

news and views from our town

POSTAL CUSTOMER
SAN GABRIEL • CA

San Gabriel

Grapevine

SUMMER 2008 VOLUME 12 • ISSUE VII

www.sangabrielcity.com

San Gabriel Joins Cities Nationwide For America's Night Out Against Crime



Neighbors will gather together on August 5 with McGruff to take a bite out of crime

Grilling and eating hot dogs and burgers, exchanging desserts, painting kids' faces, and meeting with City officials, police, fire and military personnel — the community is getting ready for a fun and rewarding evening on Tuesday, August 5. That's when neighborhoods throughout San Gabriel will again join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the 25th anniversary of National Night Out (NNO) crime/drug prevention event. This marks the 14th year that San Gabriel will participate.

From 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. residents in neighborhoods throughout San Gabriel will lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with their neighbors. Many Neighborhood Watch groups throughout San Gabriel will be hosting block parties, cookouts, and other activities.

Neighborhood Watch is one of the most popular programs in San Gabriel, and National Night Out has become a tradition in which Neighborhood Watch groups help give crime a going away party.

"Between our busy work schedules and kids activities, many of us spend a majority of our time outside the home," said Crime Prevention Officer Alex Acosta. "When we are home, we're either in front of the TV, computer, or in our back yards hidden from our neighbors behind fences. We become more vulnerable to crime by not seeing, knowing or noticing what is normal in the neighborhood. The Neighborhood Watch program and National Night Out help raise our awareness," added Acosta.

Be a part of Neighborhood Watch and, on August 5, step out onto your front yard as a Neighborhood Watch group, pull out a few chairs and encourage your neighbors to join.

"National Night Out is an extraordinary way to build neighborhood unity and strengthen police-community partnerships. Neighbors meet neighbors, and citizens and local law enforcement have the opportunity to strengthen their relationships," said Police Chief David A. Lawton.

If you would like to join Neighborhood Watch and participate, please contact the San Gabriel Police Department Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846. Remember, a safer neighborhood starts with you!

"Be a part of your Neighborhood Watch and, on August 5, step out onto your front yard as a Neighborhood Watch group, pull out a few chairs and encourage your neighbors to join"

Library Reopens

After an extensive renovation, the San Gabriel Library opened on July 7 with a new floor plan: restrooms accessible for individuals living with disabilities; self-check machines for faster customer service; new paint, carpet, and tiles; and new landscaping and parking lot improvements. The most notable difference is the new elevator providing improved access to the second floor community room. A quiet, cozy reading area created in memory of former San Gabriel Mayor Chi Mui is another new feature.

The San Gabriel Library is located at 500 S. Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel, and staff can be reached at (626) 287-0761. The library is open Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A special Grand Re-Opening Celebration for the community is planned for September 15 at 10 a.m.

"A quiet, cozy reading area created in memory of former San Gabriel Mayor Chi Mui is another new feature"



For additional information, please call (562) 940-8415 or visit the County Library web site at www.colapublib.org.

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

Tough Budget Decisions and the City of San Gabriel's Utility Users' Tax

As you may have heard, the City of San Gabriel is facing difficult budget decisions. Tax revenues have decreased and we are expecting reductions in State funding.

San Gabriel is expecting over \$1.8 million in maintenance and city improvement projects in 2008-2009 alone for which no funding exists. Many of these projects include street paving and repair, and maintenance of City facilities and public areas. The City is also facing an ongoing \$600,000 budget shortfall that cannot be adequately addressed by existing fund reserves.

In order to maintain current service levels, additional funding is needed.

After careful consideration, the City is proposing an update and modest increase of the existing Utility Users' Tax.

San Gabriel currently assesses a 6% Utility Users' Tax (UUT) on electric, gas, water and telephone communication services. The UUT provides \$3.6 million per year for City services, such as police, fire and paramedic emergency response, and parks and recreation activities. This represents almost 15% of the General Fund. The UUT has been in place since 1992 and was reauthorized by voters in 2002.

Recent changes in federal law have made portions of the UUT ordinance out of date and up to \$1.3 million in General Fund revenues may be subject to a legal challenge. An update of the City's UUT ordinance will ensure it's compliant with federal law, is properly applied, and reflects changes in modern communication technology.

