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SAN GABRIEL • CA

San Gabriel

# Grapevine

WINTER 2009 VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 1

www.sangabrielcity.com

## Major Street Improvements Nearing Completion in Multi-Year Effort

Capping the largest ongoing street rehabilitation effort in San Gabriel's history, the Great Streets 2008 program is already showing marked progress. Two of the most-requested street projects are also now underway, ensuring San Gabriel drivers a smoother ride in the very near future.

### A Record of Accomplishment

Since its kickoff in February, the "Great Streets" campaign has already rehabilitated 10 street segments in the City. These include:

- San Gabriel Boulevard at I-10 Gateway Landscape Improvement Project: Landscape and median improvements at the City's entrance.
- Fairview Avenue: Two segments are now complete, from Montecito to Abbot and Circle to Del Mar. A third segment in the San Gabriel Village is planned, along with streetscape and physical improvements that will be selected using input from Village area residents.
- Gladys Street and Central Avenue Rehabilitation.
- Allegro Square: Valley Boulevard south to its terminus.
- Charlotte Avenue: From Chestnut Street to Central Avenue.
- Saxon Street: From Del Mar Avenue to Denton Avenue.
- Brighton Street: From the Caltrans right-of-way north to Alhambra Wash.
- Live Oak Avenue: From Junipero Serra Drive to California Street.

The City has made street rehabilitation a top priority, and periodically communicates important news and project updates essential to keeping the community informed.

### Now Underway: Roses, San Gabriel, and Other Public Priorities

Two of the most requested – and most expensive – street rehabilitation projects in San Gabriel are now well underway. San Gabriel has committed more than \$3.5 million to pay for several major projects, including the street paving of San Gabriel Boulevard. These funds will ensure timely completion of a number of new projects – in accord with priorities that San Gabriel voters established. These include:

- Roses Road: The entire length of Roses from Mission Drive east to Del Mar Avenue is now under construction, improving the condition and appearance of a neighborhood street that is well traveled by residents in the City's northern neighborhoods (the section west of Mission was refurbished during the City's Millennium Miles campaign a few years ago).
- San Gabriel Boulevard, Las Tunas to Broadway: The first phase of San Gabriel Boulevard improvements is under construction. This long-awaited project is the first of several initiatives planned for major San Gabriel streets over the next several years, thanks to an ongoing commitment of funding by the City Council through its Capital Improvement Program.



**"San Gabriel has committed more than \$3.5 million to pay for several major projects, including the street paving of San Gabriel Boulevard"**

Story continued on page 2...

## Voters Approve Measure SG

Thanks to the support of San Gabriel voters, Measure SG – a measure that updated and improved the City's utility users' tax ordinance – was approved by 66 percent of the electorate during the November 4th election. In an election year with many difficult choices and a challenging economy, the City Council and staff greatly appreciate the voters' confidence and support.

Measure SG was the result of a comprehensive outreach effort last summer. The City Council asked community residents what they thought the City's key priorities should be. Hundreds of residents responded to mailed surveys, website outreach, and to City Hall to identify their top concerns.

The measure, intended to improve the City's existing ordinance, accomplishes four objectives:

- It updates the City's utility users' tax to ensure compliance with the latest changes in federal law.
- It secures the City against continuing state raids of the City's budget by providing an independent stream of revenue for basic City services.
- It provides a modest two percent increase in the existing utility tax, with the revenues corresponding to priorities that were set by our citizens during the citywide outreach program last summer.
- It allows the City Council to maintain current levels of public service, while increasing the City's capability to fund street improvements and other priorities that the community demands.

### "Measure SG was the result of a comprehensive outreach effort last summer"

Polls conducted by the City during the summer showed that San Gabriel residents strongly supported three key priorities from the following list of potential choices:

- Repair and improvements to the City's street system, including rehabilitation and repair of major streets.
- Public safety efforts by our police and fire departments.
- Protection of critical public services.

In placing Measure SG on the ballot, the City Council pledged itself to use funds generated by the measure to fulfill those priorities that the community set forth. Turn to the *Grapevine* for continuing updates on how the City Council is using these revenues to accomplish your priorities.



