

POSTAL CUSTOMER
SAN GABRIEL • CA

news and views from our town

San Gabriel grapevine

WINTER 2005 VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 1

www.sangabrielcity.com

Hilton Hotel Opening in San Gabriel

The City of San Gabriel welcomes one of the most famous and distinguished hotel chains worldwide! The four-star San Gabriel Hilton Hotel at 225 West Valley Boulevard (near the intersections of Valley Boulevard and Del Mar Avenue) has opened! The hotel has 215 guestrooms and suites and features a grand ballroom that seats more than 1,000 people.

MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE ARCHITECTURE

The San Gabriel Hilton brings first class lodging to the City. The Mediterranean-style architecture is a beautiful landmark for the City, featuring graceful arches, warm wood



paneling and granite-tile floors. Additional amenities include an international restaurant, 24-hour business center, piano lounge, fitness center with heated indoor pool and a dozen multi-function rooms.

So whether you're looking for a quality hotel for out-of-town guests to stay, need a location for your business or civic group to meet, or just want to enjoy a fine dinner in elegant surroundings, the new San Gabriel Hilton is sure to meet your needs!

The lobby of the fabulous new San Gabriel Hilton

Valley Boulevard Plan Moving Forward

Last year, San Gabriel launched *Valley Vision*, an unprecedented effort to comprehensively plan the future of Valley Boulevard and its surrounding neighborhoods. Work is continuing on an environmental impact report that will be ready for public review in a few months.



Significant progress has already been made on developing sustainable building standards that will encourage new construction to be energy efficient, recycle construction waste and utilize methods and materials that are more environmentally friendly than conventional construction.

STRATEGY TO PREPARE AND IMPROVE

Valley Vision will present the community of San Gabriel with the opportunity to prepare for continued growth. The plan outlines strategies to improve the physical design of the boulevard and surrounding neighborhood while addressing traffic congestion, housing needs and environmental protection. Maintaining and enhancing the quality of life of residents is the primary goal of the program and can ultimately serve as a model for other communities.

POSITIVE FEEDBACK

Local design professionals have previewed the various types of commercial and mixed-use development that have been proposed, and their comments/feedback to date have been very positive.

For more information about *Valley Vision*, contact City Planner Mark Gallatin at (626) 308-2806, ext. 4623 or mgallatin@sgch.org.

Come Join the Lunar New Year Celebration!

Entering its 14th year, the Annual Lunar New Year Event celebrates the "Year of the Rooster." One of the most significant events in the region, the month-long celebration consists of an Art Exhibit, Parade of the Cities and the Street Festival on Valley Boulevard. The entire event is expected to draw over 50,000 attendees from throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Kicking off the event is "Prosperity with the Arrival of the Rooster," an art exhibit that began January 10 and ends January 31 at Alhambra City Hall. Four artists specializing in the depiction of the rooster submitted their paintings to illustrate the beauty and energy of these



divine creatures. A collection of antiques and sculptures is on display that honors the coming zodiac.

The parade and street festival, to be held on February 5, are being hosted by the Cities of Alhambra and San Gabriel.

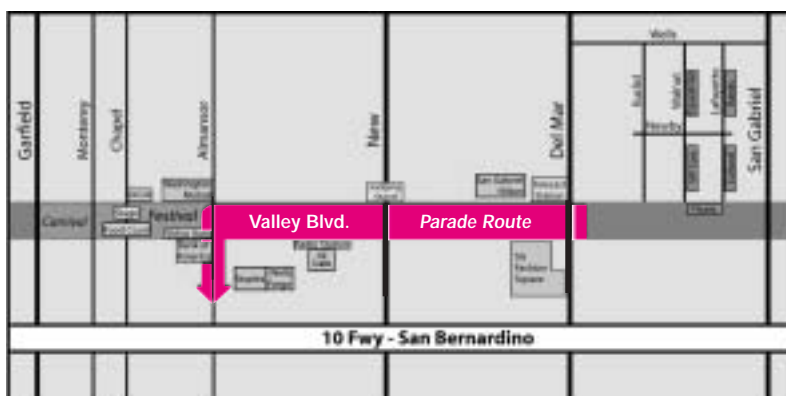
"The Parade of the Cities" will be joined by cities from the San Gabriel Valley region. It will begin at the corner of Del Mar and Valley Boulevard and proceed west on Valley Boulevard along the two-mile route ending at Almansor Street. Eight cities in the region as well as several corporations will submit beautiful floats, school bands and cultural units marching on the two-mile route on Valley Boulevard. The energetic performance of the long and winding dragon as well as the lion dance with acrobatic martial arts will embrace the spirit of the New Year. The parade will also reach thousands of people at home through the live radio broadcasting on KMNY AM 1370, and via the delayed televised program on cable and satellite channels.

