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San Gabriel

Grapevine

AUTUMN 1999 VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 4

Native American Dancers, Local Artist Help Kick Off Smith Park Ceremony

Groundbreaking for the Smith Park Expansion is less than a month away now! Festivities are slated for Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The groundbreaking ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. at 232 W. Broadway and the public is invited.

There will be traditional dancing and singing by the Tongva Nation dancers. The dance company will perform its 'Yearly Dance Cycle' at Smith Park, which, hundreds of years ago, was part of the Gabrielino-Tongva village of Sibangna.

In addition to traditional dancing and singing, there will be 12 display booths illustrating Gabrielino-Tongva culture and that of their neighbors (such as the Chumash and the Juanenos). The booths will feature colorful displays of plants, herbs, traditional medicines and arts and crafts. There will also be a food booth with fry-bread, soft drinks and desserts.

A major highlight of the Smith Park Expansion will be the construction of a Gabrielino village and a two-sided tile mural designed by local artist Dixie Giering. Composed of six-inch square porcelain tiles on a serpentine wall, the mural is 2.5'x16.5'. The front side (facing Broadway by the tennis courts near Madera Street) will depict scenes from the daily lives of the Gabrielino Indians. The back side (which will face the park) will display intricate portrayals of Indian

"We so often take our local history for granted. San Gabriel has a rich historical background that is illustrated in this work."

—Dixie Giering, local artist

artifacts, including bowls, clothing, a tule hut, redwood canoe, and various hunting implements. Students from Jefferson Intermediate School helped create the border design for the tiles last summer.

Giering spent weeks researching and planning before actually beginning the

design. She visited the San Gabriel Historical Society to read up on local Native American culture, consulted with Gabrielino tribal leaders, and even photographed them in numerous poses, many of which will be part of the finished work.

"This is one of the most exciting and satisfying projects I have undertaken," Giering said.

"We so often take our local history for granted. San Gabriel has a rich historical background that is illustrated in this work."

Giering added that the various birds – eagle, hawk, raven and owl; and the animals and reptiles in the foreground – mountain lion, jack rabbit, coyote, rattlesnake and turtle, are sacred to the Gabrielinos.

"The tiles celebrate their heritage, which is now part of the City's," Giering said.

Smith Park is scheduled for completion in early 2000. Some of the fencing will be removed to make the park more open and accessible. New walkways will be located at park entrances for wheelchair access, with new attractive plantings around the buildings, tennis courts, and play areas. The new park site will also provide picnic space for families and other gatherings, open lawn area with mounds and shade trees for unstructured play, and boulders and large concrete sea animals for climbing.



Dixie Giering, local artist, at work on her newest tile design.

Street Improvement Project Funding

Each year the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) provides funding to Los Angeles County and regional cities. The City of San Gabriel receives \$150,000 in Surface Transportation Program Local (STPL) funds from MTA which can be used only for major arterial roads – San Gabriel Boulevard, Valley Boulevard, Las Tunas Drive and Junipero Serra Drive.

The City is currently using these funds to complete street repairs on San Gabriel Boulevard from Mission Road to the north City limits. The City has also secured \$350,000 in grant funding from MTA for constructing median islands and entry beautification treatments for San Gabriel Boulevard between Interstate 10 and Valley Boulevard.

The City recently submitted an application to MTA to obtain \$197,000 in Surface Transportation Program funds for the repair and rehabilitation of storm damage to local streets caused by the 1997-1998 El Niño storms. The funds will be used to repair Elm Street between Burton Avenue and Muscatel Avenue.

For more information on these funding programs, please contact Civil Engineer Douglas Benash at (626) 308-2800, ext. 715.

Key Economic Development Programs Are Implemented

A year after the City Council approved a comprehensive economic development strategic plan, many key programs have been successfully implemented.

The major objectives of the plan are to attract additional retail business and capitalize on the City's resources. Accomplishments to date include:

Business Recruitment:

Marketing of Available Sites --

The City has implemented a direct-marketing tracking program to ensure timely follow-up on referrals. More than 17 clients since February are now tracked monthly.

Infrastructure Planning --

The City Council has approved funding for the general plan, a capital improvement (street) rehabilitation strategy and other capital investments.

