

news and views from our town

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
SAN GABRIEL • CA

San Gabriel

# Grapevine

SPRING 2000 VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 2  
[www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com)

## STREET FESTIVAL AND CALIFORNIA HISTORY DAY ARE HERE!

You won't want to miss the City of San Gabriel's annual three-day street festival and carnival that begins on Friday, April 28, concluding on Sunday, April 30.

The family event, co-sponsored by the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce and the City of San Gabriel, celebrates our City's 87 years of incorporation. The Civic Auditorium parking lot will be transformed into a giant carnival complete with rides, games, and food booths, and Mission Drive will abound with displays from local merchants, and crafts and artwork by local artisans.

Join us center stage for music theater, baton twirling, country music and rock 'n roll. Visit Grapevine Park for the San Gabriel Fine Arts Association's Annual Art Show on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Historical Association Museum will also be open to visitors between 12 noon and 6 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

On Sunday, step back in time and enjoy early California history on *California History Day* — a day celebrating 150 years before and after Statehood. Concluding the three-day City birthday celebration, *California History Day* is an opportunity to enjoy family fun and experience early California history in the San Gabriel Mission District, "Birthplace of the Los Angeles Region."

Three important and diverse Mission District museums showcasing California and pre-California history will be open for tours throughout the day. The museums include the Mission San Gabriel Arcangel, founded in 1771, the Ramona Museum of California History, and the San Gabriel Historical Association and Hayes House.

*California History Day* is especially



San Gabriel celebrates 87 years of incorporation starting this Friday.

important for fourth grade students studying California History. Beginning at 12 noon and ending at 5 p.m., *California History Day* attractions include live entertainment, arts and crafts, food, kids' rides, Native Indian and early California displays, workshops, story telling, dance and much, much more!

Also on Sunday at 6 p.m., come join us for the presentation of the 2000 Outstanding Older American Award, followed by birthday cake for everyone. A wide variety of weekend events will appeal to satisfy every music, art, history, student and cultural lover.

The three-day Festival and *California History Day* offer a hometown community experience. San Gabriel's multi-faceted rich, historical background and beauty are

reflected in the Mission District, creating an ideal setting where people can join with family, friends and neighbors to meet and enjoy community life. Come join us!

### STREET FESTIVAL HOURS

FRIDAY, APRIL 28  
3 p.m. -midnight

SATURDAY, APRIL 29  
Noon - midnight

SUNDAY, APRIL 30  
Noon - 11 p.m.

Interested in booth space or need additional information? Please call the Chamber of Commerce at (626) 576-2525.

## Winter Rains Bring Weed Overgrowth

The much-needed rains are filling lakes, streams and reservoirs, and bringing snow to our winter recreation areas. Soon, warm spring sunshine will bring green lawns, shrubs and trees, and colorful flowers will abound. Unwelcome weeds will also take full advantage of the rain and sun.

The San Gabriel Fire Department would like to remind property owners to plan ahead for the expected abundance of weeds after the rainy season. Besides becoming a fire hazard in summer and fall, weeds can be a health hazard. They add to the misery of hay fever and allergy sufferers. Tall brush offers a home to pests like mice and rats. The seeds from these weeds can be blown by breezes or carried by birds to adjacent properties causing increased work for neighbors who want to keep their property weed-free.



Weeds can be both a fire and health hazard.

What can property owners do now to avoid some of these problems? Be proactive and take measures to prevent the weeds from germinating. This should prevent most of the problems and eliminate or greatly reduce the hard work of removing the weeds.

This year, for the first time, the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner will manage weed abatement services. Owners will be notified by mail if their property is in violation of San Gabriel codes, with deadlines for compliance. Only after failure to correct the violation is action taken. The lot will be cleared of weeds and the cost will be added to their property tax bill.