By law, any change to a tax ordinance must be authorized by voters. In July, the San Gabriel City Council voted to place a measure on the November 2008 ballot to update and increase San Gabriel's Utility Users' Tax (UUT) from 6% to 8%.

If approved by voters, these funds will be used to complete scheduled street repair, paving, maintenance, and infrastructure projects, and to maintain current City service levels.

For more information on San Gabriel's budget, Utility Users' Tax or City services, please contact the City Manager's office at (626) 308-2803 or email: SGInfo@sgch.org.

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



Upcoming Events at the Mission Playhouse

Music! Dance! Theater!

MONDAY, JULY 28, 6:30 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre presents *The Monday Night Cabaret – Broadway at the Playhouse*
Dinner and show on stage, featuring the music of Broadway.
For info/tickets call (626) 282-1440
www.sgvmusictheatre.org

SATURDAY, AUG. 2, 7 p.m.

Moonlight Attractions
5th Annual Mexico, Magia, y Encuentro
Mariachi Performance
For info/tickets call (323) 269-3561
www.moonliteattractions.com

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6, 8 p.m.

Hanyi Inc presents
The Z-Way Concert
For info/tickets call (562) 921-3020
www.hanyiinc.com

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 6 p.m.

San Gabriel Ballet Folklorico
For info/tickets call (213) 804-8683

THURS./FRI., OCT. 2-3, 10 a.m.

East L.A. Classic Theatre and the City of San Gabriel presents
Zoot Suit "Romeo & Juliet"
Professional theatre for young people.
Call your local school district to confirm participation. Tickets not available to general public.
For info/tickets call (213) 300-5871
www.eastlaclassic.org

WEEK OF OCT. 6

Morning performances
Children's Theatre Experience presents
Theatre for Young People
For info/tickets/show times call
(800) 514-2787

SUNDAY, OCT. 12, 2 p.m.

San Gabriel Chinese Opera
For info/tickets call (626) 576-5055

SAT., OCT. 18, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

SUN., OCT. 19, 2 p.m.
The Liaoning Ballet
For info/tickets call (626) 292-1097
www.sino-china.com

FRI., OCT. 24, 7 p.m.

East Los Angeles College presents
Let's Dance Company
For info/tickets call (323) 265-8740

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



Caring for the San Gabriel Mission

The San Gabriel Mission is an important cultural resource not only to our City, but regionally and statewide. Recently the Catholic Church submitted plans to the City for restoration work. According to Martin Weil, the City's historic preservation architect, the church has retained Melvyn Green and Associates to do the plans, and California Restoration and Waterproofing to perform the work, outlined as follows:

- Repair exterior stucco on the south and east walls.
- Repair interior stucco on the north and south walls.
- Repair exterior windows.
- Repair the roof drain and design a new scupper that will keep water away from the building, causing the stucco to deteriorate because of rising damp.

Recognizing both the importance of the work and the significance of the resource, the City has requested that the contractor, as part of the job, salvage samples of the existing plaster so that it can be archived. The contractor has also been asked to test the plaster (incompatible successive applications of plaster material lessen the life of the repair work), and provide details on how the stucco will be mixed and the right texture achieved so that future repair efforts will have a useful recipe for their work.

The City provided expedited review and issued all of the permits in time for the church to make use of a grant. For more information, please contact Carol Barrett at (626) 308-2806, ext. 4624, cbarrett@sgch.org.

Mary Cammarano Named Outstanding Older American

This year's 'Outstanding Older American' has devoted more than 40 years to serving the City of San Gabriel. Moving here in 1964 with her family, Mary immediately became involved with the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League, PTA and American Field Service.

Mary also served 16 years on the City Council, including three terms as Mayor, and since her "retirement" from public office, she has given even more time to community organizations. She is the recent past president and currently serves on the board of the San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre, bringing live performances to the historic Mission Playhouse. She is vice president of the San Gabriel Historical Association – not only planning the programs, but providing homemade lasagna for annual fundraising dinners.