Promotion:

Print Materials – A new San Gabriel Redevelopment Agency marketing package was created. Last February, a

'Development Opportunities Report' was launched and is now updated quarterly.

Business and Trade Show Participation – The City participated in the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership brokers' breakfast and will participate in the Partnership's fall expo and conference.

Planning & Development Opportunities:

Specific Plan for Valley Boulevard – Partial funding has been approved for traffic component and design studies and a work program is being developed.

Develop Vacant Properties – Ongoing marketing is underway; permits have been issued on several Valley Boulevard sites and other entitlements have been approved.





Upcoming San Gabriel Civic Auditorium Events

FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8-24

Music Theater of Southern California
"Wonderful Town," starring Lucie Arnaz
Hours vary
Call Auditorium Box Office, (626) 308-2868

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Music Theater of Southern California/Dance
Corps of Pasadena Ballet for Young People
9:30 a.m.
For information call (626) 281-9444

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Music Theater of Southern California/Dance
Corps of Pasadena Ballet for Young People
9:30 a.m.
For information call (626) 281-9444

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Hanyl Inc.
An Evening of Symphony
8:15 p.m.
For information call (310) 404-2867

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6-7

Chinese American Dancing Group
7:30 p.m.
For information call (626) 359-0867

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Theater for Young People
Theater Works of New York
"Charlotte's Web"
Tickets sold to area school districts
For information call (212) 647-1100

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

American/Chinese Dance Association
Chinese Dance Festival
For information call (818) 551-7881

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20-21

Pasadena Civic Ballet
Annual Holiday Production
For show times/tickets call (626) 792-0873

FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3-19

Pasadena Dance Theatre
"The Nutcracker Ballet"
Call Auditorium Box Office, (626) 308-2868

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Temple City High School
Department of the Performing Arts
7:30 p.m.
Annual Choral and Instrumental
Holiday Concert
For information call (626) 285-2111

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

San Gabriel Unified School District
Annual Choral and Instrumental
Holiday Concert
7:30 p.m.
For information call (626) 285-1551

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

Arcadia High School Music Department
Annual Holiday Concert
For information call (626) 821-6330

Call: the Auditorium Box Office
at (626) 308-2868 for
more information.

JOIN THE FUN:

Help Plan San Gabriel for the New Millennium

Rich history, beautiful neighborhoods, an active citizenry – the City of San Gabriel has all the ingredients of a successful community. But how San Gabriel grows and develops during the next 20 years – how it deals with traffic, new development, commercial revitalization – will help determine whether the City remains a premier community in the San Gabriel Valley.

You can make that difference. During the next 18 months the City of San Gabriel will be launching a 10-year update of the City's general plan, San Gabriel's guide to growth and development. It's an opportunity to get acquainted with your City officials, meet your neighbors, and work together to define the type of future you would like the City of San Gabriel to have.

During the next several months you'll be reading a lot about this project. But if you would like to be on the ground floor as a participant, let us know your thoughts! Fill out the space below and send it to us at the Community Development Department, 425 South Mission Drive (P.O. Box 130), San Gabriel 91778-0130; or fax it to us at (626) 458-2830.

Yes! I want to help plan San Gabriel for the new millennium!

☐ Put me on your mailing list for future events.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (optional) _____

☐ I'd like to volunteer to help with the project. Call me at _____

Name _____

What do you think are the greatest needs in San Gabriel? Mark any three:

- ☐ Noise reduction
- ☐ More open space
- ☐ More parks
- ☐ Better street maintenance
- ☐ Better shopping
- ☐ Better code enforcement
- ☐ Less traffic

- ☐ Civic beautification
- ☐ More restaurants
- ☐ More entertainment
- ☐ Better designed projects
- ☐ More greenery
- ☐ Other

Specify: _____

These are the issues that are important to me:

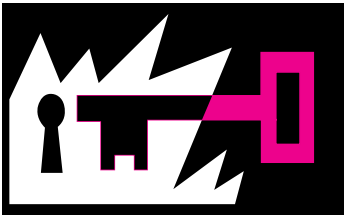
Complete form and mail to: General Plan Project, City of San Gabriel, 425 S. Mission Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776; or fax to (626) 458-2830. Thanks!
Visit our Web site at <http://www.sangabrielcity.com>

New Security Bar/Grille Standards Emphasize Safety and Appearance

San Gabriel's new security ordinance, recently adopted by the City Council, will help protect people while preserving the appearance of our neighborhoods.