The San Gabriel Fire Department will continue to assist property owners. If you have questions regarding weed abatement, please call (626) 308-2880 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Millennium Miles Debuts

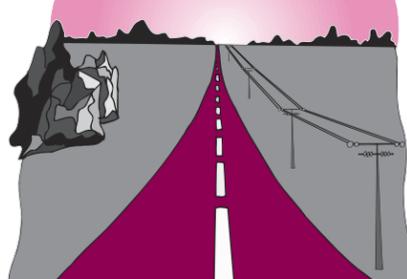
Your City Council is redoubling its commitment to street maintenance and repair with a new program — *Millennium Miles*. Look for regular reports and updates over the next year as City personnel bring the project to reality.

The \$5 million program provides approximately \$800,000 per year for five years of actual construction costs associated with pavement rehabilitation. The balance of funds will be used for design, construction, management, survey and inspection costs. In addition, the program increases the Public Works Division's budget for pavement maintenance.

City staff are currently preparing for street improvements:

- Work includes gutter construction, minor sidewalk, curb and drive repairs and pavement rehabilitation.
- Work excludes parkway tree planting and street light construction.
- Projects are grouped geographically to save money and minimize impacts to any one neighborhood.
- Estimates incorporate field personnel into all aspects of the program.
- Work areas are citywide, focusing on areas with the greatest need based upon the pavement's condition rating.

The *Millennium Miles* program is slated to begin in May. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Douglas Benash, Civil Engineer, at (626) 308-2800, ext. 715.





## Upcoming San Gabriel Civic Auditorium Events

### FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 5-21

Music Theatre of Southern California  
"The Music Man"

For information/tickets call (626) 308-2868

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

San Gabriel Police Department  
D.A.R.E. Student Graduation, 10 a.m.  
For information call (626) 308-2817

### FRIDAY, JUNE 2

San Gabriel Mission High School  
Commencement Class of 2000, 7 p.m.  
By invitation only  
For information call (626) 282-3181

### SUNDAY, JUNE 4

San Gabriel Parks & Recreation Department  
"Show of Shows 2000," 3 p.m.  
Dance, baton, other surprises  
For information/tickets call (626) 308-2875

### TUESDAY, JUNE 6

Sacred Heart High School  
Commencement Class of 2000, 7 p.m.  
By invitation only  
For information call (213) 225-2209

### THURSDAY, JUNE 8

San Gabriel Unified School District  
Band and Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (626) 287-5260

### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Pasadena Dance Theatre  
Spring Gala of Ballet, 7 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (626) 683-3459

### SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Le Studio & Dance Corps of Pasadena  
Annual Spring Celebration of Dance, 3 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (818) 792-4616

### MONDAY, JUNE 12

Benefit Variety Show  
For correctional peace officers, 7 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (626) 915-4890

### FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Southern California Youth Chorus, 7:30 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (626) 475-1480

### SATURDAY, JUNE 17

Spring Thunder Music Celebration, 7 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (626) 537-2789

### SUNDAY, JUNE 18

San Gabriel Valley YWCA Dance Show, 3 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (626) 960-2995

### THURSDAY, JUNE 22

Gabrielino High School  
Commencement Class of 2000, 7 p.m.  
By invitation only  
For information/tickets call (626) 573-0214

### SATURDAY, JUNE 24

Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society  
Concert on the Mighty Wurlitzer  
Theatre Pipe Organ, 8 p.m.  
(Artist to be announced)  
For information/tickets call (626) 308-2868

### FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 7-23

Music Theatre of Southern California  
"Ain't Misbehavin'" — Fats Waller musical  
For information/tickets call (626) 308-2868

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

# New Summer Playgrounds at McKinley, Washington Schools

Washington School and McKinley School will offer complete recreation programs this summer; joining Smith Park, Lincoln School, Roosevelt School, Dewey School and Marshall School as summer playground sites.

Summer playgrounds will be open from June 26 to Aug. 16 for youth ages 5 to 14. Playgrounds will be open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. While not a substitute for daycare, the program provides supervised fun that includes sports, games and arts and crafts.