## Join the Chinese New Year Celebration

Entering its 18th year, the Annual Chinese New Year Event celebrates the "Year of the Ox." 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.

Hosted by the cities of Alhambra and San Gabriel, the parade will be held on February 7. Sponsors include Bank of the West, Wells Fargo, Verizon, Bank of America, Charter, East West Bank, Cathay Bank, Far East National Bank, and Panda Express.

The parade kicks off at the corner of Del Mar and Valley Boulevard and proceeds 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 through live radio broadcasting on KMNY AM 1370, and the delayed televised program on Phoenix and ETTV cable and satellite channels.

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 250 booths giving attendees a "taste" of Chinese culture. Admission is free at this festival held in the heart of one of the largest Chinese-American commercial districts in Southern California. Be sure to 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](http://www.chinesenewyearparade.net).

中文 [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com) español [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com)

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# Upcoming Events at the Mission Playhouse

## Music! Dance! Theater!

### SAT., JAN. 31, 8 p.m.

Jenny An Dance Studio presents  
"Winter Dance Recital"  
For info/tickets call (626) 287-0602

### MORNING PERFORMANCES WEEK OF FEB. 9

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

### SAT./SUN., FEB. 21-22, 7 p.m. & 2 p.m.

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

### TUES., FEB. 24, 10 a.m. & 12 p.m.

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

### FRI./SAT., MAR. 13-14, 7 p.m.

SUN., MAR. 15, 2 p.m.  
Temple City High School  
Performing Arts Department presents  
"Damn Yankees"  
For info/tickets call (626) 548-5000

### FRI., MAR. 20, 6:30 p.m.

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

### SAT., MAR. 21, 8 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre presents  
"Broadway at the Playhouse"  
For info/tickets call (626) 282-1440

### MON., MAR. 23, 10 a.m.

American Theatre Arts for Youth  
"Pippi Longstocking"  
Tickets available at local school district  
For info/tickets call (215) 563-3501

### THURS./FRI., MAR. 26-27, 10 a.m.

East L.A. Classic Theatre presents  
"Much Ado About Nothing Mariachi Style"  
Call your local school district to confirm participation. Tickets are not available to the general public.  
For info/reservations call (213) 300-5871

### SAT., MAR. 28, 7 p.m.

East L.A. Classic Theatre and the City of San Gabriel presents  
"Much Ado About Nothing Mariachi Style"  
A gift to the San Gabriel community – free family performance!  
For info call (213) 300-5871

### THURS., APR. 2, 10 a.m. & 12 p.m.

Theatreworks USA presents  
Theatre for Young People  
"If You Give a Pig a Pancake"  
Tickets are available at your local school district  
For info/tickets call (800) 497-5007

### SAT., APR. 4, 7 p.m.

Linda Lai Dance Studio  
For info/tickets call (909) 374-0321

### SUN., APR. 5, 4 p.m.

Mariachi Heritage Society presents  
"Mariachi Sol de Mexico"  
For info/tickets call (626) 279-2064

### THURS., APR. 16, 10 a.m.

Theatreworks USA presents  
Theatre for Young People  
"The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe"  
Tickets available at your local school district  
For info/tickets call (800) 497-5007

### SAT., APR. 18, 7 p.m.

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

### SUN., APR. 19, 2 p.m.

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

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](http://www.missionplayhouse.org).



## Mighty Wurlitzer Organ Renovated and Upgraded

The San Gabriel Mission Playhouse is home to one of the finest Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organs in the country. The theatre's "Mighty Wurlitzer" was originally installed in New York's RKO Albee Theatre in the early 1920's and was donated to the City in 1968. As the fortunate recipient of recent grants totaling \$235,000 from Peter Crotty, an expert with extensive knowledge in the theater pipe organ world, the Mission Playhouse has been able to completely renovate and upgrade the Wurlitzer with the latest technology.

A computer-controlled unit replaced the original electro-mechanical controls, and the addition of computer generated digital samples enhances the original audio systems. All new electrical circuits, wiring and cabling bring the electrical aspects up to current code providing a safer and more powerful instrument. In addition, hundreds of pipes that produce the magnificent Wurlitzer sounds have been cleaned and refurbished, and HVAC installed in the chambers to regulate the temperature and humidity. The Wurlitzer console has also been refinished with gold leaf decorative trim bringing it back to its original, sparkling glory. Modernization of San Gabriel's Mighty Wurlitzer ensures the overall quality of sound has been maintained, and that the organ plays on for all to enjoy for years to come.

