

news and views from our town

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
SAN GABRIEL • CA

San Gabriel

grapevine

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

## Community/Police Partnerships Make San Gabriel a Better Place to Live



**Officer Garcia's quick thinking helped save a restaurant patron from possibly choking to death**

While on duty, San Gabriel Police Officer Martin Garcia was flagged down outside a local restaurant by a woman desperate for assistance. Inside the restaurant, her husband was gasping for air, turning blue and was close to passing out. Officer Garcia reacted immediately, wrapped his arms around the man's mid-section and applied the Heimlich maneuver.

Within seconds, the food that was stuck in the man's throat was dislodged, he was able to breathe normally, and made a quick and full recovery. Officer Garcia's quick thinking saved the man's life.

Although many of us are generally aware of the services provided by the San Gabriel Police Department, their commitment to partnering with the community to solve problems goes deeper than is often seen, as exemplified by Officer Garcia's lifesaving measures. The San Gabriel Police Department encourages a problem solving, community policing philosophy.

The following three examples showcase how working together makes San Gabriel a better place to live:

***"The San Gabriel Police Department actively partners with schools, churches, youth groups, and other non-profit organizations"***

### SCHOOLS, FAMILIES, NON-PROFITS

The San Gabriel Police Department actively partners with schools, churches, youth groups, and other non-profit organizations. Underscoring this ongoing commitment, the Department has assigned two full-time detectives to help local schools work with youth and families.

Offering a wide range of specialized law enforcement services, these detectives continually collaborate with schools and community groups to provide information, resources and skills that can help families raise their children. Vital parenting and education efforts have also been extended to local non-profit organizations, such as La Casa de San Gabriel, and to local church and school groups upon request. SGPD detectives have even crossed the language barrier, using translators to impart vital information to parent groups in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese and Vietnamese.

The San Gabriel Police Department is highly committed to the youth in the City of San Gabriel. The Department enjoys an outstanding relationship with the administration of each school, and is a valuable resource for them.

### RESIDENT AIDS CAPTURE OF BURGLARS

Another example of how the community and the police can successfully partner together occurred on July 10. Good eyes and quick thinking by a neighbor led to the arrest of two burglars who had allegedly broken into a house on the 1000 block of Euclid Avenue.

Police said a neighbor on the 300 block of Fairview was tinkering in his garage when he saw a male suspect banging on the front door of a residence. At that point, the second suspect went to the rear of the residence and the first man followed. A third suspect in his car, made a U-turn and parked.

The resident looked through his kitchen window, observed the suspects leave the residence, and he immediately called 911 and gave police a good description of the suspects and the car.

While the resident stayed in contact with the dispatcher, officers arrived at the scene and during a short foot pursuit captured one suspect. Containment was set up and with the assistance of a mutual aid police helicopter and K-9 units, police quickly captured the second suspect.

"We watch what's going on around here," the resident told police officers. "Maybe it will send a message to others that they can't commit a crime in San Gabriel."

### AN EMPOWERED CITIZEN

The Neighborhood Watch Program has empowered Peggy, a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain on the 1200 block of Elm Street, to be more involved with her community.

"I am always on the look-out for dumped couches and furniture on our street," said Peggy. Nothing makes a neighborhood look as bad as abandoned bulky trash items. A quick e-mail to Crime Prevention Officer Alex Acosta always takes care of the problem."

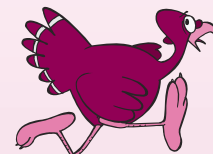
Besides Neighborhood Watch, Peggy worked at a San Gabriel school, and being Block Captain has given her added respect with neighborhood children. Whenever she sees them, they always say hello.

"I'm always willing to help the children and adults in my neighborhood," said Peggy. "Likewise, people stop and talk and ask me questions about the neighborhood. It's very rewarding to be involved in my community and as a member of San Gabriel's Neighborhood Watch Program."



**PTA Award at Coolidge Elementary School honoring Officer Fabian Valdez' dedication to the children of the community**

## Walk or Run at the San Gabriel Turkey Trot



There's still time to register for the 30th Annual Turkey Trot, 5/10K Race, 1K Youth Fun Run, and 5K Fun Walk. Runners and walkers of all ages are invited to set aside November 8 to join the festivities at Vincent Lugo Park, located at the intersection of Wells and Ramona Streets.

