Smith Park has undergone a dramatic transformation! San Gabriel citizens are invited to come view the new three-acre park space and attend a dedication ceremony on Saturday, July 29, at 10 a.m.

Landscaping for the City’s newest park development reflects the lifestyle of the Native American Gabrielino-Tongva people who lived here before the San Gabriel Mission was established. Park users can now enjoy a wide variety of outdoor activities: swimming and wading pools, basketball, handball and tennis in the original park. The new site provides areas for picnics, unstructured play on open lawns and mounds, as well as large concrete animals for climbing. Also included are opportunities to experience what life was like in the early days of our region.

The new site also features a dry stream and pond similar to those found along the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. Boulders, tree species and plants used by the Gabrielino-Tongva for baskets, clothing food, medicine and ceremonies, surround this area. “Village” picnic areas are fashioned with shade structures designed to emulate Gabrielino-Tongva dwellings.

This unique park was created through community input interpreted by landscape architects Armstrong and Walker and contractor Belaire-West Landscape, Inc. The City of San Gabriel and the Los Angeles County Park and Open Space Bond Act funded the project.

The City of San Gabriel commissioned local artist Dixie Giering to create a hand painted 6’ x 18’ thematic tile mural that welcomes visitors. It features historically accurate and educational visuals. One side of the mural features Gabrielino-Tongva lifestyle scenes, complete with colorful flora and fauna from the period. The other side shows intricately designed tiles of Gabrielino-Tongva artifacts and symbols. Students in the San Gabriel Unified School District’s Jefferson Middle School summer art class were involved in the design of the symbols of the sign’s borders.

So gather up the family, pack a picnic lunch, and come to the new Smith Park. You’ll love it!
Upcoming San Gabriel Civic Auditorium Events

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5
Han-Yi presents An Evening Of Chinese Cultural Arts, 7:30 p.m. For information/tickets, call (562) 404-2867.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 12-13
Los Angeles Chinese Classical Orchestra, Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 3 p.m. For information/tickets, call (805) 480-1994.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
Los Angeles Theatre Organization presents A Flyghtly Humlzrs’ Theatre Pup Organ Concerts, 7:30 p.m. Artist to be announced. For information/tickets, call (888) LATOS44.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1
The Music Theatre of Southern California presents “EVITA,” the Tony Award-winning musical about the amazing rise of Eva Peron, one of the most powerful women of the 20th Century. 13 performances: evenings at 8 p.m, afternoons at 3 p.m. For information or tickets, call (626) 308-2868.

COMING IN OCTOBER

• San Gabriel Police Department Safety Expo, Sunday 8
• Chinese-American Dance Festival, Friday 13
• Chinese Cultural Festival, Saturday 14
• MTSC presents The Big Bands of the 30s & 40s, Sunday 22
• Chinese Benjing Opera, Saturday 28
• Los Angeles Chinese Classical Orchestra, Sunday 29
• L.S. Dance Studio

All events and artists are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Always call the box office prior to arriving at the theater.

The Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

City employees, students and the business community teamed to make Christmas in April a success.

Night Out, continued from page one.

lights and spend the evening outside with their neighbors. Many Neighborhood Watch groups throughout San Gabriel will be hosting block parties, cookouts, and other activities and will be visited by Police, Fire, and City Officials. Returning this year will be the Mega 100 F.M. LA’s JAMMIN’ Oldees. The U.S. Army will provide three Humvee all-terrain vehicles. National Night Out has four principal objectives: heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relations; and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

‘National Night Out is an extraordinary way to build neighborhood unity and strengthen police-community partnerships. Neighbors meet neighbors — and citizens and local law enforcement have the opportunity to enhance their relationships. On Aug. 10, I invite all San Gabriel residents to join forces with us to give crime and drug a going-away party,’ said San Gabriel Police Chief David A. Lavon.

The San Gabriel Police Department has partnered with the San Gabriel Unified School District and the San Gabriel Valley League of Cities to promote this event.

