

news and views from our town

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San Gabriel

Grapevine

WINTER 2008 VOLUME 12 • ISSUE V

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Firefighters Rise to the Challenge to Help Neighbors During Wildfires



The numbers are hard to fathom – during the October wildfires that ravaged Southern California, hundreds of thousands of people were forced to evacuate – about one out of every 31 people in the state were on the move! It was the largest peacetime evacuation in the history of the United States and the biggest since the Civil War. In San Diego County alone, about 13 percent of the county was burned, an area the size of New York City.



Pictured from left to right, Engineer Art Stafford, Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Fetner, Captain Derrick Doehler, and Firefighter Kirk Goltermann.

The San Gabriel Fire Department quickly sprang into action and assisted in the firefighting efforts. As part of the California Master Mutual Aid System, San Gabriel provides available resources to other cities, counties, and the state during emergencies such as the Southern California wildfires.

When the 'Buckweed' fire started at 1 p.m. on October 21 in Agua Dulce, Los Angeles County's Area C (comprised of the cities of Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, San Marino, San Gabriel, Alhambra, Monterey Park, Monrovia and Arcadia) was requested to send several strike teams.

San Gabriel's Fire Engine 52, stationed at 115 N. Del Mar, received an alarm that would

keep them out of the station, and away from their homes for the next nine days. On duty that day were Captain Derrick Doehler, Engineers Art Stafford and Dennis Barwick, and Firefighter/Paramedic Alex Robbins.

Engine 52 became part of an engine strike team that comprised teams from Burbank, Glendale and Alhambra that all worked in tandem until October 29.

The strike team reported to the staging center at Agua Dulce Airport for assignment, and was immediately sent to Sierra Highway at Soledad Canyon Road for structure protection. As night fell, the team was reassigned to Canyon Country, where homes were burning and threatened. On one residential street, they stopped a fire from consuming an already burning residence and saved two others that were threatened.

The following morning, the strike team was reassigned to the Saugus area to fight fires in a brushy area adjacent to a residential street (coincidentally, the street they were protecting was home to Captain Doehler). That evening, the strike team was reassigned to San Francisquito Canyon, where they added another home to their "saved" total.

For the next two days they remained in the area and did cold trailing and structure protection. Cold trailing is the labor intensive work involved in rooting out embers in stumps, burned bushes, and eliminating any and all possible sources of re-ignition in a burned area. In effect, it puts a clean dirt barrier between the burned area and the areas not yet involved.

Late Wednesday, October 24, the strike team was sent to Cedar Glen, at the eastern end of Lake Arrowhead, for action on the 'Slide' fire, where they were quartered at a Boy Scout camp outside of Cedar Glen. On Saturday, October 27, there was a partial changeover of crews assigned to the strike team; Firefighter/Paramedic Robbins and Engineer Barwick were replaced by Firefighter Kirk Goltermann and Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Fetner. In addition to cleaning fire breaks, the crews worked hose lines uphill and downhill to extinguish hot spots. These tasks are dirty, hot, and exhausting but absolutely necessary to gain final and complete extinguishment.

On Monday, October 29, the strike team was demobilized from the Slide fire. They were released early afternoon and Engine 52 arrived back at San Gabriel Headquarters around 4 p.m. Two of the Firefighters, Kirk Goltermann and Chris Fetner, were normally assigned to the shift on duty that day, so instead of going home, they continued the rest of their shift until 8 a.m. the next morning. Captain Doehler and Engineer Stafford went home, to the great relief of their wives.

San Gabriel's heroic firefighters didn't think twice about immediately volunteering to help other communities. The City salutes their superlative efforts!

Join the Chinese New Year Celebration



Entering its 17th year, the Annual Chinese New Year event celebrates the "Year of the Rat." One of the most significant ethnic events in the region, the month-long celebration consists of an art exhibit, parade, and the 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 began January 10 and ends on January 31 at Alhambra City Hall. The annual exhibit, with a new theme each year, serves as an official kick-off for the New Year celebration with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

This year's theme will be "Four Festivals of China" capturing the origins, legends and customs behind each particular festival. Modern celebrations for each festival will be depicted through photographs, combining traditional and contemporary forms of celebration.