"Mary served 16 years on the City Council, including three terms as Mayor"

Other significant community service activities include:

- Board Member of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce and La Casa de San Gabriel.
- Member of Coordinating Council where her special project is the Christmas Baskets for Seniors, supervising grocery shopping, packing and delivery of the baskets to over 35 older people to make their holidays brighter.
- Past president of the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce.
- Past president of Kiwanis, working behind the grills at the Pancake Breakfast.
- San Gabriel Mission docent, lay reader, co-chairman of the Birtus training committee and member of the Finance Council.
- Board member of the American Heart Association, YMCA, American Red Cross, San Gabriel Valley Medical Center and Italian Catholic Federation.
- 1983 Woman of the Year by the Women's Division.
- 1997 Woman of the Year in the 29th Assembly District.

It's not just her extensive community service that sets Mary apart—it's the integrity, passion, commitment and warmth that she brings to each task that makes her truly amazing!



Summer Safety Tips

Summer is the time for outdoor activities and fun in the sun! The San Gabriel Fire Department encourages residents to use care when enjoying outdoor activities during the summer and offers these tips to keep summer-safe:

• **BARBECUE GRILLS:** Keep children away from grills and lighter fluid. Don't leave grills unattended while lit and keep a fire extinguisher nearby. If someone gets burned, run cool water over the burn for 10 to 15 minutes. Cover the burn loosely using dry, sterile dressings or a clean cloth. Do not use butter or a salve on burns. If you receive a serious burn, seek medical attention immediately.

• **POOLS:** Never leave children unattended in or around pools or spas. Locking doors, windows and self-closing, self-latching gates on fences surrounding the pool will limit access to the pool or spa area. Latches should be above the reach of children. Keep rescue equipment near the pool area.

• **EXPOSURE TO THE SUN:** Protect your skin from excessive exposure to the sun (especially between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and use a sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15.

• **HEAT CRAMPS:** These are muscle pains and spasms caused by heavy exertion, which triggers loss of water through heavy perspiration. To relieve cramps, press on the cramping muscles or use gentle massage. Take sips of water unless nausea occurs.

• **HEAT EXHAUSTION:** This is a mild form of shock marked by heavy sweating, weakness, cold and clammy skin, a weak pulse, fainting and vomiting. Immediately move to a cool place. Loosen clothing and apply cool, wet cloths; continue taking sips of water unless nausea occurs. If vomiting occurs, seek medical attention. Brief exposure to extreme heat can precipitate this condition in very young children and the elderly.

• **HEAT STROKE (SUNSTROKE):** Heat stroke is life threatening and requires immediate medical attention. This occurs when your body's ability to sweat has stopped and your body temperature rises so high that it may cause brain damage and/or death in less than 10 minutes, unless medical help is immediate. Symptoms include hot, red and dry skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; and rapid, shallow breathing. If you notice any of the above symptoms in yourself or another person, immediately call for emergency medical services. While waiting for emergency personnel, take the following steps to care for the individual:

1. Move the individual to a cool environment.
2. Remove the person's clothing.
3. Cool the person in a tub of cold water; cover the person with a wet sheet and turn a fan or air conditioning on high, or sponge the person with cool water in an attempt to lower the body temperature.
4. If you have ice packs or cold packs, place them on each of the victim's wrists and ankles, in the armpits and on the neck to cool the large blood vessels.

If you have any questions regarding summer safety tips or any other information, please contact the San Gabriel Fire Prevention Bureau at (626) 308-2883.

Welcome to eServices

Visit the City's Website to Access the Community Development Department's Web Page

At the City of San Gabriel, we pride ourselves on being open for business from any place and at any time. Through the City's website, www.sangabrielcity.com, residents, businesses and visitors can get the latest information about City services and current projects, meetings, register for classes on-line, access articles translated in to Chinese and/or Spanish, and learn more about City departments and the services they provide.

We invite you to visit the City's website and discover San Gabriel's Community Development Department. Whether it's protecting the fragile historical resources that make San Gabriel unique, planning for its future, servicing and improving its infrastructure, or promoting San Gabriel's economic development, the Community Development Department is your source for information, activities and services that build a stronger community.

Visit the City's Community Development web page at www.sangabrielcity.com, click on 'City Services' and then 'Community Development'. With this page and the links provided, you have the ability to download application forms and materials, connect with organizations and services, and find useful information about all aspects of San Gabriel's built environment. And if there is anything you need but can't find here, just give us a call at (626) 308-2800, ext. 4629.