The program calls for the expenditure of $35 million over a five-year period. The Millennium Miles Program will be the City’s principal Capital Improvement program for the next five years. A consulting engineering firm that will oversee design, construction management and reporting, and general support services to the City’s engineering staff is expected to be selected by the City Council by August. A public relations program will also be implemented within 90 days that will provide timely information to the community and media. The program will utilize a phasing strategy that calls for street maintenance work to be clustered in zones that take advantage of location, in order to make the jobs more cost effective. The improvements will be citywide, but initially will be focused in several neighborhoods including the North San Gabriel, San Gabriel Village and areas adjoining Valley Boulevard. For more information on the Millennium Miles Program, contact the City Engineering Division at (626) 308-2806.

City’s Disaster Plan Covers All Contingencies

What happens when a disaster strikes a city? What happens to basic services? Who is in charge? Where do we go if our homes are damaged? Whom do I call? Is there a plan?

Yes, there is. The City of San Gabriel has a disaster plan in place for many years. Known as the Standardized Emergency Management System Multihazard Function Plan (MHFP), it was designed by the California Office of Emergency Services to eliminate confusion between jurisdictions when responding to area-wide disasters.

The MHFP addresses the City of San Gabriel’s planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and national security emergencies. The plan does not address normal daily emergencies.

San Gabriel has developed a specific plan tailored to the community’s particular needs. The plan has been approved by the State Offices of Emergency Services and will ensure that the City is well prepared to deal with emergencies when they arise.
Students Experience Local Government

Over the past four years, San Gabriel has developed a distinctive program that stands out as one of the most extensive student educational experiences offered by local government. Every year, nearly 700 high school students at Gabrielino High School experience local government firsthand through a day in the life of a community leader.

Students participate in an event to elect their Council representative at an authentic election, serving on one of the election boards, and voting at the San Gabriel Valley Courthouse parking lot. These students have been among the more realistic in their experience of how their city government functions. The program begins in February when students have the opportunity to run a campaign to serve as a member of the Student City Council. After the election, which is held in March, the YIG Council selects the student City Attorney and City Manager, who, in turn, appoint

students to serve as the remaining department heads. Another unique aspect of San Gabriel’s program is the separate “Shadow Day.” Students meet with their counterpart in another city and spend a day with the City official to experience the varied duties and responsibilities involved in running the city on a day-to-day basis.

This year the program culminated with the May 2nd Youth-In-Government Day. Students were taken on a tour of the City and Fire Police and Public Works departments. The tour offered many educational opportunities, with various demonstrations including public works equipment, reenactment of a felony traffic stop, defensive tactics, and emergency aid. At 6:30 p.m., the City Council turned over the gavel to the Youth-In-Government participants who presented a simulated Council meeting. If you would like to learn more about the Youth-In-Government program, please contact City Clerk Cynthia Trujillo at (626) 308-2811.

San Gabriel Community Coordinating Council – Serving the Community

For over 25 years, the City of San Gabriel has been the beneficiary of the collective efforts of an organization made up of independent community groups and individuals working together to improve the quality of life for San Gabriel children and adults. Known as the San Gabriel Community Coordinating Council (SGCCC), its members include but are not limited to: the Holiday Safety Basket Program, Campership and Youth Enrichment Programs, and others as identified and voted on by the Council. SGCCC meets monthly to

- Improve family life and promote good citizenship
- Encourage the voluntary cooperation of organizations, agencies, and individuals interested in making the community a better place in which to live
- Provide a liaison among community agencies
- SGCCC projects include but are not limited to: the Holiday Safety Basket Program, Campership and Youth Enrichment Programs, and others as identified and voted on by the Council

The SGCCC meets monthly at the CHEC Building at 261 Junipero Serra in San Gabriel. For more information, please contact Pat Freeman or Helen Archer at (626) 285-3930.

Finance Director Thomas C. Marston

Finance Director Thomas C. Marston wears many different hats. As a key member of the City of San Gabriel’s executive management team, the San Gabriel Valley native plays a central role on all financial issues and is involved in numerous city-wide initiatives.