The San Gabriel Unit of the parade will feature the Mayor of San Gabriel and members of the City Council. Also featured will be the Gabrielino High School Marching Regiment, the San Gabriel Twirlers Baton Corps, the San Gabriel Unified School District Board of Education members and the Jefferson Middle School Marching Band.

Stretching over seven city blocks, the Lunar New Year Street Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Valley Boulevard, between Garfield Avenue and Almansor Street. There will be 200 booths consisting of several theme-oriented venues, Auto Square, a carnival and ethnic food. Be sure to stop by the City of San Gabriel booth and see the various department displays.

Other activities include chess championships, children's drawing contests and a free health clinic. Look-alike talent competitions will be held on the entertainment stage. The festival will provide fun and a taste of the Asian tradition for the whole family. Admission is free.

Residents living along the parade route and adjacent to the street festival should be aware of all posted street closures and "No Parking" signs prior to the event. For more information, please call (626) 284-1234.





Holiday Decorations Program Winners Recognized by City Council

On December 14 and 15, a Selection Committee from the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce visited each nominated site and selected one residential and one commercial winner from each of the following four areas of the City: northwest, northeast, southwest and southeast. The committee based their decision, in part,

on originality, seasonal theme and effort expended.

Winners were recognized and honored by City Council members during Santa's annual visit to San Gabriel neighborhoods on December 23. Each residential winner received a Certificate of Recognition for their holiday spirit, a bag of special gifts and a sign to temporarily

display in their front yard; commercial winners received a Plaque of Recognition for permanent display at their place of business.

For more information on the Holiday Decorations Awards Program, please contact Neighborhood Improvement Services Manager Rita Estrada at (626) 308-2806, ext. 4636 or restrada@sgch.org.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Gala Benefit Performance for the new San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre, 2 p.m. The music of Broadway performed by Celebrated Musical Theatre Performers. For info/tickets call (626) 308-2868

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

"Whoa Whoa Whoa" starring Aaron Almanza 8 p.m. For information call (626) 308-2868

SAT.-SUN., JANUARY 29-30

Passing On Mission Love and Care Concert, 7 p.m. For info/tickets call (626) 288-9523

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Theatre Works USA presents "Phantom of the Opera," 10 a.m. A new Production for young people. Tickets available through local school districts. For info/add'l tickets call (800) 497-5007

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Los Angeles County / Rio Hondo Police Academy Training Program Rio Hondo Police Academy Graduation, 10 a.m. Admission by Invitation only—ticket required. For information/tickets call (562) 692-0921, ext. 4225

SAT.-SUN., FEBRUARY 12-13

Li's Studio of Dance, 7 p.m. (626) 285-4888

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Han - Yi Inc. Musical Variety Show, 8 p.m. For information/tickets call (562) 404-2867

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Collenette School of Dancing Collenette Ballet Annual Dance Concert, 3 p.m. For information/tickets call (626) 798-3784

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Children's Theatre Experience "Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," 2 p.m. For information/tickets call (800) 514-2787

FRI-SAT., MARCH 11-12, 7:30 PM

Temple City High School Department of the Performing Arts presents "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying" For information call (626) 548-5160

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Arcadia High School Music Department 11th Annual Show Choir Invitational Competition featuring the top 12 high school show choirs in California For information/tickets call (626) 821-1785

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Mariachi Heritage Society Mariachi Sol de Mexico Starring Jose Hernandez, 6:30 p.m. For information/tickets call (626) 279-8860

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Esperanza Flores Dance Group "Fiesta International 2005," 2 p.m. For information/tickets call (909) 393-3926

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

Temple City High School Department of the Performing Arts presents Annual Band Concert, 7 p.m. For info/tickets call (626) 548-5160

