

news and views from our town

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San Gabriel grapevine

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City Receives \$4.6 Million Park Grant

San Gabriel has been awarded \$4.6 million for the proposed Marshall Community Park project, a first-ever joint venture between the City and Garvey School District. The park grant, one of the largest ever received by San Gabriel, will fund the City's first new parkland in more than a decade.

The City's project, located at the corner of Jackson Avenue and Norwood Place, was one of only 62 selected from a pool of nearly 500 applications from throughout California. The Office of Grants and Local Services awarded \$184 million for this first round of funding.

San Gabriel was one of the top 15 grant awards

With an average grant amount of approximately \$2.97 million, fewer than 25 percent of grants were awarded in the top range of \$4.6 million. San Gabriel was one of the top 15 grant awards.

The Parks and Recreation Department submitted their proposal in March through the Prop 84 Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program of 2008 for the development of this joint-use space with the Garvey School District.

A series of community meetings were held to design the proposal, which will provide benefits for the community while improving the campus at Marshall Elementary School. The park space will serve as the school playground during school hours. After school and on weekends the park will be open to the community for recreational activities and family gatherings.

The project includes a walking/jogging path, multi-purpose areas, a synthetic turf field, picnic shelters, restrooms and security lighting. For more information on the proposed project, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 308-2875.



San Gabriel Streetscape Plan Spurs New Business

A Streetscape Master Plan will help make San Gabriel Boulevard a magnet for new business development. Prepared by the City's Community Development Department, the preliminary Master Plan (covering the area between Central and Elm Avenues) is also designed to attract pedestrians and bicyclists. It includes seating, lighting, trees, and also shows where proposed medians can be placed, the location of banner poles to enliven the street, and places for public art.

The plan is the first step in improving the overall look and feel of the boulevard. Staff will then seek funding to get the plan elements implemented.

An open house was held on October 14 for City staff to review the Preliminary Streetscape Master Plan. Ideas, issues and concerns were discussed with the landscape architecture consultant, Katherine Spitz Associates. A joint City Council/Redevelopment Agency Study Session was held on December 14 and the Streetscape Master Plan will be presented to the community for input and to the Planning Commission and Design Review Commission for review.

For more information, contact Robin Scherr, Acting Economic Development Manager, (626) 308 2806, ext. 5123, rscherr@sgch.org.



Lunar New Year Celebration Welcomes Year of the Rabbit

Entering its 20th year, the Annual Lunar New Year Event celebrates the "Year of the 'Rabbit.'" One of the most significant ethnic events in the region, the month-long celebration consists of an art exhibit at Alhambra City Hall, and the popular street festival on Valley Boulevard. The event is expected to draw thousands of attendees from throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

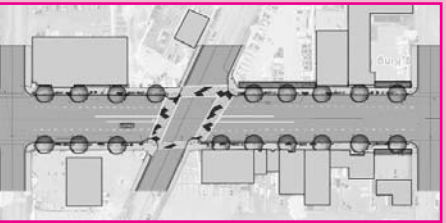
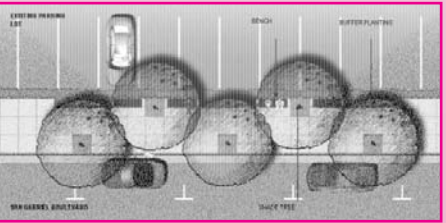
The art exhibit, which began January 6 and concludes on January 29 at Alhambra City Hall, served as an official kick-off for the New Year celebration. The Street Festival, to be held on February 5 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., will stretch over five city blocks. The festival will be located on Valley Boulevard, between Garfield Avenue and Almansor Street, in the heart of one of the largest Chinese-American commercial districts in Southern California.

Admission is free at this event that includes entertainment, carnival rides and games, and more than 250 booths giving attendees a taste of the Chinese culture. Experience the colorful, festive celebration of the New Year; and be sure and stop by the City of San Gabriel booth to see an assortment of department displays. The City of San Gabriel has participated in the event since its inception, and is proud to be a part of this cultural celebration welcoming the Year of the Rabbit.

For more information about the Lunar New Year celebration and/or booth space, contact K & K Communications at (626) 395-9995 or visit www.lunarnewyearparade.net.

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Upcoming Events at the Mission Playhouse

Music! Dance! Theater!

FRIDAY, JAN. 28, 7:30 p.m.

China Market USA presents
Zhejiang New Year Celebration
For info/tickets call (626) 429-1955
www.chinamart.com

SATURDAY, 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

SUNDAY, JAN. 30, 7 p.m.

American Chinese Cultural Association
presents
U.S. Chinese American New Year Festival Gala
For info/tickets call (626) 446-0917
www.accausa.org

SATURDAY, FEB. 5, 8 p.m.

Hamazkayin Cultural & Educational
Society presents
Mosaic IV - A Celebration of Sound
For info/tickets call (818) 314-4687
www.hamazkayin.net

THURSDAY, FEB. 10, 10 a.m.

