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Building Marshall Community Park

The city's first new park in over a decade

Come November, San Gabriel will open its first new park in over a decade at Norwood Place and Jackson Avenue.

"When I started with the city close to twenty years ago, we were finishing an addition to Smith Park," said Rebecca Perez, Community Services Director. "This addition to an existing park is essentially the last time the city has had a major park development."

Now, with a 4.6 million-dollar grant from the Proposition 84 Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program, San Gabriel will open a new community park that will feature playground equipment, a multi-use sports field, picnic shelters, a basketball court, and adult fitness equipment. "The grant focused on developing park space in park-poor communities. We had a great application that showed the need for a community park in the area," Perez said.

Designed in partnership between the city and the Garvey School District, Marshall Community Park was meant to serve as a playground during school hours for the adjacent Marshall Elementary School. "We have an agreement with the Garvey School District for use of the site," Perez said. "We tried to create a park that could be used by the school during the day, which meant adding playground equipment and a multi-purpose field area."

When Marshall Elementary closed in 2012, the city and school district revised the agreement, changing the park's hours to remain open to the public throughout the week.

While city officials were able to change the park's operating hours with ease, the design phase proved to be a challenge. "The grant was awarded in 2010, and David Evans and Associates – the city's landscape architect at the time – worked on the design," said Daren Grilley, Public Works Director/City Engineer. "The design process took five years, and much of time was taken up by the plan review phase. Normally, we'd have our building official look at the plans, but because the state architect has to review anything related to schools, our plans had to be deferred to them for review."

Torrential rains earlier this year also delayed

construction for the park, pushing back work while crews continually attempted to dry the soil. "Parks – by their nature – don't have much cover, so that slowed us down. A window of nice weather would be ruined by a rain storm," Grilley said. "We believe we lost over a month due to rain days," said John Gonzalez, Parks & Facilities Manager.

In spite of these delays, Marshall Community Park is slated to open in November. "The park will include restrooms, picnic shelters, a walking trail and added security lighting," Perez said. "During our early community meetings to introduce the concept of the park, lighting and fitness opportunities were repeatedly included as needs for the proposed open space."

"We've also added a multi-use field, so we can accommodate sports like softball or hand soccer," Gonzalez said. "We tried to incorporate some degree of adaptability."

Because the park will occupy a little over two acres, city officials are encouraging the use of active transportation for residents who wish to access the site. "It really is a community park. We're encouraging people to use active transportation – such as walking



Installation of playground equipment began in July.

"There's something for all ages at the park," states Grilley. "To have that many features on such a small site, it's impressive."

and biking – to get to the park," notes Grilley. "We're working on improving mobility across the city by building bike lanes and improving our sidewalks." As part of the project, the City Council approved the use of the city's community development block grant money for street improvements, including pavement rehabilitation around the park.

Despite its relatively small size, Marshall Community Park – city officials believe – will make a sizable impact on the neighborhood once it opens. "I think it's going to be big for the neighborhood because there really isn't any type of recreation area near that site," Gonzalez notes. "Adding the adult fitness equipment will be a big element because the city hasn't had this type of feature in many years. This is something that residents have been looking for."

For general information about Marshall Community Park, please contact Community Services Director Rebecca Perez at 626.308.2875 or at rperez@sgch.org. For construction related questions, please contact Public Works Director/City Engineer Daren Grilley at 626.308.2825 or at dgrilley@sgch.org.

San Gabriel Police Department welcomes new K-9 Unit



Officer Robert Barada and Edy

Soon, the San Gabriel Police Department will welcome two new furry members to its team. Bentley, 1, and Edy, 3, – both Malinois – will be joining the force as part of the department's new K-9 unit.

"Historically, we've always asked for outside assistance from surrounding stations that have a K-9 unit," said Officer Paul Puente, who is paired up with Bentley. "It's great that we're bringing a unit in-house to San Gabriel."

Both trained in apprehension, Bentley and Edy will be paired up with Officer Paul Puente and Officer Robert Barada as their new partners.

Continued on page 2

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Infrastructure Spotlight

With the city experiencing an increase in construction in recent months, here is an update on just some of the major projects currently taking place:

San Gabriel Boulevard/Mission Road intersection improvements

Among one of the busier intersections in the city, work is currently being done to improve the streets and the sidewalks surrounding the San Gabriel Boulevard and Mission Road intersection. When finished, a new right turn lane from Mission Road to San Gabriel Boulevard will be constructed along with new traffic signals and drainage facilities. The project is expected to be completed this October.