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Theatreworks USA presents Theatre for Young People: "Junie B. Jones," 8 p.m. Information/tickets call, (800) 497-5007

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

American Theatre Arts for Youth presents "Beauty And The Beast," 8 p.m. Tickets available through local school districts. For information/additional tickets call (800) 523-4540

FRI.-SAT., APRIL 1-2, 8 PM

Shakespeare League of Pasadena presents "Oklahoma." For info/tickets call (626) 281-6053

SAT.-SUN., APRIL 16-17

Li's Studio of Dance, 7 p.m. (626) 285-4888

FRI.-SUN., APRIL 22-24

City of San Gabriel and the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce presents "Annual City Birthday Celebration." Thrill rides, food booths, arts & crafts, entertainment for the entire family in the Mission District

All events and artists are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Always call the auditorium to confirm dates. To hear recorded event information, call (626) 308-2868. Unless indicated, all tickets are sold by the producing company presenting the event.

Call the Auditorium Box Office at (626) 308-2865 for more information.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:



NORTHWEST RESIDENTIAL: 549 Segovia Avenue, Anthony R. Lugo



NORTHEAST RESIDENTIAL: 700 Alabama St., Sam and Juanita Boranian



SOUTHWEST RESIDENTIAL: 907 Montecito Dr., Escobedo Family (Anita and Lisa)



SOUTHEAST RESIDENTIAL: 101 E. Main St., Cecilia Ruvalcaba



NORTHWEST COMMERCIAL 320 W. Las Tunas Drive Dale Boeck, Mission Art Center



SOUTHWEST COMMERCIAL 1408 S. San Gabriel Blvd. Dr. Tom K.J. Wang, Dr. Wang Dental Center

City Honors Employee Recognition Award Winners

Each year, the City of San Gabriel recognizes outstanding employee contributions through the Employee Recognition Award Program. Nominations for recognition are made by the employees' subordinates, peers, supervisors or department head, and can also be initiated by employ-

ees outside the nominee's department. Employees are honored and commended for achievement in *Outstanding Overall Work Performance, Leadership, Teamwork Excellence, Customer Service, Emergency Response and Innovation*.

The City is pleased to introduce the

following 2004 City of San Gabriel Employee Recognition Award winners to the community — and gratefully acknowledge their contributions to the City and the San Gabriel community:

Everyone in the City-family congratulates these outstanding employees.

OVERALL WORK PERFORMANCE

Fire Captain
Jeffrey Roy

LEADERSHIP

Public Works Manager
Robert Bustos

TEAMWORK

Accountant
Shaoyin Wei

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Executive Assistant
Diana Aguilar

INNOVATION

Firefighter/Paramedic
Erik Walton

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Police Lieutenant Edward Haché
Police Lieutenant Joseph Lara
Police Lieutenant Darren Perrine
Police Sergeant Alex Quijada
Detective George Cortez
Detective Gregory Mallette
Detective Andy Texeira
Detective Fabian Valdez
Detective Jeffery Whitney
Police Officer Daniel Flores
Police Officer Cruz Hernandez
Police Officer Brian Kott
Police Officer Rene Lopez
Police Officer Joe Pelano
Police Officer Steve Richardson
Police Officer Allen Sam
Police Officer Dane Woolwine
Crime Prevention Officer Alex Acosta
Police Dispatcher-Clerk Jenny Beall
Police Dispatcher-Clerk John Shugart

Museums Reflect City's Historical Tapestry

The City of San Gabriel boasts three diverse museums offering more than 300 years of pre-California and California history. All three museums are located in the historic San Gabriel Mission District, and within a brief walking distance of each another.

The museums include Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, the Ramona Museum of California History and the San Gabriel Historical Association Museum/Hayes House. Museum visitors can step back in time to discover and explore the richly diverse cultural and historical tapestry that has shaped San Gabriel and the region.

With support and encouragement of the Mission District Partnership, museum leaders and City of San Gabriel staff met in early October 2004 to discuss and develop strategies to strengthen internal and external goals specific to each museum, and to develop partnership opportunities that offer more visibility to the public-at-large.