A Summer of Fun...for Everyone!



The City of San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Department has fun summer activities for kids of all ages! We kicked off the summer with San Gabriel's Kid's Day and 4th of July Parade. Over 1,000 kids, families and community organizations participated in the parade through the historic Mission District and enjoyed free Kid's Day activities and a BBQ in Plaza Park.

The City also offers swim classes for all ages, youth activities at parks and playgrounds citywide, and youth and adult trips. Summer time is the perfect time to get out of the house and visit Smith Park, 232 W. Broadway, or Vincent Lugo Park at the intersection of Wells and Ramona Streets for a picnic or family celebration.

The Parks & Recreation Department aims to promote health and wellness and provide community-building and recreational activities for our residents. We encourage you to enjoy the benefits derived from our programs and parks, which provide something of value to everyone.

Please stop by the Parks & Recreation Office at 250 S. Mission Drive or call (626) 308-2875 for more information.

Four Development Projects Underway in Mission District

Four large development projects are now underway in San Gabriel's historic Mission District along with improvements to the Alameda Corridor East.



400-412 W. Mission Road



130 S. Mission Drive



235 S. Arroyo Drive and 35 Hampton Court



261 S. Mission Drive

Leading the way is the Mission Gardens project at 400-412 W. Mission Road. The first new project approved under the Mission District Specific Plan, completion is expected at the end of this year. Elegantly designed in the traditional Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style, 22 courtyard residential town home style units surround gracious courtyards on a 1.37-acre site located at the southeastern gateway to the Mission District. Nearby Mission Road, Anderson Way, and Main Street will all benefit from streetscape improvements.

Next in line for construction is the three-story mixed-use development at 130 S. Mission Drive. This project will have approximately 5,200 sq. ft. of retail commercial space on the ground floor and 11 residential condominium units on a 0.45-acre site. Also designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style, this building will be a handsome addition to the Mission District.

The Arroyo Village Senior Community at 235 S. Arroyo Drive and 35 Hampton Court is planned for a 75-unit, senior residential condominiums on a 1.4-acre site. This project lies to the west of the Alhambra Wash, and includes a vehicle and pedestrian bridge across the Wash to provide access. The units would be housed in two connected buildings, one with five floors of living units and the other with four; designed in an attractive Spanish Colonial architectural style. Each market-rate unit is two-bedrooms, to be occupied by residents 62 years of age and older. Resident amenities would include social halls on each floor; a vegetable garden, and pedestrian access to Hampton Court to reach shopping and transportation on Las Tunas Drive/Main Street.

Another exciting Mission District project is the Mission Village project at 261 S. Mission Drive. Working with the City to purchase an under-utilized park-and-ride lot, the developer has proposed a Spanish Colonial style boutique hotel with retail and restaurant space on the ground floor. The project will also contain residential condominium units. A draft environmental impact report is in preparation and will be considered when the project is heard by the Planning Commission.

In addition to these projects, the railroad tracks are also being improved in the Mission District under a project awarded to the Alameda Corridor East Authority called "Gateway to America."

For information about these development projects in the Mission District, contact Associate Planner Grace J. Song at (626) 308-2806, gsong@sgch.org.

Security Window Bars – Make Way for Escape

The City of San Gabriel has established specific safety measures for security window bars that are designed to prevent fire fatalities. Municipal Code section 150.217 states:

"Every person who owns, operates, or maintains any hotel, apartment house, or dwelling on which security bars, grills, or screens exist, or are hereinafter installed, shall install or modify the security bars, grills, or screens so that the same are removable or can be opened from the inside of the building without the need of a key, tool, or excessive force. When in the removed or open position, the net unobstructed open area shall not be less than that which would exist if such bars, grills, or screens were not in place. The provisions of this section shall apply only to the exterior doors and one window at least 5.7 square feet in size located in each bedroom or other room utilized for sleeping purposes; or as set in the California Building Code; Section 1026.2, exception."

A fire will usually spread before the occupants are aware of the problem and normal exit channels will most likely be blocked, triggering the need for another exit for escape.