Recreation leaders encourage children to participate; however, under state law, children are free to come and go.

Recreation leaders are not responsible for those who leave. All participants must have a parent or guardian complete and sign a Participation Information Form and return it to their Recreation Leader.

Gabrielino High School will again serve as the site of the junior high- and high school-age youth program, open Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



The free lunch program will again be available to children, 18 years of age and under. Lunch will be served weekdays between 11 a.m. and noon at Dewey, Lincoln, Marshall, McKinley, Roosevelt and Washington Schools, Smith Park, and Vincent Lugo Park. The lunch program is administered by the San Gabriel Unified School District. For more information, please call (626) 308-2875.

## Debris and Rubbish Pickup



A City ordinance prohibits any person from dumping, disposing or storing rubbish or debris on any property within the City. To

maintain health and safety standards, the City has an exclusive contract with Athens Disposal for trash service. Please follow these guidelines:

- Place all trash in securely tied bags.
- Double-bag all wet trash.
- Do not place hazardous wastes, liquids, construction debris, tires or grease in trash containers.
- Keep trash container lids closed at all times. If a container has a lock, keep it locked.
- Do not fill trash bin above the top of the bin.
- Do not leave items outside of bin.
- Flatten cardboard boxes.

Rubbish should not be placed at the curb more than 18 hours prior to the time of the regularly scheduled collection, and the containers cannot remain at the curb for more than 12 hours after collection.

Bulky and hard-to-handle items such as mattresses, couches, water heaters, washers, refrigerators, etc., will also be collected on the same pickup day of each week for curbside service.

If you have bin service, all items must be inside the bin. Athens Disposal will not collect items left outside the bin. For more information on special hauling services, please contact Athens Disposal at (626) 336-3636.

## Making Block Parties Safe

Summer is approaching and the season always brings people outside to enjoy the long days, good weather; and, of course, getting together with neighbors. Neighborhood block parties are becoming more and more popular in San Gabriel and the City wants to assist you in making sure your event is safe and successful.

For that reason, there are certain regulations for holding block parties, particularly if you need temporary street closure. All requests for street closures must be placed on an agenda for approval by the City Council and need to be submitted to the City one month prior to the event for processing. Also please keep in mind that fireworks for personal use and by organizations are prohibited. If you have questions or need further information, please contact the City at (626) 308-2800, ext. 816.

Just a reminder! On Tuesday, Aug. 1, San Gabriel holds its annual "National Night Out" celebration in recognition of all our Neighborhood Watch groups. Please contact Crime Prevention Officer Alex Acosta at (626) 308-2846 if your neighborhood plans to participate.



The Bicycle Patrol Unit is very popular in San Gabriel.

## Bike Patrol Proves Big Hit with Community

Now in its third year of operations, the San Gabriel Police Department Bicycle Patrol Unit and its members continue to prove immensely popular with the community. Launched in February 1997, the Bicycle Patrol is composed of one sergeant, five full-time police officers and two reserve police officers who patrol the City's high-density residential and commercial areas.

Frequently, residents and shoppers alike

are pleasantly surprised by the quiet approach and friendly conversation of the bicycle officers. The officers, some of whom are multi-lingual, are frequent visitors among the City's many diverse shops and restaurants and have developed friendships, trust and loyalty among the community.

So the next time you see a member of the Bicycle Patrol, give him or her a wave. They're helping to make the City's streets safe!



## D.A.R.E. Kids Graduate

"D.A.R.E. kids say no to drugs and gangs!"

That's what 650 fifth- and sixth-grade students will be celebrating on May 17 at 10 a.m. at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium. Students attending elementary schools in the San Gabriel Unified School District and Marshall, Dewey and St. Anthony Schools in the Garvey School District, will be graduating from a 17-week drug education program offered by the San Gabriel Police Department.

