

news and views from our town

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
SAN GABRIEL • CA

San Gabriel

# Grapevine

SUMMER 2002 VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 3

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## City Places Utility Users Tax Issue on Ballot

The utility users tax is the primary source of funding for San Gabriel's Fire and Police Departments, as well as many functions, such as parks, community development and the City's internal operation. After the sales tax, it is the City's largest single source of continuing revenue — and one of the few that the residents themselves directly control.

The utility users tax, established in November 1992, is a surcharge to residents' and businesses' electric, gas, phone and water bills — it appears on your regular utility statements. Payment for an average San Gabriel household is about \$13 per month. The utility users tax accounts for 21 percent, or \$3.3 million of the City's \$16.5-million General Fund budget.

Recently, the California Supreme Court ordered cities statewide to make all municipal taxes subject to voter approval, regardless of when they were

adopted. So the City Council has placed the issue on the ballot at a special election to be held on August 27, 2002. Voters will decide if the existing utility users tax and the City services it funds should be continued.

San Gabriel is one of many California cities affected by the decision (there are currently about 170 cities that collect a utility users tax). The loss of the utility users tax would have serious consequences for the City. It would require immediate budget and position cuts to balance the General Fund budget. All City departments would have to slash their annual operating/personnel budgets by at least 21 percent. Police and fire services would not escape cuts because 60 percent of the City's operating budget pays for these services alone.

In addition to sales taxes, other major General Fund sources, such as property taxes and vehicle license fees, are not expected to grow substantially to make up for the loss. This is because San Gabriel is almost completely built-out with virtually no room for growth. What's more, during challenging economic times, sales taxes drop and the State Legislature has a histo-

ry of diverting funds, such as vehicle license fees — originally intended for cities like San Gabriel — to state programs.

The utility users tax has enabled the City to establish its own paramedic program through the Fire Department, and to increase public safety expenditures by 55 percent or \$3.2 million over the past 12 years. This includes the highly successful Neighborhood Watch program, which has played a pivotal role in helping crime rates decrease over the past decade, and in funding Police and Fire Department services.

Utility users tax monies are used to provide other important services to San Gabriel residents, including recreation and parks, programs for seniors and children, road maintenance, building safety and code enforcement. One out of every five dollars needed to provide San Gabriel citizens with police, fire and municipal services comes from the utility users tax.

Registered voters will be receiving their voter pamphlet and sample ballot for the August 27th special election in the next few weeks. For more information about the election, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (626) 308-2816.

## Weekly Mission District Festival Returns

Summer evenings in San Gabriel sizzle with the return of a weekly festival to the historic San Gabriel Mission District.

Every Thursday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Mission Drive, between Mission Road and Santa Anita, comes alive. Mission Drive closes to traffic at 4 p.m. on market days and the street is reopened at 10:30 p.m. Santa Anita Street will remain open for emergency vehicles and local traffic throughout the Mercado season.



The Mission District Mercado features a farmer's market, activities for kids, great tasting food and live entertainment. Sponsored by the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, Mission District Mercado began on June 20 and continues through August 29.

The Mission District Mercado offers a hometown community experience for you and your family, your friends, visitors and the community at large. Basil, garlic, peaches, strawberries, apples, flowers, wooden crates and their colorful contents welcome you. Bring your blanket or beach chair and picnic alfresco in Plaza Park while enjoying live entertainment.

San Gabriel's multifaceted 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. The market is expected to generate economic activity and support for the Mission District, local businesses and promote San Gabriel's image as a whole.

So take time to enjoy the weather, eat, shop, meet your neighbors, make new friends and experience the Mission District Mercado.

For more information about the Mission District Mercado, contact the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce at (626) 576-2525.

## San Gabriel Joins Nationwide Effort to Combat Crime



On Tuesday, August 6, neighborhoods throughout San Gabriel are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the 19th Annual National Night Out.

This marks the eighth year that San Gabriel has participated in the event, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), and co-sponsored locally by the San Gabriel Police Department. It will involve over 9,700 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases around the world. More than 33 million people are expected to participate in 'America's Night Out Against Crime.' National Night Out is also supported in part by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

From 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., San Gabriel residents will lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with their neighbors. Many of the City's 'Neighborhood Watch' groups will be hosting block parties, cook-outs, and other activities, and will be visited by police, fire, and City officials. The U.S. Army and Marines are

expected to return with their Humvee all-terrain vehicles.