Theatreworks USA presents
Theatre for Young People
"The Berenstain Bears in Family Matters"
Tickets are available at your local school
district
For info/tickets call (800) 497-5007
www.theatreworksusa.org

SAT., FEB. 26, 7 p.m.

SUN., FEB. 27, 2 p.m.
Pasadena Civic Ballet
For info/tickets call (626) 792-0873
www.pcballet.com

FRI./SAT., MAR. 11-12, 7 p.m.

SUN., MAR. 13, 2 p.m.
Temple City High School
Performing Arts Department presents
Annual Musical Theatre Show
For info/tickets call (626) 548-5000

FRI., MAR. 18, 6:30 p.m.

Arcadia High School Choral Competition
"Pow Wow"
For info/tickets call (626) 821-1785

THURS., MAR. 31, 10 a.m.

American Theatre Arts for Youth
Theatre for Young People
"Wizard of Oz"
Tickets are available at your local school
district
For info/tickets call (213) 563-3501
www.atafy.org

SAT., APR. 2, 6 p.m.

Mariachi Heritage Society presents
"Mariachi Sol de Mexico"
For info/tickets call (626) 279-2064
www.mariachiheritagesociety.com

THURS., APR. 14, 10 a.m.

Theatreworks USA presents
Theatre for Young People
"Seussical"
Tickets are available at your local school
district
For info/tickets call (800) 497-5007
www.theatreworksusa.org

SAT., APR. 16, 7 p.m.

American Chinese Dance Association
For info/tickets call (626) 643-9434

SUN., APR. 17, 2 p.m.

Esperanza Flores Dance Group
For info/tickets call (626) 488-0761
www.esperanzaflares.com

MORNING PERFORMANCES WEEK OF APR. 18

Children's Theatre Experience presents
Theatre for Young People
For info/tickets call (800) 514-2787
www.ctexperience.com

The San Gabriel Mission Playhouse is owned and operated by the City of San Gabriel. The Mission Playhouse is pleased to be the venue of choice for the events listed above. All events are presented by independent producers and are subject to change and/or cancellation without notice. Always check the event hotline for newly added events and performances (626) 308-2868 or the event calendar online at www.missionplayhouse.org.



Own a Piece of History

Residents can own a piece of City history! San Gabriel is replacing street name signs citywide. Many of these signs -- some of the oldest among Southern California cities -- date back to 1966, making them potential collectors' items of interest to families and businesses that would like a piece of San Gabriel history as we approach the 2013 Centennial. Thus far over 200 signs have been sold.

To defray the cost of the project and reduce its impact, the signs are available on a first come, first serve basis for a donation of \$35 each. If you are interested in acquiring an existing street name sign please contact, Patty Peña at (626) 308-2825 or ppeña@sgch.org.



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the signs are available on a first come basis for a
donation of \$35 each

City Proposes New Police and Public Works Facilities

The San Gabriel City Council recently approved two architectural contracts totaling approximately \$2.5 million and in so doing initiated the first steps that could lead to the construction of two new City facilities that will house the Police and Public Works Departments.

Both departments have outgrown their existing facilities, located off Del Mar and Mission. The initial goal of the City Council was to expand the Police Department into a larger facility, keep costs to a minimum and maintain services to the community with minimal impact throughout the construction period.

It was determined this could best be accomplished if Public Works moved from their current location. Consequently, a new Public Works facility is being considered as a possible option which would be relocated to City owned land on Grand Avenue. After the completion of the new Public Works facility, which is currently budgeted at \$5 million, the former Public Works Department land will be made available for the future construction of a new \$24 million police facility. Upon completion and relocation of police personnel and operations, the old police facility would be converted into a parking lot for the SGPD.

Both departments have outgrown their existing facilities,
located off Del Mar and Mission

The City's Finance Department is developing a financing plan to raise additional funds to complete both projects, but would likely require the issuance of bonds and will require the City to pay approximately \$1.5 million per year for annual debt service. More details will be shared with the City Council and community over the next several months, which will include all the normal public noticing, planning commission, and design review processes that are required under law.

City Searching for Outstanding Older American

The City of San Gabriel, in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, is calling for nominations of older Americans to participate in the 46th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day. The Parks and Recreation Department is asking for your input in the search for San Gabriel's Outstanding Older American.

This program is designed to seek out and honor a nominee who, after retirement, is actively involved in serving others in the community and exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism. Criteria for the Outstanding Older American are:

- Man or woman, age 65 or older
- Has performed outstanding volunteer service for the San Gabriel community
- Has not been recognized with this award in previous years. Former award winners since 1994 are: Helen Kennedy (1994); Marian Brittingham (1995); Lynn Backus (1996); Marie Lopez (1997); Sarah Duncan (1998); Geri Reece (1999); Al Baker (2000); Carl Bonenberger (2001); Ellie Andrews (2002); Don Morrison (2003); Helen Hoffmann (2004); Harold Hansen (2005); Philomena 'Phil' Tobin (2006); Jack Vrtar (2007); Mary Cammarano (2008); Dorothy Griffo (2009); and Margaret McIntosh (2010).