Check-in time begins at 7:15 a.m. for all walk and race participants. The Fun Walk will begin at 8 a.m., followed by the Youth Fun Run at 8:25 a.m., and the 5K/10K Race at 8:40 a.m. The first three race finishers in each of the nine age categories will receive ribbons; first place winners also receive a medal and turkey gift card.

The 5K Fun Walk is for all ages. Registrations are accepted at the San Gabriel Parks & Recreation Office, 250 S. Mission Drive, Monday thru Friday until October 31. Registrations will also be accepted on race day. The 5K/10K Run is \$30 and the Youth 1K Run/5K Fun Walk is only \$15.

On-line registration is available at [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com), or [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). Race fee includes a Turkey Trot T-shirt. For more information, please call (626) 308-2875.







# Upcoming Events at the Mission Playhouse

## Music! Dance! Theater!

### MONDAY, NOV. 3, 6:30 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre presents  
"The Monday Night Cabaret – Broadway at  
the Playhouse"  
For info/tickets call (626) 282-1440  
www.sgvmusictheatre.org

### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5, 10 a.m.

Theatreworks USA presents  
"James and the Giant Peach"  
For info/tickets call (800) 497-5007  
www.theatreworksusa.org

### SAT./SUN., NOV. 8-9, 7 p.m.

Chinese American Dancing Group presents  
"Bravo! Chinese Dance"  
For info/tickets call (626) 823-3323  
www.chineseamericandancinggroup.com

### SUNDAY, NOV. 16, 7 p.m.

Chinese American Ballet Association presents  
"The Nutcracker Ballet"  
For info/tickets call (626) 284-7911

### SAT., NOV. 22, 7 p.m.

SUN., NOV. 23, 4 p.m.  
Chinese American Dancing Group presents  
Li's Ballet Studio  
For info/tickets call (626) 285-4888  
www.lisballet.com

### MONDAY, DEC. 8, 10 a.m.

American Theatre Arts for Youth presents  
"A Christmas Carol"  
For info/tickets call (215) 563-3501  
www.atafy.org

### THURS., DEC. 11, 10 a.m.

### FRI., DEC. 12, 10 a.m.

### SAT., DEC. 13, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

### SUN., DEC. 14, 2 p.m.

### WED., DEC. 17, 10 a.m.

### FRI., DEC. 19, 10 a.m.

### SAT., DEC. 20, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

### SUN., DEC. 21, 2 p.m.

Pasadena Dance Theatre presents  
"The Nutcracker Ballet"  
For info/tickets call (626) 683-3459  
www.pasadenadance.org

### SATURDAY, JAN. 10, 8 p.m.

Olympia Youth Orchestra  
Fung Ho, Conducting  
For info/tickets call (626) 447-5839

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.



## Join Your Neighbors at San Gabriel's Christmas Tree Lighting Party

What better way to launch the holiday season than to join your neighbors and enjoy hot cocoa, live entertainment, and help decorate the City Christmas tree in Plaza Park! Everyone is invited to the tree lighting party on December 2, at 6 p.m. in Plaza Park. Plaza Park is located across the street from City Hall at Mission Drive and Mission Road.

**"Children can create their very own decorations  
to hang on the tree, which will be lit at 7 p.m.  
to officially welcome the holiday season"**

Children can create their very own decorations to hang on the tree, which will be lit at 7 p.m. to officially welcome the holiday season. Following the tree lighting, Santa arrives on the vintage fire truck to pay a visit to all of the children.

This free activity is sponsored by the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce. Please come join the carol singing and spread the holiday spirit by bringing an unopened non-perishable food item for the San Gabriel Coordinating Council's Christmas Basket Program. For more information about the City's Tree Lighting and festivities, call the Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 308-2875.

