

news and views from our town

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SAN GABRIEL • CA

San Gabriel

# Grapevine

AUTUMN 2010 VOLUME 15 • ISSUE VIII

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

## I-10 Route Proposed for High Speed Rail; Potential Impacts on San Gabriel

Proposals being considered by the California High Speed Rail Authority would potentially route a high-speed rail line through San Gabriel and other valley communities. As this story was going to press, officials of the California High Speed Rail Authority agreed to attend a City Council meeting in October to present plans and answer community inquiries, and a community meeting was scheduled by Authority officials for October 6 in El Monte.

### Proposed Route Alignments May Impact San Gabriel

One of three routes under study would bring the high speed rail line through San Gabriel's southern perimeter; either on or adjoining the San Bernardino Freeway (Interstate 10). Impacts associated with that route may include disruption of residential neighborhoods, noise, height and visibility, vibration, construction hazards, design and aesthetics, and other concerns.

Several alternatives for routes between Los Angeles and Ontario Airport have been under discussion including design options, station location, and guideway placement; these include alignments along the I-210, I-10, and SR 60 corridors. One station may be located in the San Gabriel Valley between Los Angeles and Ontario Airport.

The City initially received reports that the High Speed Rail Authority would select its route at a meeting originally scheduled in September; but that has been rescheduled. Although impacts associated with the line will vary widely from city to city, they may include aesthetics and visibility; noise attenuation; infrastructure relocation; and significant impacts on neighborhoods adjoining the right-of-way. At an August 9 meeting in Alhambra, San Gabriel officials – while supporting the concept – raised a host of concerns about the potential impacts on San Gabriel neighborhoods along the I-10, the absence of local representation in decision making, and the difficulty the City has had getting consistent and correct information.

Potential station locations mentioned are El Monte, West Covina, and Cal Poly. In order to provide a safe, conflict free alignment, the CHSR tracks need to be constructed above ground on structures, underground in tunnels or trenches, or in significantly protected at-grade right of way.

**One station may be located in the San Gabriel Valley between Los Angeles and Ontario Airport**

### Design and Placement Under Study

One alternative alignment is along Interstate 10 (on an elevated guideway structure), which could be on the north side, center, or south side of the freeway. The Authority, having encountered objections from rail entities and Caltrans, is now planning to relocate its I-10 route to the south side of the freeway right of way, which would have fewer impacts on San Gabriel (which does not control land south of I-10) but potentially greater

impacts on neighbors in Rosemead and Monterey Park.

The elevated guideway would, if approved, be 50 feet wide, at least 35 to 40 feet high, and supported by columns 8 to 12 feet wide. Potential impacts include loss of City right of way, acquisition of homes and businesses for CHSR right of way, visual/aesthetics, noise, and construction impacts.

The Authority has indicated that it may use eminent domain authority to acquire land within the target communities. Documents available on the High Speed Rail Authority's website indicate that an environmental impact review process is now underway with a proposed close of scoping (public comments regarding the proposed content of the environmental impact report) on November 20. We urge our residents to become better informed about a project with significant potential impacts if it is not carefully planned. See the sidebar for more information.



### Be Informed About High Speed Rail

Your city officials are working to ensure that San Gabriel's concerns are addressed, but we urge you to:

• **Get More Information.** The City urges residents to learn more. Consult the CHSR website ([www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov)) for more information.

• **Comment on the Proposed Environmental Review Process.** See the environmental scoping notice here: [http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20091002134320\\_NOP\\_Signed.pdf](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20091002134320_NOP_Signed.pdf)

• **Follow Actions by the Council of Governments.** The Council of Governments, responding to requests from Alhambra, San Gabriel and other valley cities, is working to develop a unified response addressing the concerns of valley communities. Learn more about the COG at <http://www.sgvco.org/index.cfm>

• **Contact Your State Representatives.** Contact your local State Assembly and Senate offices to make sure your voices are heard. We are in direct communication with our local legislative representatives to ensure San Gabriel's concerns are addressed.

• **Check Our Website Weekly.** The City will post information as we receive it on the City's homepage at [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com).

