City Remembers Heroes of 9/11

On September 11, the City of San Gabriel honored the emergency services personnel who lost their lives as a result of last year’s tragic terrorist attacks. San Gabriel firefighters organized a procession walk from Fire Station 52 to Fire Station 51, with a stop at the police station. Upon arrival at Station 51, there was a memorial service for the fallen firefighters, police officers and emergency medical personnel. Several hundred firefighters, police officers and residents participated in the procession and memorial service.

After the service, an area in front of Station 51 was dedicated in honor of the victims of September 11. A pancake breakfast, sponsored by the San Gabriel Firefighter’s Association, followed the morning’s events.

The Verdugo Fire Communications Center also played a pivotal role as nine of the 11 cities are dispatched through Verdugo Fire Communications. This means that all fire resources in those cities are tracked and dispatched through one dispatch center. The dispatch center immediately can determine who is closest to the incident and when another city’s fire resources are closer to a smaller incident or medical call, the San Gabriel Fire Department will respond. This saves valuable time and ensures that there are enough resources to handle the emergency.

What Mutual Aid Means to You

If you have ever seen an emergency in San Gabriel and spotted fire equipment from other cities or noticed the City’s fire equipment being used in other San Gabriel Valley cities, don’t get confused. It’s all done through a process called ‘Automatic Mutual Aid.’

The San Gabriel Fire Department staffs two fire engines, one paramedic ambulance and one battalion chief/command vehicle, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

A typical house fire will require at least twice as many resources. While San Gabriel may only have a few major fires a year, when more resources are required, they are needed immediately. Many cities have formed coalitions of regional cities in the event they are needed immediately. So a number of regional cities have formed coalitions based on the California Master Mutual Aid agreement.

In addition to San Gabriel, other participating cities include Alhambra, Monterey Park, South Pasadena, Arcadia, San Marino, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Monterey Park, South Pasadena, Arcadia, San Marino, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Pasadena, Giendale and Burbank.

When San Gabriel has a major incident or when another city’s fire resources are closer to a smaller incident or medical call, that other city will respond to the call, regardless of city boundaries. On the other hand, when another city has a major incident or when San Gabriel’s fire resources are closer to a smaller incident or medical call, the San Gabriel Fire Department will respond. This saves valuable time and ensures that there are enough resources to handle the emergency.

L.A. Philharmonic Concert Celebrates Civic Auditorium’s 75th Anniversary

Happy 75th birthday! That’s right — this year the historic San Gabriel Civic Auditorium turns 75. To celebrate the occasion, the world-renowned Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra will perform a free concert on October 27 — a birthday gift to the community.

Conductor Yutaka Sadozaki will kick off the 3 p.m. concert. Appearing with the orchestra will be piano soloist Natsa Peremski, winner of the 2002 Kaper Award Competition. The scheduled program will feature Wagner’s Die Meistersinger prelude, Liszt’s Piano Concerto No. 1 and Schubert’s Symphony No. 3.

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The Civic Auditorium has been an important regional performance venue since its dedication on March 5, 1927. The architecture is primarily Spanish, with a number of Mexican and Indian influences. The facade was designed to resemble McGroarty’s favorite mission, San Antonio de Padua, in Monterey County. The interior was also recently restored.

Due to expected demand for the L.A. Philharmonic concert, free tickets will be limited to six per request. Mail orders are now being accepted. Please send your request to: SG Civic/Philharmonic, PO. Box 130, San Gabriel, CA 91778. Tickets will be filled in the order received.

Any remaining tickets after mail orders have been filled will be available at San Gabriel City Hall, 425 S. Mission Drive; San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Office, 250 S. Mission Drive; and the Chamber of Commerce, 620 W. Santa Anita.

Civic Auditorium Turns 75

Today, the Auditorium looks much as it did more than 70 years ago. The auditorium has been an average in case there is another emergency, who is out of service, and immediately can determine who is closest to handle the emergency.