Here is a brief overview of each museum:

■ **Mission San Gabriel Arcángel Museum**, 428 S. Mission Drive. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (fee for admission). Contact Chuck Lyons, (626) 457-3048. Rich in the history and traditions of early California, the mission was founded on September 8, 1771 as the fourth of the 21 California missions. In the early mission era, it grew into a mission called the "Pride of the Missions" for its large production of crops and trading of cattle hides and wine. Much of this history has been preserved for viewing the mission's church, museum and grounds. Website: www.sangabrielmission.org.

■ **Ramona Museum of California History**, 339 South Mission Drive. Open Saturday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (free). Contact Fran Hubert, (626) 332-1203. The Ramona Museum offers an eclectic collection of artifacts and relics from the early Rancho and Mission periods and many artifacts from the early American period. Other artifacts include a carriage used by Colonel Fremont on his historic trip to Los Angeles, and a flag labeled "the First Bear Banner raised in Sonoma County, 1845." Website: www.ramonaparlor.org.



Hayes House

■ **San Gabriel Historical Association Museum/ Hayes House**, 546 W. Broadway. Open the first Saturday and Sunday each month from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (free). Contact Ellie Andrews, (626) 308-3223. Excellent first-person insight into early California, San Gabriel's development and the Victorian period are offered at the Historical Association Museum and Hayes House. Information about the Gabrielino-Tongva Indians,

local schools and organizations, adobes and older buildings, the Mission Play and the life and household accommodations of the Hayes family delight visitors to the Museum and Hayes House.

All three museums are interested in strengthening their membership, base support and volunteer opportunities. However, the Historical Association and Ramona Museum are especially interested in welcoming new members and volunteers.

For more information, call (626) 308-2800.

Adhering to Building Safety Codes Benefits Residents

When residents adhere to the City of San Gabriel's building and safety codes, everyone benefits. They establish guidelines that are designed to protect lives, health and safety. These building and safety codes also protect your property and help increase property values.

So did you know that anytime you remove and replace a window in a residential or commercial building that a building permit is required? You'll also need to have the work inspected once the project is completed. While this may seem bureaucratic, the City must abide by the California Building Code, and the guidelines help to safeguard both residents and the property.

Prior to issuing a permit, you'll need a site plan, a floor plan identifying all rooms throughout the structure, locations of the window(s) to be changed, window sizes and pictures of the existing windows. Bring all of this to the Planning Division at City Hall for review.

The Planning Division can answer all of your questions and help you to properly put together all of the documentation you'll need before you come to City Hall. Call (626) 308-2806 for more information.

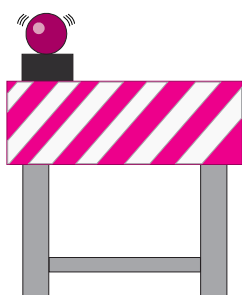
Millennium Miles Updates

The City of San Gabriel is making rapid progress with Millennium Miles, a comprehensive citywide program designed to improve the condition of more than 60 segments of streets that need rehabilitation. The City Council designated a five-year, \$5-million budget. Here are the latest updates for Phases IV and V:

PHASE IV

Design (plans and specifications) of Phase IV is complete. Construction is slated to get underway this month. The project consists of curb and gutter repair, installation of gutter plate, ADA ramps, pavement grinding and asphalt concrete overlay, pavement removal and replacement, and signing and striping. Estimated construction cost is \$800,000. The streets to be resurfaced/rehabilitated include:

- ◆ Montecito Drive: Fairview to Main
- ◆ Palm Avenue: Wells to Chestnut
- ◆ Euclid Avenue: Valley to Newby
- ◆ Newby Ave.: West of Euclid to Walnut
- ◆ Newby Avenue: Walnut to Lafayette
- ◆ Kenmore Drive: San Gabriel to End
- ◆ Euclid Street: Newby to Wells
- ◆ Newby Avenue: Del Mar to Palm
- ◆ Walnut Avenue: Valley to Wells
- ◆ Wells Street: Del Mar to San Gabriel
- ◆ Chestnut Ave.: Del Mar to San Gabriel
- ◆ Lafayette Street: Valley to Wells
- ◆ Euclid Avenue: Wells to Chestnut



PHASE V

This is the final phase of the program. Design is expected to be completed in March and construction will get underway in May. The project will consist of curb and gutter repair, installation of gutter plate, ADA ramps, pavement grinding and asphalt concrete overlay, pavement removal and replacement, and signing and striping. Estimated construction cost is about \$200,000. Streets to be resurfaced / rehabilitated include Pine Street — Broadway to Las Tunas; and Live Oak Street — San Gabriel Blvd. to California.