On January 18th over 1,000 people attended the theatre for a free Wurlitzer Pipe Organ concert and silent film, and joined in recognizing and thanking Playhouse benefactor, Peter Crotty.

"Major Street Improvements Nearing Completion..." story cont. from page 1...

### But That's Not All

A host of additional projects will also soon be underway, with more to be added as the City rolls out its first comprehensive Capital Improvement Program in more than a decade. Some of these include:

- Anderson Way Rehabilitation: Rehabilitation of the street surface from Mission Road to Orange Avenue is expected to begin next month.
- San Gabriel Boulevard Rehab to Broadway: A second phase of this important project will begin by March 30 pending federal government approval.
- Slurry seal of previous Millennium Miles Phase I Streets (1st quarter 2009): The City has committed to long-term improvements to the maintenance of streets. A first phase of slurry seal projects, in which streets repaved a few years ago receive protective sealant, will occur in early 2009.
- General Maintenance: Several streets in the City's southern neighborhoods, generally south of Dewey Street, will receive maintenance using available federal Community Development Block Grant funds. These improvements are expected to be underway by March.

Future priorities will be set in accordance with San Gabriel's Pavement Management Program, which tracks the status of streets needing improvement. It also provides useful data that allows the City to program funds in the most efficient way possible.

Remember — even if your street is not scheduled immediately for repaving, you can always get potholes filled or routine spot repairs made by calling the City's Public Works Division at (626) 308-2825, weekdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and touching "1" to speak with the street supervisor.

For the latest updates on the status of street paving projects, contact the Engineering Division at (626) 308-2800, ext. 4631, or check online at <http://www.sangabrielcity.com/calendar/currentnews.shtml>. And look for future street projects in upcoming issues of the Grapevine.



## City Welcomes New Staff Members

### PLAN CHECK ENGINEER HELPS SPEED PLAN REVIEWS

As part of the City Council's effort to provide improved customer service by bringing more building and safety services in-house, San Gabriel welcomes Rafael Cornejo as its plan check engineer. Rafael will be responsible for handling routine building plan checks that previously were sent outside the City to be processed by consulting firms.

An evaluation conducted by the City's Building Division showed that by taking these activities in-house, the City could provide improved service, reduced waiting times, and reduced costs that would be more consistent on an annual basis.

Large-scale projects beyond the scope of the City's capabilities will continue to be sent to professional building and safety providers, but the majority of routine permits can now be handled in house.

Raised in Central America, Rafael came to the U.S. in 1968, first to Maryland, and then to California. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from California State University at Los Angeles. Rafael worked for the City of Los Angeles Building and Safety Department for over 20 years before taking on jobs as a consultant.

"I enjoy my work, and enjoy helping people in trying to get their building projects approved, all within the building and jurisdictional regulations," said Rafael. "I like being part of the staff in San Gabriel, and hope to be here for awhile." We welcome Rafael to the San Gabriel family!

**"Rafael will be responsible for handling routine building plan checks that previously were sent outside the City to be processed by consulting firms"**



Rafael Cornejo



Robin Scherr

### ECONOMIC SPECIALIST WILL HELP CITY EXPAND ECONOMIC BASE

San Gabriel's latest addition brings a unique blend of talents to help grow its economic base and housing stock.

Robin Scherr, who joined the Community Development Department in November, as the City's housing/economic development specialist, is a strategic planner with over 20 years of professional public, private, and nonprofit sector experience in resource development, project management, and community engagement.

Robin has a broad array of experience in affordable housing, community revitalization, and historic preservation. Among her previous jobs, Robin was a project manager for the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency and an economic development manager for Barrio Planners, Inc. She has also worked as a consultant for the Trust for Public Land, Titan Group, and American Apparel. Robin holds a Master of Planning degree from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington University in St. Louis. She has a Certificate in Urban & Regional Planning Studies from the London School of Economics.