Hosted by the Cities of Alhambra and San Gabriel, the parade will be held on Saturday, February 16. AT&T is the event's title sponsor. It will begin at the corner of Del Mar Avenue 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, Gabriellino High School Marching Regiment, San Gabriel Unified School District Board of Education members, and 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.

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 Chinese New Year celebration and/or booth space, contact K & K Communications at (626) 284-1234 or visit www.chinesenewyearparade.net.



2007 Winner Jack Vrtar

City Searching for that 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 43rd 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 a nominee who, after retirement, is actively involved in serving others in the community and exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism. Criteria for the Outstanding Older American are:

- Man or woman, age 65 or older
- Has performed outstanding volunteer service for the San Gabriel community
- Has not been recognized with this award in previous years. Former award winners since 1994 are: 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), Philomena Tobin (2006) and Jack Vrtar (2007).

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 February 25.

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



Upcoming Events at the Mission Playhouse

Music! Dance! Theater!

SATURDAY, JAN. 26, 8 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre presents "The Big Band Show"
Featuring the great music of the 30's and 40's
For info/tickets call (626) 282-1440

SATURDAY, FEB. 2, 8 p.m.

Jayvee Dance Studio presents "Spring Dance Recital"
For info/tickets call (626) 300-0178

SUNDAY, FEB. 3, 7 p.m.

ACCA presents "Chinese New Year Celebration - Year of the Rat"
For info/tickets call (626) 446-0917

WEEK OF FEB. 11

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

SAT/SUN., FEB. 23-24, 7 p.m. & 2 p.m.

Pasadena Civic Ballet "The Little Mermaid"
For info/tickets call (626) 792-0873

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27, 10 a.m.

American Theatre Arts for Youth "Wizard of Oz"
Tickets are available at your local school district.
For info/tickets call (215) 563-3501

THURS./FRI., FEB. 28-29, 10 a.m.

East L.A. Classic Theatre and the City of San Gabriel presents "Much Ado About Nothing" (Mariachi Style)
This is professional theatre for young people. Call your local school district to confirm participation. Tickets are not available to the general public.
For info/reservations call (213) 572-0121

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 8 p.m.

East L.A. Classic Theatre presents "Much Ado About Nothing" (Mariachi Style)
A gift to the San Gabriel community – free family performance!
For info/tickets call (626) 457-4600

FRI./SAT., MARCH 14-15, 7:30 p.m., SUN., MARCH 16, 2 p.m.

Temple City High School Performing Arts Department presents "Bye Bye Birdie"
For info/tickets call (626) 548-5000

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 6:30 p.m.

Arcadia High School Choral Competition Show Choir, "Pow Wow"
For info/tickets call (626) 821-1785

FRI./SAT., APR. 4-5, 8 p.m., SUN., APR. 6, 2 p.m.

Shakespeare League of Pasadena "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas"
For info/tickets call (626) 281-6053

SAT/SUN., APR. 12-13, 6 p.m. & 2 p.m.

Esperanza Flores Dance Group
For info/tickets call (626) 488-0761

MON./TUES., APR. 14-15, 10 a.m.

Theatreworks USA presents "Theatre for Young People"
Apr. 14 – "Henry & Mudge"
Apr. 15 – "Winnie the Pooh"
Tickets are available at your local school district.
For info call (800) 497-5007

SATURDAY, APR. 19, 7 p.m.

American Chinese Dance Association
For info/tickets call (626) 643-9434

SUNDAY, APR. 20, 4 p.m.

Mariachi Heritage Society presents "Mariachi Sol de Mexico, Mariachi Reyna, Jose Hernandez and Arturo Sandoval"
For info/tickets call (626) 279-2064

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, APR. 25-27

City of San Gabriel & Chamber of Commerce presents annual City of San Gabriel Birthday Celebration and Street Fair. Rides, entertainment, game & food booths. All located in the historic Mission District.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 8 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre
For info/tickets call (626) 282-1440

The Mission Playhouse (formerly 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. For changes and newly added performances go to www.missionplayhouse.org or call the Event Hot Line at (626) 308-2868.



