

news and views from our town

POSTAL CUSTOMER
SAN GABRIEL • CA

San Gabriel

Grapevine

WINTER 2007 VOLUME 11 • ISSUE 1

www.sangabrielcity.com

Lugo Park Master Plan Will Benefit Residents and Visitors



San Gabriel's Vincent Lugo Park is rich with history and imagination. Its future renovation, funded with the assistance of the Los Angeles and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, is a very exciting and significant project for the City.

The largest park in the City, Vincent Lugo Park has provided a wide variety of recreational experiences for residents in San Gabriel as well as local communities. A conceptual master plan study, presented to the City Council in November 2005, is the first comprehensive and environmentally sensitive plan in the park's 50-year history. The plan aims to provide new and updated park elements, creating additional recreational opportunities for youth and adults alike.

As the City develops its plans, new opportunities are presenting themselves that will enrich the park experience for residents and visitors alike. As part of the renovation program, the City is working with a newly formed resident group to assess opportunities to preserve the "creatures" of the Laguna de San Gabriel, commonly known as "monster park." These residents have helped research and

document both the structures and the gentleman whose creativity saw them take form on the playground.

The City is also working with safety, preservation, construction and environmental experts to determine how Laguna features can be incorporated, while still meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as current state and federal playground standards. The result will be a plan that better meets the needs of all park users.

Other components of the master plan will offer a variety of recreational and educational opportunities.

- **Recreation Features:** The addition of a pedestrian trail along the Alhambra Wash, a youth-sized sports field, a playground area with a water feature and a bandstand structure will provide enhanced active recreational experiences for the community.
- **Improved Facilities:** The renovation of the existing restroom structures and the replacement of the picnic structures will help to enhance the aesthetics of the park.
- **San Gabriel History:** In addition to the Laguna, other elements will include dry river beds, native landscaping, an outdoor classroom and a playground that tells the story of San Gabriel's history. These will provide invaluable educational opportunities, help show the importance of the Alhambra Wash as a watershed resource, and ensure a park that is unique to our community.

Each of these elements contribute to the City of San Gabriel's mission to provide quality recreational experiences by improving access to open space, connecting open space with trails, and involving the public through education and outreach programs.

For more information about this Lugo Park renovation project, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 308-2875.

Pavement Projects Will Help Improve City's Infrastructure

Two major pavement improvement projects in the City of San Gabriel will not only improve traffic flow, but also reduce pavement wear and tear.

The San Gabriel City Council has more than tripled the road repair budget for each of the last five years, and is now taking on selected projects that have prime interest to the community. Two of these are pavement improvement projects – San Gabriel Boulevard from Mission Road to Las Tunas, and Roses Road from Mission Drive to Del Mar Avenue.

The two projects, with total estimated costs of about \$4.75 million, are expected to be funded by a wide array of local, state and federal programs. Among these are SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act-Legacy for Users) and state Proposition C funds.

Key tasks/elements for both projects include:

- Removing/reconstructing selected pavement areas
- Grinding remaining pavement and replacing it with rubberized asphalt concrete
- Curb and gutter repair
- Gutter plate installation
- Driveway replacement as needed to improve pavement cross fall and drainage design

Rubberized asphalt will be used because it is a stronger, more durable pavement and is more environmentally friendly. The rubber it contains is recycled from used tires. The curb and gutter repair involves saw cutting broken, cracked or damaged sections, removing and replacing them with new concrete curbs and gutters. Lastly, the drainage improvements include reconstructing gutters where water may accumulate, reconstructing depressions around drainage catch basins, and constructing/improving the slope of the pavement from the centerline to the gutter on the roadway to help facilitate drainage flow off the roadways.

The contractor hired by the City will be required to develop and implement a comprehensive traffic control plan that keeps at least one lane in each direction open at all times. Residents and businesses will also be kept fully informed about the project with a series of flyers, bulletins posted on the City's web site (www.sangabrielcity.com), and a telephone hotline.

For more information on these projects, please call City Engineer Bruce Mattern at (626) 308-2806, ext. 4631, bmattern@sgch.org.