"We're thrilled to have an individual of Robin's caliber on board," says Economic Development Manager Jennifer Davis. "We see great things ahead for San Gabriel!"

**"Robin brings a broad array of experience in affordable housing, community revitalization, and historic preservation"**

Robin resides in northeast Los Angeles with her husband, teenage daughter, dogs, and rabbits. In her free time, she walks the

hillsides of her neighborhood and serves as publicist for the Mt. Washington Plein Air Painters. Drop by and say hello to Robin on your next visit to City Hall!

# Welcome to eServices

Discover Southern California's Legendary Performing Arts Center – San Gabriel Mission Playhouse

The historic San Gabriel Mission Playhouse is a magnificent and opulent theater with genteel side boxes offering "a place to be seen," and chandeliers replicating the lanterns used on Spanish galleons, which sailed around the tip of South America en route to California in the 1800s. It was built in 1927 by John Steven McGroarty specifically to present The Mission Play, a 4-1/2-hour production about the history of California that he authored.

Located in the heart of the historic San Gabriel Mission District, the theatre exterior is patterned after the Mission San Antonio De Padua, with an interior décor that blends Spanish, Indian and Mexican influences. The 1,400-seat theatre is the home of many outstanding performing arts groups, featuring live theatre, music, dance, song and a variety of entertainment for people of all ages and cultures.

Host to world-class music, dance and theatre productions, a series of outstanding performances planned for the 2008-2009 season is expected to draw audiences from throughout Southern California.

Learn more about the theater, upcoming performances, rental information, and to join the mailing list, by visiting [www.missionplayhouse.org](http://www.missionplayhouse.org) or [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com) or by calling (626) 308-2865.



## Celebrate "Egg"straordinary Spring Celebration

Mr. Bunny has been hopping busy, getting ready for the 63rd Annual Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt, sponsored by the San Gabriel Kiwanis Club and the Parks and Recreation Department. On Saturday, April 11, he will again be hiding eggs at Smith Park.

The morning's activities will get underway with the Pancake Breakfast from 7-11 a.m. Breakfast donation is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children under 10, which will benefit the Kiwanis scholarship program. Come hungry because the morning menu will be complete with pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and coffee or milk.

Bring your pancake turner from home to be part of the exciting Pancake Races which begin at 9 a.m. This popular one-of-a-kind event will include 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.

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 eggs at this free event.

Mr. Bunny invites everyone to come out and join the fun at this "egg"straordinary celebration!

For more information please call the Parks & Recreation Department at (626) 308-2875.

# Implementing the Vision: Mission District Development Projects



400-412 W. Mission Road



130 S. Mission Drive



261 Mission Drive

San Gabriel's historic Mission District is alive with large development projects and several remodels.

Leading the way is the Mission Gardens project at 400-412 W. Mission Road. Mission Gardens had its grand opening on Tuesday, November 18. This is the first new project built under the Mission District Specific Plan. Elegantly designed in the traditional Spanish Colonial Revival architecture style, 22 courtyard residential townhome style units surround gracious courtyards on a 1.37-acre site. These units range from 2,005 to 2,615 square feet of dwelling space, each with attached two-car garages.

The Mission Villa project located at 130 S. Mission Drive is the first mixed-use building that launches the Mission District Specific Plan's goal to revitalize and preserve the District. The proposed project helps to create a thriving village atmosphere by providing more residential uses and enhancing commercial uses in the District.

The project is a three-story mixed-use development with approximately 5,300 sq. ft. of retail commercial and 11 residential condominium units. It is designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style to complement the historic character of the District. The Planning Commission approved the project at the October meeting and is pending review by the Design Review Commission. Construction planned to begin summer 2009.

Another exciting addition to the Mission District will be the Mission Village project, located at the site of the successful Mission 261 restaurant. Working with the City to purchase an underutilized park-and-ride lot, the owners of Mission 261 have proposed a Spanish Colonial style boutique hotel with retail and restaurant space on the ground floor. The project will also contain residential condominium units.

This project promises to be an invigorating addition to the heart of the district. It's tentatively scheduled for the February Planning Commission meeting. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2009.