The students who start the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in the fifth or sixth grade are visited by a uniformed police officer once a week. During the program, the students build a positive relationship with the officer and learn about issues in their lives, ranging from understanding the effects of mind-altering drugs, learning to say no to drugs and gangs, reducing violence, making decisions about risky behavior, to building self-esteem.

By the time the students graduate from D.A.R.E., they are instilled with the skills and knowledge that will allow them to stay drug-free and trouble-free. The graduation ceremony will include the presentation of the winning essay from each of the schools, words of encouragement

from D.A.R.E. Officer Daniel Russo, and entertainment by the all-law-enforcement rock band, "Mutual Aid, Cops that Rock."

Anyone interested in showing support for San Gabriel's youth are welcome to attend. Admission is free and a good time is guaranteed.



The graduation ceremony features an all-law-enforcement rock band.

## D.A.R.E. Graduation

**WHEN:** Wed., May 17, 10 a.m.

**LOCATION:** San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, 320 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel.

**CONTACT:** Sergeant Phil Breen, San Gabriel Police Department, (626) 308-2845

# Volunteers to Help San Gabriel

Do you have talents and skills or experience you can provide to help the City of San Gabriel better serve the community? Are you looking for a way to make a difference? Here's your opportunity.

Within San Gabriel, there exists a vast source of manpower, resources and expertise in the form of volunteers who perform a valuable service to the City and the community. Volunteers of all ages work for the City.

The City of San Gabriel is seeking to involve volunteers in nearly every area of City operations. The San Gabriel Volunteer Program will pair community volunteers with staffing needs in various City departments to support and enhance services and programs provided to the public. There are a number of opportunities currently available — a Volunteer Coordinator; volunteers needed April 29th for the City's first ever *Christmas in April* neighborhood improvement project, and volunteers to assist with event planning and event activities.

The Volunteer Coordinator has operational responsibility to organize recruitment and placement efforts, assist with training, and review placement success with volunteers and their immediate supervisors.

The City of San Gabriel is also joining other communities in celebrating the traditions of holiday cheer and the spirit of giving with the annual *Christmas in April* event on April 29. Planning is underway to organize volunteers to devote their last Saturday in April to helping residents in need make urgent home repairs. About 40 volunteers of all ages are needed to complete the necessary work that day. Volunteers will receive lunch, snacks, and a T-shirt. Why not make it a family affair!

(For details, see related story below.)

At the Police Department, volunteers perform clerical work within the Department's Records Division, Detective Bureau, and Crime Prevention Division. Last year these volunteers donated over 1,000 hours in free assistance!



For over 20 years, the Police Department has run a Police Explorer Program. The program is open to boys and girls 14 through 21 years of age. Police Explorers provide untold hours of service to the community at no expense. The uniformed Explorers assist Police Officers with their daily routine in patrol, assist with crowd and traffic control at special community events, participate in ride-alongs with patrol officers, assist with neighborhood watch programs, assist in the Detective Bureau, perform clerical work, and assist with dispatch.

At City Hall, volunteers may perform such activities as creating displays and exhibits at City buildings and the Civic Auditorium, helping develop public relations campaigns and event planning, researching business license compliance, assisting with counter inquiries, mailing hearing notices, performing preliminary

celebrating Christmas in April. The City's first project will be a single-family home located on South Gladys Avenue. The property owner is a disabled senior citizen who has been unable to pay for repairs, including painting, to her home.

Between 35-40 volunteers of all ages are needed. Volunteers receive lunch, snacks and a T-shirt. Individuals and corporations can help the event through tax-deductible monetary or material donations, or by volunteering time and labor on April 29. Please mark your calendars! For more information, contact City Code Enforcement Officers Rita Estrada or John Velasquez at (626) 308-2806.



## Christmas in April Program Looking for Volunteers

The City of San Gabriel is the newest member of the Christmas in April nationwide program. The program has helped rehabilitate more than 70 homes, several public school facilities and one non-profit group home in the San Gabriel Valley. Such work has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars to deserving residents and community organizations.

