The Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program (HARP)
City offers Opportunities for First Time Buyers

The City’s Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program (HARP) provides income-qualified families with the opportunity to purchase their first home in Santa Fe Springs. Under the program, the City purchases either vacant land or an existing home, builds a new house or completely rehabilitates the existing home, and then sells the home through the HARP program. Over 75 families have purchased their first home from the City under the HARP program. To be eligible, participants must complete an application and meet the following requirements:

- Low or Moderate Household Income
- First Time Home Buyer
- Lived in the City for at least the past three (3) years

The City’s goal is to make 2-4 homes available for sale each year. HARP homebuyers are selected through a random lottery drawing, which takes place every two years. More information is available by calling the City’s Director of Housing at 868-0511, Ext. 7353.

Applications for the next HARP lottery drawing will be available at the Department of Planning and Development from May 1 - 31, 2007. Deadline for submission is 5:00 p.m. on the 31st.

A New Home, a New Beginning
Preserving the Health of Our Community

In an effort to continue to improve the City’s housing stock, increase property values, and enhance public safety, the City of Santa Fe Springs recently purchased a house through the Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program (HARP). This home, on the corner of Danby and Bluejay Avenue, was of concern to the neighborhood and the focus of law enforcement. The City purchased the home so that both the neighborhood and a new family could have a “new beginning.”

An important part of the renewal process involved the demolition of the substandard dwelling and the construction of a new home to represent this new beginning. The City Council recognized that something had to be done to protect the well-being of the neighborhood. In particular, action was needed to preserve the security of our residents and ensure the safety of our children.

Construction Begins

A neighborhood groundbreaking was held on January 18th to celebrate the start of construction on the new 4-bedroom, 2 1⁄2 baths, two-story home. The new home will include environmentally friendly and energy efficient solar windows, and a tankless “flash” water heating system. A flash water heater is an important feature in a home designed for a large family because it provides an unlimited supply of hot water on demand. In addition to being energy efficient, this home will also be environmentally friendly by using renewable products like bamboo flooring. City officials noted that the new 2,100 sq. ft. home will represent a significant reinvestment in the neighborhood both in monetary value and social stability.

HARP Applications

Upon completion, the new home will be sold to an income eligible family through the City’s first-time homebuyer program, known as the Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program (HARP). This May, as the City does every two years, residents will be invited to apply for the HARP program. One of these fortunate applicants will be selected from a random drawing for an opportunity to purchase the home at Danby Avenue. The City looks forward to handing the keys to this new home to a family that will add to the family-oriented community, which gives Santa Fe Springs the “small town” feel that we all know and love. In one way or another, everyone in the community will benefit from this new home.

For information on the City’s HARP program, please call City Hall at 868-0511.
City Council Update

The Community Development Commission meetings and City Council meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at City Hall. For details, call the City Clerk’s Office from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed every other Friday) at 866-0911, Ext. 7314.

December 14, 2006

Community Development Commission Meeting

• The Commission approved Resolution No. 186-06 amending the use of Community Development Commission funds for the repair of concrete in front of the Post Office at 11760 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs.

City Council Meeting

• The Council approved Resolution No. 9027 – an amendment of water rates and related charges for FY 2006/07.
• The Council approved Parcel Map No. 66395 (13053-13057 Larwin Circle).
• The Council approved an Underpass Agreement with the BNSF Railroad for the Valley View Avenue Grade Separation Project.
• The Council approved Recodification of Alcohol Sales Conditional Use Permit Case No. 14, a request to continue to conduct an alcohol beverage sales use at the Acapulco Mexican Restaurant and Cantina located at 13473 Telegraph Road.
• With the consent of the City Council, Mayor Semarno was appointed to the Santa Fe Springs/South Whittier Education Center Advisory Committee.
• With the concurrence of the City Council, Councilmember Putnam was appointed as the delegate to the I-5 Joint Powers Authority.
• The Council adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 979 amending Section 113.02 and Chapter 155 (Zoning) of the Santa Fe Springs Municipal Code by adding, repealing and amending various Code sections relating to adult businesses.

December 21, 2006

Community Development Commission Meeting

There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting

There were no items to report.

January 11, 2007

Community Development Commission Meeting

There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting

• The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9030 approving a Revised Master Agreement for Federal Aid Projects for the Valley View Grade Separation Project.
• The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 978 amending Section 113.02 and Chapter 155 (Zoning) of the Santa Fe Springs Municipal Code by adding, repealing and amending various Code sections relating to adult businesses.
• The City Council approved a request to allow the continued operation and maintenance of an alcoholic beverage sales use involving the sale of beer and wine for on-site consumption at The Holiday Tavern, located at 10915 Norwalk Boulevard.

January 25, 2007

Community Development Commission Meeting

• The Commission approved Development Plan Approval Case No. 816, a request to allow the construction of a new 31,172 sq ft concrete, tilt-up, industrial warehouse building on property at 13609 Rosecrans Avenue.