'Lunas' is the newest restaurant to join the Mission District. A top-rate Mexican dining establishment, Lunas is located in the historic building at 323 S. Mission Dr., at the corner of Mission and Santa Anita Street. Serving traditional,

original Mexican cuisine, everyone eagerly welcomes them to the District!

Learn more about these and other exciting projects by contacting Associate Planner Grace Song at (626) 308-2806 ext. 4626 or [gsong@sgch.org](mailto:gsong@sgch.org), or by attending the next Mission District Partnership meeting scheduled for February 2009.

For information about the Mission District Partnership, please contact Administrative Services Manager Cynthia Smith at (626) 308-2803 or [csmith@sgch.org](mailto:csmith@sgch.org).

# Holiday Decorations Award Program

The 2008 winners of the Holiday Decorations Awards received a visit from jolly old Saint Nick, the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, and the San Gabriel City Council on December 18th.

Residential homeowner winners received a basket of goodies and a commemorative certificate. Signs were posted in the front yard to alert neighbors that the yard decorations were award-winning. The commercial winner received a plaque.

The Holiday Decorations Awards program, celebrating its 10th anniversary, is sponsored by the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce.

And the winners are:

### Residential Winners

206 Sunset Ave., Van Oosten Family  
1018 S. Palm Ave., Bodan Family  
212 S. Circle Dr., Morrill Family  
524 Anderson Way, Marquez Family

### Commercial Winner

320 W. Las Tunas, Mueller Realty

The Van Oosten Family Decorations, 206 Sunset Ave.



# Award Winning City Employees

Each year, the City of San Gabriel recognizes outstanding employee contributions through the Employee Recognition Award Program. City of San Gabriel employees take pride in their work, and are dedicated to serving the community.

This makes choosing the 2008 Employee Recognition Award winners a challenging task. Employees are honored and commended for achievement in Overall Work Performance, Leadership, Teamwork, Customer Service, Emergency Response and Innovation.

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.

The City is proud to introduce the 2008 Employee Recognition Award winners to the community and gratefully acknowledge their contributions to the City and to the San Gabriel community.

Everyone in the City-family congratulates these outstanding employees.

Overall Work Performance  
City Engineer  
Bruce Mattern



Leadership  
Police Lieutenant  
John Tuosto



Customer Service  
Administration Clerk  
Melanie Benson



Teamwork  
Police Lieutenants Andrew J. Borrello  
and Daniel V. Russo



Emergency Response  
Fire Engineer  
Dennis Barwick



Innovation  
Parks Supervisor  
John Gonzalez



## 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. 18

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

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Chamber Mixer, 6-8 p.m.  
Location to be announced

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

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 2009. 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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These icons direct readers to the City's website for articles translated into Chinese and Spanish.



City of  
San Gabriel

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

# Disaster Drill Helps Plan for Many Emergencies



Each year, Los Angeles County conducts a county-wide emergency drill to test the emergency management system and the response capabilities of the surrounding cities. The type of emergency varies; it could be an earthquake, large storm, terrorist attack, or any of several other scenarios.

This year the disaster exercise was titled "Golden Guardian" and the scenario was an earthquake with an intensity of 7.8 on the Richter scale. The disaster exercise used as its base "The Shake Out Scenario," a study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey of the damage that could result from a large scale earthquake on the part of

the San Andreas Fault that is at most risk for sudden movement.

Operation Golden Guardian was held from November 13-18. San Gabriel participated on November 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. During that time, the City practiced its ability to set up and staff the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), transition from normal day-to-day operations to emergency management functions, practice individual tasks and responsibilities in the EOC, respond to a large number of simulated rescue and injury situations, and start planning the long-term cleanup and recovery from a disaster of this magnitude.

Participants included not only staff from all City departments, but representatives from the San Gabriel School District, the San Gabriel County Water District, the Red Cross, and the San Gabriel Valley Medical Center.

Representatives from the L.A. County Disaster Communications Service, along with volunteer ham radio operators operating within the Sheriff's Department Emergency Operations Bureau, staffed a communications center:

**"As with all previous disaster drills, City staff worked as if the situation was real, and their efforts were paramount in providing a continuation of effective government for the community in the face of a catastrophic disaster"**

Fire and police units handled multiple scenarios of injury, heavy structural damage to business and residential occupancies, and civil unrest. Requests from those field units were processed by the EOC Operations Section, and simulated requests for aid were sent on to the L.A. County Emergency Operations Center. These simulated requests were then forwarded to state, and federal agencies from which San Gabriel would get badly needed resources in a real disaster event.