The following projects are also underway:

- Design is underway on Del Mar Avenue from Bencamp Street to Chestnut Avenue. The project will replace and upgrade the sanitary sewers beneath the street along with the construction of new pavement. Design for this project will be complete by the end of the year, and construction is expected to start in early 2018
- The Alhambra Wash bridge replacement project is also in its design phase. Funded primarily by the federal bridge replacement program, the Alhambra project is being designed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The county is currently analyzing bids to determine the lowest responsive bidder, with a construction contract expected to be approved in October. Construction will begin in early 2018, with a completion date of 2020
- Design for the Broadway/Walnut Grove intersection improvement project is complete, though right-of-way appraisals and negotiations have taken longer than anticipated. A portion of the utility relocations has been finished, and construction is anticipated to begin in 2018

If you would like more information on any of these projects, please contact Public Works at 626.308.2825.



The Alhambra Wash bridge replacement project is currently in design phase.

Q&A: Inside San Gabriel Fire Department's new arson unit



In an effort to increase the amount of investigations performed in-house, the San Gabriel Fire Department is rolling out a new unit that will focus on arson and fire investigation. To learn more about this new group, we caught up with Captain Arthur Stafford, one of the arson investigators within the unit.

Q: What is an arson investigator?

A: Our role as a fire and arson investigator is to investigate any fire that is undetermined in nature. If we discover that a fire has been intentionally set, that incident then becomes a crime known as arson.

Q: How did the fire department handle cases of arson before this program was introduced?

A: Before our current program, the department would reach out to other cities that have trained investigators on staff. This included the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the South Pasadena Fire Department, and the San Marino Fire Department.

Q: How many individuals are currently participating in the arson unit?

A: We have three lead investigators along with two individuals that are currently involved with the training process. The education and training involved with becoming an investigator has trained several of us in the art of fire investigation. We've really increased our skill level when it comes to investigating fires.

Q: How will this program benefit residents?

A: As a resident, you're getting a team of qualified individuals who are able to disseminate valuable information and skills to other captains within the department. This program has provided a greater level of training when it comes to investigating a normal fire or a case of arson. Since we've enacted this program, the team has investigated approximately 30 fires here in San Gabriel and in the surrounding cities. We've also had one conviction of an arsonist along with another case of arson that is currently going through court.

Continued from front page

San Gabriel Police Department welcomes new K-9 Unit

The new unit is currently undergoing an intensive six-week course that covers apprehension and detection work. In addition, both dogs will also pursue specialized training in the future that will allow the new K-9 unit to cover narcotics and explosives detection. "Our city is four-square miles, and to have two dogs is a big deal," Puente said. "Both dogs are apprehension dogs, but one also specializes in explosives while the other specializes in narcotics."

Once training concludes, the dogs will bring a wealth of

resources to the police department. "In terms of benefits, they're a force multiplier. One dog can do the work of 10-15 officers when they're searching through a building," notes Puente. "If there's a big building, we can use the dogs to search or apprehend the suspect," said Barada. "This is big in terms of efficiency. No one can hide from the dogs."

Training continues until mid-September, with the dogs expected to enter the field later this year.



Officer Paul Puente and Bentley

2

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World music comes to the Mission Playhouse

Experience a taste of India!

Enjoy a night of world music in an intimate setting as two internationally accomplished artists, Josh Feinberg on the sitar and Nilan Chaudhuri on the tabla, take guests on a musical journey to India at the Mission Playhouse on Sunday, November 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Feinberg began his musical training at the age of four with the piano and began playing the bass at the age of eight. In his teens, he discovered Hindustani music and shifted his focus to the sitar by studying with renowned musician Ustad Ali Akbar Khan along with other noted artists.

Meanwhile, Chaudhuri has been playing the tabla since the age of five. He performs, teaches, and records in styles ranging from Indian Classical to Electronic.

As part of the Mission Playhouse's Global Flavors series, patrons will also get a taste of India when they add a pre-paid dinner fee of \$9.00 to a regular ticket purchase for a delicious Indian vegetarian meal.

This event is produced in partnership with The Music Circle, as part of the Mission Playhouse's



Community Engagement Program, *Engage!* Founded by Ravi Shankar and Harihar Rao, The Music Circle has presented the classical music of India to Southern California audiences since 1973. Tickets start at \$25 (discounted tickets are available for students), and may be subject to additional fees and charges. To learn more, visit MissionPlayhouse.org or call 626.308.2865.

Brief Translations

Articles in this issue that are of significant importance or newsworthy are provided in brief translations to enhance readership among our diverse community.

En Breve...