National Night Out helps heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generates support and participation in local anti-crime efforts, strengthens neighborhood spirit and police-community relations, and sends a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

"National Night Out is an extraordinary way to build neighborhood unity and strengthen police-community partnerships," said San Gabriel Police Chief David A. Lawton. "Neighbors meet neighbors — and citizens and local law enforcement have the opportunity to enhance their relationships. On August 6, we invite all San Gabriel residents to join forces with us to give crime and drugs a going-away party."

For more information, please contact Crime Prevention Officer Alex Acosta at (626) 308-2846, [crimeprevention@sngpd.com](mailto:crimeprevention@sngpd.com).



Crime Prevention Officer  
Alex Acosta



## Upcoming San Gabriel Civic Auditorium Events

### SATURDAY, JULY 27

Radio Unica 1580 AM  
Benefit variety show, 7:30 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (213) 337-2000

### SUNDAY, JULY 28

Radio Unica 1580 AM  
Benefit variety show, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (213) 337-2000

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Tepecutli Pilli Dance Company, 7 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (323) 832-0310

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Lan Ling Dance Studio, 7 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (626) 839-4878

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

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

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

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

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

Rio Hondo Police Academy Graduation, 11 a.m.  
For information/tickets call (310) 692-0921

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

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

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

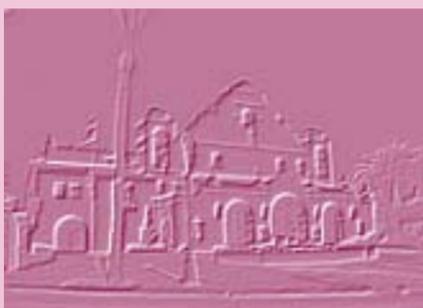
Roman Promotions  
Benefit for San Gabriel Fire Fighters Ass'n.  
Variety show, 7 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (626) 915-4892

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Hanyi Inc. presents  
An Evening of Chinese Music & Dance, 8 p.m.  
For information/tickets call (562) 404-2867

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

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



## Civic Auditorium Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The Civic Auditorium's 75th anniversary celebration continues through 2002. The Auditorium's schedule promises a variety of events sure to appeal to a wide range of audience tastes — Chinese Opera, Ballet Folklorico and more.

Plans are underway to present the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra in October. Jose Hernandez and his internationally acclaimed mariachi band, Sol de Mexico, are scheduled this fall. Experience the delicate, haunting sounds of the koto from the Los Angeles Classical Chinese Orchestra. This ancient instrument is used extensively in traditional Chinese and Japanese music.

Come visit the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, the centerpiece of the historic Mission District. For information on all events, please call (626) 308-2865.



Pasadena Star-News staff photo by Walt Mancini.

*In 2001 Walk, about 300 people commemorated the City's founding.*

Rising before dawn on Monday, September 2, hundreds of people are expected to lace up their walking shoes to pay homage to Los Angeles' settlers, who trekked from the San Gabriel Mission to what is now Olvera Street in 1781.

San Gabriel residents are invited to step back into history and join the descendants of the original Los Pobladores (the settlers), City officials and others as they walk from San Gabriel Mission Archangel to the City of Los Angeles.

The "Historic Walk to LA" is a reenactment of the original settlers' final nine-mile trek from San Gabriel Mission to the Los Angeles River, where, on September 4, 1781, they founded El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles.

Growing bigger every year, the Historic Walk begins at 6 a.m. at Mission San Gabriel, heads west along Mission Road for nine miles, and ends with a warm Los Angeles welcome at El Pueblo's Plaza Park. Everyone is invited to get out for some early-morning fresh air and exercise, become part of San Gabriel and Los Angeles' living history by joining the walk, and enjoy the dramatic presentations and other activities at the Plaza of Los Angeles.

The original trek by the founders of

## Historic Walk Reenacts 18th-Century Trek

Los Angeles represents a key chapter in California history. The founding of Los Angeles came 10 years after Mission San Gabriel was founded in 1771, as the fourth mission established in the Franciscan chain of 21 California missions. Spanish forces founded Los Angeles as a commercial support site for the colonization of Upper California and to strengthen the Mission settlements.

Those who find the Historic Walk too strenuous can take some time over the Labor Day Weekend to enjoy the Mission's "231st Fiesta de San Gabriel." From Friday, August 30 through Sunday, September 1, a variety of festivities will take place, including rides, games, international foods and prizes.

