A Sister City Summer!

The Sister City Committee embarked on a variety of enriching activities with our two Sister Cities of Navojoa, Mexico and Tirschenreuth, Germany.

- In July, City representatives, members of the Santa Fe Springs Sister City Committee and one youth representative, Joseph Rodriguez, were selected to attend the Sister Cities International 50th Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C., which focused on Citizen Diplomacy.
- In early August, Santa Fe Springs hosted the 2nd Annual Sister City Series baseball tournament between the Santa Fe Springs Thunder and Mayos de Navojoa (a team of 14-year-old boys from our Sister City in Mexico). For four days, 14 baseball players from Navojoa were hosted by families of the Santa Fe Springs Thunder Baseball team. For two days they played hard, but when the games ended and the dust settled, they were all winners. As team mom Alma Rodriguez stated, “Barriers were broken in the common ground for both teams in the love of baseball and family unity.”
- All summer the City celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the student exchange program with its Sister City in Tirschenreuth, Germany. A reception and dinner was held by the Sister City Committee to reunite former students, chaperones, and family members of the valuable program. On a beautiful August evening at the Clarke Estate, more than 150 participants returned to share memories and see old friends. Many people boasted of the longstanding relationships that endure today thanks to their participation in the program.
- This year’s exchange was truly a special one. For three weeks, seven students from our Sister City in Navojoa were invited to travel with the Young Ambassadors from Santa Fe Springs on an exchange trip to Germany. Accompanying the students was a City Council delegation to help celebrate the 20th Anniversary with our German friends. The American and Navojoan students returned from Germany in early August and had an entire week to bond until the German students arrived. While in the United States, American, German, and Mexican students enjoyed trips to San Francisco, Huntington Beach, Magic Mountain, and much more. In addition to sharing their homes, these students shared their cultures and languages. They learned that despite their cultural differences, as humans they have so many more similarities.

During the German visit, the City dedicated the Sister Cities Peace Garden at the site of the former Mexican Gardens. The site was originally named for a previous Sister City affiliation with Mexico.

Turkey: The new garden reflects both the City’s past and presents Sister City relationships, with special attention given to the notable involvement of former Councilwoman and Mayor Betty Wilson in Sister City International. All told, it was a very busy and rewarding summer! The City of Santa Fe Springs has a strong commitment to fostering the understanding of cultural differences and continues to support programs that unite people. If you are between the ages of 15 and 19, and would like information about becoming involved in Sister City Young Ambassador activities, please call City Hall at 866-0911, Ext. 7464.
City Council Update

Community Development

Commission Meeting

- The Commission approved the construction of a new 11,310 sq ft. staging and warehouse facility at 1221 W. Lakeland Road east of Norwalk Boulevard.

City Council Meeting

- The City Council continued the charges listed in the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner's 2005/2006 Yard Abatement Assessment Roll and instructed the County Auditor to enter the amounts of said assessments against the respective parcels of land as they appear on the current Assessment Roll.
- The City Council approved the proposed amendments to the Adopted FY 2006-07 City Budget.
- The City Council approved the adoption of a 48/76 work schedule for the Suppression Division of the Fire Department.
- The City Council authorized the placement of ten students in various City Departments for summer employment under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Partners for Progress Youth Career Program.

July 27, 2006

Community Development

Commission Meeting

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August 10, 2006

Community Development

Commission Meeting

There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting

- The City Council conducted a public hearing and adopted Resolution No. 0037 certify that the City is in conformance with the Congestion Management Program.
- The City Council adopted 174500 from the General Fund Contingency Reserve to construct the additional fencing at Los Nietos Park.
- The City Council waived further reading and adopted Ordinance No. 997 amending the Santa Fe Springs Municipal Code by adding Chapter 125 to regulate the licensing and operational standards for adult businesses.
- The City Council adopted Resolution No. 0056 in support of expansion of after-school care in local schools.
- The City Council authorized and implemented a membership fee structure for the two Fitness Centers for older adults at the Neighborly and Betty Wilson Centers and authorized City staff to waive fees for residents based on low-income criteria.
- The City Council appointed Mayor Pro Tem Sarlino and Councilmember Velasco and Santa Fe Springs resident, Alicia Gonzales, to serve on the Joint Oversight Committee associated with the management and operation of the Santa Fe Springs Family Health Center in Partnership with Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital.

August 17, 2006

Community Development

Commission Meeting

There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting

- The City Council approved Parcel Map No. 66055 South 5th Street west of Norwalk Boulevard and authorized the City Engineer and City Clerk to sign it.
- The City Council approved a contract with Kohl's Inc. to provide graffiti analysis services.

