Centennial Ends in a Flash

In December, the community turned out for the final events of San Gabriel’s Centennial. A new time capsule was buried in the Mission Playhouse Courtyard, not to be opened until 2063. Immediately following, this community photo was taken on Mission Drive in front of the Mission Playhouse. Thank you for celebrating San Gabriel’s journey, from incorporation in 1913 to present day.

This community photo was taken by photographer Bill Youngblood. Order a print at https://cityofsangabriel.shutterfly.com/.
Mixed-Use Development Rebounds in San Gabriel

After several years of stagnation due to an unstable real estate market and economy, housing development activity picked up in 2013. Applications for multi-family and mixed-use development saw the most dramatic increase in numbers. Last year, the City received six applications for multi-family condominium and apartment developments. This was more than the number of applications in the previous four years combined.

Formal applications were also submitted for several large residential and mixed-use developments. These included an 88-unit residential community at 835 E. El Monte Street to be developed by the Olson Company; and mixed-use projects at 704-712 W. Las Tunas Drive, 825 E. Broadway and 400 W. Valley Boulevard. Developers and architects also met with City staff for preliminary meetings on several other larger projects, including 416 E. Las Tunas Drive, 101 E. Valley Boulevard, 860 E. Valley Boulevard, 220 S. San Gabriel Boulevard and 235 S. Arroyo Drive.

This revival in housing development reflects a recovering real estate market and economy and holds promise for not only increased housing opportunities, but also job creation, vibrant streetscapes, increased tax revenues and development fees to fund improvements to the City’s infrastructure.

Undergrounding Projects Begin on Mission Road

Early this year, construction will begin on two utility undergrounding projects on Mission Road. Underground facilities will be installed, overhead lines and poles removed, and street lighting added. The first project is on Mission from Santa Anita Street to Ramona Street/Mission Drive, and the second is on Mission from the Union Pacific Railroad to Del Mar Avenue.

The main undergrounding and trench construction will take approximately three months to complete, before work can begin on the underground connections to residences and businesses along Mission. The projects will be executed by private contractors working for the City, Southern California Edison (SCE), and other utility companies; and coordinated with the work being done on the Alameda Corridor East San Gabriel Trench Project.

The City Council approved these Mission Utility Undergrounding Projects in 2010, and approximately $2.5 million of Rule 20A funds have been set aside for the projects. Under this process filed with the State Public Utilities Commission, SCE collects fees from customers and ratepayers to fund these projects. Both segments of Mission are entryways to the City’s Mission District and Civic Center, and the projects will help improve the public right of way as well as aesthetics.

For more information, contact Senior Engineer Algis Marciuska at 308.2806, ext. 4632 or amarciuska@sgch.org.

Nominate an ‘Outstanding Older American’

The City in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is accepting nominations of older community members for San Gabriel’s 49th Annual Outstanding Older American. The award honors an individual age 65 or older, who has performed outstanding volunteer service for the San Gabriel community. Nominees may not have previously been recognized with this award. Nominations for Outstanding Older American will be accepted through February 17, 2014.

Nominations must include:
- Nominee’s name, address, telephone number
- Typewritten or printed narrative description of the nominee’s volunteer activities
- Name and contact information for the person submitting the nomination.

Send the completed nomination to: Outstanding Older Award, 250 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 308.2875.
City Moving Forward to Increase Green Space

Parks, open space and recreation areas are essential to the health of every city. In the 2004 General Plan “Ingredients for Success”, the City set a goal to meet a citywide standard of 4 acres per 1,000 residents. To meet this goal, the City must consider creative solutions including mini, neighborhood and community parks; recreation centers; and joint-use facilities. The City also recognizes the need to restore and improving existing green spaces and recreational facilities.

In November 2013, the City Council held a study session to review opportunities to enhance and expand parks and recreation resources in our community. This year, the department will be moving forward with the following:

- Locating resources to fund the installation of picnic shelters and playground equipment at Vincent Lugo Park;
- Initiating construction on Marshall Community Park (expected to begin in summer);
- Developing a Park Master Plan outlining opportunities for development and acquisition of new parks and recreational space;
- Proposing an increase of the open space and recreation impact fees, which would create additional funds for development of open space;
- Pursuing available grant opportunities to provide additional funding to invest in our existing parks and facilities; and
- Expanding events and programs including a farmer’s market and summer concerts.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 308.2875 or info@sgch.org.

Bike-Friendly Streets are in the Works

In July 2013, the City, along with Monterey Park, El Monte, South El Monte and Baldwin Park, partnered with the public health non-profit Day one and regional bicycle coalition BikeSGV to develop the San Gabriel Valley Bicycle Master Plan. The project aims to encourage healthier and more active lifestyles by creating an interconnected bicycle network that is safe and easily accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

The San Gabriel Valley Bicycle Master Plan will embark on a historic effort to capture bicycle-related data that will show the need for investment in a safe and robust bicycle network. It will also place a strong emphasis on community participation to identify potential routes and to recognize public safety concerns. Community members are encouraged to complete a bicycle survey, visit a workshop, volunteer for opportunities, provide feedback and even just commit to bike more often.