• **Contact Us.** The City's engineering staff is monitoring developments; contact them at (626) 308-2806 for more information.

## Buying Local Retains Jobs, Boosts City Revenues

Cities across America have embarked on campaigns to encourage local shopping and dining during the economic recession. According to the 350 project, when a customer spends \$100 at a locally owned business, \$68 stays in the local economy, creating local jobs and expanding the city's tax base. When a customer spends \$100 at a national chain, only \$43 stays in the local economy. Spending the same amount online at a business not located in the city, returns zero dollars to the local economy.

There are 1,709 commercial businesses and 321 home-based businesses with City licenses in San Gabriel. While the City has many retailers, it is the strong presence of independent businesses and the entrepreneurial spirit of their owners and employees that are integral to making San Gabriel an interesting and great place.

San Gabriel is known regionally and internationally for its business clusters, such as garden and landscaping, food, traditional and nontraditional health and wellness, fashion and designer jewelry, finance, tourism, electrical and plumbing supplies, and import-export.

San Gabriel encourages residents, property and business owners, and non-profit organization leaders to think about the expenditures they make on a daily basis and consider changing their purchasing patterns by buying from local businesses. Rediscover San Gabriel—enjoy staying near home to shop, dine, and entertain yourself, your family, and your guests and make an investment in your community and reduce your carbon footprint!

### City Council Initiatives to Promote Local Businesses

Here are some initiatives that the City has developed to support our local economy:

- Economic Development strategy to prepare the City for recovery
- Visitors Guides and Community Events brochures
- Visual Identity and Wayfinding Program
- Designation of Valley Boulevard at the request of local merchants as the "Golden Mile" District
- Food Guide to promote local restaurants and specialty markets
- San Gabriel Boulevard Improvements
- San Gabriel Village Improvements (under design)

To learn more about what San Gabriel has to offer, visit [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com). Submit your ideas for promoting San Gabriel to residents, visitors, and tourists to Robin Scherr at [rscherr@sgch.org](mailto:rscherr@sgch.org), or (626) 308-2806, ext. 5123.

## Santa Returning to City Neighborhoods

Playing out one of San Gabriel's favorite traditions, Santa returns to town this December to brighten everyone's holidays. He will be leaving his reindeer to rest up for Christmas Eve and check in to make sure his gift list is up to date. Santa Claus will be here 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 San Gabriel 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 as many streets in San Gabriel as possible, but he cannot promise he will be able to visit every street.

**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**

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



# Upcoming Events at the Mission Playhouse

## Music! Dance! Theater!

### THURSDAY, NOV. 4, 10 a.m.

**Theatreworks USA**  
*Click Clack Moo*  
Professional theatre for young people  
Call your local school district to confirm participation  
Tickets are not available to the general public  
For info call (800) 497-5007  
www.theatreworksusa.org