Thousands of people from Los Angeles and Orange counties attend the Mission's three-day fiesta to view the restored Mission, museum and grounds, and have the opportunity to see and experience the historic San Gabriel Mission District.

For more information about the Historic Walk to LA, call (213) 485-6855. To obtain information about the Mission 231st Fiesta celebration, contact Algis Marcuska at (626) 457-3034.



## Hilton Hotel Update

Exciting changes are occurring at the corner of Valley and Abbot, where grading is now underway at the site of what will soon be the San Gabriel Hilton Hotel.

San Gabriel's first new hotel in more than 30 years will feature a dramatic architectural treatment, expansive lobby, ballrooms and restaurant facilities that will provide San Gabriel residents with the type of large-scale banquet facilities that previously took many community groups out of the City. Now they can enjoy a light meal or a full banquet in a quality, business hotel environment.

The developer has begun first-phase construction on the underground parking structure and will then complete the retail segment of the project. The hotel construction will begin following completion of first-phase improvements, including extensive traffic and transportation mitigation measures requested by the City. Look for more news here as this exciting project progresses!

## Seniors Volunteer Program Unveiled



The San Gabriel Police Department has introduced the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP). Don Morrison and John San Marco Jr. are the first participants

in the program, and are currently being trained by members of the Police Department.

Patrol Volunteers hold non-compensated positions that provide support to the Police Department staff and assist in building community confidence and awareness in law enforcement.

Duties include typing, filing, photocopying, data entry, answering telephones, patrolling in a marked city vehicle, writing citations, directing traffic, assisting with crime scenes, assisting in crime resistance and reduction programs, and other related duties. Volunteers will wear uniforms and be able to operate a police radio. A valid California driver's license is required for this position.

Benefits to individuals selected for the position of patrol volunteer include the ability to provide a much-needed positive and productive community service to residents, and the opportunity to gain a better understanding of police services.

Interested applicants must be at least 55 (no maximum age limit), and in good health. Each applicant will be asked to fill out an application, be fingerprinted and sign a release form so a background investigation can be completed. Applicants will participate in an interview/oral board process that will be conducted by designated members of the San Gabriel Police Department.

Once accepted to the program, applicants will be asked to volunteer a minimum of 16 hours per month. Applicants accepted into the program are required to attend an orientation class and to complete in-house and field training, to be conducted by members of the San Gabriel Police Department.

The San Gabriel Police Department is actively recruiting qualified, community-minded men and women for appointment as patrol volunteers. Qualified, interested citizens should contact Lieutenant Edward A. Haché of the San Gabriel Police Department at (626) 308-2828 or e-mail him at EH019@sgpd.com. Applications are also available and are being accepted at the Police Department, 625 South Del Mar Avenue, San Gabriel CA 91776.



## City to Enhance Traffic Safety

The San Gabriel Police Department has been awarded a comprehensive traffic safety grant through the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). The grant begins this October and will bring a wide variety of safety programs for San Gabriel residents and visitors.

The grant will focus on areas that require additional traffic safety enforcement, as well as educational programs to make the community a safer place to live and visit.

In addition to new programs, the grant will focus on multi-ethnic traffic safety information in an effort to reach as many people as possible.

Prior OTS grants have brought the community such traffic safety programs as bicycle Safety Rodeos, Free Bicycle Helmet Program, the San Gabriel Community Safety Expo and the Officer Trading Card Program.

The San Gabriel Police Department and Traffic Safety Team is looking forward to working with OTS and the community with this new program.

For questions on this program or other traffic-related issues, please contact Sergeant John Tuosto at (626) 308-2860.

## Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April

The City's third annual Rebuilding Together With Christmas In April neighborhood improvement project was held on Saturday, April 20. Thanks to the commitment and hard work of all volunteers, the event was a huge success! Volunteers donated their time and labor to refurbish three homes in the City. More than 85 volunteers participated, representing Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority, Gabriellino High School, Chinese American Service Alliance, community members, City Council and Planning Commission members, and City employees.

In addition to the City of San Gabriel's sponsorship of the home on South Pine Street, the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce donated funds to "adopt-a-house" on Walnut Street. The Southern California Gas Company also sponsored the home on Euclid Avenue, and the California-American Water Company once again donated funds for the projects in San Gabriel. The San Gabriel Valley Medical Center donated a continental breakfast, and Carl's Jr. provided lunches.