Tom formulates the City’s annual $14-million General Fund budget, safeguarding the City’s assets, invests surplus monies, and records and reports the City’s Redevelopment Agency’s financial transactions. As if that isn’t enough, Tom also manages the City’s Web site, and risk management, insurance and computer programs.

Tom previously served as the assistant finance director for the City of Montclair in San Bernardino County. He was responsible for developing and implementing the annual budget, capital improvement and investment programs, preparing annual audits and financial statements, disbursing funds and recording and reporting all financial transactions for the City, Redevelopment Agency and Housing Corporation.

Tom launched his public agency career with the City of Glendale, where he spent eight years in a number of administrative positions, his last being as Executive Assistant to the City Manager. Tom received his Master’s degree in public administration from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona.

Police Department Hosts Community Safety Expo

The San Gabriel Police Department will be hosting its sixth annual Community Safety Expo on Saturday, October 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium parking lot, 320 South Mission Drive.

The Expo, which promotes community safety programs, will feature: great food, music, crime-prevention displays, and safety and rescue demonstrations by San Gabriel Police and other agencies. In addition, agencies from throughout Los Angeles County participate in the day’s event. The Expo features a wide variety of emergency vehicles, equipment and helicopters from safety organizations throughout the San Gabriel Valley. K-9 Units, mounted police, and members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department will conduct fly-by and reenacting demonstrations from their department’s impressive rescue helicopter.

Come rock ‘n’ roll with “Mutual Aid — The Cops that Rock” and let the kids visit with “Vince and Larry,” the crash-car dummies, and “McGuff,” the crime-fighting dog, or enter to win one of the many prizes awarded throughout the day, including the entire family to this free, fun-filled event.

For questions regarding the Expo, contact Sergeant John Tuosto, San Gabriel Police Department Traffic Division at (626) 308-2860.

City to Participate in “Great Escape”

The San Gabriel Fire Department will participate in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Prevention Week from October 8-14. The Fire Department will be visiting all fourth-grade classes in San Gabriel, instructing them on how to make a home fire-escape plan. On a designated date and time, sirens will sound for 15 seconds signaling the start of The Great Escape. Fire Department personnel in the neighborhoods monitor the results. The plans, made by the students, will be judged in a competition, with prizes for the top winners. The overall best entry will be forwarded to NFPA, where the grand prize winner will receive a trip for four to Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. Parents are encouraged to talk with their children about fire safety and to practice their home fire-escape plans on a regular basis.

Meet, Finance Director Thomas C. Marston

Meet Finance Director Thomas C. Marston who is our guest speaker for this month’s Chamber of Commerce meeting. Tom launched his public agency career with the City of Glendale, where he spent eight years in a number of administrative positions, his last being as Executive Assistant to the City Manager. Tom received his Master’s degree in public administration from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona.

High School Construction Now Underway

Construction of the new Gabrielino High School began on April 8, following a groundbreaking ceremony held at the school site. The first honorary bowls of dirt were turned over by Superintendent Gary Goodman and members of the Board of Education, Former Principal Dan Mooney, project liaison, spoke about the project to attendees, while Chief Morales and his Tribal Council conducted a moving traditional Native American ceremony to offer their blessings.

The construction of Gabrielino High School will take place in three phases because students will continue to attend classes on the campus during the construction. Phase I, which includes the building of classrooms, the library, administration offices and the new gymnasium, is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete.

Final design work for Phase II is already underway and will be completed prior to the completion of Phase I construction. The City of San Gabriel has been meeting with representatives of the School District on a monthly basis to help monitor and assist with the project.

AT YOUR SERVICE!

INTRODUCING YOUR CITY EMPLOYEES...

Tom Marston is the City’s new finance director.

Tom Marston is the City’s Finance Director.
Volunteers provide a valuable service to our City.