Understanding City's Tree Trimming and Planting Policies



The Public Works Division is charged with the trimming, planting and removal of all City-owned parkway trees. A citizen may request at any time that a tree be planted in their parkway. They first must obtain a Public Works Parkway Tree Planting Permit (no cost) at the Community Development counter at City Hall. Once the permit is filled out and returned to the City, it will be processed to ensure that all ordinance requirements are met, which include the following:

- City will first approve the type of tree, size of tree and the location of the tree within the parkway.
- It shall be the duty of the owners to maintain the tree once it has been planted.
- Trimming of the tree shall be the responsibility of the Public Works Division.
- A resident may purchase a tree for self-planting or the City will plant the tree in the parkway for a nominal fee.

If a citizen wishes to have a tree trimmed or removed, they must also obtain a no-cost tree removal/trimming permit. Once the permit has been returned to the City with a photo of the tree to be trimmed or removed, the permit is checked to ensure it meets all of the ordinance requirements for a tree to be trimmed or removed:

- The tree constitutes a nuisance or hazard by virtue of its condition, location, species and/or proximity to existing structures, walkways or utilities.
- The pruning or trimming of the tree is deemed necessary by a professional arborist to enhance the health or appearance of the tree.
- The tree has not been reduced in height more than one-fourth (25 percent) over a two-year period.
- The pruning, trimming or removal of the tree is necessary to prevent a substantial inconvenience or financial hardship to the property owner.

For all removed trees, a recommendation will be made as to the number and size of replacement trees based on the trunk size of the tree that was removed. All permits will be approved or denied within a week of the completed application. Applicants must meet conditions recommended by the City within 30 days of receiving their permit results. For more information, please call (626) 308-2826.

Endowing the Future of San Gabriel

The San Gabriel Community Foundation (SGCF), now entering its third year, is already demonstrating benefits to the City. SGCF, spearheaded by representatives from leading civic organizations, focuses principally on the needs of children and families in San Gabriel.

SGCF has established two funds to serve San Gabriel residents: a general fund, which currently has \$75,000; and a \$400,000 scholarship fund, created in the name of the San Gabriel Women's Club, which provides scholarships to youngsters.

SGCF has provided grants to organizations such as the San Gabriel Unified School District for its Healthy Start program. In the coming year, SGCF will pursue strategic partnerships with other San Gabriel non-profit organizations that could benefit by having specific endowment funds created in their name. Other activities include developing a series of fund-raising initiatives to secure community and donor support, and launching a SGCF homepage on the California Community Foundation website.

For more information, please call (626) 292-7302, or email to pdunn@ccf-la.org.

City Orders New Fire Engine, Contracts With Glendale for Fire Engine Repairs



The San Gabriel Fire Department will soon have a new fire engine — a 2005 Pierce Quantum. Anticipated delivery date is July. The fire engine, which costs about \$446,000, will serve the department for 12 years, and will be used as a reserve vehicle for another six years.

Once the new fire engine arrives, the Fire Department's 1995 Emergency One vehicle will be placed into reserve status.

The new fire engine will be capable of pumping 2,000 gallons of water per minute and will carry 500 gallons of water in its tank. It can carry up to six firefighters and their equipment and will provide a fully enclosed environment for their safety. Additionally, the vehicle will be equipped with medical equipment for basic life support and paramedic assessment.

What differentiates this vehicle from any fire engine previously purchased by the fire department is the addition of a Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS). This new technology allows firefighters to inject a stream of high-pressure foam,

not water, on a fire and achieve greater extinguishing results. CAFS streams have a greater reach than traditional water streams, allowing firefighters to operate at greater distances from fires. Additionally, the foam used provides a reduced time of extinguishment as it penetrates burning materials much better than water.

The City has also recently signed a contract for repair and maintenance of fire engines with the Glendale Fire Department. The agreement will allow the City's fire engines to be repaired and maintained by mechanics specializing in fire apparatus repair. Currently, only the two in-service engines are covered by the contract. The City's vehicle shop will still maintain all support vehicles. When the new Pierce Quantum fire engine arrives this summer, it will be added to the list of vehicles covered by the contract.