Eventos de la Ciudad:

Este otoño, los invitamos a participar en varios eventos de la ciudad que podrá disfrutar toda la familia. El 27 de octubre, asegúrese de traer a su familia al Festival de Otoño de Diversión situado en el distrito de la misión en el domicilio 320 South Mission Drive. Este evento incluirá juegos de carnaval para niños y mucho más.

Además, visita el teatro de la misión el 12 de noviembre a las 5PM para un viaje musical a la India con Josh Feinberg tocando el sitar y Nilan Chaudhuri la tabla. Entradas para este espectáculo comienzan en \$25. Póngase en contacto con el teatro de la misión en 626.308.2865 para obtener más información.

Finalmente, el Trote de Pavo este año se llevará a cabo el 19 de noviembre en el parque de Vincent Lugo ubicado en la esquina de la calle Wells y Ramona en San Gabriel. El trote incluirá carrera de 5K y 10K, una carrera juvenil de 1K y caminata de 5K. Es necesario que participantes se registren. Para mas información comuníquese con servicios a la comunidad en 626.308.2875.

Noticias de la Ciudad:

Después de 27 años de servicio a la ciudad, el abogado de la ciudad Robert "Bob" Kress se jubilará de la ciudad de San Gabriel. "Pensé como un regalo a mí mismo por mi 70 cumpleaños, que tomaré la vida un poco más fácil", dijo Kress. "He hecho muy buenos amigos aquí. Son sin duda más para mí que gente con quien trabajo y es difícil decir adiós."

La ciudad tendrá un abogado nuevo con Keith Lemieux, de Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP. "San Gabriel es una comunidad atractiva porque es una ciudad importante dentro de la región", dijo Lemieux. "Ubicaciones históricas como la Misión de San Gabriel y el Playhouse de la Misión, junto con la diversidad cultural de la ciudad, hacen San Gabriel muy única."

Robert Kress, City Attorney retires after 28 years

After 28 years of service, Robert "Bob" Kress will be retiring as City Attorney come fall.

A partner in Wallin, Kress, Reisman & Kranitz since 1976, Kress became San Gabriel's City Attorney in 1989 after responding to the city's request for proposal. "Our proposal was one of the top three, and we were successful. I've been at it ever since."

While at the city, Kress served 17 councilmembers, 3 city managers, and worked with dozens of department heads, adjusting to the ever-changing

legal environment.

Kress notes that he isn't retiring, but simply stepping down. "I thought as a 70th birthday present to myself that I'd take life a little easier," Kress notes. "I've made some really good friends here. They are certainly more to me than people I work with, and it's hard to say goodbye."

The San Gabriel City family will miss Kress and wishes him well in his retirement.

公共建設日

本市活动:

在今年秋季, 我们鼓励大家来参加本市举办的, 可以由全家大小一起来享受的活动。在10月27日, 请和你全家来参加坐落于320 South Mission Drive的Mission District的秋季嘉年华活动。本次活动将包括树干讨糖, 儿童游乐区和更多有趣的活动。另外, 欢迎来11月12日下午5点来到Mission剧院来一起享受印度音乐之旅, 由Josh Feinberg演奏西塔琴和Nilan Chaudhuri演奏塔布拉鼓。票价从25美元起。请联络Mission剧院, 电话626. 308. 2865来了解更多信息。最后, 今年的火鸡赛跑将于11月19日在Vincent Lugo公园举办, 坐落于圣盖博市的Wells和Ramona路口。今年的赛跑将包括5千米和1万米跑, 另外还有青少年的1千米跑和5千米趣味竞走。需要购买入场券来参加。请联络社区服务部, 电话626. 308. 2875来了解更多信息。

本市新闻:

在圣盖博市已经辛勤工作了27年的市政府律师Robert "Bob" Kress将从圣盖博市的秋天退休。Kress表示这是给自己的70岁生日的礼物, 这样可以活的轻松些了。在本市交了很多好朋友。对自己而言是非常重要的, 很难舍别, 但对圣盖博市来说将会有更好的律师来为其服务。Keith Lemieux, 来自Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O' Neill律师楼, 将成为圣盖博是新的市政府律师。他说: "圣盖博市是一个吸引人的地方, 因为是在本地区一个重要的城市。不仅有圣盖博Mission和Mission Playhouse, 另外还有多元文化, 这是圣盖博一个独特之处。"



San Gabriel introduces Keith Lemieux, new City Attorney

Following an extensive search, San Gabriel officials announced that Keith Lemieux, of Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP, will become the new City Attorney for the City

of San Gabriel.