A few years ago, as the City of San Gabriel was making plans to redevelop the Mission District, Al Baker contacted Al was honored by the City of San Gabriel Methodist Church and is actively involved with the Masons and the Scottish Rite Temple. He also serves on the Temple board of the Masonic Lodge. Al volunteers in special ways, including helping with the senior tea dance, rounding up seniors and assisting with flu shots and many other activities. Just mention his name and many people will attest to his kindness and the good will that he promulgates everywhere he goes. He is a strong team player and jumps right into a project with high levels of enthusiasm. He is a vital member of the San Gabriel Community — never seeking recognition for his countless hours of service.

Al was honored by the City of San Gabriel at the 87th Annual Birthday Party and Chamber of Commerce Street Fair on April 30, and was also feted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, along with honorees from other cities in Los Angeles County on May 10. The City of San Gabriel is honored to name him our “Outstanding Older American”.

Volunteers provide a very valuable service to the Parks and Recreation Department, especially in the area of senior citizen services. These volunteers provide thousands of hours of service to the City on an annual basis. Many of these volunteers are senior citizens themselves, and take part in the volunteer programs because they view the opportunity to be of service to others and to maintain an active lifestyle. This is a classic win-win situation. The volunteers gain a personal reward for their involvement and the City is able to provide important activities for senior citizens that may not otherwise be possible.

Every year in May, the Parks and Recreation Department honors these valuable volunteers with the Volunteer Recognition Lunch. On May 26, volunteers received certificates, gifts and a delicious lunch as a small token of the City’s appreciation. The volunteers honored this year have provided a variety of services, including assisting with the Senior Citizen Lunch Program, aiding with the bingo preparation, greeting dance guests and escorting trips.


The Parks and Recreation Department is very grateful to these individuals who provide such a valuable service.

Al Baker is our City’s Outstanding Older American.

shortTAKES

General Plan Web Site Up and Running

What are your dreams for San Gabriel? Help shape the future of our town from the comfort of your home. Notice you can learn the latest about the San Gabriel General Plan update at http://www.sangabrielcity.com. The interactive General Plan page tells you all about how you can plan San Gabriel’s future, and includes an interactive way to help identify the issues most important to you. Contact the Community Development Department at (626) 308-2806 for more information.

Traffic Enforcement Reduces Collisions.

Why enforce traffic regulations? Traffic enforcement is a vital tool in the city’s efforts to reduce traffic collisions and saves lives.

Proactive programs include driving-under-the-influence check points, child safety seat and seat belt check points, pedestrian-safety decay operations, bicy- cycle-safety rodeos, traffic-safety fairs and events, traffic-safety talks and educational presentations, radio-trailer and police motorcycle/patrol car traffic enforcement.

Traffic enforcement is an effective tool to save lives, preventing injuries and reducing crime. It is a vital part of making our community a safe place to live, work and visit.

From 1996 to 1999, the City recorded five homicides. During the same period, 14 persons lost their lives in traffic collisions, including pedestrians. Also, many criminal incidents start as a result of driving-related disagreements and road rage leading to crimes including physical assaults and violence. As can be clearly seen, enforcing traffic laws is well worth the time spent by the men and women of the Police Department.

For further information on traffic-related issues, phone Sergeant John Tuosto at the San Gabriel Police Traffic Bureau at (626) 308-2860.

City Employees Attend “One City, One Future” Workshops

Pride, Service, Future. Three words that define the City of San Gabriel’s philosophy. Over a two-week period recently, 140 City employees attended six “One City, One Future” employee workshops to turn these words into action.

The workshops were designed, developed and implemented by 13 City employees representing each department and were divided into three separate sessions. One City, First City reviewed the City’s history and culture. “One City Today” focused on the City’s accomplishments and responsibilities as a service organization. It also introduced the new employee handbook. “One City, One Future” encouraged employees to offer ideas and recommendations that will help better serve the community in the years to come.

Recognizing Our Volunteers

Volunteers provide a very valuable service to our City.

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