Home Depot provided an in-kind donation of building supplies and material for all three homes, and Athens Disposal donated the use of trash bins. Evergreen Tree Service donated their services to trim the trees and extensive vegetation at the South Pine Street site.

San Gabriel's participation in Rebuilding Together With Christmas in April is part of the City's efforts toward meeting the goals and objectives of the Neighborhood Improvement Services program, which concentrates on improving the quality of San Gabriel's neighborhoods.

The Rebuilding Together program helps bring communities and neighbors together by rehabilitating deteriorating homes of low-income homeowners in San Gabriel, particularly among the elderly and disabled. To date, Rebuilding Together has refurbished seven homes San Gabriel.

Plans are already underway for next year's event, to be held on Saturday, April 19, 2003, so mark your calendars! For more information, please contact Rita Estrada or John Velasquez, Community Development Department, at (626) 308-2806.



# Millennium Miles Updates

San Gabriel continues to make rapid progress with the Millennium Miles Program, an extensive citywide program designed to improve the condition of more than 60 segments of streets needing rehabilitation. The City Council has designated a budget of more than \$5 million over the next five years. Here's a brief update on the various phases:

### PHASE I

- Construction on the following Millennium Miles streets was completed May 13:
- ~ St. Albans-Ramona to Del Mar
- ~ De Sales Drive-Roses to City Limits
- ~ Roses Road-Alhambra Rd. to City Limits
- ~ Magnolia Drive-Coolidge to Domingo
- ~ Vineyard Dr.-Alhambra Rd. to City Limits
- ~ Nostrand Drive-Mission to De Sales
- ~ Domingo Dr.-Alhambra Rd. to De Sales
- ~ Kendall Drive-Alhambra Road to End
- ~ Coolidge Dr.-Alhambra Rd. to De Sales
- ~ Coolidge Dr.-St. Albans to Alhambra Rd.
- ~ Nostrand Drive-Pasqual to Mission
- ~ Roses Road-Alhambra to Mission
- ~ Twin Palms Drive-Nostrand to Domingo
- ~ Mission Drive-Roses to City Limits
- ~ Pasqual Avenue-Roses Road to Domingo

### PHASE II

Design of Phase II is underway and is about two-thirds completed. The design consultant, RKA & Associates, has finished the pavement evaluation and most of the design survey work. Plans, specifications and estimates are slated to be finished the end of this month, with construction to commence Fourth Quarter 2002. Streets to be resurfaced/rehabilitated are listed below:

- ~ Anderson Way-Fairview to Orange
- ~ California St.-Broadway to Live Oak
- ~ Montecito Drive-Chestnut to Fairview
- ~ St. Francis St.-Broadway to Las Tunas
- ~ Central Avenue-Ramona to Montecito
- ~ California Street-Live Oak to Las Tunas
- ~ Fairview Avenue-Ramona to Montecito
- ~ Del Mar Ave.-Broadway to Las Tunas
- ~ Cameron Way-Live Oak to End
- ~ Wedgewood St.-San Marino to Junipero Serra

### PHASE III

Design of Phase III is in the proposal stage. Please call (626) 308-2800, ext. 715 for more information on the Millennium Miles Program.

## Neighborhood Watch Program Enhances Local Homeland Security Efforts

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft recently introduced an expanded National Neighborhood Watch program to double the number of National Neighborhood Watch programs over the next two years.

This effort is a part of a national challenge to enhance local homeland security efforts and make preparedness a part of our daily lives. As part of this new federal effort, Neighborhood Watch will continue to reduce crime in neighborhoods nationwide by encouraging businesses, the faith community, schools and citizens to cooperate with and assist local law enforcement.

"Every day citizens can assist local law enforcement by playing an active role in their communities and neighborhoods," said Attorney General Ashcroft. "Neighborhood Watch deters criminal activity and helps protect American families. Our children are safer, our homes are more secure, and our communities are stronger when Americans participate in community policing."

The San Gabriel Police Department Crime Prevention Office will be contacting your Neighborhood Block captains to set up a meeting aimed at giving Neighborhood Watch members a chance to help in the war on terrorism. A Citizen's Preparedness Guide will be provided at the meeting.

If you would like to start a Neighborhood Watch group on your block and help fight crime, contact Crime Prevention Officer Alex Acosta at (626) 308-2846, [crimeprevention@sfgpd.com](mailto:crimeprevention@sfgpd.com).