Come Join in the Volvo Chinese New Year Celebration

Entering its 16th year, the Annual Chinese New Year Event celebrates the "Year of the Boar." One of the most significant ethnic events in the region, the month-long celebration consists of an art exhibit, parade, and street festival on Valley Boulevard. The entire event is expected to draw over 50,000 attendees from throughout the San Gabriel Valley.



Kicking off the event will be the art exhibit that begins Feb. 1 and ends Feb. 28 at Alhambra City Hall. Renowned artists, using different medias, will be commissioned to illustrate the characteristics and spirit of the upcoming zodiac.

Hosted by the cities of Alhambra and San Gabriel, the parade will be held on Saturday, February 24. Volvo is the event's title sponsor. It will begin at the corner of Del Mar and Valley Boulevard and proceed west on Valley Boulevard ending at Almansor Street. Beautiful floats, school bands, an energetic performance of the long and winding dragon, as well as the lion dance with acrobatic martial arts, will embrace the spirit of the New Year. The parade will also reach thousands of people at home via live radio and television broadcasts.

The San Gabriel Unit of the parade will feature the City Council, the Gabrielino High School Marching Regiment, the San Gabriel Unified School District Board of Education members, and the Jefferson Middle School Marching Band.

Stretching over five city blocks, the Street Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Valley Boulevard, between Garfield Avenue and Almansor Street. There will be more than 200 booths consisting of several theme-oriented venues: Volvo Auto Square, HSBC Fortune Pavilion, AT&T Children Art workshop, a carnival and Magi food court. The festival will provide fun and a taste of the Asian tradition for the whole family. Admission is free. Be sure and stop by the City of San Gabriel booth and see the various department displays.

For more information about the Lunar New Year celebration and/or booth space, contact K & K Communications at (626) 284-1234 or visit www.lunarnewyearparade.com.



Upcoming San Gabriel Civic Auditorium Events

TUES-FRIDAY, JANUARY 23-26

East L.A. Classic Theatre and the City of San Gabriel presents "Much Ado About Nothing," Mariachi Style 10 a.m. Call your local school district to confirm participation. Tickets are not available to the general public. For info call (626) 308-2875

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

East L.A. Classic Theatre presents "Much Ado About Nothing," Mariachi Style 6:30 p.m. A gift to the citizens of San Gabriel – no admission charge. For info call (213) 572-0121

SAT. FEBRUARY 17, 7 p.m.

SUN. FEBRUARY 18, 2 p.m.

Pasadena Civic Ballet presents "The Wizard of Oz" For info/tickets call (626) 792-0873

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre presents "The Monday Night Cabaret – Broadway at the Playhouse" 6:30 p.m. Dinner/show on stage, featuring the music of Broadway. For info/tickets call (626) 282-1440

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Los Angeles County / Rio Hondo Department of Public Safety Police Academy Graduation 10 a.m. Admission by Academy issued ticket only. For info/tickets call (562) 692-0921, ext. 4255

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Theatreworks USA presents Theatre for Young People Junie B. Jones 10 a.m. Tickets are available at your local school district. For info call (800) 497-5007

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Hanyi Inc "The Z-Way Concert" 8 p.m. For info/tickets call (562) 921-3020

FRI/SAT, MARCH 9-10, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2 p.m.

Temple City High School Department of the Performing Arts "Oklahoma" For info/tickets call (626) 548-5000

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

Arcadia High School Invitational Show choir, "Pow Wow" 6:30 p.m. For info/tickets call (626) 821-1785

FRI/SAT MARCH 23-24, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2 p.m.