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City of San Gabriel Honors Emergency Services Personnel

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Mission District Specific Plan in Development

T he City of San Gabriel recently earned a $56,000 grant from the State of California to write a specific plan for the historic Mission District. The plan will consist of implementation measures that will preserve, celebrate, promote and vitalize the Mission District. At community forums held this month, participants discussed the community’s vision for the area, historic preservation, and design as well as economic opportunities, potential for mixed-used development and pedestrian and vehicular circulation. A summary of the findings of the previ- ous two meetings and future directions will be discussed at a community meeting scheduled for November 21 at 7 p.m. at Autumn, 409 S Mission Dr, San Gabriel (in the Mission District). Mark your calendars and join us as we plan and develop a better Mission District. This community initiative will further improve the distri- bution by introducing new and comple- mentary activities and strengthened design standards. For additional information, please contact Erlinda Romo at (626) 308-2800, ext. 733, eromo@sgch.org or Scott Reimers at (626) 308-2800, ext. 721, sreimers@sgch.org.

Halloween Harvest Haunt

The annual Halloween Harvest Haunt is guaranteed to once again provide lots of thrills and chills. The spooky-eating contest will take place on October 26, 5-9 p.m. The historic Mission District will be transformed with special effects into a haunted area, complete with ghoulish fun for everyone.

The San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Charter Communications and the City of San Gabriel, will bring the spirit of Halloween to this family event that will feature food, craft vendors, live entertainment, a display of the pumpkin-carving contest winners, kids’ rides and activities, spooky special effects, “trick or treats” and more! Ghosts and goblins of all ages, (adults, too!), can be a part of the costume contest with categories including: Spookiest, Funniest, Most O’riginal, Fairytale Fantasy and Best Look-A-likes, with a special cate- gory for adults dressed as well-known couples. For additional information, please call the Chamber of Commerce at (626) 576-2525.

Come Run (or Trot) in the Turkey Trot

The 27th Annual Turkey Trot 5/10K Race, and 1K Youth Run & 5K Fun Walk will be held on November 9 at Vincent Lugo Park. Check-in time begins at 7 a.m. for the walk and the Fun Walk participants. The Fun Walk will begin at 8 a.m., followed by the Youth Fun Run at 8:30 a.m., and the 5K Race at 9 a.m.

The three first race finishers in each of the nine age categories will receive ribbons. First-place winners also receive a medal and turkey. The 5K Fun Walk is for all ages.

Costume ideas include include: race refreshments, blood pressure testing, raffle drawing for great prizes, and more! The entry fee is $10 for the 5K/10K Run or $5 for the Youth Run/Fun Walk, on or before October 25. After October 25, the fee will be $15 for 5K/10K Run or $10 for Youth Run/Fun Walk. 2002 Turkey Trot T-Shirts will be available for $10 each. Register online at www.sangabrielchamber.com or call (626) 308-2875 for more information on the race.
Rubbish Guidelines Keep Our City Clean

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. Please follow these guidelines:

- Place all trash inside the trash containers.
- Trash placed outside the containers will not be picked up.
- Do not bag-in-a-bag.
- Do not place hazardous wastes, 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
- Flatten cardboard boxes
- Rubbish should not be placed at the curb earlier than 6 p.m. of the day preceding collection, and the containers cannot remain at the curb later than 8 p.m. on the day of collection.

Bulk and hard-to-handle items, such as mattresses, couches, water heaters, washers and refrigerators will also be collected, at no extra charge, on the same pickup day of each week for curbside service. However, you must contact Athens Disposal 24 hours in advance to schedule a bulky-item pickup.

If you have bin service, all items must be placed inside the bin. Athens Disposal will not collect items left outside the bin. Athens Disposal can arrange for special hauling services as needed.

For more information, please contact Athens Disposal at (626) 336-3636 or Neighborhood Improvement Services at (626) 388-2806.

Preventing Child Abduction

Thousands of children are reported missing every year nationwide. Child abduction is a tragedy that devastates parents and touches all of us. Here are a few tips from the San Gabriel Police Department Crime Prevention Office on how to keep your children safe.

What to Do

- Know where your children are at all times.
- Never leave children alone in a car.
- Establish strict procedures for picking children up at school, after movies, at friends’ homes, etc. Don’t let your children accept rides from people with whom you haven’t made prior arrangements, even if they say they are police officers, teachers or friends of the family.
- Teach your children their full names, their full name, address and telephone number. Teach them how to reach either you or a trusted adult and how to call for police assistance. Make sure they know how to make local and long-distance telephone calls. Even small children can learn to dial 911 or 0 for an operator to get help.
- Tell your children about the abduction problem in a calm and simple way as if you were teaching any other important skill.
- Listen attentively when your children discuss anyone they’ve encountered in your absence.
- Have photographs taken of your children four times a year (especially for preschoolers). Make note of birthmarks or other distinguishing features.
- Have fingerprints taken of your children.
- Establish a family code word. Tell your children never to go with anyone who does not know the code word.