City Council Update (cont.)

January 25, 2007 (cont.)

Community Development Commission Meeting (cont.)

• The Commission approved a request to submit a Project Funding Application to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s 2007 Call for Projects. The application requests funding to expand the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Transportation Center’s parking capacity and provide for bikeway system improvements.

City Council Meeting

• The Council adopted Resolution No. 9031 approving programs/projects proposed for funding during FY 2007-2008 under the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Cooperation Agreement with the County of Los Angeles.

Fire & Police Services

WPD Officers Honored at Silver Shield Awards Banquet

Santa Fe Springs Policing Team Members Honored

Once a year the Whittier Police Department honors officers who have provided exceptional service to the communities of Whittier and Santa Fe Springs at the Silver Shield Awards Banquet. This year, two Santa Fe Springs Policing Team members, Officer Chad Hoeppner and Detective Jerry Reyes along with Detective Ralph Kremling were commended for their meritorious service.

While working for the last 3 years as members of the Problem Oriented Policing Unit in Santa Fe Springs, Officer Chad Hoeppner and Detective Jerry Reyes have established strong ties to the community. As part of their task of developing and implementing programs to solve long-term problems with the community, Chad and Jerry have continuously distinguished themselves, while building strong partnerships with community stakeholders.

Both Chad and Jerry, have remained conscientious to the needs of the residential and business community in Santa Fe Springs, and have worked cooperatively with school administrators to curb youth crime and violence. In 2006, Chad and Jerry met on a monthly basis with members of the community during various forums to discuss their concerns, and collaborated with community leaders to develop strategies for dealing with issues.

As part of their enforcement efforts, Chad and Jerry have done an outstanding job of developing and utilizing informants to obtain critical information about persons involved in criminal activities. In addition they have worked closely with authorities from L.A. County Probation and State Parole to assist in the apprehension of violent criminals.

Detective Ralph Kremling has been responsible for briefing the Santa Fe Springs Policing Team of any potential terrorist activity in the region and is in constant contact with potential target representatives. He has also conducted terrorism training for Whittier Police Officers and has been instrumental in obtaining grant funding for personal protection equipment for the Santa Fe Springs Policing Team.

Detective Kremling’s dedication to the safety of citizens and fellow officers in the Cities of Santa Fe Springs and Whittier is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Whittier Police Department.

Don’t Forget Daylight Saving Time!

Spring Forward, Fall Back

Beginning in 2007, Daylight Saving Time will begin on the second Sunday in March and end the first Sunday in November. Remember to set your clock forward on Sunday, March 11th.
Neal Lowrey, Fire Captain

Neal Lowrey's first association with Santa Fe Springs began in June 1987, when he volunteered as an Auxiliary Firefighter. A year later, he was hired as a full-time Firefighter, and made Engineer a year later. Memorable career milestones have been participating on strike teams to help fight the 1992 Laguna Beach and 2004 Big Bear fires. In late 2006, Neal was promoted to Captain and given his bugs, joining a team of 14 Captains in the City's Fire Department.

Captain Lowrey serves on the Apparatus Committee, which was responsible for selecting the Department’s new Truck 811, new Urban Search & Rescue rig, and new Engine 84. Prior to his Captain's appointment, he was Engineer on the new Truck 811. He is a past member of the City's Safety Committee, and serves on the Department’s Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Haz-Mat teams. Currently, Captain Lowrey is an Emergency Preparedness Instructor for Light USAR classes.

Captain Lowrey, a cancer survivor, addressed attendees at a recent Relay for Life Luminarias Ceremony and continues to be active in supporting Relay for Life, and its fight against cancer. He is an accomplished guitarist and singer for the Polynesian musical group the “Nalu Boyz,” who have played at Relay for Life and other charity events.

Neal enjoys spending his off-duty time with his wife, Lorie, and daughters Taylor, 15, Sarah, 14, and son Dallas, 11. Captain Lowrey's wife and daughters join in Neal's love of Polynesian music, as they are involved as Polynesian dancers. June 2007 marks nineteen years of service with the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department.

Captain Lowrey says, “It seems like I started yesterday. I love working for this Fire Department. I love the people here. I love working for the City of Santa Fe Springs.”

Community News

Celebrate Earth Day!
Help Protect our Environment

On April 22, 2007 millions of people around the world will celebrate Earth Day. This year marks the 37th anniversary of Earth Day, and around the world, hundreds of thousands of people are making plans to declare that they are part of something extraordinary: a worldwide movement to protect our planet, our children, and our future.

This year, the City will observe Earth Day by reaching out to the community through two separate programs. The City will provide the “Outreach in a Backpack” program to local elementary schools and the Child Care Center. This program, designed by the California Department of Conservation, is aimed at elementary-aged children and informs and involves them in recycling activities. Presentations on how to use the program will be made to teachers at local elementary schools and the Family Center. The program is designed to be passed from classroom to classroom for teachers to present the material to their students. A resource guide offers suggestions for teachers to supplement learning activities in additional subjects. The materials for this program are contained in a backpack made from 96% recycled plastic bottles.