The ordinance requires using fixtures that are resistant to burglary, such as tougher locks, doors and windows. Similar ordinances in other communities have proven effective in deterring crime.

But this ordinance will also improve the appearance of the community: it requires that any commercial security grilles be placed inside the window. Improperly installed security bars often have a negative impact, since they send the message that a neighborhood is unsafe. Through San Gabriel's "Crime



Prevention Through Environmental Design" program, the police, planning and building staffs work together to create design solutions that are safe, secure, attractive and user friendly.

The ordinance provides 12 months (until July 1, 2000) for buildings with non-complying security bars or grillework to change them out. For more information concerning this ordinance, or to find out how your building can improve its security and appearance, call the City's Building Division at (626) 308-2806. For more information about other crime prevention programs, call the San Gabriel Police Department at (626) 308-2846.

City Adopts Late Night Business Ordinance

The City Council has adopted an ordinance requiring any business with a dining room open between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. to obtain a Conditional Use Permit. The ordinance took effect July 15. Restaurants, bars, cafes and nightclubs can apply for the permit at no charge until Jan. 15, 2000.

All businesses with dining rooms open to the public between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. must comply by either closing during these hours or obtaining a permit by Feb. 1, 2000.



By requiring the permit, approved by the Planning Commission, the City can assure that eating establishments open during these late hours don't pose any crime, traffic, noise, security or other concerns to neighboring residential areas. It also allows the City to reaffirm the successful

operation and lawful compliance of the majority of such businesses now operating in the City. For more information, please call the Community Development Department at (626) 308-2806.

New Dog Licensing System

The City of San Gabriel, along with three other cities of the San Gabriel Valley Animal Joint Powers Authority is implementing an automated unified dog licensing system.

"We decided to join this effort to assist us with public safety by automating our anti-rabies vaccination program. This will help us to quickly identify dogs through a current license," said Finance Director Tracey Hause. "A California law requires that all dogs be vaccinated against rabies and be licensed."

Dog licenses may be obtained at the San Gabriel City Hall or the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society, located at 851 E. Grand Ave., San Gabriel, 91776.

Asian Youth Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The Asian Youth Center (AYC) celebrated its 10th anniversary on July 29. AYC is a private, non-profit community-based agency that since its inception has helped more than 20,000 youths and families in the San Gabriel Valley with an array of programs that includes recreation activities, social and health services, and child care.

Last year, AYC served over 7,000 clients. The agency places a strong emphasis on youth delinquency and substance abuse prevention as well as health education provided through 19 different funding sources.

"We are very grateful to have the support of so many individuals and organizations," said Youth Center President George Takahashi. "We'll continue to serve the needs of the region's youth and families."

Fire Drills – The Great Escape

Too few people develop and regularly practice a home fire escape plan. Tragically, that lack of planning can prove deadly in a home fire. That's why the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) is sponsoring a three-year public safety campaign called **'Fire Drills: The Great Escape!'**

Started in 1998, 'The Great Escape' centers around two fun and potentially life-saving events that get people actively involved in fire safety:

The Great Escape Fire Drill' –

On Oct. 6, fire departments throughout North America, including the San Gabriel Fire Department, invited local residents to practice their home fire escape plans and exit at the same time.

'The Great Escape' Contests –

Students from San Gabriel schools developed a home fire escape plan, practiced it, and then submitted their plan to the Fire Department.

'The Great Escape' is becoming a popular campaign nationwide. Last October more than 250,000 families participated and NFPA said 25 lives were saved as a direct result of their initial participation.

Retracing Our Historic Footprints

On Sept. 4 at 6 a.m., San Gabriel and Los Angeles City officials, staff, residents and others joined the descendants of the original Los Pobladores (the settlers) as they walked from San Gabriel Mission Archangel to the City of Los Angeles.