On April 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the City will join other communities in

## New High School Campus

Can't wait for that new school campus to be built in San Gabriel? San Gabriel Unified School District (SGUSD) officials continue to work toward development of a new campus for Gabrielino High School.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new \$34 million campus were held on April 8. When finished in June 2004, the high school will have more than 70 new classrooms (including science labs and art rooms), administration building, media cen-

ter, a performing arts center seating about 350 people, a parking-deck structure with tennis courts on the upper part of the deck, gymnasium, and football stadium.

While handled exclusively by the District, City staff is coordinating efforts with the District to ensure that construction, utility and other issues are handled without a hitch. If you have any questions about the project, please call Dan Mooney, SGUSD project manager at (626) 573-0214.

plan checks, and entering computer data on code enforcement complaints.

Parks and Recreation Department volunteers devote countless hours each year, saving the City taxpayers a great amount of money. They participate in such activities as serving meals at the Senior Center; taking reservations and serving as greeters and receptionists at dances, meals and special events; chaperoning excursions; and translating and taking photographs for the City's Recreation Guide.

Auxiliary Firefighters serve as reserves for unusual fire emergencies or disaster situations. They respond to fire calls and assist paid firefighters. The Auxiliary Firefighter is the third member of the ambulance team and learns "hands-on" patient care. Specific education and training are required to be an Auxiliary Firefighter.

For information on the Volunteer Coordinator and other City volunteer opportunities, please contact Tina Miller at (626) 308-2803. For the *Christmas in April Program*, contact Code Enforcement Officer Rita Estrada at (626) 308-2807. To join the Police Explorer Program, contact the Police Department at (626) 308-2840 and ask for Lieutenant Ariel Duran. For information on becoming an Auxiliary Firefighter, please call (626) 308-2880. Thank you for making a difference in your community!

## City Gets Favorable ISO Rating

The City of San Gabriel is an annual participant in the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) program, administered by Chicago-based Insurance Services Office (ISO).

BCEGS, an insurance underwriting and information-rating tool, was developed through the combined efforts of the three national model building code organizations and the property/casualty insurance agency. The program evaluates a community's building code enforcement - focusing on natural hazard mitigation.

The intent is to encourage code compliant construction, ultimately reducing catastrophe-related damage and lower insurance costs. The program also includes advisory premium discounts for property insurance written in municipalities with effective codes that are well enforced.

Most cities in California average a four rating (grading is 1-10, with 10 being the worst). The City of San Gabriel has achieved this rating and City officials are confident that an even better rating will be achieved in the near future. The City's continuing efforts will save property owners money on their insurance premiums.

## AT YOUR SERVICE!

INTRODUCING YOUR CITY EMPLOYEES ...

### Meet Recreation Supervisor Fred Miranda

Recreation Supervisor Fred Miranda is a real hometown boy. Fred grew up in San Gabriel where he attended elementary and junior high school and graduated from San Gabriel High School. He joined the Parks and Recreation Department in 1987 as a Recreation Leader at Washington Elementary School.

Fred supervises the after school and summer playground programs, adult sports and sport facility reservations. Fred was also elected president of the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Athletic Federation last November and feels his extra duties as president help him become a better recreation supervisor because he has an oppor-

tunity to see how other recreation departments throughout the Valley operate.

Fred is an avid sports enthusiast. He has run six Los Angeles Marathons and has a personal best of 3:14.10. He also competes in many triathlons and hopes to qualify soon for the Hawaii Iron Man Triathlon. But Fred admits his true passion is golf - he has a 10 handicap and is on the links whenever he has any spare time.



Fred Miranda has been with Parks and Recreation since 1987.

Fred truly believes he is a very lucky guy. "Not only do I love what I do for a living and work with a group of superb professionals, but I get to do it in the city I grew up in and love," he says.