Teach Your Children

- Never leave the yard without your permission. Very small children should play only in the backyard or in a supervised play area.
- Never wander off to avoid lonely places, and not to take shortcuts through alleys or deserted areas.
- They are safe walking or playing with friends.
- To always come straight home from school unless you’ve made other arrangements.
- Never to enter anyone’s home without your prior approval.
- To scream, run away and tell you or a trusted adult if anyone attempts to touch or grab them.
- Not to give any information over the telephone, particularly their name and address, or that they are alone.
- To keep all doors locked and admit only authorized people into the house.

For further information, contact the Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846.

Participate in the Holiday Decoration Awards

The holidays are just around the corner, which means it’s time to start planning your holiday decorations display! The City of San Gabriel, in conjunction with the Women’s Division of the Chamber of Commerce, has established the Holiday Decoration Awards Program to honor residential and commercial properties for their participation in spreading the holiday cheer.

The program was created to publicly acknowledge those persons who have made an outstanding contribution toward making San Gabriel a wonderful place to be, by work. W h i n s e n w i l l r e c e i v e a s i g n t o d y s p l a y a n d c e r t i f i c a t e s o f r e c o g n i t i o n , a s w e l l a s special gifts.

Phase II Resurfacing/Rehabilitation Projects:

- Anderson Way - Fairview to Orange
- Montecito Drive - Chestnut to Fairview
- Grand Avenue - Ramona to Montecito
- Fairview Avenue - Ramona to Montecito
- Cameron Way - Live Oak to End

Phase III Resurfacing/Rehabilitation Projects:

- Grand Avenue - Augusta to Live Oak
- Anderson Way - Chestnut to Fairview
- Prospect Avenue - Chestnut to Fairview
- Chestnut Avenue - San Gabriel to Charlotte
- Gladys Avenue - Columbia to Valley
- Charlotte Avenue - W e l l s t o C h e s t n u t
- Abiline Street - Charlotte to End
- Chestnut Avenue - Valley to W e l l s

The Greenheigh family of N. Mission Drive were winners of the northwest area Holiday Decoration Award last year.

For further information, contact the Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846.

Paramedics Training Updates

The San Gabriel Fire Department has a contract with the UCLA Center for Prehospital Care in order to accommodate mandated training requirements for its emergency medical personnel. The agreement provides for three hours of training per month for each of the three Fire Department shifts. Each session is held jointly with personnel from the A H a m b r a a n d M o n t e r e y P a r k Fire Departments.

Since the three departments already work together on major emergencies, the joint training contract will provide uniform training standards and better communication among personnel. The contract requires UCLA to provide a mobile intensive-care nurse to ride along with each paramedic crew for a minimum of six hours per month in order to evaluate training needs. UCLA staff will also assist with the Fire Department’s emergency medical quality improvement program.

Millennium Miles Updates

The City is making rapid progress with the Millennium Miles program, an extensive citywide program designed to improve the condition of more than 60 segments of streets needing rehabilitation. The City Council has designated a budget of more than $5 million over the next five years. The design of Phase II is almost complete, with construction expected to begin later this fall.

The design portion of Phase III is now underway and is about 55 percent complete. The design consultant, Norris Rapp, has finished the pavement evaluation, design survey work, design base sheets and typical sections. Rehabilitation strategies will be discussed with City staff this month with final plans, specifications, and estimates submitted to the City by June 30, 2003. Construction is slated to begin Second Quarter 2003. For more information please call (626) 388-2800, ext. 715.
Police Department Hosts Safety Expo

The San Gabriel Police Department will be hosting its 8th Annual Community Safety Expo on Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Mission District, located in the 300 block of South Mission Drive. The expo combines free safety educational information with a fun family day at the park atmosphere. Bring your entire family to this fun-filled event!