Shakespeare League of Pasadena "South Pacific". For info/tickets call (626) 281-6053

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

Temple City Department of Performance Arts Annual Band Concert, 7 p.m. For info/tickets call (626) 548-5000

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

Mariachi Heritage Society, 8 p.m. For info call (626) 279-2064

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

American Theatre Arts for Youth "Cinderella" 10 a.m. Tickets are available at your local school district. For info call (213) 563-3501

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

ECF International Chinese Dance Performance, 7 p.m. For info/tickets call (626) 374-0321

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

Theatreworks USA presents Theatre for Young People Cam Jansen 10 a.m. Tickets are available at your local school district. For info call (800) 497-5007

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

American Chinese Dance Association 7 p.m. For info/tickets call (626) 643-9434

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Esperanza Flores Dance Group 2 p.m. For info/tickets call (626) 914-0919

MONDAY, APRIL 23

Theatreworks USA presents Theatre for Young People "If You Give A Mouse A Cookie" 10 a.m. Tickets are available at your local school district. For info call (800) 497-5007

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 27-29

City of San Gabriel and the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce presents the annual City Birthday Celebration and Street Fair. Enjoy rides, entertainment, game and food booths, and fun for the entire family. All located in the historic San Gabriel Mission District.

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 8 p.m.

SAT. MAY 5, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

SUN. MAY 6, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The King and I" For info/tickets call (626) 282-1440

The San Gabriel Civic Auditorium 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 Hot Line, (626) 308-2868, for newly added events and performances. Unless indicated, all tickets are sold by the producing company presenting the event.

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

Newsletter Articles Available in Chinese, Spanish on City's Website

Since 1993, newsworthy City and community information has been communicated to the San Gabriel community through the City's quarterly newsletter, the *Grapevine*. To make the publication more appealing community-wide and to better communicate important issues with our diverse population, a pilot program has been implemented with this issue to occasionally provide key articles translated in to Chinese and Spanish on the City's website.

The icons displayed at the end of the English version of this story and other *Grapevine* stories will direct readers to the City's website www.sangabrielcity.com for the article translated in Chinese and/or Spanish. Copies of the translated articles are also available at San Gabriel City Hall, 425 S. Mission Drive. The pilot program will be reviewed following the summer 2007 publication to evaluate its success. For more information about the pilot 'translation' program, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact Administrative Services Manager Cynthia Smith at 626/308-2803 or csmith@sgch.org.

中文 español

中文及西班牙語言資訊即日起將可在市政府季刊網站上閱覽

自 1993 年起，許多聖蓋博市內的要聞及重要社區資訊，經市政發行出版的 "GRAPEVINE—葡萄籐" 季刊的發佈與市民分享。聖蓋博市內有來自多種不同文化背景的人口，為了使此季刊能夠帶給更多廣大市民更完善的服務，市政府將進行測試計劃，將不定時安排一些要聞翻譯成中文及西班牙文並刊登在市政府網頁上。當您在 www.sangabrielcity.com 網站上按下中文或西班牙語言的按鍵後，即可直接在網頁上閱讀這些市政資訊要聞。此外，您也可到市政廳來索取中文或西班牙文譯本。地址是：聖蓋博市政府 425 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel。2007 年夏季版後，市政府將會審核評估此中文及西班牙語言翻譯測試計劃是否有所成效。

若您想諮詢或知道更多有關中文及西班牙語言翻譯測試計劃內容，或有其他問題或意見，請聯絡行政服務經理-Cynthia Smith，電話 626-308-2803 或 E-mail Address: csmith@sgch.org。

中文 español

Artículos del Boletín Informativo disponibles en Chino y Español en el Sitio Web de la Ciudad.

Desde 1993, las informaciones de interés periodístico sobre la Ciudad y la comunidad han sido ofrecidas a la comunidad de San Gabriel a través del Boletín Informativo Trimestral, el *Grapevine*. Para hacer la publicación más atractiva para toda la comunidad, y para comunicar de mejor manera asuntos importantes a nuestra diversa población, se implementará un programa piloto que ocasionalmente proveerá, en el Sitio Web de la Ciudad, artículos importantes traducidos al Chino y al Español.