Region Gears Up for Annual Rebuilding Day

The City of San Gabriel and Rebuilding Together-Central San Gabriel Valley will once again celebrate the spirit of giving and rebuilding together with the annual "Rebuilding Day" to be held on Saturday, April 19.

Rebuilding Together is the nation's largest non-profit community service organization that provides housing rehab assistance to elderly or disabled low-income homeowners so that they may continue to live in warmth, safety and independence.

Since 1999, San Gabriel has partnered with Rebuilding Together, which has renovated free of charge 23 homes of needy homeowners in the City. Donations come from corporations, individuals and others interested in building a better community. The labor force is made up entirely of volunteers, and the scope of work includes painting, roofing, electrical, carpentry, plumbing, and handicap modifications.

If you would like to know more about the services provided by Rebuilding Together or want to become involved, please contact them at (626) 287-2748.

Neighborhood Improvement Tips

San Gabriel needs your help! Make a difference in the look of our neighborhoods and help keep San Gabriel beautiful by reporting shopping carts that are being taken from shopping centers and left on nearby streets and sidewalks; following the guidelines for disposing of trash and debris, and by reporting graffiti.



Keep San Gabriel beautiful – report stray shopping carts

Follow these tips to help keep San Gabriel a community everyone can be proud of:

REPORT STRAY SHOPPING CARTS

Stray carts can cause accidents and create an unattractive and blighted appearance in the community. It is unlawful to remove a shopping cart from the premises of a retail establishment and to abandon it at another location.

If you see a stray cart, call toll free (800) 252-4613 and report the location of the cart and the name of the store, if available. This number operates 24 hours a day and is staffed by the California Shopping Cart Retrieval Corporation to assist in the removal of stray shopping carts from City streets.

GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSING TRASH AND DEBRIS

A City ordinance prohibits any person from dumping, disposing, or storing rubbish or debris on any property within the City. To maintain health and safety standards, the City has an exclusive contract with Athens Disposal for trash service. You can reach Athens Disposal by calling (626) 336-3636.

Follow these guidelines for disposing of trash and debris:

- Place all trash inside the trash containers, and double-bag all wet trash.
- Do not place hazardous wastes (including e-waste like televisions, computers and cell phones), liquids, construction debris, tires, or grease in trash containers.
- Keep trash container lids closed at all times. If a container has a lock, keep it locked.
- Do not fill trash bin above the top of the bin, and do not leave items outside the bin. Trash placed outside the containers will not be picked up.

Bulky and hard-to-handle items, such as mattresses and couches, will also be collected, at no extra charge on the same pickup day of each week for curbside service. However, if you have residential service, you must contact Athens Disposal 24 hours in advance to schedule a bulky item pickup. If you have bin service, you do not need to call in advance but all items must be placed inside the bin. Athens Disposal will not collect items left outside the bin.

It is also illegal to dump discarded items on public property. The San Gabriel Municipal Code requires that property owners and occupants maintain the public right-of-way adjoining their property free from rubbish and waste materials of all kinds.

GRAFFITI HOTLINE

If you see graffiti on private property, please help keep San Gabriel beautiful by reporting it as soon as possible to the Graffiti Control Systems' Hotline: (800) 794-7384. The Public Works Division will continue to remove graffiti on public property and rights-of-way. You can reach them at (626) 308-2825.

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

Cut and keep the list of phone numbers provided in the box below to help keep San Gabriel clean and neat. For more information on improving neighborhoods, call the Neighborhood Improvement Services division at (626) 308-2806, or visit the City's website at www.sangabrielcity.com.

California Shopping Cart Retrieval
(800) 252-4613

Athens Disposal
(626) 336-3636

Private Property: Graffiti Hotline
(800) 794-7384

Public Property: Public Works Division
(626) 308-2825

Neighborhood Improvement Services
(626) 308-2806

McGruff's



PAW PRINTS

S.G.P.D.