## City Developing General Plan

Over the next year, San Gabriel's diverse communities will be uniting for a better future as they develop a collective vision for the City known as the General Plan. You can think of the General Plan as the "blueprint" for the future growth and development of our City.

The General Plan's update is your opportunity to decide what's important to include in the San Gabriel of the future, things like:

- More parks
- Improved traffic flow

- More shopping opportunities
- Better public transportation
- Higher quality development
- More street trees and greenery
- Preservation of historic buildings

The process of preparing a plan is one that involves all segments of the community and can take one to two years to complete. Community participation is critical to a successful General Plan. Get involved! Look for informational flyers at City facilities or contact City Planner Mark Gallatin at (626) 308-2806.

## City Implements New Economic Development Program Initiatives

The City of San Gabriel's long-term economic development efforts are building momentum this spring. The City has recently debuted a new economic development exhibit, economic development brochure, and new staff members will soon come on board.

Also new this season is a package of fee adjustments permitting fee discounts of up to 30 percent for new and expanding businesses meeting certain employment, sales tax generation or redevelopment targets. Capping this season's efforts, the City also acted as a Silver Sponsor of this year's San Gabriel Valley Development Forum, conducted by the San Gabriel Valley

Economic Partnership in March.

All these come on the heels of an improved economic strategy. Last fall the City Council reviewed and updated the City's economic development strategic plan, adding additional strategies to promote San Gabriel's efforts in retail recruitment, retention, marketing and infrastructure development.

If you would like to learn more about the City's economic development efforts or have a speaker come to tell your community organization about San Gabriel's economic development opportunities, please call Steve Preston at (626) 308-2806.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26**  
Muffins & Matters Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.  
CHEC Building, 261 Junipero Serra Dr.

**FRI. THRU SUN., APRIL 28-30**  
Street Festival, City Birthday & California History Day — rides, games, food, entertainment — Mission District  
April 28: 3 p.m.-Midnight  
April 29: Noon-Midnight  
April 30: Noon-11 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 2**  
Youth in Government Day, City Hall

**THURSDAY, MAY 18**  
Chamber Mixer, 5 p.m.  
San Gabriel Civic Aud., 320 S. Mission Dr.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7**  
Chamber Installation Dinner  
San Gabriel Civic Auditorium  
Call (626) 576-2525 for details

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21**  
Chamber Mixer, 5:30 p.m.  
New Century Ford, 650 E. Las Tunas Dr.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28**  
Muffins & Matters Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.  
CHEC Building, 261 Junipero Serra Dr.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 19**  
Mixer, 5:30 p.m.  
Broadway Nursing Center  
112 E. Broadway

# City And 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



# Fill Out Your Census Questionnaire!

Your U.S. Census questionnaire is not junk mail! It's important that you complete the form as it helps our City. Many state and federal funds that come into San Gabriel to finance important services are determined by formulas based on population data. These include:

- Street improvements
- Crime prevention/D.A.R.E.
- Summer recreation programs
- Home improvement loans
- Educational programs
- Senior services
- Health care
- Job training

The more our residents fill out and return their Census questionnaires, the more their tax dollars will be returned to San Gabriel. Filling out the questionnaires only takes a few minutes and all information is strictly confidential. It's a small investment of your time that has a big payoff for you and your community!



## The San Gabriel Grapevine

### SAN GABRIEL CITY COUNCIL

Harry Baldwin, Mayor  
Mary Cammarano, Vice Mayor  
James Castaneda, Councilmember  
Sabino Cici, Councilmember  
Dominic Polimeni, Councilmember  
P. Michael Paules, City Manager

Neal Leavitt, Editor  
Rus Calisch, Graphic Designer  
Cindy York, Photographer

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

# Library Updates



## Internet Workstations

The San Gabriel Library has installed two more Internet workstations. Anyone can use the workstations but you'll need to own a library card in good standing (no fines more than \$3.00) and sign an Internet user agreement form within the County of Los Angeles library system. Minors under age 18 have to have these forms signed by a parent or guardian at the library.