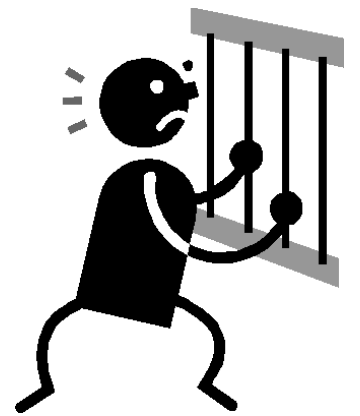
Requirements for window opening dimensions are a minimum of 20" width x 24" height with a maximum 44" sill height. These dimensions not only allow occupants to safely exit in the event of a fire, but enable firefighters to enter with full rescue equipment. It also gives firefighters enough room to place a ladder within the opening.

Both the Building Division & Fire Department have recently completed a survey of the City identifying structures that have security bars on the windows.

Staff will soon be notifying residents that a courtesy inspection will be conducted to verify proper operation. In the event corrections are required, time will be granted for repairs and a re-inspection performed to enhance the safety of residents.

To learn more about security window bar installation & code compliance contact Senior Building Inspector Evan Zeisel at (626) 308-2806, ext. 4627 or ezeisel@sgch.org.

"A fire will usually spread before the occupants are aware of the problem and normal exit channels will most likely be blocked, triggering the need for another exit for escape"



Fire Department Offers CERT Training

The San Gabriel Fire Department will be offering a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course at Fire Department Station 51, 1303 S. Del Mar Ave. in San Gabriel. The course is slated to be held every Saturday morning at 9 a.m., with the first basic course scheduled for Saturday, August 2.

A CERT member is someone trained to prepare for and respond after a disaster in their neighborhood. Groups of 10 or more comprise a team and team training is preferred but not required. The basic course content includes those components to get the team started and capable of performing basic CERT functions.

Each member must complete four, four-hour classes, to become certified. Topics covered include disaster preparedness, team organization, medical operations, damage assessment, disaster simulation, fire suppression, and light search and rescue. Classes are scheduled to accommodate the needs of each team and are available on Saturday.

For more information, please call Dennis Barwick at the San Gabriel Fire Department, (626) 308-2880. Also, log on to www.cert-la.com, www.fema.gov/emi/cert and www.sangabrielcity.com for additional resources.



CERT members receive extensive training to prepare for disasters in their neighborhood

City & School Board Meetings

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

SAN GABRIEL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REFER TO WWW.SGUSD.K12.CA.US
FOR LIST OF 2008 BOARD MEETINGS

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

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
1ST MONDAY
7:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, AUG 20
Chamber Mixer, 6 p.m.
Mueller Realty
320 West Las Tunas Drive

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17
Chamber Mixer, 6 p.m.
Location TBA

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15
Chamber Mixer, 6 p.m.
Location TBA

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

The San Gabriel Grapevine

SAN GABRIEL CITY COUNCIL
Harry L. Baldwin, Mayor
Juli Costanzo, Vice Mayor
David R. Gutierrez, Councilmember
Albert Y.M. Huang, Councilmember
Kevin B. Sawkins, Councilmember

P. Michael Paules, City Manager
Eleanor K. Andrews, City Clerk
John Janosik, City Treasurer

Neal Leavitt, Editor
Workhorse Creative, 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 más 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.

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

These icons direct readers to the City's website for articles translated into Chinese and Spanish.



City of San Gabriel
www.sangabrielcity.com

Celebrate San Gabriel's Place in History – Join the Walk to Los Angeles

Become part of San Gabriel and Los Angeles' shared, living history! Wake up and celebrate San Gabriel's place in history by joining the 6 a.m. Walk to Los Angeles on Monday, September 1st.

Beginning at San Gabriel Mission, walkers head west for nine miles along Mission Road to be welcomed in Los Angeles at El Pueblo Historical Monument at Olvera Street. The Walk takes approximately three hours to complete, and public transportation is available to bring walkers back to San Gabriel.

Los Angeles' founding came ten years after San Gabriel Mission was founded in 1771 as the fourth mission established in the Franciscan chain of 21 California missions. A key chapter in California history, the Walk reenacts Los Angeles' 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.

Uniting our wonderfully, diverse community, the Walk recognizes and celebrates the contributions of the people and events that shaped our great

City. San Gabriel Birthplace of the Los Angeles Region, really has something to be proud of.