Don't Let Criminals Knock Your Block Off

Let the San Gabriel Police Department's Crime Prevention Office show you how to protect yourself and your neighbors against crime. Learn tips on how to protect your home, mark your belongings, what to do when you observe a crime, and how neighbors can help neighbors.

How many times has someone said, "I never thought it would happen to me! I saw some people taking things out of my neighbor's house, but I didn't know what to do."

"Neighborhood Watch is a program which enlists the active participation of citizens in cooperation with

the Police Department to reduce and prevent crime in our community," said Chief David A. Lawton. "Neighborhood Watch helps you learn how to protect your property and your neighbors' property. We cannot have an officer stationed on every street corner. That is why citizen involvement is essential in combating crime in the community, by acting as extra eyes and ears of law enforcement."

Talk to your friends and neighbors who share the same thoughts of helping to protect their neighborhood. To start a Neighborhood Watch group, contact the San Gabriel Police Department's Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846 and don't let criminals "knock your block off!"

Look for McGruff's paw prints in each issue of the Grapevine for information about crime prevention, safety and Neighborhood Watch program activities.



2007 Bell Award Winners Announced

Four San Gabriel locations have received Bell Awards for exceptional building design that promotes and improves the unique character of the City's residential and commercial neighborhoods. Named after the City's famous mission bells, the program is held every other year.

Evaluation criterion focused on eight design principles drawn from the City's commercial, single-family, and multi-family residential design guidelines: shelter, balance, rhythm, integrity, detail, substance, transition, and character.

There were four winning nominations this year. The categories and winners are:

New Commercial:

1026 E. Las Tunas Dr.
Architect: LCT Design

This building's eclectic style, with its vertical massing, tower element, pitched roofs, exposed rafter tails, and roof brackets convey a chalet character, offering a sense of uniqueness to Las Tunas Drive.

Commercial Remodel:

Longs Drugs Retail Center
102-120 N. San Gabriel
Owned by Jacobson Family Holdings



Formerly a bland commercial strip mall, this retail complex underwent a dramatic facelift. Key design elements include bold new paint colors, stone veneer columns, decorative wall lighting, and wrought iron details to make it truly one of the City's finest redevelopment projects.

New Multi-Family Residential:

1500 S. Del Mar Ave.
Architect: Alex Chang, AIA
Design Inspiration Group, Inc.

Influenced by Spanish architecture, this three-unit condo complex has creative design and vibrant colors. Attractive qualities of the project include its complementary proportions and building mass and decorative screen wall with a fountain that buffers the driveway/garages. Unique design details include nicely articulated recessed windows, clay roof tiles, and decorative corbels.

New Single-Family Residential:

1117 Montecito Ave.
Designed by T. Ping Hwang



Located in the San Gabriel Village, this single-family residence combines the use of stone veneer and an earth tone smooth stucco exterior as mass-softening elements. This home is both aesthetically pleasing and well incorporated into a neighborhood that is accommodating new contemporary homes.

The San Gabriel City Council recognized honorees at a meeting and reception on November 20. Advertisement and outreach for nominations for the next award program will be distributed and held in 2009.

For more information about the program, please call the Community Development Department, Planning Division at (626) 308-2806.

Holiday Decorations Award Program

The City's annual Holiday Decorations Award Program once again demonstrated how creative and innovative our citizens and businesses can be. Over 30 nominations were received and on December 13, a Selection Committee from the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce visited each nominated site. Four residential winners were selected based on originality, seasonal theme and effort expended.

Winners were recognized and honored on December 17 by City Council members, members of the Women's Division, and the San Gabriel Fire and Police Departments. Santa also took time off from his very busy schedule to visit and congratulate the winners. Each winner 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:

Residential:

Southeast: 1400 Block Charlotte St. Southwest: 1100 Block Ramona St.
Northwest: 1000 Block W. Roses Rd. Northeast: 700 Block Hunter Dr.