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## Be on the Lookout for Santa

The North Pole has just released this announcement: Santa Claus will be in San Gabriel December 20-23. He will be touring our streets looking for good girls and boys, courtesy of the San Gabriel Fire Department. The City will be divided by Del Mar and the railroad tracks. Santa will visit the southwest part

of the city on December 20; the southeast area on December 21; the northwest area on December 22; and the northeast area on December 23. Santa will begin each night's journey at approximately 6 p.m. and will return to the North Pole at 9:30 p.m., weather permitting. Santa travels widely throughout San Gabriel and will do his best to visit your neighborhood.

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## Holiday Decorations Award Program

The City of San Gabriel, in conjunction with the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce, has established this award program to honor residents and businesses for their participation in spreading the holiday cheer. Winners will be notified by letter and will be recognized during the week of December 15 with a visit from Santa and the San Gabriel Fire and Police Departments. Winners will receive a sign to display and certificates of recognition, as well as special gifts, from the City Council. Use the Nomination Form below to recognize properties that light up the holidays!

### NOMINATION FORM

Everyone is encouraged to nominate a residential property or business for consideration. Self-nominations are encouraged. Properties must be in the City limits of San Gabriel to qualify. Properties that have previously won an award within the past 5 years, current City Council members, City Commissioners, full-time City employees and members of the Selection Committee are NOT eligible for the award.

A Selection Committee from the Women's Division will visit each of the nominated sites and choose residential and commercial winners from each of the following four areas of the city:



- \* Northwest (North of Fairview Avenue, west of Del Mar)
- \* Northeast (North of Fairview Avenue, east of Del Mar)
- \* Southwest (South of Fairview Avenue, west of Del Mar)
- \* Southeast (South of Fairview Avenue, east of Del Mar)



The committee will base their decision in part on the following criteria:

- Originality
- Seasonal Theme
- Effort Expended

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated By (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations are due no later than 12 noon on December 9. They may be dropped off or mailed to 425 S. Mission Dr., or faxed to the Community Development Department at City Hall, (626) 458-2830. You may also nominate a property by email at lcastillo@sgch.org or visit the City's website at www.sangabrielcity.com to download a Nomination Form.



- \* Judging will take place December 10-11. Please be sure your display is ready to be viewed by these dates.



City of San Gabriel – Sponsored by the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce – Community Development Department  
425 S. Mission Drive • San Gabriel, CA 91776

Phone (626) 308-2806 • Fax (626) 458-2830 • www.sangabrielcity.com

## Donate to Spark of Love Toy Drive

The 16th annual "Spark of Love" toy drive will soon be coming your way, collecting new toys for needy children at Christmas time. This year the drive will again be sponsored by KABC-TV and Southern California firefighters.



**"Last year, over 600,000 toys were collected and  
distributed to kids in time for Christmas"**

The "Spark of Love" toy drive runs from Nov. 28-Dec. 24. A new unwrapped toy may be dropped off at any fire station or CVS/pharmacy during this time frame. Fire departments throughout Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties will be collecting toys for the children within their respective areas.

Last year, over 600,000 toys were collected and distributed to kids in time for Christmas. Toys dropped off at either fire station in San Gabriel (Station 51, 1303 S. Del Mar Ave.; Station 52, 115 N. Del Mar Ave.) will be distributed to the following organizations: the San Gabriel Community Coordinating Council, The Desi Geestman Foundation through the City of Hope, and the San Gabriel Library which will receive books and games.

There are a number of San Gabriel businesses that have also incorporated a toy drive with their Christmas party. This is a great way to start the season, so we hope to see all of you at the fire station with your new unwrapped toys. For more information, please call (626) 308-2880.



# Welcome to eServices

The City of San Gabriel takes pride in being open for business from any place and at any time. Through the City's website, [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com), residents, businesses and visitors can get the latest information about City departments, services and current projects.

This issue of *Grapevine* invites you to learn more about the San Gabriel Police Department. The Police Department encourages a problem solving, community policing philosophy and works collaboratively with the community in addressing problems of crime and disorder.

Committed to working with the community to provide quality police services, the Police Department's website offers an opportunity to learn about the department and its services. It also provides a way to communicate with the department and receive important information about crime prevention and community programs.

The San Gabriel Police Department is comprised of many different divisions and bureaus that are featured on the website.