Community News

American Emergency Notification System

Another way the City is prepared

A large part of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT is the ability to successfully manage emergency situations when they occur. The City of Santa Fe Springs uses "AMERICAN EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION," which helps deliver automated messages to both residential and business citizens of the community. The AMERICAN EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION system utilizes one of the fastest and most reliable messaging platforms in the world. The system is capable of placing 30,000 pre-recorded telephone calls per hour, and the messages can be sent out within fifteen minutes from the time it is deemed appropriate to do so.

This past July, the City's system was activated to inform the public of a dangerous inmate that escaped from the Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk, who was possibly hiding in the Santa Fe Springs area. The message included a description of the individual along with information on what to do if a citizen encountered the inmate.

If you did not receive this message and would like to be added to the message calling list, please contact the Police Services Center to have your phone number added to the database. Please note that all telephone numbers in the database are not always called; only the numbers that are located in the affected area will be noticed. Please call 405-7508 to add your number to the database or for additional information.

City to Honor its Men and Women Serving in the Military

"Blue Star" Service Banner Program Continues

Earlier this year, the City Council initiated the "Blue Star" Service Banner Program to honor the men and women of Santa Fe Springs who are currently serving in the Armed Services.

This program dates back to a tradition that began in World War I, carried on through World War II, and ended with Korean War service. The Blue Star Flag was adopted by President Woodrow Wilson in 1917. It was the first national symbol of the armed forces and the first to be used by the military in the lives of its members. The flag consists of a blue field with white stars, and it was adopted by Congress in 1918. The flag is used to symbolize pride and respect for the armed forces and their families.

The Blue Star program continues to be an important symbol for families of military members, and the City of Santa Fe Springs is proud to be a part of this tradition. For more information on how to participate in the "Blue Star" Service Banner Program, please contact the City of Santa Fe Springs at 405-7508.
Employee Spotlight

Donnie Goins, Bus Driver III

Donnie Goins was first hired by the City of Santa Fe Springs as a Lifeguard in 1993. He taught swim lessons, guarded the pools, and coached the Santa Fe Springs Swim Team. "The kids look to him like a fish to water." Because of his love for children, he also began substitute teaching at the Child Care Centers when they needed extra help. Donnie brought a fun-loving atmosphere to all the activities he carried out with the children. In 1999, he was hired as a part-time driver for the Transportation Services Division, and in 1999, he was promoted to a full-time driver. Donnie is currently a Bus Driver III and transports Metrolink riders from the Santa Fe Springs/Montebello Transportation Center to their places of employment in the City, and thus back to the Center at the end of the day. He also drives community seniors to the Neighborhood and Betty Wilson Centers, and to their medical and dental appointments. Donnie is loved by all his riders for his great sense of humor and caring nature.

Donnie has a love of fine automobiles and for a time was studying to become a mechanic. He is also a motorcycle enthusiast and rides a 2002 Harley Davidson Road King. He loves listening to music and singing along to his favorite tunes. He is often heard serenading his co-workers and the passengers on his bus.

Donnie has been married for 14 1/2 years to wife Patty. They are expecting the birth of their first child this month. They have waited a long time for this moment and are very excited to bring their new home. Donnie is looking forward to devoting more time to his family.

The City is proud of his commitment and dedication to the community of Santa Fe Springs, and wishes him and his wife the best upon the arrival of their new baby.

Community News

SFS Christian School Places First at State Fair!

In November of last year, 4th grade students at Santa Fe Springs Christian School embarked on a project to create a quilt that showcased the 21 Spanish Missions of California. With the help of the Santa Fe Springs Heritage Art Grant, within a four-month period, every child in the classroom participated in the completion of a beautiful quilt.

The quilt was submitted to the State Fair in June and won “First Place” in its division and a “Special Teamwork Recognition” award. The children also submitted a notebook that documented their work and included personal reflections from each participating student.

This is the seventh year that students entered the competition, however this is the first year it was entered at the State level. In September, the new 5th grade students were honored for their outstanding work.

Ghosts of Santa Fe Springs

Experience an Early Halloween Haunting at the Library Saturday, October 21st

Seeing and hearing strange things in the City’s Library? Curious about things that go bump in the night? Michael J. Kouri, renowned psychic and medium, will share his unique insight into the ghosts who haunt Santa Fe Springs and Los Angeles County, at the Santa Fe Springs City Library Saturday, October 21st at 6:30 pm. Admission and refreshments are free.