### FRI./SAT., NOV. 5-6, 7 p.m.

**Li's Ballet Studio**  
For info/tickets call (626) 285-4888  
www.lisballet.com

### SAT./SUN., NOV. 13-14, 7 p.m.

**Chinese American Dancing Group**  
For info/tickets call (626) 823-3323  
www.chineseamericandancinggroup.com

### SAT., NOV. 20, 7 p.m.

**SUN., NOV. 21, 4 p.m.**  
**Elite Ballet Theatre**  
For info/tickets call (626) 456-3391  
www.eliteballettheatre.com

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

**All Star Show**  
Chinese Music & Variety Show  
For info/tickets call (626) 831-2222

### SAT., DEC. 18, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

**SUN., DEC. 19, 2 p.m.**  
**Pasadena Dance Theatre** presents  
*The Nutcracker Ballet*  
Special Student Performances

### THURS./FRI., DEC. 16-17, 10 a.m.

For info/tickets call (626) 683-3459  
www.pasadenadance.org

### Local School Holiday Concerts

#### TUES., DEC. 14, 7 p.m.

**Temple City High School**  
For info/tickets call (626) 548-5000

#### WED., DEC. 15, 7 p.m.

**Jefferson Middle School**  
For info/tickets call (626) 287-5260

#### SUN., JAN. 9, 3 p.m.

**Olympia Youth Orchestra**  
Fung Ho, conducting  
For info/tickets call (626) 447-5839  
www.olympiaphil.org

#### FRI., JAN. 14, 7 p.m.

**Temple City High School**  
Annual Dance Concert  
For info/tickets call (626) 548-5000

#### SAT., JAN. 15, 7 p.m.

**LA Theatre Organ Society**  
*"Wurlitzer Weekend"*  
For info/tickets call (888) 528-6722  
www.latos.org

#### SAT./SUN., JAN. 22-23 TIME TBD

**Chinese Ticket Box**  
Variety Show  
For info/tickets call (510) 796-9988  
www.chineseticketbox.com

#### SAT., JAN. 29, 2 p.m.

**San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre** presents  
*The Great Big Band Show*  
For info/tickets call (626) 282-1440  
www.sgvmusictheatre.org

The San Gabriel 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. Check [www.missionplayhouse.org](http://www.missionplayhouse.org) or the event hotline for changes and newly added performances at (626) 308-2868.



## Turkey Trot to Be Held at New Location

The 35th Annual Turkey Trot, to be held November 13, will be at a new location this year-- McKinley Elementary School, 1425 Manley Drive. The race course will change slightly too as participants will start their run from the school blacktop, wind through neighborhoods and finish near the basketball courts after running near the wash.

Check-in time for the 5/10k Race, 1K Youth Run, and 5K Fun Walk begins at 7:15 a.m. for all walk and race participants. The Fun Walk will begin at 8 a.m., followed by the 1K 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 11 age categories will receive ribbons; 1st Place winners also receive a medal and turkey gift card. The 5K Fun Walk is for all ages. Other race highlights include post-race refreshments, a raffle drawing for great prizes, freebies and more!

The entry fee is \$26 for the 5K/10K Run or \$11 for the Youth Run/Fun Walk, on or before October 28. Beginning October 29, the fee is \$31 for 5K/10K or \$16 for Youth Run/Fun Walk. Commemorative Turkey Trot T-shirts are included free with each registration.

To register or for more information, contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (626) 308-2875. To register online and to see previous race records, please visit [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com).



**Check-in time for the 5/10k Race, 1K Youth Run, and 5K Fun Walk begins at 7:15 a.m. for all walk and race participants**

## New Employees Join City

### New City Engineer Appointed

San Gabriel welcomes Daren Grilley as the new City Engineer. He is taking over the position after Bruce Mattern retired in February.

Daren, who joined the City on August 30, is a licensed civil engineer with 15 years experience working for municipalities in California and Washington. He most recently served as the Assistant City Engineer for the City of SeaTac, WA near Seattle. He previously managed capital improvement projects for Rancho Cordova, CA and Kirkland, WA.

Daren holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Washington and a master's degree in transportation management from the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University. He is originally from Portland and currently resides in Valencia with his wife, Anne, and their two children. Outside of work, Daren enjoys recreational kayaking and bicycling. Drop by and say hello to Daren whenever you visit at City Hall!



### Meet Theresa Johnson, Recreation Coordinator

Theresa Johnson is the newest member of the San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Department. Since January, Theresa has been directing programs for senior citizens and working with the aquatics program at Smith Park.

Theresa graduated from California State University Fresno with a Bachelor of Science degree in recreation administration. She has worked in the public recreation field for eight years in various positions from department secretary to recreation supervisor.

Theresa has been working to increase participation in the older adult activities. Her goal is to increase participation in the daily lunch program and introduce the seniors to a wide variety of activities, including learning to bowl and go fishing on the Wii gaming system. She also organized the very successful first annual Health and Wellness Fair in May.

Theresa also oversees the aquatics programs at Smith Park Pool and helps organize citywide special events. For more information on the senior and aquatics programs and to reach Theresa, please call (626) 308-2875.



### LIGHT UP SAN GABRIEL 2010

## 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 13, with a visit from Santa and the San Gabriel Fire and Police Departments. Winners will receive a sign to display and will receive certificates of recognition, as well as special gifts, from the City Council.