Lemieux, 50, comes to San Gabriel with an extensive background in representing government entities with an emphasis on government liability and environmental law.

In his new role, Lemieux will be advising the City Council on all legal matters pertaining to the city, including the preparation of all ordinances, contracts, resolutions, bonds and written matters required by the council. In addition, Lemieux and members of his

firm will also be attending City Council and Planning Commission meetings.

"San Gabriel is an attractive community because it's an important city within the region," Lemieux said. "Historical locations such as the San Gabriel Mission and the Mission Playhouse, coupled with the city's cultural diversity, make San Gabriel very unique."

Lemieux holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Government from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Juris Doctor from Pepperdine Law. Lemieux also serves as the City Attorney for the City of Ridgecrest, and has previously served as the City Attorney for the City of California City.

Lemieux succeeds Robert L. Kress, who served as City Attorney for the city from 1989 until his retirement in 2017.

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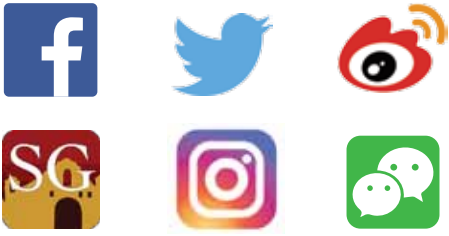


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Persons with Disabilities

Any person with a disability, who requires a modification of accommodation in order to participate in the city events, programs or activities in this publication, should direct such request to the Community Services Department at 626.308.2875 at least 48 hours before the event, if possible.

For more information, visit our website at www.sangabrielcity.com.

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Share the Road: watch for pedestrians and cyclists

The city's streets carry tens of thousands of people driving cars and trucks every day, and it's important for drivers to remember that the streets also belong to people who are walking or cycling. Simply put: drivers of motor vehicles must share the road with pedestrians and bicyclists.

According to the most recent data provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety, 65 pedestrians and 18 bicyclists were injured by motor vehicles in San Gabriel in 2014. The city's goal is to bring the number of injuries and fatalities down to zero.

The city is always working to improve safety for all street users through improvements to street designs, pavement quality, traffic signals, signs and markings, and the enforcement of traffic laws – but it can't do it alone. Traffic safety also requires drivers, pedestrians and cyclists to follow traffic laws and to pay attention to their surroundings.

First, please put your cell phone down. 80% of crashes and 65% of near-crashes involve some form of driver distraction, according to a study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information on road and traffic safety, please contact the city's Public Works Director/City Engineer, Daren Grilley at 626.308.2825 or Police Chief Eugene Harris at 626.308.2828 at extension 830.



In addition, here are some important reminders from the National Safety Council on how to safely share the road. Keep in mind that many of these are not just tips, but state laws as well:

- ✓ Don't block crosswalks when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you
- ✓ Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas
- ✓ All intersections, whether marked or not, are legal crosswalks unless otherwise signed
- ✓ Always yield to pedestrians in crosswalks
- ✓ Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians
- ✓ Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way
- ✓ When passing a bicyclist, always leave 3 feet between your car and the cyclist

News Briefs

Join us at the Fall Fun Festival

Bring your little ghosts and goblins to the Fall Fun Festival on Friday, October 27 from 5-9 p.m. This family-friendly event is open to all ages and will take place in the Mission District, located at 320 South Mission Drive. This spooktacular event includes trunk-or-treating, children's carnival games and activities, a costume contest, cartoons in the Mission Playhouse, and a special haunted zone. The haunted zone will take place in Grapevine Arbor Park from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and is recommended for ages 12 years and older.

For more information, please contact Tom Boecking, Community Services Manager at tboecking@sgch.org or call Community Services at 626.308.2875.

Turn out for the SG Turkey Trot

San Gabriel's healthiest family event, the 42nd Annual Turkey Trot, will take place Saturday, November 19, at Vincent Lugo Park, at the corner of Wells and Ramona with registration opening at 6 a.m.

The Turkey Trot, which supports youth programs in the community, will include a 5K and 10K race, a youth 1K run, and a 5K fun walk. Race highlights include a finisher medal, refreshments, a Turkey Trot T-shirt and the chance to enter a raffle for some great prizes. The top three finishers in each age category will earn a special medal and each first place finisher will receive a gift card for a turkey. The 5K or 10K race will be \$30, while the 1K youth run and the 5K walk will be \$15 for those who register by October 19. Prices will increase by \$5 after October 19, and tickets will be available on the day of registration. Register today at the Community Services office at 250 South Mission Drive or online at SanGabrielCity.com/530/TurkeyTrot.

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