Each year the Community Safety Expo promotes community safety programs, as well as providing crime-prevention displays and safety and rescue demonstrations by the City’s Police, Fire Department, and Public Works Departments. “Vince and Larry, the crash dummies, along with McGruff the crime dog will be on hand to visit everyone in attendance.

A wide variety of emergency vehicles, equipment and helicopters from several other law enforcement agencies will be on display, as will several antique, special interest cars and vintage police and fire vehicles. Weaponless defense, Police K-9 and mounted police demonstrations will be provided throughout the day.

Prices will be awarded during the day to participants attending the Expo, so be sure to stop by the San Gabriel Police Department booth to receive your free door prize raffle tickets.

For further information, please contact Sergeant John Tuesta at the San Gabriel Police Department Traffic Bureau at (626) 308-2860.

National Night Out Brings Community together

San Gabriel’s 8th annual National Night Out crime/drug prevention observance was held on August 6, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Residents throughout San Gabriel and the nation came together to meet their neighbors and to show support for a safe and crime-free community. Residents were encouraged to turn on their porch lights, hold block parties, cookouts and picnics, and were visited by Police, Fire Department, City officials, military personnel and KIS-FM 102.7 radio. Special guests at this year’s event were Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley and Congresswoman Adam Schiff, who presented a Congressional Proclamation to San Gabriel Police Chief David A. Lawton.

“This special night was also dedicated to the victims and heroes of the September 11th tragedy,” said Chief Lawton. “San Gabriel honored them by participating in National Night Out. On this night, San Gabriel sent a powerful message about neighborhood unity, awareness, safety and police-community partnerships. We let criminals know that all of us are united.”

The nonprofit National Association of Town Watch, which helps police departments, sponsors the event and Neighborhood Watch leaders organize the annual meetings. It involves more than 9,800 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, military bases and Canada. This year, more than 33 million people participated.

San Gabriel Police Department Crime Prevention Officer Alex Acosta said that the City sponsored 31 block parties.

“For us, National Night Out is not just getting the community and the police to work together. It’s our way of giving crime a going away party,” Acosta said. “It encourages the community to work with us in fighting crime and taking care of neighborhood business.”

Short Takes

Nutmeg Cracking To Civic Auditorium

The 23rd Annual Nutcracker ballet will be held each weekend beginning December 7th at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium. Guest artists from around the world will join the company each weekend dancing roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy, her Cavalier, Members of the Pasadena Dance Theatre will join the performance, and KIIS-FM 102.7 member dance troupe will be more than 80 local children.

Tickets go on sale November 4th. Please call (626) 308-2868 for more information/tickets.

Children’s Book Week

The San Gabriel Library will be celebrating Children’s Book Week (October 22-28) by conducting a bookmark contest with the support of Pentel of America, Ltd. Libraries nationwide will be hosting a wide variety of events. Children are invited to participate in the bookmark contest being held at the San Gabriel Library, where entry forms are available.

Entries will be accepted in the following categories:

- Kindergarten – 2nd grade Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8

Writers will be selected from each category and will advance to regional contests. Winning entries will be announced on November 23. Prizes are furnished by Pentel of America, Ltd., which will also print the winning bookmark designs. These bookmarks will be distributed at the San Gabriel Library and other county libraries next spring.

For more information about this event and other library activities, please call the San Gabriel Library at (626) 287-0761 or log on to http://www.colapublib.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
Halloween Harvest Hunt
Civic Auditorium parking lot
5-9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Member Mixer®
San Gabriel Valley Medical Center’s
CHED Building
Garapito Serra Drive
5:30-7:30 p.m.

*This is the Chamber’s special Holiday Mixer that will include the Women’s Division’s annual Holiday Tree Drawing. Raffle tickets are sold for chances at three decorated trees with presents donated from various community businesses.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1
Cheer for Boys®
San Gabriel Civic Auditorium
2:30-4:30 p.m.

*This is a Special Holiday Cheer for Boys® with the support of Pentel of America, Ltd.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
San Gabriel Valley Medical Center’s
CHED Building
4th annual Holiday Breakfast
5:00-7:00 p.m.

*This is the Chamber’s special Holiday Breakfast that will include the Men’s Division’s annual Holiday Tree Drawing.

Saturday, December 21
Festival of Lights: City Christmas Tree Lighting in Plaza Park
6-8 p.m.