**“The Police Department encourages a problem solving, community policing philosophy and works collaboratively with the community in addressing problems of crime and disorder”**



Visit [www.sgpd.com](http://www.sgpd.com) and discover the San Gabriel Police Department

# Do You Like To Travel?

If you like to travel, you'll love Parks & Recreation's Trips & Tours Program! Each season, the department offers an exciting variety of trips and tours for your enjoyment. Day trips and overnight trips are available and each is competitively priced. Registration is taken on a first registered, first seated basis at the Parks & Recreation office, 250 S. Mission Drive.

Our lineup of day trips this fall includes Old Town Orange, Getty Villa, Knott's Christmas Craft Village, Del Mar Dinner & Holiday Lights, Agua Caliente, Castaways and Palm Springs. Overnight tours this fall include Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park, Reno, Las Vegas, Lake Havasu and Hearst Castle.

Be sure to register early for these and all of our offerings, as space is limited. For more information and to register, simply contact the Parks & Recreation office at (626) 308-2875. Be sure to ask how you can get first priority registration for trips by signing up for our quarterly Travel Guide for only \$4 per year. See you on board!

# How to Report a Crime

The first decision in reporting a crime is to determine whether the crime is an emergency (in progress) crime or a “cold” crime. If a crime is in progress or has the potential to cause injury or is an emergency, you should immediately dial 9-1-1.

Generally, crimes that have already occurred and did not involve an injury and/or did not involve fleeing suspect(s) are considered “cold.” In this case, you should contact the city where the crime occurred by calling the City's published emergency number – in San Gabriel that's (626) 308-2828. If you don't know the City's published emergency number, please call information for assistance.

When calling 9-1-1 in an emergency, try and remain calm. If possible, be prepared to remain on the phone to answer the following questions:

- What is the problem?
- Where is the problem?
- Is it still happening (in progress)?
- How many people are involved?
- Are there weapons involved?
- What do the people look like (sex, age, race, height, weight, what are they wearing)?
- Are there vehicles involved?
- Can you describe the vehicles (year, make, model, color, license plate)?
- Which way did they go?
- What is your name, address and telephone number? (optional)

In many cases the dispatcher will keep you on the phone until officers arrive. And, although the dispatcher may continue to speak with you and request that you remain on the line, in most cases police units are already en route.

When reporting a “cold” crime, your call will be prioritized in order of receipt. Emergency calls always receive first priority. Unfortunately, this means that officers may be delayed in handling “cold” crimes. In cases where the response will be significantly delayed, we will attempt to notify you by phone.

Please visit our web site at [www.sgpd.com](http://www.sgpd.com) for other public safety tips or call our department's Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846 for additional information on fighting crime.



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# Driving and Cell Phones Can Be a Dangerous Mix

If you were asked to do something that was dangerous and unlawful would you do it? Cell phones are a modern convenience that many of us could not think of being without, but most people don't realize the potential danger of talking while driving, and may not be aware that effective July 1, all California drivers are prohibited from using a handheld wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle (Vehicle Code (VC) §23123). Motorists 18 and over may use a "hands-free device." Drivers under the age of 18 may not use a wireless telephone or hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle (VC §23124). The only exception is during an emergency to call police, fire or medical authorities (VC §23124).

A 1997 New England Journal of Medicine study showed the risk of a collision when using a cellular telephone was four times higher than without. Eleven years later with the onslaught of cellular phone photos, Internet, and text messaging, the risk has grown much worse. Even hands-free models were still found in many studies to distract the driver even though the driver had both hands on the wheel. In some studies, drivers themselves have admitted that they've become distracted when they use any type of cell phone while driving.

The San Gabriel Police Department recommends following these safety tips, courtesy of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association:

- Make safe driving your first priority:
  - Buckle up.
  - Keep your hands on the wheel.
  - Keep your eyes on the road.
- Position your phone where it is easy to see and reach.
- Familiarize yourself with the phone's operation while the car is parked.
- Use a hands-free microphone while driving.
- Use the speed dial feature for frequently called numbers.
- Pull over and dial manually.
- Never take notes while driving. Pull off the road if you must read or write.
- Use voice mail to pick up your calls if it is inconvenient or unsafe to answer the car phone.