Estos íconos dirigirán a los lectores al Sitio Web de la Ciudad, www.sangabrielcity.com para los artículos traducidos al Chino y/o al Español. Copias de los artículos traducidos están disponibles en el Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de San Gabriel, 425 S. Mission Drive. El programa piloto será revisado después de la publicación del verano 2007 para evaluar su éxito. Para mayor información acerca del programa piloto de "traducción" o si tiene alguna pregunta o comentario, por favor contactar a la Gerente de Servicios Administrativos Cynthia Smith al 626-308-2803 o csmith@sgch.org.

中文 español

San Gabriel Searching for Super Senior

The City of San Gabriel, in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, is calling for nominations of older Americans to participate in the 42nd Annual Older Americans Recognition Day. The Parks and Recreation Department is asking for your input in the search for San Gabriel's Outstanding Older American.

This program is designed to seek out and honor older people who, after retirement, are still actively involved in serving others in the community. The purpose of this award is to encourage retired persons to remain active in mainstream community life. The criteria for the Outstanding Older American are:

- > Man or woman, age 60 or older
- > Has not been recognized with this award in previous years. Former award winners since 1990 are: Edward Lara (1990), Bill Bauld (1991), Daniel Dominguez (1992), Carmelita Mata (1993), Helen Kennedy (1994), Marian Brittingham (1995), Lynn Backus (1996), Marie Lopez (1997), Sarah Duncan (1998), Geri Reece (1999), Al Baker (2000), Carl Bonenberger (2001), Ellie Andrews (2002), Don Morrison (2003), Helen Hoffmann (2004), Harold Hansen (2005) and Philomena Tobin (2006).
- > Has performed outstanding volunteer service for the San Gabriel community



2006 Super Senior Philomena Tobin

Nominations should include the Older American's name, age, address, telephone number, and a typed or printed narrative description of the volunteer activities that would warrant this award. Nominations for this award will be accepted through Feb. 26.

Please send all information to: Older American Award, 250 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776. For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Office at (626) 308-2875.

Police Department Seeks Reserve Officer Applicants

The San Gabriel Police Department is currently seeking persons interested in becoming reserve police officers. Being a reserve police officer takes a dedicated, reliable and enthusiastic individual. The department would prefer to find applicants who have established careers in other areas of employment but are willing to volunteer time to their community. The department's ability to provide a high level of service to its citizens is positively affected by the active participation of the reserve police officer.

The responsibility of a reserve police officer varies greatly depending on assignment. Reserve officers are assigned to patrol in a single officer patrol unit or a two-officer unit depending on training and qualifications. Reserve officers are also called upon to assist specialized units, such as the Traffic Bureau and the Vice and Narcotics Unit.

All applicants are required to meet and pass the same pre-employment procedures as regular police officers. Only those applicants who meet the high ethical, moral and professional standards set forth by the department will be considered. Successful candidates will then be required to attend the Rio Hondo Police Academy. The academy class meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6 - 11 p.m. and alternate Sundays from 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Citizens wishing to be assigned to solo patrol assignments must attend the Level I module program, which consists of 730 hours of training. Those citizens who desire to ride and work along side another patrol officer during uniformed patrol assignments only require the Level II module program, which consists of 390 hours of training.

The reserve police officer program requires that each officer volunteer a minimum of 22 hours monthly, including the monthly training meeting, firearms qualifications and field duty. While providing a valuable service to their community, citizens will discover that the work of a reserve police officer is interesting, exciting and a worthwhile experience.

Applications may be obtained at the police facility, located at 625 South Del Mar Avenue or by contacting Sergeant Tony Hernandez, Reserve Unit Coordinator at (626) 308-2841.

中文 español



City Welcomes New Civic Auditorium Manager, Bids Farewell to Bill Shaw

It is always hard to say 'good-bye' to friends and co-workers, but especially difficult to bid farewell to someone as special and respected as Civic Auditorium Manager Bill Shaw.

A legend in the theatre business and with 28 years as the manager of the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, Bill retired effective December 30, 2006. While guiding the operations of the Civic Auditorium, making it the premier performing arts venue in Southern California, he served as co-founder and Artistic Director of the Music Theatre of Southern California. Through his talents, live musical theatre graced the stage of the Civic Auditorium for over 18 years.