### NOMINATION FORM

Everyone is encouraged to nominate a residential property, including apartment buildings and businesses 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 Tuesday, December 7, 2010. 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 [ldelacruz@sgch.org](mailto:ldelacruz@sgch.org) or visit the City's website at [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com).

**Judging will take place between December 9th and 10th**  
Please be sure your display is ready to be viewed by these dates.

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

## 'Wayfinding' Program Helps Customers, Visitors Find their Way

Last summer, San Gabriel initiated a marketing program to boost sales for local businesses. Hunt Design, Inc., an environmental graphics firm, was hired to create a visual identity and wayfinding program for San Gabriel.

Over the past year more than 300 residents participated in community meetings and presentations to help frame and refine the choices.

Closing the chapter on a year-long process, the San Gabriel City Council voted 4-0 on September 21 to retain the City's existing logo and 'City with a Mission' tagline, rejecting an updated version of the logo that residents opposed as inauthentic to the City's mission history. The Council expressed interest in building new ways for diverse elements of the community to better communicate.

**Over the past year more than 300 residents participated in community meetings and presentations to help frame and refine the choices**

On September 7, the Council and Agency also approved design standards and a wayfinding plan that includes "gateway" monument signs, commercial district identification, vehicular-oriented signs, pedestrian signs, public facility signs, and public parking. That plan shows the districts, destinations, and the locations of signs. Commercial districts highlighted in the Plan include Las Tunas Drive, San Gabriel Boulevard, and Valley Boulevard, as well as San Gabriel Village and the



City with a Mission

Washington School commercial area.

The Agency is expected to award a contract to a sign fabricator and installer in early 2011.

A wayfinding plan for pedestrians in the Mission District was also approved. This plan shows the location of museums, landmarks, parks, and other destinations. Funding for this portion of the project have not yet been identified.

**Commercial districts highlighted in the Plan include Las Tunas Drive, San Gabriel Boulevard, and Valley Boulevard, as well as San Gabriel Village and the Washington School commercial area**

For more information, contact Robin Scherr in the Community Development Department at (626) 308-2806, ext. 5123, or [rscherr@sgch.org](mailto:rscherr@sgch.org). The staff report is on the City's website at [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com) under the Economic Development Division home page.

## New 'Green' Building Codes Go into Effect in January

California residents will be able to build greener and more sustainable buildings under new state laws expected to take effect next January.

On January 1, 2011, California's new building codes go into effect after adoption by local jurisdictions. The new codes include two new publications: the Green Building Standards Code (CAL Green) and the California Residential Code (CRC).

The purpose of the CAL Green Code is to enhance the design and construction of buildings through the use of building concepts and encouraging sustainable construction practices.

The CRC establishes the minimum requirements for safety to life and property from fire and other hazards and to provide safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations. These standards are pertinent to all new applications submitted on or after January 1, 2011.

The Building Division staff has been informing the public of these changes since January, 2010. Information regarding these new

**The purpose of the CAL Green Code is to enhance the design and construction of buildings through the use of building concepts and encouraging sustainable construction practices**



codes is available on the public counter, webpage, and the City's cable scroll channel to assist in getting the word out to the community. For more information, contact Building Division Manager Evan Zeisel at (626) 308-2806, or at [ezeisel@sgch.org](mailto:ezeisel@sgch.org).

### Donate \$35 and Secure a Place in San Gabriel History

In connection with the installation of new street name signs citywide, San Gabriel's stock of historic, 1960s-era street signs are now available for purchase by residents, business owners, and collectors. These signs – many of them with original porcelain-coat facing – are already generating wide interest, with more than 200 signs sold in the first month.

For a donation of \$35 per sign, you may select from hundreds of signs, or identify a sign not yet replaced that you would like to purchase for future pickup.

And with every donation you help celebrate the history of this remarkable city. For every \$35 donation received, \$10 will be donated to the City's 2013 Centennial Celebration, scheduled to occur in April, 2013. Checks should be made payable to the City of San Gabriel, and purchases (once a sign is selected) may be made at the City's Finance Department office at City Hall, 425 South Mission Drive.