Once the drill was brought to a close, everyone gathered together to discuss and evaluate EOC operations, make recommendations for improvement and stress the importance of being prepared, both individually and as a City.

As with all previous disaster drills, City staff worked as if the situation was real, and their efforts were paramount in providing a continuation of effective government for the community in the face of a catastrophic disaster.

## Rumbler Helps Police with Traffic, Emergencies

San Gabriel's five new sleek 2008 Dodge Chargers that are used by the police department are not only fuel efficient and high-performance, but also feature "Rumbler," an intersection-clearing system that augments each vehicle's siren amplifier and speaker.

The Rumbler, manufactured by Federal Signal (Safety and Security Systems) is a device that produces penetrating/vibrating low frequency sound waves. The result is a highly effective backup emergency tone that assists officers when transitioning hazardous traffic intersections and gains motorists' attention while responding to emergency calls.

By providing a contrast to the typical high-frequency siren, the Rumbler acts as an additional tool to grab the attention of an often distracted motoring public who may have their stereo blasting, air conditioning running, while at the same time are talking on their cell phone.

San Gabriel is the first police agency in the region to begin installing the devices. Rumbler will make police department emergency responses safer for both officers and the public.



## McGruff's



## PAW PRINTS

S.G.P.D.

## How to Discourage Mail Thieves

The U.S. Postal Service delivers millions of checks, money orders, savings bonds, credit cards, and other valuable items every day. Unfortunately, thieves know this and are ready and waiting to steal your mail when the time is right. They break into residential and apartment mailboxes, collection boxes and postal vehicles.

The Postal Service works hard to make sure the mail gets to you safely. By following a few tips, you can make it harder for mail thieves:

1. Never send cash or coins through the mail. Always send a check or money order.
2. Make sure your mailbox is in good condition. Mailboxes in poor condition often expose mail to theft and bad weather.
3. Collect mail from your mailbox promptly, especially checks and other valuable mail. Have the post office hold your mail while you are on vacation or away from home for any lengthy period.
4. Refund checks may be stolen from mailboxes without your knowledge. Contact the issuing agency if you do not receive an expected check or other valuable items in the mail.

Remember, if you have information about theft or mail fraud, or have been a victim of such crimes, contact your nearest post office, and help "Take A Bite Out of Crime." For information on Neighborhood Watch and other crime prevention programs, contact the San Gabriel Police Department Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846.



## shortTAKES

### San Gabriel Searches 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 44th 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.

The 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 1998 are 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 'Phil' Tobin (2006); Jack Vrtar (2007); and Mary Cammarano (2008).

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 23.

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

## shortTAKES

### Grapevine Festival Debuts

The Chamber of Commerce's annual street festival has a new name and exciting new events to attend. Now called the Grapevine Festival, the name was changed to honor San Gabriel's rich history. The Grapevine Festival will be held on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the historic Mission District.

"This festival continues to be a partnership between the City of San Gabriel and the Chamber of Commerce," said Diane Acosta, the festival's Chair. "We have three historic grapevines in San Gabriel: at the Mission, Grapevine Park and at Mission 261. We look forward to celebrating the uniqueness of San Gabriel with our community and with visitors from all over the valley."

The street festival will continue to feature artists and crafters, commercial vendors, local businesses, food vendors, and a beer garden.

There will be live entertainment in front of the Mission Playhouse throughout the day, and a fine art show in Grapevine Park. That afternoon, the 2009 Outstanding Older American Award will be presented and the City will celebrate 96 years of incorporation with birthday cake for all.

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In Plaza Park that day, the Chamber will also host the 2nd annual Classic Car Show, with both foreign and domestic automobiles on display. Another new element will be a special wine tasting event in historic Grapevine Park. Bring your friends and family and join us for this exciting event!

For more information on this event or to participate as a vendor or a volunteer, please contact the Chamber office at (626) 576-2525.