The greatest benefit for the City is that while the engines are in for repairs or maintenance, the contract provides for a reserve engine from Glendale to be used by the City of San Gabriel. This means that you may see some lime green engines on City streets every now and then.

The Glendale Fire Department's maintenance shops are set up to work on a multitude of different specialized fire vehicles, and can support heavy overhauls and repairs. The cost for basic maintenance service and preventative maintenance inspections of the fire engines is competitive with other facilities doing maintenance on fire apparatus.

For more information, please call (626) 308-2880.

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



New Library Hours

In order to better serve the community, the San Gabriel Library will now be open on Saturdays.

New hours of operation are:

Monday: 10-8
Tuesday: 10-8
Wednesday: 10-8
Thursday: 10-6
Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 10-5
Sunday: CLOSED

For more information, please call the San Gabriel Library at (626) 287-0761.

The library is located at 500 S. Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel.

The San Gabriel Grapevine

SAN GABRIEL CITY COUNCIL

Harry Baldwin, Mayor
Juli Costanzo, Vice Mayor
Mary Cammarano, Councilmember
David Gutierrez, Councilmember
Chi Mui, Councilmember

P. Michael Paules, City Manager
Cynthia Trujillo, City Clerk
John Janosik, City Treasurer

Neal Leavitt, Editor
Fast Graphics, Graphic Design

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The SAN GABRIEL GRAPEVINE 是由聖蓋博市政府出版的季刊, 如需索取進一步資料, 請與市府的行政主管辦公室聯絡, 電話是 (626) 308-2803.



City of
San Gabriel
www.sangabrielcity.com

Street Improvement Project Updates

San Gabriel Boulevard is undergoing a number of improvements to facilitate traffic flow — **Pavement Rehabilitation from Las Tunas to Los Olivos:** Completed last November, the project was funded using Prop "C", STP-L funds and Los Angeles County Aid to Cities funds. The project consisted of replacing damaged curb and gutter, gutter plate installation, crack sealing, grinding, asphalt concrete overlay, new striping and traffic signal vehicle detection loops.

San Gabriel Boulevard at I-10 Interchange: The City has an approved project to improve the interchange-landscaped area on the north side of the freeway including median improvements from the freeway to Marshall Street. The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments helped sponsor this project that is being funded through the MTA. The project design is approximately 95 percent complete. City staff is working with the design consultant and Caltrans staff to get approval of a City entry sign to be located in the northeast quadrant of the northbound off ramp. It is anticipated that construction will start the second quarter of 2005 with completion near the end of the year. The project will upgrade the irrigation system, remove some of the old trees and ground cover and plant new trees and ground cover consistent with Caltrans and City landscape standards. Caltrans has reviewed and approved the concept/preliminary design plans.

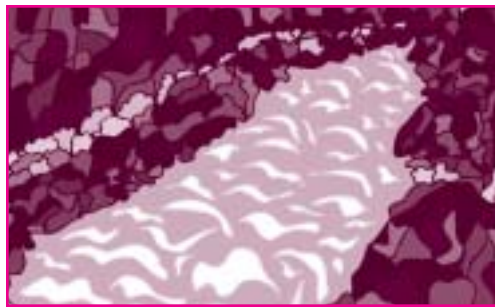
Stormwater Updates

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program prohibits the unauthorized discharge of pollutants from a point source (pipe, ditch, well, etc.) to U.S. waters, including municipal, commercial and industrial wastewater discharges. Applicants for a permit must verify compliance with permit requirements by monitoring their effluent, maintaining records and filing periodic reports.

To ensure full compliance with NPDES regulations, the City's consultant, TECS Environmental Service, has completed the first phase of the NPDES field investigations. TECS visited 213 businesses comprised of stand-alone restaurants, industrial sites and auto repair and service facilities. Brochures, flyers and a City introductory letter were handed out at the time of the inspection.

It is anticipated that inspection of the remaining businesses (with the exception of home businesses) will be completed this month. As with the first phase, flyers, brochures and an introductory letter have been provided at the time of the field inspection.