This program is designed
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in the community and
exemplifies the true spirit
of volunteerism



Margaret McIntosh
2010 Outstanding Older American

Nominations should include the Older American's name, age, address, telephone number, and a typed or printed narrative description of the volunteer activities that would warrant this award. Nominations for this award will be accepted through February 21.

Please send all information to: Older American Award, 250 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776. For additional information, call the Parks and Recreation Office at (626) 308-2875.

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Good Lighting Helps Deter Crime

Good lighting is a deterrent to crime whether it is in the home, at play, at work or on the street. Unfortunately, not all streets have street lights. That's why it's important to turn on exterior lighting at night.

A deterrent to any would-be intruder is proper exterior lighting. It helps prevent criminals from concealing their activities. If the yard area is obscured by high shrubbery or other obstacles, exterior lighting is essential as part of your crime prevention plan.

Mounting outdoor yard lights under the eaves of your roof is one of the best locations. If possible, mount them in an out-of-reach location. Illumination from this position makes ground-level assault, whether on you or your residence, more difficult.

When analyzing your lighting needs you should pay particular attention to such areas as exterior doorways, yards, window areas, parking areas, garage areas, hallways, walkways, and blind spots located on and around the premises.

One means of illuminating night blind spots is to add a number of ornamental and functional outdoor lights such as decorative porch and yard post lamps. For added convenience and safety, these yard lights and entrance lights can be equipped with inexpensive timers or photoelectric cells (light sensitive switches), which automatically turn the lights on at dusk and off at dawn.



Garages are a particularly inviting spot for intruders -- be sure to close the garage door every time you leave. Also, have at least one 100-watt bulb positioned on either side of the garage under the eaves.

It is also important to provide ample interior lighting that is properly placed and on timers so that the lights will give the appearance that someone is at home at all hours of the night.

A deterrent to any would-be intruder is proper exterior lighting

Some of the best places for interior lighting are the living room, bedroom and bathroom. These lights should always be used whether you are at home or away. You can use an electric timer or manually turn them on and off. These electric timers plug into your electrical outlet and you then plug your appliance into the timer. You will probably want to use a timer on each floor of your residence to operate your lights. Do this in conjunction with leaving a radio on, which would further give the appearance that someone is home. If the radio is tuned to "talk" stations, this will help confuse a potential burglar. Remember to keep the volume at an appropriate level; not too low and not too loud.

Garages are a particularly inviting spot for intruders – be sure to close the garage door every time you leave

For these and other crime prevention tips, or to start a Neighborhood Watch group on your street, contact the Crime Prevention Office at (626) 308-2846.

Making the Holidays Merry and Bright – 2010 Holiday Award Winners

Once again, homeowners and businesses have surpassed themselves with their creativity in helping to light up San Gabriel. The 2010 winners of the Holiday Decorations Awards not only received a visit on December 16 from Santa Claus, but also from the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, and the San Gabriel City Council.

Winners received a certificate of recognition and signs were posted in the front yard to allow the community to view these wonderful decorations. Businesses and homeowners who decorate their buildings are one of the reasons the holidays are merry and bright in San Gabriel.

The Holiday Decorations Contest is sponsored by the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce with support from the Community Development Department. This is the 12th year for the program.

This year's winners are:

Winners received a certificate of recognition and signs were posted in the front yard to allow the community to view these wonderful decorations



343 S. Mission Dr. – Commercial Winner



648 De Sales St. – Northwest Residential Winner



725 N. California St. – Northeast Residential Winner



1222 S. Pine St. – Southeast Residential Winner

City Employees Recognized for Achievements

The City of San Gabriel's employees take great pride in their work and are dedicated to serving the community. To recognize employees for exceptional achievement, each year, the City of San Gabriel accepts nominations for 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 employees outside the nominee's department.

Employees are honored and commended for achievement in Overall Work Performance, Leadership, Teamwork, Customer Service, Emergency Response and Innovation. Everyone in the City-family congratulates these eight outstanding employees!

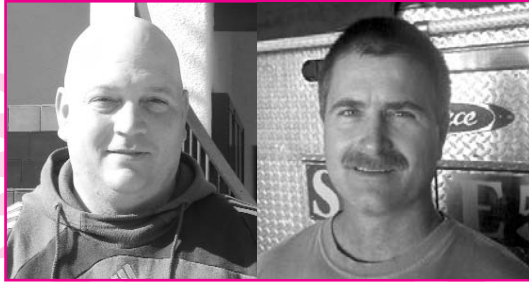
*Customer Service
Public Works Clerk
Patricia Peña*



*Innovation
Maintenance Worker II Josh Fairman
& Stage Manager John Holder*



*Emergency Response
Firefighter/Paramedics Christopher Eakman
and Sean Irwin*



*Teamwork
Management Analyst Jason Chan*



*Overall Work Performance
Auto Shop Supervisor
Jeremy Schmidt*



*Leadership
Neighborhood Improvement Services
Manager Clayton Anderson*