Commercial:

Executive Associates, Inc.: 330 E. Las Tunas Dr.
Mission Car Wash: 918 S. San Gabriel Blvd.

Federico of Roses Road was thrilled when he found out he had won. "I didn't even know there was a holiday decoration contest or that I had been nominated," he said.

Federico was delighted to receive his basket of gifts, and said he was going to frame his certificate!

Carol of Charlotte Street was so happy when she found out that her home was nominated for the program and that she was a winner.

"The kids will be so excited to see Santa," she said.

As family and friends gathered around Santa for a group photo, Anastasia from Executive Associates on Las Tunas Drive said, "We got into the spirit of holiday decorating for our children. This is wonderful!"

Sylvia and Dan of Mission Car Wash also were excited to be winners. Sylvia said she was happy that the City and the community recognized their hard work as she rounded up her employees and friends for a group picture with Santa.

Congratulations and thanks go out to all of the nominees and award winners for making the season brighter in San Gabriel! For more information on the Holiday Decorations Awards Program, please contact NIS Manager Rita Estrada or Assistant Planner Larissa De La Cruz at (626) 308-2806.



1021 Roses Rd.



330 E. Las Tunas Dr. - Executive Associates, Inc.



Hop on Down for Pancakes and Eggs

The pancakes will be flipping and the eggs will be hidden at the 63rd Annual Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 22. The breakfast is sponsored by the San Gabriel Kiwanis Club and the Parks and Recreation Department. The morning's activities at Smith Park will get underway with the Pancake Breakfast from 7-11 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. Breakfast proceeds support the Kiwanis Club's community service projects.

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. Prizes, donated by local businesses, will be given to the winners. Remember - you must bring your 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!

Nine City Employees Recognized for Achievements

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, Customer Service, Emergency Response and Innovation.

Everyone in the City-family congratulates these outstanding employees!

Emergency Response
Police Officer Martin Garcia



Leadership
Street Supervisor Gerry Lopez



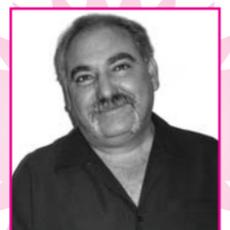
Innovation
Senior Building Inspector Evan Zeisel



Overall Work Performance
Police Sergeant Brian Sagocio



Overall Work Performance
Maintenance Specialist Rick Galindo



Teamwork
Stage Manager Richard Godinez and
Firefighter/Paramedic Sean Irwin



Customer Service
Accountants Linda Tang and Shaoyin Wei



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, FEB. 20

Chamber Mixer, 6-8 p.m.
Asian Pacific National Bank
333 West Valley Boulevard

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

Chamber Mixer, 6-8 p.m.
Dreamweaver Medical Group,
420 W. Las Tunas Drive

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Chamber Mixer, 6-8 p.m.
Location to be announced
Please call the Chamber office at
(626) 576-2525 for further information.

The San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting applications from businesses/services that would like to host a Mixer during 2008. Please send your information to the Chamber at 620 W. Santa Anita St., San Gabriel 91776 or email Sandy Rosco at rosco_sandy@yahoo.com. You must be a member of the Chamber of Commerce to host a Mixer.

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.

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中文 | español

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



City of
San Gabriel

www.sangabrielcity.com

Museum Seeks to Reflect Historical Tapestry

San Gabriel has historically been one of the most multicultural areas in California, and it is important to acknowledge the work and worth of everyone who has contributed to the creation of our great community. People from many cultures and ethnic groups have played roles, large and small, in settling and shaping our community. As we explore their stories, we learn more about ourselves.

The San Gabriel Historical Association is interested in obtaining first-person narratives, photographs, artifacts and memorabilia from our diverse, multi-cultural community. To accurately reflect San Gabriel's historic tapestry, information from the Asian and Latin communities is particularly desired.

The San Gabriel Historical Association Museum and Hayes House provides excellent first-person insight into early California, San Gabriel's development and the Victorian period. Information about the Gabriellino-Tongva Indians, local schools and organizations, the Mission Play, costumes, adobes and older buildings, and the life and household accommodations of the Hayes family delight visitors to the museum and Hayes House.