You can browse the selection of available signs at the City's Maintenance Facility at 111 W. Mission Road (enter off of Rosenda, just north of Mission Road) between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily; or you may learn what signs are available by calling Public Works at (626) 308-2825 and speaking to Patty Pena or Bob Bustos.

## City Replaces Overhead and Street Name Signs

The Public Works Department has now finished replacing all overhead street name signs throughout the City. The signs are located on the mast arm of signalized intersections and will assist drivers to easily identify streets.

The overhead signs have been well received by residents and have also reduced the City's energy use. The signs include the street name and the San Gabriel Mission logo on the face and are reflected by the headlights of oncoming traffic.

The Public Works Department has also begun work on replacing all street name signs. These will be located at every intersection and will include the name of the street as well as block number and direction. Work on the project is anticipated to be completed within a year. The program will allow the City to meet 2012 federal standards for street signs.

For more information, please contact Street Supervisor Gerry Lopez, (626) 308-2825, [glopez@sgch.org](mailto:glopez@sgch.org)

**San Gabriel's collection of old street signs – like the ones at the right – are now available at a donation of \$35 per sign. For each donation, a portion of the proceeds will go to help support San Gabriel's 2013 Centennial celebration.**



## San Gabriel Goes Green Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory Underway

Last year San Gabriel adopted a landmark strategy, 'San Gabriel Goes Green,' to help guide decision making that will make San Gabriel a more sustainable place to live and work. As new state laws take effect that seek to limit people's carbon 'footprint,' San Gabriel will be joining communities across the state in creating new strategies to meet the requirements of those laws.

Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, sets the state's 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal into law. That law requires the City, by the year 2020, to cap the production of greenhouse gases at the same level as occurred in 1990.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) are the most common greenhouse gases (GHGs) that can be reduced. Increasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere are the result of increased combustion of fossil fuels. Statewide, fossil fuel combustion accounts for 98 percent of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions according to air pollution experts.

To comply with AB32, San Gabriel is undertaking a greenhouse gas inventory to determine what local activities generate the most CO<sub>2</sub>. Data collected include the total number of residential energy accounts and how much gas and electricity is provided to homes. When the inventory is complete, the City will formulate a strategy for reducing the emissions.

One idea that could reduce home energy consumption is to reduce fees for permits to make energy efficient home improvements. San Gabriel can also adopt cost effective alternatives to reduce our municipal production of greenhouse gases. In the long run, to address greenhouse gas emissions from cars, we need to make it more attractive for people to leave their cars at home. Promoting alternative forms of mobility – walking, biking, and taking mass transit – is required.

A grant from the U.S. Department of Energy is funding the cost of the inventory. When the inventory is complete, the information will be made available on the City's website.

**When the inventory is complete, the City will formulate a strategy for reducing the emissions**

Your ideas will be essential to reduce our reliance on fossil fuel. For more information or to offer your own suggestions, contact Planning Manager Carol Barrett at (626) 308-2806, ext. 4624 or e-mail her at [cbarrett@sgch.org](mailto:cbarrett@sgch.org).



# 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

### FRIDAY, OCT. 29

Free power networking breakfast  
7-9 a.m., Elks Lodge  
1373 E. Las Tunas Dr., San Gabriel  
Reservations required, call (626) 576-2525

### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 17

Annual harvest celebration dinner  
6:30-8:30 p.m., Autunno  
409 S. Mission Dr.  
Reservations required, call (626) 576-2525

### FRIDAY, NOV. 19

Free power networking breakfast  
7-9 a.m., Elks Lodge  
1373 E. Las Tunas Dr., San Gabriel  
Reservations required, call (626) 576-2525

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15

Holiday Networking Mixer  
5:30-8 p.m., CHEC Building, \$10/person  
Corner of Junipero Serra and Broadway

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19

Networking Mixer  
6-8 p.m., San Gabriel South Fire Station  
1303 S. Del Mar Ave. \$7/person; \$10/couple