If you must use your phone for an emergency while driving, check traffic conditions before placing a phone call or performing any task and, if necessary, wait until it is safe to make your call. Never allow your conversation to distract you from driving; keep your eyes on the road, and frequently check the side and rear view mirrors.

Don't endanger yourself or others. Use cell phones in a safe, legal manner when driving – or not at all. For more information on safe cell phone usage and driving, please call (626) 308-2828.

中文 <a href="http://www.sangabrielcity.com">www.sangabrielcity.com</a>	español <a href="http://www.sangabrielcity.com">www.sangabrielcity.com</a>
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# Library Celebrates Grand Re-Opening

A special grand re-opening of the San Gabriel Public Library on September 15th drew over 400 people joining in the day-long festivities, and celebrated much needed library improvements.

If you haven't visited the library recently, stop by and enjoy the many learning services provided to the community. The library is located at 500 S. Del Mar Avenue, and staff can be reached at (626) 287-0761.



Kids and adults of all ages can once again enjoy the library!



# City & School Board Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19**  
Networking Mixer  
6-8 p.m.  
Jefferson Middle School

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17**  
Holiday Networking Mixer  
6-8 p.m.  
CHEC Building of the San Gabriel  
Valley Medical Center

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21**  
Networking Mixer  
6-8 p.m.  
San Gabriel South Fire Station,  
1303 South Del Mar Avenue

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

## The San Gabriel Grapevine

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



www.sangabrielcity.com



## Tree Planting Program Helps City Go Green

The City of San Gabriel is doing its part in going green with the implementation of the Street Tree Master Plan. The plan outlines needs, installation and the proper planting of a tree. It also identifies specific trees (small, medium and large) that would be most beneficial for each neighborhood. The Street Tree Master Plan is available at the Community Development counter at City Hall.

The City's General Plan strategy of planting trees has been jump-started in recent months thanks to efforts by the Public Works Division and the Planning Division. The Public Works Division observed Arbor Day on April 26 and planted approximately 20 Chinese Pistache trees on Las Tunas between Santa Anita Street and San Marino Avenue.

The Public Works Division also planted Eastern Rosebud and Chinese Flame trees in the southern section of the City.

The Planning Division is working with Northeast Trees in receiving grant monies for the planting of street trees. Currently the Division is in talks with them about planting 300 trees in the City with volunteers and local groups.

**"The City's General Plan strategy of planting trees has been jump-started in recent months"**

If you would like to assist in future tree plantings or have any questions, please call the Public Works Division at (626) 308-2825.

## shortTAKES

### AT&T Lightspeed Initiative

As part of a program to deliver advanced technology to its customers, AT&T is bringing fiber optic video, Internet and voice service to San Gabriel. Some residents have contacted the City to inquire about the opportunity to receive these services. Others have called to notify the City of concerns about the arrival of installation crews in their neighborhoods and voiced reservations about the appearance and aesthetics of these installations.

Because AT&T is defined as a public utility regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, the City does not directly control decisions over the location, placement, or existence of facilities within the City; rather, these activities are regulated by state and federal law.

AT&T submitted encroachment permit requests for 10 sites throughout San Gabriel for installation of new cabinets (with the City's request that the placement of these new units should be as unobtrusive as possible) and, which, when connected to existing AT&T facilities, will provide broadband services in selected areas of the City. Residents who sign up for the service will be given a modem in order to receive the enhanced service.

Working with City staff, AT&T has agreed to provide a combined permit request for each location; concrete, electrical and cabinet installation work will all be on one plan and covered by one permit. The City is issuing permits only for construction and traffic control within the public right-of-way, but does not control other aspects of the work.

If you would like more information about the AT&T project, please contact AT&T at (800) 288-2020 or log on to www.att.com. For any issues involving traffic control or safety within the public right of way, please call the Engineering Division at (626) 308-2806, ext. 4631 or 4632 to be connected to a member of the engineering staff.