## Helping Our Schools with Innovative Police Department Programs

The San Gabriel Police Department has increased its presence in local schools this school year by creating a School Resource Officer (SRO) position. The SRO is a veteran sworn police officer and an active associate of the San Gabriel Unified School District assigned full time to Gabrielino High School and Jefferson Middle School.

The SRO serves as a teacher, counselor, role model and advocate for students, families, faculty and staff. The SRO is not the school disciplinarian, nor does he supplant any other staff function. In the classroom, the SRO works as a guest speaker and, along with the instructor, will discuss topics such 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 functions and sporting events. The ultimate goal of the SRO 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 is armed and required to wear his uniform.

While his primary focus is prevention and deterrence, the SRO conducts all criminal investigations on campus and coordinates activities with school administrators. Although under the direct supervision of the San Gabriel Police Department, he is considered a member of the school faculty.

The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program was created in 1983 by the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles Unified School District in an effort to curb drug abuse by teaching elementary school children the dangers of drugs and gangs. Since 1983, over 250 million fifth- and sixth-grade students have been involved and have completed the D.A.R.E. program.

The San Gabriel Police Department adopted the D.A.R.E. program several years ago with the goal of giving our young people the tools to be safe and drug-free. The program has assigned to it a full-time sworn officer whose primary function is to visit all of the fifth-grade classrooms in the San Gabriel Unified School District as well as the sixth-grade classrooms at Marshall and Dewey Elementary Schools in the Garvey School District.

The D.A.R.E. program consists of 17 lessons taught in the classroom throughout the year. In addition to teaching the students about the dangers of drugs and gangs, the D.A.R.E. program allows students to interact positively with police officers. The D.A.R.E. officer also takes on other collateral duties, such as giving presentations at school assemblies and assisting school administrators with problems arising in schools that may require law enforcement involvement.



## Help Your Crossing Guards Keep Our Children Safe

Crossing guards are posted near schools in areas that have a large amount of student foot traffic. The crossing guards help increase safety at crosswalks and assist pedestrians in crossing streets.

A thorough background check is conducted by the San Gabriel Police Department for any prospective crossing guard.

Crossing guards make sure that all vehicular traffic is stopped before children are escorted across the street. They are authorized to stop all traffic whenever necessary. Fines for failing to obey a crossing guard can be as high as \$135 and one point on your DMV record.

When crossing a street that is monitored by a crossing guard, please help by crossing when the guard indicates it's OK to do so. If you are a motorist at an intersection monitored by a crossing guard, please remember to stop for the guard and all children. Never drive across a crosswalk until the guard has put his or her stop sign down and everyone is safely on the sidewalk.

Remember that safety is for everyone and crossing guards are in place to help us all.



## Learning to Swim Important for Children

To improve the chances that a pool accident will not affect you and your family, there are a number of things pool owners and parents can do. Adults should take a first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) class. When a backyard pool is being used, designate a responsible adult to watch the pool and swimmers.

Parents should also enroll their children in swim lessons; in fact, children should take swim lessons every summer. Starting as young as 12-18 months of age, children can learn to be safer in the water. From ages two to six, youngsters can begin to learn water-safety skills. As a youngster reaches six or seven years of age, enrolling in American Red Cross swim-lesson classes will teach beginning to more advanced swim-stroke skills, water safety and confidence. Swim classes that are offered at Smith Park Pool can improve a child's skill, safety and confidence.

For information about swim lessons at Smith Park Pool, please call (626) 287-9421. Listed below is the schedule of swim lessons for this summer and a brief description of the skills that will be taught.

### SWIM LESSON SCHEDULE

	CYCLE 1	CYCLE 2	CYCLE 3	CYCLE 4	CYCLE 5
Time	June 24-July 5	July 8-19	July 22-Aug. 2	August 5-16	August 19-30
8:25 to 8:55	LEVEL I & II				
9:00 to 9:30	I & II III				
9:35 to 10:05	II, III, IV, V Tot Stroke				
10:10 to 10:40	Tiny Tots 5&6				
10:45 to 11:15	Tiny Tots 3&4				
11:20 to 11:50	Tiny Tots 5&6 Parent & Tot (2 & Under)				

## AT YOUR SERVICE!

### INTRODUCING YOUR CITY EMPLOYEES ...

## Meet Receptionist Nina Nevarez

Nina Nevarez is used to a fast-paced working environment. Before she joined the city clerk's office in February, she spent seven years in the court-reporting industry.