The online service has been very popular and advance bookings are necessary. Same week reservations may be done in person or by calling (626) 287-0761. Maximum time limit per person is one hour each day.



## Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading

Program at the San Gabriel Library begins June 28 and runs through Aug. 9. Look for lots of exciting programs! One of these is "The Harry Potter Magic Show," slated for July 5 at 3:30 p.m. The one-hour program will be presented by Tony Daniels, a regular performer at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles, and a member of the Society of American Magicians and International Brotherhood of Magicians.

As an extra bonus, each child in the audience that afternoon will receive a booklet from the performer filled with magic tricks and games. More detailed information on the Summer Reading Program will be available in June.

For more information about library programs and services, please contact the San Gabriel Library at (626) 287-0761. The library is located at 500 S. Del Mar Ave. and open Monday to Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Smith Park Pool – A Great Place To Be

Last summer, more than 29,000 kids and grownups got all wet! They all were swimmers at Smith Park Pool.

Smith Park Pool's popularity is due to the superb aquatic staff and wide range of activities offered. Under the direction of Pool Manager Ish Perez, the staff provides first class youth swim lessons, adult swim lessons, swim camps, recreational swimming and a competitive swim team.

For the past five years, according to Assistant Manager of Instruction George Young, the lesson programs for each of the five two-week cycles have sold out, so it's important to register for swim classes as early in the registration period as possible.

The recreational swim program, supervised by Assistant Manager of Lifeguarding Steve Steward, is another program benefiting our residents. Not only is there a diving board, but also a slide that swimmers can use.

Other programs, such as the Sea Gulls swim team, swim racing camps and the adult Sunrise Swim Club are also popular.



The latter's morning class, led by Daniel Lopez, teaches swimming to people who may be afraid of the water. Students advance at their own pace since the class uses a progressive step instruction program system.

The pool's Teacher's Aide program offers great opportunities for youths 11 to 16 years. These young volunteers assist our Red Cross-certified Water Safety Instructors in teaching swim lessons and monitoring Tiny Tots and beginning students. Many of the best instructors in the West San Gabriel Valley

developed their skills by participating in this program. Last summer at least eight pools in the Valley had certified Water Safety Instructors who had completed the program; and six of the nine instructors working at Smith Park Pool had participated as well.

The pool at newly renovated Smith Park is a wonderful place for residents of all ages to participate in one of the best forms of physical exercise. It's also just plain fun!

# Capital Projects Update

A wide variety of infrastructure improvements projects have either recently been completed or are slated to get underway soon. Here are snapshots of a few of them:

## GAS ISLAND CANOPY

Construction is complete — a new gas canopy was constructed, allowing safe fueling of the City's Police, Fire, Public Works and Parks & Recreation vehicles in the rain. The canopy is another step the City has initiated to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for minimizing pollutants in stormwater runoff.

## STREET RECONSTRUCTION: BROADWAY AND SANTA ANITA

Work is complete on the street improvements on Broadway from Del Mar to San Gabriel and Santa Anita from Las Tunas to Hermosa. The work included minor concrete repairs to the curbs, gutters and sidewalks, construction of catch basins at the intersection of Broadway and San Gabriel, and new asphalt pavement.

## STREET IMPROVEMENTS: ELM ST.

City staff is working with Caltrans to process agreements for the City to receive \$197,000 for street improvements. The state funds will be used to repair streets damaged by the 1997 El Niño storms. They will also be used to repair Elm Street between Burton Avenue and Muscatel Avenue. Construction is scheduled for this summer.

## KENDALL DRIVE STORM DRAIN

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works has agreed to provide construction funding for the installation of the

Kendall Drive storm drain. The storm drain is being constructed underneath Kendall Drive; the current storm drain is located on private property. The relocation will minimize damage to private property. The County has approved the project and City staff has scheduled construction to begin in June.

