City Enhances Public Safety

The Santa Fe Springs City Council recently appropriated $350,000 of additional funding to the City’s Police Services Budget to enhance its community policing and crime response abilities. The majority of the monies will go to funding three new positions; a Police Sergeant, Gang Detective, and a Public Safety Officer. These new additions to the City’s Policing Team have been added in an effort to enhance the level of customer service to residents and to address ongoing public safety needs.

The Sergeant’s position will fill a leadership role that will guide the City’s Problem Oriented Policing (POP Team) and Detective Teams and will focus on community defined law enforcement problems and service needs. The new Detective is a specialized position that will focus on curtailing juvenile crimes such as vandalism, graffiti, and youth gang involvement. In a support role, the Public Safety Officer position will enhance detective and public safety investigations, community patrols, and general traffic duties. Public Safety continues to be a priority for the City. The City Council hopes that providing the additional officers will help strengthen the partnership between the community and the Police Services Department, and will continue our efforts in providing quality, efficient, and effective community oriented policing. For more information on the City’s Public Safety programs, please call the Department of Police Services at 409-1850.

¡Fiestas Patrias!
Two Days of Fun and Celebration!

Friday, September 14 - 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 15 - 2:00 p.m. - midnight

Looking for something fun to do after work? The City invites you to come celebrate 40 years of Fiestas Patrias in Santa Fe Springs! This year the City celebrates its 40th annual Fiestas Patrias Celebration, commemorating the 197th anniversary of Mexico’s Independence from Spain. The festivities will be held at the Neighborhood Center, located at 9255 Pioneer Blvd., and features live performers, traditional Mexican food, and game booths. Special performers include the Chico Band, with a surprise musical guest on Saturday night. Special shuttle service will be provided free of charge from Los Nietos Park on both days.

Fiestas Patrias provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate 40 years of tradition in the City and an opportunity for residents to support the many local organizations, businesses, clubs, and non-profit agencies that make a difference every day! Please contact the Neighborhood Center at 692-0261 for more information.
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 868-0511, Ext. 7314.

June 14, 2007

Community Development Commission Meeting
- The Commission approved Resolution No. 194-07 for emergency street light repairs in the vicinity of Bonnie Street and Marquardt Avenue

City Council Meeting
- The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9044 declaring its intention to levy annual Street Lighting assessments and setting the public hearing for the Council Meeting of July 12, 2007
- The City Council approved the contract with the Los Angeles County Probation Department for the Probation Officer position.
- The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 982 adopting the Community Development Commission’s program to acquire property by eminent domain as required by Senate Bill 53. No such action is anticipated.
- The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9035 extending the time limit for commencement of development activities on two properties (10944 Laurel Avenue and 11010 Davenrich Street) acquired with low and moderate-income housing funds.

July 17, 2007

Community Development Commission Meeting
- The Commission accepted the bids for the rehabilitation of a single-family dwelling at 11408 Clarkman Avenue and awarded the contract to the lowest acceptable bidder.

City Council Meeting
- The City Council conducted the Public Hearing for the Heritage Springs Assessment District No. 2008-01 (Hawkins Street and Palm Drive) and adopted Resolution No. 9047 approving the Engineer’s Report, confirming the Assessment, ordering the work and acquisitions, and directing actions with respect thereto.
- The City Council authorized the City Engineer to execute a contract for the Sculpture Garden Founders Plaza.
- The City Council adopted the Proposed FY 2007/08 and 2008/09 City and Community Development Commission Budgets, as amended, and, in so doing, approved the related actions as set forth.
- The City Council approved the Heritage Arts Advisory Committee’s recommendation of Lynn Goodpasture’s conceptual design and selection as artist of the Villages at Heritage Springs art project.
- The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 983 - An Urgency Ordinance of the City of Santa Fe Springs Regarding Parking Vehicles in such a “Manner as to Obstruct Driveways.”

August 9, 2007

Community Development Commission Meeting
- The Commission approved Development Plan Approval Case No. 873-000, 873-001, and FY 07/08 and FY 08/09.
- The Commission approved Resolution No. 196-07 authorizing the Executive Director to award the contract for the Rancho Santa Gertrudes School Field - F.O.R.C.E.

City Council Meeting
- The City Council confirmed the changes listed in the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner’s 2006/2007 Weed Abatement Assessment Roll and instructed the County Auditor to enter the amounts as additional land taxes, against the respective parcels of land as they appear on the current Assessment Roll.
- The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9046 approving a parking restriction and low-traffic zone on Springdale Avenue north of Florence Avenue.
- The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9076 modifying a parking restriction on Marquardt Avenue north of Freeway Drive.
- The City Council authorized the City to participate in a Los Angeles County-Sponsored Juvenile Diversion Program for first-time vandalism and graffiti taggers.

