the possible extent of hazardous material situations. By reading the difference in temperature between the liquid or solid level of a container and the empty portion, firefighters can determine if there is a problem and what mitigating measures need to be implemented. Whether or not a spill has occurred can be determined by noting the difference in the temperature of contaminants in water and on the ground, then following the contaminants back to the source.

For more information on the new thermal imagers, please call (626) 208-2880.

shortTAKES

Valley Boulevard Neighborhood Specific Plan Updates

The City and the community have been busy this summer envisioning a plan for Valley Boulevard and its adjacent neighborhoods. The Valley Boulevard Neighborhood Specific Plan is the first comprehensive plan dealing exclusively with this important area of the City. When completed next year, the plan will spell out the community's vision for making the Valley Boulevard neighborhood an environmentally, economically and functionally sustainable place.

Issues such as traffic and transportation, land use, urban design and infrastructure will all be addressed. In June, the City's team of staff and consultants held two days of workshops with 'stakeholders' in the neighborhood, including residents, businesspeople, architects and Realtors. Then, in early August, an all-day design workshop was held for the entire community. These events have resulted in some very valuable community input, which will be critical to the success of the plan.

Work will soon begin on an environmental impact report, and a draft of the Valley Boulevard Neighborhood Specific Plan will be available in February 2004, with public hearings and adoption in the spring. If you would like to lend a hand in shaping the future of Valley Boulevard or just have questions, please contact City Planner Mark Gallatin at (626) 308-2800, ext. 713, mgallatin@sgch.org.

Graffiti Removal Contractor Selected

Urban Graffiti Enterprises is the City's new graffiti removal service provider. The company has more than 12 years experience providing graffiti removal services to municipalities throughout Southern California. Services include weekly surveys, 24-hour response after receipt of complaint, on-site custom color matching and two-hour response after receipt for removal of any offensive graffiti.

If you see graffiti on private property, please help keep San Gabriel beautiful by reporting it as soon as possible to Urban Graffiti's Hotline, (626) 858-0352. The Public Works Division will continue to remove graffiti on public property and rights-of-way. Public Works can be reached at (626) 308-2825.

Don't forget to mention the specific location where you saw the graffiti, such as a street address or intersection, and the item defaced (example: 'block wall on the southbound side of Valley Boulevard at Walnut Street in San Gabriel').

For more information or to also report graffiti, please contact Rita Estrada, Neighborhood Improvement Services Manager, at (626) 308-2800, ext. 807, restrada@sgch.org, or visit the City's website at www.sangabrielcity.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19
Chamber Mixer, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Location to be announced

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17
Chamber Mixer, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
San Gabriel Valley Medical Ctr.-Host
CHEC Building
261 Junipero Serra Drive, San Gabriel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
Chamber Mixer, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
San Gabriel Fire Dept., South Station
1303 S. Del Mar Ave., San Gabriel

For more information, please call the Chamber Office at (626) 576-2525.