## SMITH PARK EXPANSION



Work is progressing on the project. The parking lot is cleared, graded and being prepared for sidewalks, parking lot, dry streambed and assorted park features. Madera Street between Clary and Broadway has been closed to make way for the exciting new park, and the Madera Street storm drain has been relocated. Sidewalks are being constructed at various locations.

## SMITH PARK STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Construction of curbs, gutters and new pavement surfaces began in April. The project is being coordinated with the Smith Park expansion, and staff anticipates the project to be completed by the end of May.

# Open House Discusses Lowering of Railroad Tracks

On Thursday, March 23, the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority and the City of San Gabriel held a Community Open House from 6 to 8 p.m. regarding the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Project at the San Gabriel Adult Recreation Center. The meeting was held as part of the environmental review phase of the project where residents and business owners were able to learn about the project, share concerns and give input.

In the City of San Gabriel, initial improvements include improved rail crossings and other safety measures. During subsequent phases of the eight-year program, train tracks will be lowered below street level in a trench and bridges constructed over rail crossings for vehicles and pedestrians at Ramona Street, Mission Road, Del Mar Avenue and San Gabriel Boulevard.

"These improvements are long overdue in the San Gabriel Valley communities all along the Corridor," said Rick Richmond, ACE Chief Executive Officer. The entire project in San Gabriel will cost an estimated \$242 million, to be funded with federal, state and regional transportation dollars. San Gabriel residents will not pay any additional taxes for the project. The under-grounding work is planned for construction 2004-2007.

The ACE Project extends east from the Alameda Corridor Project in central Los Angeles County where cargo will move from ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, to near downtown Los Angeles, and then east through the San Gabriel Valley to the Inland Empire and across the country.

The \$912-million ACE Project is a series of over and underpasses, traffic signal and safety measures designed to improve the flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic at 55 railroad crossings along the 35-mile ACE corridor in the San Gabriel Valley. Once the Alameda Corridor Project is completed, train traffic is expected to increase by 60 percent in the San Gabriel Valley, and without the ACE Project improvements at the railroad crossings, there will be significant traffic delays and increased air pollution.

At the Open House, residents and business owners were able to ask questions and make comments to ACE staff and consultants at several display stations. Of particular interest to the public were the aerial photomaps and conceptual drawings that showed what the completed projects would look like. City officials were also on hand to help explain how the project will reduce noise, increase public safety and eliminate hazards in neighborhoods.

"We have been working closely with the ACE Construction Authority and other agencies to develop this plan for lowering the tracks to reduce the impact of up to 54 trains a day coming through our City by 2004," said Michael Paules, San Gabriel's City Manager. "We want the public to be aware and involved in this very beneficial project," he added.

For additional details, the public is asked to contact the ACE Construction Authority at 626-405-1700 or visit its Web site at [www.theaceproject.org](http://www.theaceproject.org).

## shortTAKES

### Report Stray Shopping Carts

We need your help! The City has received many complaints from residents and business owners about grocery carts that are being taken and left on nearby streets and sidewalks. Stray carts can cause accidents and create an unattractive and blighted appearance. Please do not remove grocery carts from store parking lots.

If you see a stray cart, help beautify your City by calling (800) 252-4613 and reporting the cart's location. This toll-free number operates 24 hours a day and is staffed by the California Shopping Cart Retrieval Corporation in an effort to assist in the removal of stray shopping carts from City streets.

### Chamber of Commerce Hosts 'Muffins & Matters' Breakfast

The San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce will hold its new "Muffins and Matters Breakfast" on April 26. The breakfasts, scheduled for the last Wednesday of every other month, will feature speakers covering topics of interest to Chamber members. Subjects range from business and city issues to presentations directly affecting San Gabriel merchants.

The breakfasts are an excellent opportunity for members and non-members alike to get together and take part in a unique learning experience. For more information, call the Chamber office at (626) 576-2525.