### FRIDAY, JAN. 28

Networking Mixer  
Free power networking breakfast  
7-9 a.m., Elks Lodge  
1373 E. Las Tunas Dr., San Gabriel  
Reservations required, call (626) 576-2525

## The San Gabriel Grapevine

### SAN GABRIEL CITY COUNCIL

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David R. Gutierrez, Vice Mayor  
Juli Costanzo, Councilmember  
Mario De La Torre, Councilmember  
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中文 [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com) español [www.sangabrielcity.com](http://www.sangabrielcity.com)

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



City of San Gabriel  
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# Celebrate the Holidays with Neighbors

Santa will make his first appearance in San Gabriel Tuesday, December 7, 6 p.m. at Plaza Park. What better way to launch the holiday season than to join your neighbors and help decorate the City Christmas Tree. Everyone is invited to the Christmas Tree Lighting party. The Jefferson Middle School Orchestra and Chorus will entertain while you sip cocoa, greet your friends and renew acquaintances. Plaza Park is located across the street from City Hall, 428 S. Mission Drive.

Your children can create their own decorations to hang on the City Christmas tree. The tree will be lit at 7 p.m. to officially welcome the holiday season. Following the lighting of the tree, Santa will arrive on the vintage fire truck to meet 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.

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



# shortTAKES

## Holiday Entertainment at the Playhouse

The holiday season is the perfect time to visit the beautiful Mission Playhouse when Pasadena Dance Theatre (PDT) returns for more wonderful performances of *The Nutcracker*.

Featuring a cast of over 70 dancers, this professional company fills principal and soloist roles, and is joined by children from the community, to present this holiday classic. Set to Tchaikovsky's timeless score, with choreography by Cynthia Young, PDT's *Nutcracker* is one of the warmest and most lavish full-length productions in the Southland!

Long a favorite holiday tradition for Southern California families, PDT also brings its sparkling show to more than 6,000 students in special outreach performances each year. For information and tickets visit [www.pasadenadance.org](http://www.pasadenadance.org).

## McGruff's



# PAW PRINTS

S.G.P.D.

## Door-to-Door Scams and Frauds

Scam artists specifically target older people who own their own homes and live in middle-income neighborhoods. Door-to-door scams are among the biggest crimes against seniors. Scammers try to sell things like home repair, driveway repair, chimney cleaning, gutter cleaning and tree trimming. Selling door-to-door requires a license in the City of San Gabriel, and home repair companies almost always require a license.

Scam artists often try to get paid for their work in cash, but if the victim offers to pay for the work by check, they request that the check be made out to the scammer personally. The scam artist will then cash the check and you'll never see him again.

In one scam, a senior resident agreed to have his front porch replaced and agreed to pay for materials after the job was started. So the scammer started the

job by using a sledge hammer to break up the porch, collected the money to get materials, but never returned.

In another example, the contractor didn't quote an amount to the homeowner for cutting down some trees that had come down during a storm. Before the job was finished, they'd left all the cuttings strewn across the yard and handed the woman a bill for \$14,000. She, of course, refused to pay, so they threatened to sue her and take her property.

Fortunately, in this case, the woman called relatives, who called the police, and the perpetrators were arrested before they could even cash the check.

Another common scam is to tell the residents they need to have their chimney cleaned yearly, and then just spread some soot around to make it look like the chimney was cleaned.