If you have a story, photograph or memorabilia to share, or if you would like information about tours by appointment, and volunteer opportunities, contact Bill Williams, at (626) 308-3223. Located at 546 W. Broadway, the museum and Hayes House are open the first Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

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www.sangabrielcity.com | www.sangabrielcity.com



Celebrating
"National Grape Week"
in San Gabriel, 1928



Chinese in California "Collage"
courtesy U.S. Library of Congress

Applications Sought for City Commissions



Citizens who are interested in giving their time and energy to serve the community are invited to apply for a position on one of the City's four Commissions. The services rendered by City Commissions are important and critical for the general welfare of the community and it is a privilege to participate in local government activities.

The City utilizes citizen volunteers to staff Commissions to assist in the delivery of community programs. Commissioners are appointed by the City Council when vacancies occur; hold office for a period of two years, and may be appointed for additional two-year terms. Nominees for the Commissions are obtained from the applications on file at City Hall. A description of the four City Commissions follows:

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

The Civil Service Commission consists of five members whose responsibility is to hear employee appeals regarding disciplinary action. Civil Service Commissioners must reside in the City of San Gabriel. Civil Service meetings are held on an as-needed basis, usually in the evening.

DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

The Design Review Commission is responsible for reviewing building plans for commercial and residential projects with regard to architecture, colors, materials and landscaping. The Design Review Commission is comprised of three members to include representation from design professions, such as architecture and engineering. Meetings are held in the evening on the fourth Monday of each month.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Parks and Recreation Commission is an advisory board, consisting of five members, that provides a communication link between the City Council, Parks and Recreation staff, and the community on matters related to community services and leisure-time programs and activities. Parks and Recreation Commissioners must reside in the City of San Gabriel. Regular meetings are held in the evening on the first Monday of each month, October through June.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission consists of five members who consider applications for zone changes, subdivisions, variances, development plans and conditional use permits, in addition to other special applications. Further, the Planning Commission makes recommendations to the City Council concerning amendments to the General Plan, land use, and zoning standards. Planning Commissioners must reside in the City of San Gabriel. Regular meetings are held in the evening on the second Monday of each month.

Your interest in serving and participating in City activities is appreciated. Through our collective efforts, we work together to deliver the best and most cost-efficient municipal services to the citizens of San Gabriel, and create a community that future generations will be proud of and enjoy.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above commissions, please contact the City Hall Personnel Department at (626) 308-2803 and request a Commission application. Applications will be accepted, kept on file, and reviewed as future vacancies occur.

shortTAKES



Kids Have Fun at Library Story Time

The San Gabriel Library is offering a family story time every Saturday at 2 p.m. The program is held at the San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Center, 250 South Mission Drive. Children of all ages, accompanied by family members/caregivers, are welcome to join library staff for stories, music, songs, art activities – and lots of fun!

Welcome Back Nina Castruita

Following the retirement of City Clerk Cynthia Trujillo, the City Council appointed Eleanor K. Andrews to the position of City Clerk on a part-time basis and directed that a full-time Deputy City Clerk position be established to manage the day-to-day operations of the office.

The City is pleased to announce that Nina Castruita has been appointed Deputy City Clerk, and is happy to welcome her back to San Gabriel. Nina was a member of San Gabriel city staff from 2002 until leaving to become Rosemead's City Clerk two years ago.

"I am thrilled to be back with the San Gabriel city-family," said Nina. "I look forward to fulfilling the responsibilities of the City Clerk's office. I truly feel like I have come home."

Nina and her husband, Gilbert, reside in West Covina and are expecting the birth of their first child in February. Stop by and say hello to Nina on your next visit to City Hall. The City Clerk's office can also be reached by calling (626) 308-4600.



Welcome to eServices

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 or access articles translated into Chinese and/or Spanish. Visit www.sangabrielcity.com to learn more about what's happening in San Gabriel!