Mr. Kouri has appeared on dozens of international television shows including 60/20, The History Channel’s Haunted Alaska, The Travel Channel’s America’s Most Haunted Places and True Hauntings and Ghost Stories of Southern California. His Unseen Mysteries, and FOX Family Channel’s Exorcism and Hauntings.

About a week after the City’s initial contact with Mr. Kouri, he received three separate phone calls from Santa Fe Springs residents asking for his help with possible hauntings. Perhaps the ghosts know that he is coming to town?

In addition to giving his presentation, Mr. Kouri will also be selling autographed copies of his original book, Ghosts of Santa Fe. The book includes historical information as well as countless ghost stories guaranteed to give you the early chills in anticipation of Chi’s Halloween Eve! Contact the Library at 805-7738 for more information.

Halloween Fun!

Halloween Carnival and Costume Parade

Bring your little ghosts and goblins to the annual Halloween Carnival and Costume Parade at Los Nietos Park, located at 1140 Charlesworth Street on October 26th. Fun activities are planned from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The costume contest will begin at 6:00 pm. Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- 2 years and under
- 3-4 years
- 5-6 years
- 7-8 years
- 9-12 years
- 13 years and over

Don’t worry about feeding the kids; food and drinks will be available for purchase at a minimal fee. No pre-registration is required.

Haunted House

Do you love a good scare? Fearless thrill-seekers will want to visit this year’s Parks and Recreation Divisions Haunted House from Saturday, October 28th, through Sunday, October 31st. Admission is $5 for ages 12 and under, and $1 for ages 13 and older. Reserve discount coupons are available at Town Center Hall, 1140 E. Telegraph Road and at all City Parks.

- Saturday: 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
- Sunday: 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
- Monday: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Tuesday: 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Please note that the haunt may not be suitable for very young children.

Pumpkin Carving

Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to display their creativity by carving a Halloween pumpkin on Monday, October 30th, beginning at 3:30 pm at City Hall, 1140 E. Telegraph Road. The cost per pumpkin is just $2 and pre-registration is required. Registration will be held at each park beginning Monday, October 9th.

For more information on any of these activities, please contact the Parks and Recreation Services Division at 805-4596.
23rd Annual Golf Scramble
Monday, October 23rd

The Chamber’s Annual Golf Scramble has become a ritual for many businesses and residents in the area. This year, the event will take place in Montebello at the Montebello Country Club Monday, October 23, 10:30 a.m. Shot Gun Start (Scramble Format). Golfers will have the opportunity to eat fantastic food, network with other Chamber businesses, play great golf, and have fun!

“We want to encourage all golfers regardless of their level or skills to come out for a fun day of golf,” says Golf Scramble Chairperson Dale Covington, City of Santa Fe Springs. It’s a great opportunity to link a prospective client to be part of your business or put together a group of warm employees to reward them for a job well done. You might even gain business from a day in the sun playing golf.

There will be hole-in-one prizes, contests for the longest drive, closest to the pin, and putting. The entry fee for the tournament this year includes all contests, green fees, cart rental, lunch, refreshments on the course, plus an awards ceremony—all for just $115 per golfer or save $150 and get a foursome for $460. Corporate Four-Persones are also still available for $1,250. As part of the awards ceremony we will have the ever-popular balloon raffle which promises to be a big bang!

Non-golfers are encouraged to participate by attending the awards ceremony for only $15 per person. To register, learn more about the event or receive sponsorship information please contact Melanie Covant at the Chamber office at 816-516-9145. You can also register on line at www.santaspring.com. Click on events and complete the registration form. It is not easy!

Wipe Out West Nile Virus
10 Simple Steps

Due to this past summer’s heat wave, mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus have resurfaced. The warm temperatures created an ideal environment for mosquitoes to breed. This makes it important for all of us to continue our efforts in educating and protecting ourselves as well as the community from these virus-carrying mosquitoes. Below are ten simple steps that will help eliminate mosquito-breeding conditions.

- Avoid overheating plants and lawns.
- Clear out rain gutters.
- Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows.
- Properly maintain swimming pools, spa tubs, and other water storage.
- Discard containers that can fill with water.
- Cover all pools not in use.
- Clean out bird baths weekly.
- Repair leaking faucets.
- Eliminate standing water from tires, birds’ nests, etc.
- Wear long sleeves & pants if outdoors 6pm-6am when mosquitoes are active. Use repellent containing DEET.