In conjunction with waste haulers, Consolidated Disposal and CR&R, the City will visit each single-family residence in Santa Fe Springs on designated trash days to inspect their curbside bins. The “Recycling Star” Program is designed to educate residents about the various materials that can be placed in each of their colored bins and to recognize those that do an outstanding job of separating their disposables from their recyclables.

All residences will receive door hanger bags including information on separation guidelines, colored magnets listing items for each bin, and Earth Day reminders.

Residences that are found to have placed most of the items in the correct bins will receive a Certificate of Recognition for being a “Recycling Star.” The City will also recognize these residents by publishing the “Recycling Stars” in a future City newsletter.

An “Agent of Change”
City Celebrates Diversity

The City’s 17th annual Diversity Summit was held this past month. The Diversity Summit Program is focused on the continued mentoring and healthy development of the youth of Santa Fe Springs. This year's theme, “Agents of Change,” emphasized the leadership role that youth can play to address changes in their schools and in the community. The Community Services Department’s Early Youth Intervention Program reached over 3,200 middle and high school students in our community in a four-day span and featured Keith Hawkins, one of the foremost speakers on issues confronting today's youth. The Diversity Summit concluded with two all day workshops, guided by over 40 professional facilitators, designed to help participants learn the leadership skills on how to become an ‘Agent of Change.”

Scholarships Available

Applications are now available for City’s Youth Citizenship Awards

The City's annual Youth Citizenship Awards applications are now available at high school Career Centers and City Hall. "The City will recognize ten students who demonstrate good leadership and good citizenship in their school and community. Ten cash awards will be granted under the following categories:

Excellence in Citizenship
Three $750 Awards

Outstanding Citizenship
Three $500 Awards

Service in Citizenship
Four $250 Awards

High school seniors and/or community college students (under 21 years of age) who are City residents and maintain a grade point average of 2.75 or higher are encouraged to apply. Applications will be due at City Hall on Thursday, March 30th by 5:30 p.m. Please call 868-0511 Ext. 7538 for more information."
Workers’ Compensation Seminar
Tuesday, March 13th

The Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Chambers of five other local cities is offering a morning seminar designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the legal and practical aspects of the California workers’ compensation system. The seminar will be held on Tuesday, March 13th from 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Whittier. It will also provide an update on current developments in the field.

The cost is $50 for Chamber members and $75 for non-members. For further information or to sign up for this very popular seminar, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 944-1616 or go online to sfschamber.com.

Applications Available for Destiny Scholarship and Powell Grant

Applications for the annual Destiny Scholarship and Powell Grant are available at the SFS Chamber of Commerce and at following locations:

- Betty Wilson Center
- Neighborhood Center
- Pioneer High School
- Santa Fe High School
- Santa Fe Spring City Hall
- Santa Fe Springs Library
- St. Paul High School
- Town Center Hall
- Santa Fe Spring City Hall
- Santa Fe Springs Library
- St. Paul High School
- Town Center Hall

Destiny scholarship applicants must be a senior in high school, a resident of Santa Fe Springs for two or more years, and have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Powell Grant applicants must be either currently enrolled in college, art academy or trade school, or a graduating high school senior. All applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 or better and must reside in Santa Fe springs for two or more years.

The deadline to turn in scholarship and grant applications is Friday, March 30, 2007. Applications must be turned in to the SFS Chamber of Commerce, 12016 Telegraph Road, Ste. 100, Santa Fe Springs. All applications MUST be received no later than 4:30 p.m.; applications received after 4:30 p.m. will not be considered.

The Destiny Scholarship, a $20,000 scholarship is made possible through the generous donations of the business and residential communities of Santa Fe Springs, as well as from proceeds collected at the annual Destiny Dinner and auction.

To make a donation or for more information, please contact the Santa Fe Spring Youth Enrichment Fund at 944-1616.

Students Learn About City Government
Chamber Mentor Day a Success!

This past Valentine’s Day, the City of Santa Fe Springs hosted over 80 students and their mentors participating through the Chamber’s Mentoring Program. Santa Fe High School students learned first hand from City officials about the practices and functions of local government, as well as the importance of pursuing a higher education.

Students learned about the responsibilities of the City Council, as well as the functions of all the City’s departments in a fun and interactive way. The day culminated with a luncheon, in which actor and environmental activist Ed Begley, Jr. addressed the students and discussed the importance of conserving the environment. Through a passionate speech, he delivered an inspirational message to the young participants about the importance of following one’s passion and taking personal responsibility for making a difference in tackling local and global environmental issues. The session ended with a question and answer period, where engaged students asked Mr. Begley how they can influence their peers in making a positive impact in their community.