**Door-to-door scams are among the biggest crimes against seniors**

### Tips to avoid door-to-door scammers

- Do not do business with door to door sales people unless you can verify that they have a local office.
- Contractors should have a contractor's license. If someone cannot provide a license, don't do business with them. You can check a contractor's license by going to: <https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicense/LicenseDetail.aspx?LicNum=845630>
- Get references that are at least several months old and call them. You want to be sure that you are contacting real people, not partners of the scammer.
- Don't do business right on the spot. If someone tells you that you have a problem with your property that needs to be fixed, get additional opinions from several contractors.
- Don't be pressured to sign right now or lose the "fantastic deal." This is a common tactic of scammers to stop you from checking them out, looking for a better price, or giving you time to reconsider your decision.
- Don't make the check out in the name of a person, no matter what kind of deal they offer.
- Never pay for services in cash. Cash can be spent immediately and is not traceable. With a check, you will usually have a few hours to stop payment if you find something is wrong. Banks also have consumer fraud measures and can often track someone who has committed a fraud.
- A better option, if the business provides it, is to pay via credit card. Your credit card service will allow you to dispute a charge up to 30 days after the charge is made. Obviously most scammers don't take credit cards.
- Don't be afraid to offend someone by not doing business with them. Scammers will pretend that you are personally insulting their credibility and honesty if you want to check them out.
- If you don't feel comfortable, walk away.
- Make sure that you sign an agreement and that everything you agree to is in that agreement.
- Before you sign a contract, give it at least a day to think it over. Call friends and relatives and pass the idea by them. Doing so doesn't mean you aren't intelligent. It means that you are cautious and a savvy shopper.
- If you smell a rat, call your local Better Business Bureau or visit <http://www.la.bbb.org/Home.aspx> to see if there have been any complaints of this type against this company.

Scammers will often use cheap or inappropriate materials, if they do the work at all. One senior reported a scam in which the salesperson promised to resurface his asphalt driveway for \$900, a very nice sounding price to the senior who had recently been quoted over \$2,000 for the same job. Unable to get outside, however, the senior couldn't see that the scammer had actually spread used motor oil over the asphalt driveway to give it a dark look, rather than resurface it.

Another way scammers convince persons of needed work is to use "the same interest" approach. The scammer gets the names of several neighborhood residents and then goes to other houses to tell them about the supposed work they've done for them, and how much they liked it.

The assumption is that if neighbors are happy with a scammer's work, "dropping a few names" qualifies as a recommendation. Never mind that the contractor, not the neighbor, is reporting the supposed job and the neighbor's satisfaction with it.

In some cases, this is taken one step further by giving two names that don't exist on a long street, several blocks away. This works because scammers often correctly assume that residents may not know everyone on their street, which is another reason why Neighborhood Watch is so important—it helps to know your neighbors.

If you have any questions, or to start a Neighborhood Watch group on your street, contact the Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846.



### San Gabriel Library 500 S. Del Mar Ave, (626) 287-0761

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

#### KIDS

- Tuesdays 6:30pm** **Family Story Time**  
All ages welcome for stories, music, and art activities.
- Wednesdays 10:30am** **Toddler Story Time**  
For emergent readers ages 1-5. Stories, music, and art.
- 3rd Thursday of the month 4:30pm** **3rd-5th Grade Reading Group**  
Share books and snacks.
- Tuesdays 3pm** **Origami Lessons**

#### TEENS

LOOKING FOR LEADERS!

- Have a say in what happens at your library
- Provide title suggestions
- Plan teen library events

Ask the teen librarian for more information on how to join the Teen Advisory Board!

#### ADULTS

- 3rd Wednesday of the month 4pm** **Book Club & Discussion Group**  
Light refreshments & good company.
- Thursdays 1pm** **Adult Gentle Exercise**  
Strength, flexibility and balance.
- Wednesdays 6:30pm** **Meditation Class**  
Relieve your stress.
- Saturdays** **Afternoon Knitting Circle**  
Ask for time and dates.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Saturday October 30 2pm** **Scary Stories & Costume Parade**  
PreK-5th grade children welcomed.
- Saturday November 6 1 - 3pm** **Vegan Cooking**  
Learn to prepare this healthy diet and sample the results.
- Saturday November 13 1 - 3pm** **Salsa Dancing Lessons**  
Come and learn some basic steps.
- Saturday December 18 2 - 4pm** **Gingerbread Creation**  
Kids make your own gingerbread houses.
- Saturday December 18-January 8** **Winter Reading Program**  
Earn prizes for reading during your winter vacation.

#### NEW HOURS

- Sunday** ..... CLOSED
- Monday** ..... CLOSED
- Tuesday** ..... 10AM-8PM
- Wednesday** ..... 10AM-8PM
- Thursday** ..... 10AM-8PM
- Friday** ..... 8AM-6PM
- Saturday** ..... 8AM-6PM

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