This year, the Walk to LA follows the Mission's three-day "237th La Fiesta de San Gabriel" from Friday, August 29 through Sunday, August 31. Everyone is invited to take time over the Labor Day weekend to join the thousands of people to enjoy the Mission's Fiesta, and view the beautiful mission grounds, museum and gift shop.

For information about the Walk to Los Angeles, call (213) 485-8372. For information about the Mission's 237th Fiesta celebration, contact Algis Marciuska at (626) 457-3034.

"The Walk takes approximately three hours to complete, and public transportation is available to bring walkers back to San Gabriel"



Get Green!

Looking for ways to improve your life, City streets and the environment? Here are some tips on how to cut down on 'waste' – be it paper or a-hem . . . pigeon droppings!

HOW TO GET RID OF JUNK MAIL

Much of the unsolicited junk mail stuffing our mail boxes is coordinated through the Direct Marketing Association (DMA). DMA's Mail Preference Service is the Official Mail Preference Service for the Catalog and Direct Marketing community, supported by the United States Postal Services. To remove your name from mailing lists, telemarketing or e-mail lists, etc., visit their website at www.dmachoice.org or send a letter or post card to:

Mail Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
Box 643
Carmel, NY 10512

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE PIGEONS

You can help keep neighborhoods and businesses safe and clean and the pigeon population under control by not feeding pigeons.

Pigeons are not migratory birds. They live in urban areas and when humans feed pigeons, their population explodes. Not only do nests become overcrowded and baby pigeons become sick, a large feral pigeon population is a health hazard and creates many problems in the City.

Pigeon droppings and dirty public spaces do costly damage to buildings and can spread diseases. Their nesting materials block drains, harbor parasites like bird mites, and pigeon food makes a mess and attracts rats.

When you feed pigeons, you're not doing them a favor. They lose their natural ability to scavenge and survive on their own. Over population leads to overcrowded, unsanitary conditions, and produces sick and injured birds. A smaller flock is healthier and does less damage. Keep pigeons healthy, and streets, parking lots and businesses free from pigeons and pigeon droppings. Let pigeons find their own food – they know how!

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



McGruff's



PAW PRINTS

S.G.P.D.

First Line of Defense Against Crimes of Opportunity

A crime consists of three elements: opportunity, desire and ability. Crimes of opportunity include auto thefts and burglaries in which property is made easily available to the criminal. While you can't usually impact a criminal's desire or ability to commit a crime, you can often prevent an opportunity.

AUTO THEFTS

In 2007, there were 87 vehicles reported stolen in the City of San Gabriel. Of those, many of the vehicles were left running unattended in a driveway, parked in front of a home or business with the keys in the ignition, or the doors unlocked. It only takes a few seconds for someone to jump in the car and drive off.

BURGLARIES

In 2007, there were 134 residential burglaries in the City of San Gabriel. Many of the burglaries that occurred involved suspects unlawfully entering open residences or garages. Open garages, doors and windows can be invitations for criminals who believe you may have something of value.

DON'T BE TAKEN FOR A RIDE

Although the San Gabriel Police Department patrols your neighborhoods in an attempt to deter and apprehend individuals, residents constitute the first line defense against crimes of opportunity.

It's not possible to prevent every crime. But when you consider the percentages of no-force auto thefts, open garage doors and unsecured doors and windows in residential burglaries, you can see how a little prevention could go a long way. Don't make it easy for criminals.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The San Gabriel Police Department Crime Prevention Office recommends the following:

- Always close garage doors after use.
- Don't leave unattended property, such as bicycles, outside your residence.
- Lock vehicles when not in use – even in your driveway.
- Don't leave vehicles running unoccupied.
- Don't leave property in plain sight inside your vehicle, no matter where it is parked.
- Install alarms and/or "kill" devices in vehicles (kill switches shut off the engine).
- Know who belongs in your area and report suspicious persons/activities to the San Gabriel Police Department immediately.
- Keep your house well-lit at night to discourage would-be burglars.
- Keep records of serial numbers for valuables, such as stereos, bicycles and sports equipment in a safe place.

EDUCATION FOR SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS

For more information, please call the Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846 to see how you can start a Neighborhood Watch group on your street. Together we can make a difference in reducing crimes of opportunity!