Nina's duties are diverse, responding to public requests, assisting the city clerk and serving as secretary to the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium. Nina is also responsible for operating the City's central telephone answering system and is



Nina Nevarez

referred to as the "Voice of San Gabriel."

"There is a wide variety of duties," Nina says. "I really enjoy interacting with the public who are transacting City business, with the City Council and with my co-workers. There's an abundance of new issues all the time!"

When she's not immersed in City Hall duties, Nina enjoys snow skiing, water sports and her two boxer puppies.

## Security Measures Initiated at New High School

In March, students and staff of Gabrielino High School began moving into the completed 'Phase One' portion of the new campus at 1327 S. San Gabriel Blvd. A new security surveillance camera system that at the present time consists of nine strategically placed adjustable cameras will be utilized. Once the campus is completed, there will be a total of 16 cameras monitoring the facility. The cameras will provide law enforcement with an added tool in any investigations that may be necessary.

The campus has three full-time campus supervisors who are on the grounds during normal school hours. The campus supervisors assist with routine operations and minor student incidents involving school policies and procedures. All of the staff of Gabrielino High School are fully trained and certified in first aid and CPR in order to assist in any medical emergency.

The new school buildings have a state-of-the-art burglary alarm and fire alarm system to better protect students, staff, new buildings and equipment. The school has implemented an updated fire and emergency evacuation system. These new emergency plans are readily visible in every room for both staff and students to ensure a problem-free evacuation procedure during monthly practice drills. The new campus can also immediately broadcast a public address announcement to all classrooms in case of an emergency.

The school administration has contracted with a uniformed security officer, who is present on the grounds from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., Monday through Friday, and from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Once the entire campus is completed, there will only be two main entrances and exits to the campus, which will aid in the control and management of the campus facilities for both school staff and law enforcement.

## 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

## Unfunded Stormwater Mandate Will Have Severe Consequences for Residents



New rules provide negligible environmental benefit.

At a projected cost of \$1,400 per household per year for 20 years, new stormwater rules recently adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board will have sweeping negative impacts on the lives of just about everyone in San Gabriel, unless modified or overturned by the State Board.

The rules in question, adopted by the L.A. Board last December, require Southland cities to spend billions of dollars on programs designed to help clean up our water. The problem is, the Board failed to conduct the necessary cost-benefit analyses to see what the actual cost would be, and if the new regulations would even work.

A study commissioned by the State of California, however, determined that the

new rules would cost about \$54 billion in capital expenditures alone, plus another \$198 million per year in operating costs. The study concluded this would translate to an increase in the annual property tax bill by up to 70%.

And the executive officer of the L.A. Board publicly conceded it would take years before any environmental benefit would be achieved, if at all.

The San Gabriel City Council is understandably concerned about how this will affect families in San Gabriel. If the rules are not modified, the City will be required by law to implement them. And short of a massive tax increase — not a popular alternative — the only way to pay for the programs will be to divert funds previously allocated to essential public services such as police and fire protection. Not only will this mean a loss of jobs in those departments, but it could also seriously compromise public safety in general — all for programs that are unlikely to have more than a minuscule environmental benefit, if any.

Make no mistake — the City is firmly committed to improving water quality, and has already undertaken significant steps to achieve that goal. But this unfunded mandate isn't likely to make the water any cleaner, and it will come at a terrible price.

San Gabriel is among many Southland cities that have appealed these costly, ineffective rules to the State Water Resources Board. A decision is expected to be announced by late summer or early fall of this year. Meanwhile, through participation with other cities in the Coalition for Practical Regulation, San Gabriel is working to raise awareness of this situation among the general public and enlist the support of public officials who may be able to help us achieve our goal.

To find out how you can help, or for more information about this important issue, log on to the Coalition for Practical Regulation's website, [www.citiessavejobs.com](http://www.citiessavejobs.com), or call, toll-free, 1-800-344-8411.