The annual 'Historic Walk to L.A.' is a re-enactment of the original settlers' nine-mile trek from the San Gabriel Mission to the Los Angeles River, where on Sept. 4, 1781 they founded 'El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles.'

The Historic Walk, which gets bigger each year, is a part of the Mission's three-day '228th Annual Fiesta de San Gabriel,' and is a kick-off ceremony celebrating Los Angeles' 218th birthday.

The Walk began at the Mission, headed west along Mission Road for nine miles and ended with a warm Los Angeles welcome at El Pueblo's Plaza Park (Olvera Street).

Descendants of the original Los Pobladores lead the 'Historic Walk to L.A.'



Online Library Catalog Arrives

The San Gabriel Library's Online Catalog has arrived! This new electronic library catalog will provide customers with up-to-the-minute information on the more than seven million books, videocassettes, compact discs, audio cassettes, magazines and government publications available from the County of Los Angeles Public Library. Other databases available for customers include the Periodicals Index, Business Periodicals Index and Newspaper Index.

The new Online Catalog is easy to use. It features 'information gateway' software that works with familiar drop down menus, and comes with easy to understand instructions. Customers can find information by author, title, subject, keywords and other search methods. The user-friendly screens will be popular with both children and adults.

When needed items are located, the Online Catalog tells the customer where the items are located, and



whether or not the items are available for immediate use or are on loan to other customers.

The Online Catalog replaces the former compact disk catalogs that have worn out after many years of heavy usage. The Library continues to experiment with new ways to provide faster and better service to over two million library cardholders by means of more cost-effective technology, and by regular replacement of aging equipment.

"All library users are encouraged to come in and use the new Online Catalog. Everyone will find it fun and very useful," said Librarian Maria Yap.

Visit the library and try the Online Catalog. The San Gabriel Library, located at 500 S. Del Mar Ave., is open Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, please call the library at (626) 287-0761.

Y2K: What You Should Know

The San Gabriel Fire Department is well prepared for the Year 2000 technology problem, or Y2K. As reported in the last issue of *The Grapevine*, the Fire Department has extensively tested its computers, medical equipment, fire apparatus, 911 telephone and radio communication.

Fire Chief I.W. Sweet also recommends that San Gabriel residents and businesses follow a number of useful Y2K guidelines established by the American Red Cross. Here's what they recommend you do to be prepared:

- ◆ Check with manufacturers of any essential computer-controlled electronic equipment in your home to see if that equipment may be affected. This includes fire and security alarm systems, programmable thermostats, appliances, consumer electronics, garage door openers, electronic locks, and any other electronic equipment in which an 'embedded chip' may control its operation.
- ◆ Stock disaster supplies to last several days to a week for yourself and those who live with you. This includes having nonperishable foods, stored water, and an ample supply of prescription and non-prescription medications that you regularly use.
- ◆ Have some extra cash or traveler's checks in case electronic transactions involving ATM cards, credit cards and the like cannot be processed. Keep cash and traveler's checks in a safe place, and withdraw money from your bank in small amounts well in advance of Dec. 31, 1999.
- ◆ Keep your automobile gas tank above half full.
- ◆ In case the power fails, plan to use



alternative cooking devices in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Don't use open flames or charcoal grills indoors.

- ◆ Have extra blankets, coats, hats and gloves to keep warm. Don't use gas-fueled appliances, like an oven, as an alternative heating source. The same goes for wood-burning or liquid-fueled heating devices that are not designed to be used in a residential structure. If you do purchase an alternative heating device, make sure it is approved for use indoors and is listed with the Underwriters Laboratories.
- ◆ Have plenty of flashlights and extra batteries on hand. Don't use candles for emergency lighting.
- ◆ Examine your smoke alarms now. If you have smoke alarms that are hard-wired into your home's electrical system (most newer ones are), check to see if they have battery back-ups. Every fall, replace all batteries in smoke alarms as a general fire safety precaution.
- ◆ Be prepared to relocate to a shelter for warmth and protection during a prolonged power outage or if for any other reason local officials request or require that you leave your home. Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for information about where shelters will be available.
- ◆ If you plan to use a portable generator, connect what you want to power directly to the generator; do not connect the generator to your home's electrical system. Also, be sure to keep a generator in a well-ventilated area - either outside or in a garage, keeping the door open. Don't put a generator anywhere inside your home.