Flood Control Channels Can Be a Deadly Place To Play



Every year in Los Angeles County, about eight people drown in flood control channels in what are known as 'swiftwater' incidents. Many local fire agencies are working together to help mitigate these occurrences. Fire departments are also coordinating efforts with police, lifeguards, public works and even federal agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Specialized teams have now been established providing training and pre-planned procedures to reduce the risk presented to rescuers as well as victims.

In the City of San Gabriel, the fire department has an experienced Swiftwater Rescue Team. San Gabriel has two flood control channels, which run the length of the City. Entering these channels is illegal and no one, under any circumstances, should be there. If someone is seen in a channel under non-emergency conditions, citizens should notify the police or fire department. In an emergency situation, citizens should call 911 immediately and provide as much information as possible, including the victim's condition, clothing being worn and last location the victim was seen.

The San Gabriel Fire Department's best defense for safety is parental control and education. Parents should know about the dangers involved and talk to their children.

For more information, please call the San Gabriel Fire Department at (626) 308-2880.

Celebrating Rebuilding Day

Since 1999, the City of San Gabriel has joined forces with *Rebuilding Together*, the nation's largest non-profit community service organization that assists low-income homeowners, especially those who are elderly or disabled. This year, the City will once again celebrate the spirit of giving and rebuilding together with the annual *Rebuilding Day* on Saturday, April 16.

Last year's *Rebuilding Day* event was a huge success thanks to the commitment and hard work of volunteers who donated their time and labor to refurbish three homes in San Gabriel. Over 70 volunteers participated in the City's annual event. Many of the volunteers came from Gabrielino High School, San Marino High School, Rosemead High School, City staff and the San Gabriel community.

The success of the City's annual *Rebuilding Together* neighborhood improvement event could not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the volunteers and the generosity of the sponsors and donors who

gave so much to the community.

Based upon the actual costs incurred for materials and supplies and an estimated value for the skilled and unskilled volunteer labor force, the total estimated dollar value of the labor and materials donated to *Rebuilding Together* in San Gabriel was over \$22,000!

Anyone can volunteer! Please join hundreds of volunteers across the nation

to assist needy members of our community. Both skilled and unskilled volunteers, age 14 and up, are needed. A variety of repairs are made, including painting, trash removal and yard cleanup. The event

begins at 7 a.m. and concludes no later than 4 p.m. Please mark your calendars!

For more information, contact San Gabriel City Hall, Rita Estrada, Neighborhood Improvement Services Manager, at (626) 308-2806, ext. 4636 or restrada@sgch.org. You may also contact William Wheeler, Program Coordinator for *Rebuilding Together*-Central San Gabriel Valley, at csgvrebtogether@comcast.net or visit www.rebuildingtogether-csgv.org.



Rebuilding Together™

shortTAKES



San Gabriel's "Egg"straordinary Spring Celebration

The 61st Annual Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt, sponsored by the San Gabriel Kiwanis Club and the Parks and Recreation Department, will be held at Smith Park on Saturday, March 26. The morning's activities will get underway with the Pancake Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donation for breakfast is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 10.

The menu will be pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee or milk. The exciting Pancake Races will begin at 9 a.m. This popular event will include eight races for children and adults of all ages. Contestants will run 100 feet while trying to balance a pancake on a pancake turner. Local businesses have donated a variety of great prizes for the winners in each category. Participants must bring their own pancake turner.

The Spring Celebration will continue with the Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. Every boy and girl between the ages of 3 and 6 is invited to hunt for an egg at this free event.

Municipal Election To Be Held March 8

The next regular General Municipal Election will be held Tuesday, March 8. At that time, voters will elect three members of the City Council, a City Clerk and a City Treasurer. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The absentee voting period is February 7 through March 1. After that day, persons wishing to vote may do so by coming to the City Clerk's office and filing a late application for absentee voting. For more information, call the City Clerk's office at (626) 308-2816.

Want to get involved? The City is seeking persons who wish to work as an election officer. A new law has been passed that allows any registered voter in California to serve on an election board. If you wish to serve, there is a four-hour mandatory training workshop just prior to the election in addition to serving on Election Day from 6 a.m. until the polls close. For more information, please call Nina Nevarez at (626) 308-2816, nnevarez@sgch.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Chamber Mixer, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Asian Pacific National Bank
333 West Valley Blvd.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

Chamber Mixer, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
TBD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

Chamber Mixer, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Mission 261
261 South Mission Drive

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