## shortTAKES

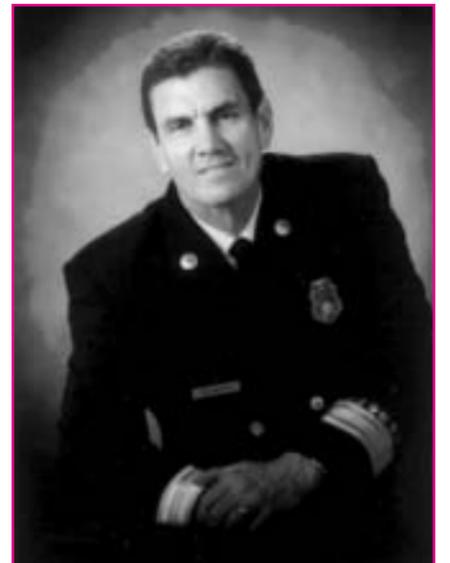
### San Gabriel Wins \$56,000 Grant

The City of San Gabriel has been awarded funds to help fund the Mission District Specific Plan from the State of California's Department of Housing and Community Development "Downtown Rebound Planning Grant" program. The total amount of this grant is \$56,000. The plan is the result of a day-long walking program last fall that gathered stakeholders together to create a new and inspiring vision for the future of San Gabriel's greatest historic neighborhood.

The purpose of this program is to fund local planning for infill housing and adaptive reuse of commercial and industrial space. The grant was submitted on January 15. San Gabriel's application was one of eight recommended for funding out of 37 planning grant applications received by the state. The next steps are to finalize the contract with the state for the funding and begin the Mission District Specific Plan.

The Mission District Specific Plan will facilitate continued revitalization of this historic area by involving district stakeholders and taking proactive steps in addressing the Mission District's short and long-term goals. For more information, please contact Erlinda Romo at (626) 308-2800, ext. 733.

### New Fire Chief Appointed



Fire Chief Joseph B. Nestor

Joseph B. Nestor is the City of San Gabriel's new fire chief! He succeeds I.W. Sweet, who recently retired from the San Gabriel Fire Department after 30 years of service.

Chief Nestor comes to San Gabriel from the Pasadena Fire Department where he has worked since 1972. He holds a degree in fire science from Pasadena City College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in management and organizational behavior from the University of La Verne.

Chief Nestor started his career as a firefighter and worked his way through the ranks, serving as firefighter, paramedic, captain and battalion chief. During his career with the Pasadena Fire Department, Chief Nestor also served as the City's disaster preparedness coordinator, fire marshal and Fire Department liaison to the Tournament of Roses and the Rose Bowl. He represented the Pasadena Fire Department with the Verdugo Fire Communications Center, a central dispatch center for nine cities including San Gabriel.

### Kid's Day, Penny Carnival

The 2nd Annual Kid's Day celebration will be held Sunday, August 4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Smith Park. This summer, Kid's Day will begin with the summer playground program's most popular special event, the Penny Carnival.

Kids of all ages (that includes parents and older family members) can try their luck at a variety of challenging game booths, attempting to win candy and small prizes. Also included in the penny carnival will be a dunk tank where local celebrities offer an inviting target to the carnival visitors. Bring a bag full of change and join us for this fun event.

Kid's Day is sponsored by the City Council and is also made possible from community donations.

## The San Gabriel Grapevine

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

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](http://www.sangabrielcity.com)

## Paramedics Receive Training for Weapons of Mass Destruction



All communities are vulnerable to incidents involving terrorism. Nearly all of these communities contain high-visibility targets, usually situated along heavily traveled routes with easy access. Many communities may also have manufacturing and testing facilities. Other examples of locations that may become targets for criminal or terrorist activities include:

- ✘ Public transportation
- ✘ Public buildings
- ✘ Mass-transit systems
- ✘ Places with high economic impact
- ✘ Telecommunications facilities
- ✘ Places with historical or symbolic significance

San Gabriel's paramedics have recently completed a training program developed by the U.S. Department of Justice entitled, 'Emergency Response to Terrorism.' This course is required for all paramedics in Los Angeles County and outlines methods for life-saving procedures that will help prevent further loss of life during a chemical or biological attack.

In addition to this course, the San Gabriel Fire Department has access disaster caches to help victims of a nerve gas attack, cyanide poisoning and other possible acts of terrorism.

For more information, please contact the San Gabriel Fire Department at (626) 308-2886.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

Chamber Mixer  
5:30-7:30 pm  
Chamber Office  
620 West Santa Anita Street

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Chamber Mixer  
5:30-7:30 pm  
San Gabriel Mission High School  
254 South Santa Anita Street

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Chamber Golf Tournament  
Brookside Golf Course  
Pasadena

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Chamber Mixer, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Joint Organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, Women's Division, Coordinating Council) at Autunno, 409 South Mission Drive