AT YOUR SERVICE!

INTRODUCING YOUR CITY EMPLOYEES ...

Meet Fire Department Engineer Gary Saules

For more than 30 years, Fire Engineer Gary L. Sauls has served the City of San Gabriel with distinction. Gary joined the San Gabriel Fire Department (SGFD) in 1968 and was promoted to Engineer in 1990.

One of Gary's many notable accomplishments came in January 1993, when he became the City's first swiftwater rescue technician. Gary implemented the City's Swiftwater Rescue Program and now serves on the Los Angeles County Multi-Agency Swiftwater Rescue Committee.

He is actively involved in the City's Urban Search and Rescue Program. Gary's input on the City's swiftwater policy led to the first improved vertical wall site in California, which allowed for safer rescue sites for both technicians and rescues.

Gary attended fire science classes at Pasadena City College. He served in the U.S. Navy for two years on the Yorktown aircraft carrier. He enjoys scuba diving and spear fishing, loves cats and travels whenever he can with his wife Robin.

Fire Department Garners Swiftwater Rescue Award



Pictured left to right are Nancy Riggs, Gary L. Sauls, Chief Sweet and Karen Langley.

Congratulations to the San Gabriel Fire Department! On July 20, the Higgins-Langley Memorial Award was presented to the SGFD for their participation in the swiftwater task force. This is an annual international award honoring outstanding achievements in the field of swiftwater rescue. Engineer Gary Sauls is the department's representative for the task force.

The department actively participates in a multi-agency swiftwater task force

(MASWTF), comprised of 10 Los Angeles area fire departments, and about 50 public agencies in Los Angeles County, including the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Los Angeles City Fire Department.

The entire department has achieved 'First Responder' (land-based) status and half are qualified as Swiftwater Technicians I and/or II, defined as those who enter the water to stop a victim from rushing downstream.

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Chamber Mixer
Broadway Nursing Center
112 E. Broadway
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7
Tree Lighting
Plaza Park
6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
Chamber Holiday Mixer
SGV Medical Center's CHEC Building
261 Junipero Serra Dr.
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
Women's Division Holiday
Drawing at the Mixer

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2000
Chamber Mixer
TBA
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

City And School Board Meetings

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

SAN GABRIEL BOARD OF EDUCATION
2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS
7:00 P.M., DISTRICT OFFICE

PLANNING COMMISSION
2ND MONDAY
7:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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BOY SCOUTS WELCOMED AT CITY HALL

Recently, San Gabriel Boy Scout Troop #228 visited and toured City Hall as part of their requirements to earn merit badges. City staff provided the troop with information about how local government works, City demographics, maps and lists of local, state and federally elected officials. The troop also attended a City Council meeting and saw first-hand how local government works. Each troop member sent a personal note to City Hall staff thanking them for the information, the tour and for helping them achieve their merit badges.



Boy Scout Troop #228 visited City Hall to learn how local government works.

CALLING ALL SAN GABRIEL WOMEN

The Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce is looking for its 32nd Woman of the Year. Help find this year's hon-oree! Perhaps you know someone who should be nominated.

The nomination process is simple. Forms are available at the Chamber office at 401 W. Las Tunas. Or call (626) 576-2525 and the Chamber will mail a form to you. The deadline for completed forms is Nov. 20.



CITY GEARS UP FOR SECOND ANNUAL HOLIDAY DECORATION AWARDS

Last year marked the introduction of the Holiday Decoration Awards sponsored by the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce and the City of San Gabriel. The competition for best decorations in the City's residential neighborhoods was very popular.

Awards were given for Creativity/Originality, Spirit of the Season, Neighborhood Group Display and Grand Prize: Season's Best. Each winner received a plaque and an attractive yard sign was placed in their front yard. The Women's Division hopes to add a category for decorations in the commercial district this year.