After the 1987 Whittier Narrows earthquake, Bill worked with contractors, preservationists, restoration artists and city staff to return the 1,400-seat auditorium to its original beauty. He coordinated a comprehensive renovation of the theatre in 1994 and recently supervised the installation of new lighting and sound systems that provide audiences with a state-of-the-art theatrical experience.

Bill spearheaded capital campaigns for the renovation of the terrace box seating and \$100,000 restoration of the theatre's Wurlitzer Pipe Organ (currently in



process), he has also been instrumental in supporting educational programs to promote the arts and the City's rich history through San Gabriel area schools.

The City is indebted to Bill for a job well done and welcomes him into his new role of Artistic Director for the San Gabriel Valley Music Theater (SGVMT), a new organization bringing Broadway musicals back to the Auditorium's stage. SGVMT's 2006-07 season opened in November 2006 with *The Sound of Music*, which Bill directed. He is also scheduled to direct *The King and I* in May 2007.

Bill will always be a part of the Civic Auditorium and its guiding spirit.

At the Tuesday, October 3rd Council meeting, the City Council recognized and acknowledged Bill for his 28 years as the manager of the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, and it welcomed Anna Cross as the new Civic Auditorium manager. Anna comes to San Gabriel from UCLA where she has served as Theatre Rental Manager and Public Events Manager for Royce Hall and other performance venues on campus. Selected following a nationwide search, Anna brings experience in facility management, creative marketing and diverse programming, and she enjoys working with producers and artists from diverse backgrounds. Anna holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music with an emphasis in ethnomusicology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The City of San Gabriel wishes Bill a wonderful retirement and also extends a warm welcome to Anna!



Holiday Decorations Award Program

Over 20 nominations were received for the 2006 Holiday Decorations Award Program! On Dec. 12, a Selection Committee from the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce visited each nominated site. Three residential winners were selected based on originality, seasonal theme, and effort.

Winners were recognized and honored by City Council members, members of the Women's Division, and the San Gabriel Fire and Police Departments, on Dec. 18. Santa also took time off from his very busy schedule to visit and congratulate each winner! Winners received a Certificate of Recognition for their holiday spirit, a gift basket of special prizes, and a sign to temporarily display in their front yard.

And the winners are:

Rick of Circle Drive has always decorated every year, but this was the first year he didn't feel much like decorating. His mom, Josephine, recently passed away. But he thought about his young nephew and he thought about how much his mom loved the holidays. So, in honor of his mom, he went all out and spent three days putting up the decorations. "My mother and father bought this house in the early 1950's and gave us a wonderful life here," said Rick. "My mother would be thrilled about all of this. Winning this award was the icing on the cake!"

"It was really neat to win this award. Santa was a big hit with the neighborhood kids," said Rob of Alahmar Terrace. His mom, Vicki, came up with the idea to do a North Pole theme, but he wanted to go bigger than that. It took him several days to put up his display and it was well worth the effort! Rob and his family are long-time residents of San Gabriel.

Gerardo and Andrea of South Gladys didn't even know their holiday decoration display had been nominated but were thrilled when they found out they had won. Gerardo says he loves the holidays and enjoys decorating his home. He was delighted to receive his basket of gifts, and said he was going to frame his certificate!

This year the Women's Division also gave an Honorable Mention Award to the San Gabriel Police Department for their holiday spirit and participation in decorating the annex trailer which houses the Traffic Bureau, School Resource Officers and the Special Enforcement Team.

For more information on the Holiday Decorations Awards Program, please contact NIS Manager Rita Estrada at (626) 308-2806 ext. 4636 or restrada@sgch.org.



Northwest –
300 Block
Alahmar
Terrace



Southwest –
200 Block South
Circle Drive



Southeast –
900 Block
South Gladys
Avenue

Eleven City Employees Honored for Achievement

The City of San Gabriel's employees take great pride in their work, and are dedicated to serving the community.