Fire & Police Services

It’s Fire Prevention Week!

Open House - Saturday, October 6th

The City’s Fire Department invites every member of the community to the Fire Prevention Week Open House! The Open House will be held on Saturday, October 6th between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at the Fire Station located next to City Hall (at 11756 E. Telegraph Road.)

The event includes: Fire Station tours, visits from Sparky the Fire Dog, fire truck rides, snacks, and informational brochures on fire safety and developing a fire escape plan for your home or business.

More About Fire Prevention Week

Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been celebrated in October. Originally, Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 inferno that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into the week and did most of its damage on October 9th. In 1962, the focus of Fire Prevention week changed, and henceforth has been observed to keep the public informed of the importance of fire prevention. This year’s theme, “Practice Your Escape Plan” highlights the importance of taking simple actions to stay safe from fire. In particular, everyone should have a fire escape plan and make sure to practice the plan. According to the National Fire Protection Association, home fires kill over 3,000 people in the United States each year. Residents who have planned and practiced a fire escape plan are more prepared and more likely to survive a fire. The Fire Department encourages everyone to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire. Fire Prevention Week serves as a reminder to practice your fire escape plan. Come to the Open House to learn more. For more information, please call 944-9713.

“Challenge the F.O.R.C.E.”

City’s New Youth Outreach Program

The City of Santa Fe Springs recently introduced a new outreach program: “Challenge the F.O.R.C.E.” The F.O.R.C.E. is an acronym for Firefighters Organizing Resources for Community Enrichment, is a program designed to provide at-risk youth the opportunity to build relationships with positive role models from the City’s Fire Department. The Fire Department Mentors help them assimilate into a positive, healthy lifestyle conducive to a brighter future in life. The program aims to keep the youth focused in school, away from gang activity, on each side of the the proper guidance and the necessary tools to succeed in life.

The program is focused on youth during the summer months, a time of the year in which the support of teachers and counselors is not as accessible. During the school year, school counselors and members of the City’s Youth Intervention Program, compile a list of students who they believe will benefit from the program. After parental approval, the student is assigned to a mentor, a member of the the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department. Students are taught many day to day operations of the Fire Department, such as truck/engine operations, hose laying, auto extrication, and search and rescue. In addition to the real-life simulation of a day in the life of a firefighter, they are taught practical life skills that are necessary for personal growth and enrichment in order to better their future in society. The activities are a vehicle to building healthy relationships with positive role models.

“Challenge the F.O.R.C.E.” is a collaborative program with support from local schools and the City, to provide additional resources for success to the youth of this community.

For information regarding this program, please call Fire Headquarters at 944-9713 and remember to “Challenge the F.O.R.C.E.”

New Parking Ordinance

City Enhances Safety

The City recently adopted a new ordinance to enhance driver safety throughout the community. The new parking ordinance requires a space of at least one foot between a parked vehicle and a driveway apron. This requirement improves a vehicle’s entry into a driveway, creates better visibility for drivers, and allows emergency vehicles to access locations more efficiently.

The ordinance, which took effect on July 17, 2007, defines “driveway” to also include the descending portion of the curb-cut on each side of the driveway that is commonly known as the “apron.” For further information or to obtain a copy of this new ordinance, please contact the Police Services Center at 409-1850.

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Employee Spotlight

Lorna Lawrence
Administrative Clerk II

Lorna Lawrence has been employed with the City since March of 2004. She began working in the Planning Department as Administrative Clerk. She took on the administration of the City’s Rebate Program on a temporary basis and has been successful in assisting Santa Fe Springs’ residents through the process ever since. Lorna also stays very busy assisting the Building Department with permits for new construction, remodels, and repairs of residential and commercial buildings. Through both these job assignments, Lorna has built a wonderful rapport with many residents and contractors. Lorna also assists occasionally on the City’s switchboard. She says she loves the diversity of her job.

Lorna grew up in South Gate but has spent the last 30 years in the Whittier/La Mirada area. She is no stranger to City government; her mother was Secretary to the Mayor and City Council. She is no stranger to City government, growing up and was very active in their school, and friends. Her son will be getting married soon. As a matter of fact; Lorna will probably be over in Maui with her family, for her son’s wedding, as you read this article. Lorna’s bright and cheery disposition and professionalism has been a wonderful addition to the City’s Planning Department.