HOLIDAY DECORATION AWARD PROGRAM
(Sponsored by: Women's Division, Chamber of Commerce)
NOMINATION FORM

Address _____
Property Owner _____
Category: _____
(check the appropriate box: optional)
☐ Creativity/Originality ☐ Neighborhood Group Display
☐ Spirit of the Season ☐ Grand Prize: Season's Best
List those special qualities about the display that you believe mer it consideration (optional): _____

Nominated by (optional): _____
Phone number (optional): _____

Nominations are due by Wednesday, Dec. 8.
They may be dropped off at City Hall, 425 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel 91778.

News from San Gabriel Unified School District

The San Gabriel Unified School District received notification of successful funding of its planning grant for the Healthy Start Collaborative. Future Search, the name of the planning process for the Healthy Start Collaborative, involves a large and diverse membership.

The group includes representatives from the District, the City, San Gabriel Medical Center, Church of our Saviour, and other community members. A three-day Future Search conference (held Sept. 29-Oct. 1) involved all members of the collaborative and other interested community members. It included survey and trend data, vision, mission and goal setting, and a plan for communication to stakeholders. Action plans will be completed during a one-day follow-up session. The goal is to be ready to prepare a Healthy Start grant application by March 2000.

Recycling Update

Ever wonder what happens to all that refuse that's picked up each week? Athens Services has been servicing the San Gabriel Valley since 1957 and is the largest provider of refuse removal and recycling services. The company ser vices more than 20 cities in the region, including the City of San Gabriel.



Organizing recycled items at Athens Services

Dennis Chiappetta, president of the company, said City residents can play an active role in recycling efforts. Here are some recycling recommendations from Athens Services:

- ◆ Reduce the amount of waste you generate by purchasing reusable and longer-lasting items.
- ◆ Buy easy-to-recycle containers, avoid packaging with a combination of different materials, which makes separation

- for recycling difficult.
- ◆ Participate in local recycling programs.
- ◆ Take wire hangers back to the cleaners.
- ◆ Donate instead of discarding. Used furniture, appliances, clothing and toys may be donated to organizations instead of thrown away.
- ◆ Buy items that are made of recyclable

- materials.
- ◆ At the office, make two-sided copies, circulate or post memos, buy durable, long-lasting equipment, recycle toner cartridges, and buy in bulk.
- "We're committed to helping the community meet its disposal needs through improved waste management," Chiappetta said. "But every resident must also take responsibility for recycling. By doing so, we all benefit."

The San Gabriel Grapevine

SAN GABRIEL CITY COUNCIL
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Have a Happy (and Safe!) Holiday Season

As we begin the holiday season, the San Gabriel Fire Department has provided a number of useful holiday tips:

Halloween:

- ◆ Costumes and decorations should only be made of flame-retardant materials. Avoid loose, flammable clothing.
- ◆ Each mask, wig and costume must easily be seen at night.
- ◆ Use battery-powered lights for jack-o-lanterns, not candles.
- ◆ Keep decorations away from sources of heat, such as exposed bulbs and open flames.

Thanksgiving:

- ◆ Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven.
- ◆ Keep kitchen clutter and loose clothing away from the stove's heat.
- ◆ Turn pot handles in, away from a child's reach.
- ◆ Use potholders to prevent burns.

- ◆ Never throw water on a grease fire. Instead, cover the burning pan with a lid.
- ◆ Keep all appliances in good working order.
- ◆ Never overload electrical outlets. Unplug appliances when not in use.
- ◆ Never leave cooking food unattended.
- ◆ Keep Thanksgiving decorations away from sources of direct heat.

Christmas:

- ◆ Make sure your Christmas tree is fresh. Shedding needles is a sign of a dry tree.
- ◆ Keep your tree fresh by placing it in a stand that holds water.
- ◆ Make sure artificial trees are flame-retardant.
- ◆ Never smoke around the tree or flam-

- mable decorations.
- ◆ Place trees away from direct sources of heat.
- ◆ Never place a tree so that it blocks an exit.
- ◆ Only buy electric lights that are approved by a national testing lab.
- ◆ Never decorate metal trees with electric lights.
- ◆ Always unplug lights before going to bed.
- ◆ Never run electrical cords through doorways and under rugs.
- ◆ Keep candles in sturdy holders and never place them near combustibles, such as curtains.
- ◆ Avoid hanging stockings near an open flame.
- ◆ Never burn paper in a fireplace. This is a major cause of chimney fires.