To recognize employees for exceptional achievement, each year, the City of San Gabriel accepts nominations for outstanding employee contributions through the Employee Recognition Award Program. Nominations for recognition are made by the employees' subordinates, peers, supervisors or department head, and can also be initiated by employees outside the nominee's department.

Employees are honored and commended for achievement in Overall Work Performance, Leadership, Teamwork Excellence, Customer Service, Emergency Response and Innovation.

The City is pleased to introduce the following 2006 City of San Gabriel Employee Recognition Award winners to the community – and gratefully acknowledge their contributions to the City and the San Gabriel community.

Everyone in the City-family congratulates these outstanding employees.



Top Photo (Left to Right)
Award Winners for "Emergency Response"
(Top Row) **Police Officer Sunny Kim,**
Police Reserve Officer Richard Hsueh
and Police Sergeant Antonio Hernandez
(Bottom Row) **Police Officers Shanon**
Casillas, Eric Britt and John Salas



Bottom Photo (Left to Right)
Linda Tang - "Teamwork;" **Teresa Tena** -
"Customer Service;" **Fire Captain Bryan**
Frieders - "Overall Work Performance;"
Fire Captain Jeffrey Roy - "Leadership;"
Fire Engineer Newton Ong - "Innovation"

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
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 FEBRUARY 21

Chamber Mixer, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Asian Pacific National Bank
333 West Valley Boulevard

WEDNESDAY MARCH 21

Chamber Mixer, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
New Century Lincoln/Mercury
650 West Las Tunas Drive

WEDNESDAY APRIL 18

Chamber Mixer, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Mission 261
261 South Mission Drive

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

The San Gabriel Grapevine

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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

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City of
San Gabriel

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Much Ado About "Cultura"

East L.A. Classic Theatre (ECT) and the City of San Gabriel are proud to present the unique musical adaptation of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" – Mariachi Style at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium. Tony Plana, ECT's Executive Artistic Director and star of ABC Television Network's "Ugly Betty," directs the four student matinees, Tuesday through Friday, January 23-26 at 10 a.m., and a **FREE** Family/Community Performance on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 pm.

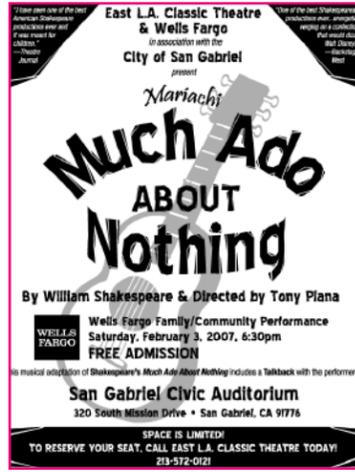
The play, set in early California following the great Battle of Puebla which is celebrated every year on Cinco de Mayo, has been adapted by Bert Rosario in collaboration with Jose Hernandez of Mariachi Sol de México®. This insightful interpretation of William Shakespeare's romantic comedy takes on some unusual racial and historical implications as Claudio and Benedick, two young Mexican soldiers triumphantly returning home in 1862, unexpectedly find themselves in love with two Anglo ladies, Hero and Beatrice. Along with engaging bilingual elements, the play features mariachi music.

Following the performances, fourth graders from the Alhambra, El Monte, El Rancho, Garvey, Monrovia, Montebello, Pasadena, Pico Rivera, San Gabriel and Whittier school districts are treated to tours of San Gabriel Mission.

The "Much Ado About Nothing" performances at the Civic Auditorium and mission tours were born from an exceptional non-profit/public partnership between ECT and the City of San Gabriel to assist schools in meeting the California State Board of Education's history and social science curriculum for 4th grade students.

The City's partnership with ECT began with a 2003 pilot program designed to educate and communicate San Gabriel's rich cultural heritage. A strong supporter of the arts, diversity and education, the City's participation in an annual event is an exciting venture, bringing theatre alive to nearly 7,000 San Gabriel Valley youth and families.