## shortTAKES

### SGUSD Serving Community for Over a Century

Nationally recognized schools, dedicated teachers and staff, and a rich tradition of serving students and the community for more than 140 years, makes the San Gabriel Unified School District (SGUSD) an institution in which our City can be proud!

In partnership with the community, the mission of the San Gabriel Unified School District is to prepare students for their future as productive citizens and lifelong learners. SGUSD's commitment to providing a balanced curriculum, supportive programs and practices, and an environment that encourages students to reach their maximum potential, is reflected in the accomplishments of Gabrielino High School (GHS).

GHS recently received Silver Medal status in U.S. News and World Report's first annual list of America's Best High Schools. America's Best High Schools recognizes three categories of distinction: gold, silver and bronze. This distinction places GHS in the top 505 schools in the nation or top three percent. GHS students have also won many national awards and received recognition in their speech and debate team, the band, special science projects and competitive sports programs.

San Gabriel is proud of its public schools, students, teachers and staff. The City of San Gabriel joins the community in wishing SGUSD a "Happy 140th Birthday!" For more information about SGUSD, visit www.sgusd.k12.ca.us.



## Halloween Safety Tips for Kids

McGruff's



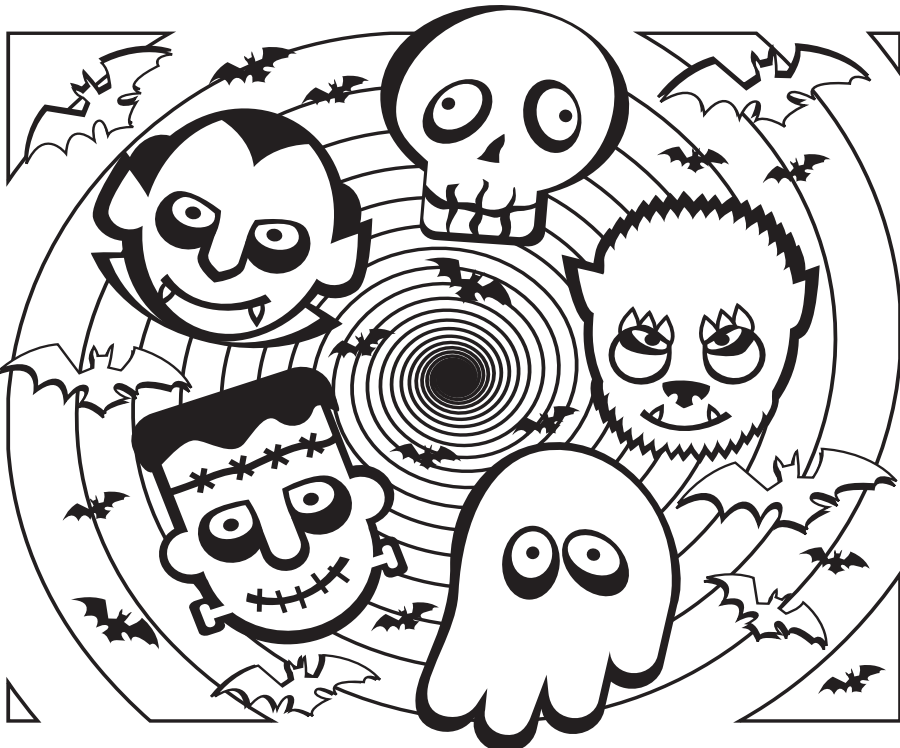
**PAW PRINTS**

S.G.P.D.

McGruff and the San Gabriel Police Department remind you that Halloween is a special and fun-filled time for you and your children. Follow these few safety tips and you'll have a 'spooktacular' evening:

- Wear a flame-retardant costume that can be seen at night; also use reflective tape.
- If you wear a mask, take it off before crossing the street.
- Walk on well-lit streets, stay on the sidewalks and carry a flashlight.
- Have a parent, older brother or sister, or a responsible adult go with you.
- Cross streets only at corners, never between cars.
- Never go inside anyone's home.
- Don't eat anything, especially something that is not wrapped – wait until you get home so an adult can carefully inspect the candy.

For more information, visit the Police Department's web page at www.sgpdpd.com and have your children take the Halloween Safety Quiz.



Color Me!