For more information, visit www.dobikeplan.com or contact Project Manager Javier Hernandez at 536.1044 or javier@bikesgv.org.

Valley Boulevard Tree Planting Moving Forward

The third and final phase of tree planting along Valley Boulevard, east from Walnut to the city limits, is scheduled to begin early this year. Amigos de Rios is assisting with funding and volunteer staffing for this green effort. For more information, contact Public Works at 308.2825.

Welcome, Interim Fire Chief Jim Frawley

Through a unique arrangement that reflects longstanding cooperation between neighboring cities, San Marino Fire Chief Jim Frawley agreed to serve San Gabriel on an interim basis as a shared Fire Chief following Chief Joe Nestor’s retirement on December 31, 2013. This partnership involves the sharing of management and command staff between departments, which is expected to reduce costs while improving fire service.

Chief Frawley started his fire service career in 1989 with the Glendale Fire Department. He served as a Firefighter, Paramedic, Engineer and Captain. In these assignments, he gained a diverse amount of expertise serving in roles that involved hazardous materials, weapons of mass destruction, disaster planning, public education and public information.

In August 2008, Chief Frawley joined the San Marino Fire Department as a Division Chief and Fire Marshal. His efforts have included a successful revision of San Marino’s Emergency Operations Plan and the launch of San Marino’s successful Community Emergency Response Team program. Chief Frawley is also a licensed Paramedic and certified Chief Officer.

Chief Frawley was introduced to the community by then retiring Chief Nestor at the Council meeting on December 3, 2013. We offer our gratitude to Chief Nestor for his many years of service in San Gabriel, and a very warm welcome to Interim Chief Frawley.

For more information, contact the Fire Department at 308.2880.

New Rescue Ambulance in Service

The Fire Department placed a new 2013 Ford Type III Paramedic Rescue Ambulance from Emergency Vehicle Group into service in November 2013. The vehicle carries both protective firefighting equipment and the most current life support equipment. The rescue ambulance responds to over 2,500 calls per year in San Gabriel and neighboring cities, keeping residents and families safe.
City Announces Employee Award Winners

The City presented the 2013 Employee Achievement Awards at a special City Council meeting on December 3, 2013. The awards were presented to individuals and/or departments that have made significant service contributions in San Gabriel. Congratulations to the employee award winners for their dedication and hard work.

Overall Work Performance: Patricia Peña, Public Works
Customer Service: Teresa Tena, Community Development
Innovation: Daren Grilley, Community Development
Teamwork: Community Development Department (Clayton Anderson, Jorge Arellano, Laura Castillo, Angela Cheng, Jennifer Davis, Larissa De La Cruz, Mark Gafflin, Daren Grilley, Denis Lamothe, Algis Marcziuska, Carmille Paton, Teresa Tena, Jackie Wong, Evan Zeiel, Fang-zhou Zhou)

Nominations were made by full-time employees and voted on by the Executive Team. For more information, contact Assistant City Manager Marcella Marlowe at 308.2802.

Light Up San Gabriel!
2013 Holiday Decorations Winners Selected

The winners of San Gabriel’s 2013 Holiday Decorations Awards received a certificate of recognition on December 16. The City Council, Women’s Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, and Santa Claus paid a visit to the winners’ homes and posted recognition signs on their front yards. Congratulations to the winners!

Northwest - 237 West Broadway Street
Northeast - 803 East Los Olivos Street
Southwest - 729 Anderson Way
Southeast - 916 Euclid Avenue

City Council
Juli Costanzo, Mayor
John R. Harrington, Vice Mayor
Chin Ho Liao, Councilmember
Jason Yu, Councilmember
Kevin B. Sankin, Councilmember

City Officials
Eleanor K. Aguirre, City Clerk
John Jamin, City Treasurer
Steven A. Presdon, City Manager
Robert L. Keis, City Attorney
Marcella Markow, Asst. City Manager
David A. Lawton, Police Chief
Jim Rawley, Fire Chief
Rob Bustos, Dir. of Public Works
Rebecca Perez, Dir. of Parks and Recreation
Thomas Martin, Director of Finance
Anna Cross, Mission Playhouse Director

City’s website now features polls to survey your opinions about San Gabriel. The first poll asked site users to vote on their favorite out of five popular landmarks. Here are the results:

- Mission San Gabriel Arcángel
- La Laguna de San Gabriel
- Mission Playhouse
- San Gabriel Square
- Grapevine Arbor Park

Look out for new polls on the City’s website. If you have ideas for future polls, send them to Brian Wolfson at bwolfson@sgch.org.

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SAN GABRIEL, CA

ECRWSS

City Manager’s Office at 308.2805.

OPINION POLLS

The City’s website features polls to survey your opinions about San Gabriel. The first poll asked site users to vote on their favorite out of five popular landmarks. Here are the results:

- Mission San Gabriel Arcángel
- La Laguna de San Gabriel
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- San Gabriel Square
- Grapevine Arbor Park

Look out for new polls on the City’s website. If you have ideas for future polls, send them to Brian Wolfson at bwolfson@sgch.org.

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Valarie Gomez
West San Gabriel Valley YMCA

SGVC Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award 2009
2011 Rotary International Award
2011 Small Business of the Year Award
2011 Heart of the Community Award