This special run of "Much Ado About Nothing" is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and Wells Fargo. For more information and ticket reservations for the free Family/Community Performance on Saturday, February 3, contact ECT at (213) 572-0121.



shortTAKES



San Gabriel's 'Egg'straordinary Spring Celebration

The 62nd Annual Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt, sponsored by the San Gabriel Kiwanis Club and the Parks and Recreation Department, will be held at Smith Park on Saturday, April 7. The morning's activities will get underway with the Pancake Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donation for breakfast is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 10.

The menu will be pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee or milk. The exciting Pancake Races will begin at 9 a.m. This popular event will include eight races for children and adults of all ages. Contestants will run 100 feet while trying to balance a pancake on a pancake turner. Local businesses have donated a variety of great prizes for the winners in each category. Participants must bring their own pancake turner.

The Spring Celebration will continue with the Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. Every boy and girl between the ages of 3 and 6 is invited to hunt for an egg at this free event. Come out and join us for this "egg'straordinary celebration!"

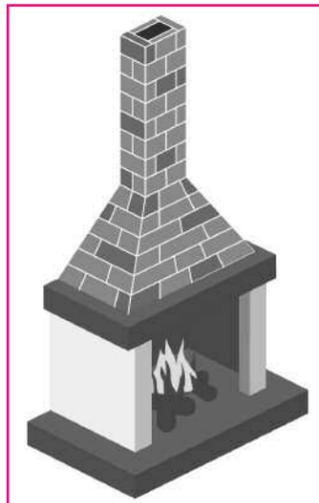
San Gabriel Fire Department Winter Safety Tips

The following safety tips can help you prevent fires from occurring in your home this winter:

WOOD STOVES AND FIREPLACES:

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize the fire hazard. To use them safely:

- Be sure the stove or fireplace is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces, proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces.



FURNACE HEATING:

- ✓ It's important that you have your furnace inspected to insure that it is in good working order.
- ✓ Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in good working order.
- ✓ Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.

OTHER FIRE SAFETY TIPS:

- ❖ Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in metal containers outside and well away from the house.
- ❖ Never use a range or an oven as a supplementary heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.

Of course, make sure every level of your home has a working smoke detector, and check the batteries at least twice year. For more information, please call the San Gabriel Fire Department's Prevention Bureau at (626) 308-2883.

Library Holds Photo Exhibition

The San Gabriel Library is hosting a photo exhibition featuring Taiwan folk customs beginning Saturday, Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. in the library's meeting room.

The exhibition comprises two main themes – scenic landscapes and folk customs. The former captures Taiwan's delicate natural paradise and includes forest resources, temperate, subtropical and tropical land features, mountains and canyons. Folk customs reflect the heart and spirit of the Taiwanese people and the rhythm of Taiwanese life.

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles provided the images, all taken by renowned Taiwanese photographers.

The San Gabriel Library is part of the County of Los Angeles Public Library. It is located at 500 Del Mar Ave. in San Gabriel. For additional information about the exhibition, please call the library at (626) 287-0761.

Wurlitzer Organ Given New Life

The Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ has been entertaining audiences at San Gabriel Civic Auditorium since 1972. Originally installed in New York's RKO Albee Theatre in the early 1920's, the magnificent organ was created to act as the voice of the silent films. Once the



talkies came into vogue, sadly, the behemoth music machines fell silent and their future was in doubt. Due to the efforts of local theatre organ enthusiasts, the Wurlitzer organ was donated to the City in the late 1960's and was restored by members of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Now, with a generous \$100,000 gift from Peter L. Crotty and the Peter Lloyd Crotty Charitable Fund, the famed organ is undergoing a complete restoration and upgrade. The console, which rises dramatically from the basement on a custom elevator, will be refinished, complete with new stop-tabs, re-finished keys, gold leaf trim and decorative ormolu ornamentation.

Along with new and rebuilt pipes, some no bigger than a pencil and others 32 feet in length, new voices will be added to the organ including a full rank of tuned sleigh bells. However, the most important change will be neither seen nor heard, as the original electro-mechanical relays will be replaced with a new computerized Uniflex Relay System. This improvement will guarantee that future generations will be able to enjoy the unique sounds of the mighty Wurlitzer.