Community News

September is National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM) and this year, the effort is to address emergency preparedness for families, businesses, and the community at-large. The goal of National Preparedness Month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. The Santa Fe Springs Fire Department urges everyone to prepare themselves for emergencies at home, school, and at work, by getting an emergency supplies kit and creating an emergency plan. Emergency plans and information on preparing an emergency supplies kit can be accessed by visiting the Fire Department’s Emergency Preparedness page at www.santafesprings.org/depts/fire/emergency_preparedness.asp.

BEPN Classes Offered

Preparing for the Inevitable

The City is offering a four day training program that will provide participants with the tools needed to implement a comprehensive emergency management program. The four phases of Emergency, Management, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery, will be addressed. All classes will be held at the Police Services Center, located at 1156 Telegraph Road, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. There is no charge for BEPN members, the fee for non-members is $25 per person, per class. BEPN membership fee is $150 for a lifetime membership.

Business and Industry Mitigation - Tuesday, September 18, 2007

This class combines an orientation to the BEPN program, how and why BEPN was developed, development of emergency plans, and how to facilitate self-reliance during an emergency. Participants will conduct a hazard vulnerability analysis to assess existing or potential hazards as you begin developing a comprehensive plan.

Emergency Preparedness Strategies - Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Preparedness is vital to surviving an emergency crisis with minimal injury or damage to property. This includes having an emergency response plan for all hazards. The class will cover escape procedures, emergency shutdown procedures, personnel accountability, rescue, medical duties and other emergency functions.

Preventing to Respond - Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Response planning involves those actions that are directly and immediately associated with ensuring the health and safety of employees and protecting property. Response strategies can include evacuation, workplace violence, emergency response team responsibilities, medical aid, and shelter.

Networking to Recovery - Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Planning for recovery and reconstruction involves the necessary systems in place to facilitate timely decision-making and ensure detailed and comprehensive documentation of costs related to an emergency. This class will provide you with the information and resources to initiate a business continuity plan to ensure that your business is able to get back on track as soon as possible after the emergency.

For more information on any of these courses please call the Police Services Center at 409-1850.

City Receives Highest Honors

The City was recently recognized by the Government of Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for “Achievement for Excellence” in Financial Reporting for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This is a very prestigious recognition for municipalities, and the highest form of recognition awarded in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The City has received this honor for 10 consecutive years. The comprehensive report featured a diversity theme focusing on the City as a diverse workplace.

Trojan Battery Receives $576,627 Energy Rebate Check

This summer, Southern California Edison (SCE) presented Trojan Battery, a leading supplier of batteries to the golf cart industry, with an energy rebate check for $576,627, for its long-term reductions in energy consumption at its Santa Fe Springs manufacturing plant.

Under SCE’s Technical Assistance and Technology Incentives Program, Trojan Battery was able to work with a representative from SCE to identify and implement technology to upgrade and improve the efficiency of its battery formation charging process. To date, this is the largest project completed under SCE’s Incentives Program, which provides financial incentives to businesses that reduce the consumption of electricity during peak-demand periods.

City representatives and members of the Chamber of Commerce attended the presentation to congratulate Trojan Battery for its commitment to this community.
Chamber News

2007 Citizen of the Year
City and Chamber Seek Citizenship Nominations
Deadline for Submissions is Friday, September 21st

Are you someone that volunteers or is someone you know involved in a civic or community organization? If so, the City and Chamber are seeking nominees for its 2007 Citizen of the Year Awards. Nominees who live or work in the City and have done extraordinary work as a volunteer are sought for this recognition. These community achievements, services, and contributions must be voluntary, and the candidate must reside or work for a business in Santa Fe Springs or be an active chamber member.

Giving back to the community where you work or live makes it a better place, in turn making Santa Fe Springs a better place for all, both young and old. The Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce Citizenship Awards Committee Chairperson is pleased to announce that nomination forms for the 2007 Citizenship Awards are now available. This award honors individuals (or a couple) in both the residential and business communities.

Each year, the City and Chamber acknowledges the achievements of extraordinary business and residential citizens. The recipients are honored at an awards luncheon. This year’s event will be held on November 28th at Town Center Hall. If you know someone deserving of this prestigious award, please fill out a nomination form. If you have any questions, please call 944-1616.

Ext. 101. The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, September 21, 2007.

“Service is the rent we pay for living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time.”
- Marian Wright Edelman

Sign Up Now!
2007 Santa Fe Springs Relay for Life

September 28th & 29th
Friday, 12 p.m. to Saturday, 12 p.m.
Lake Center Athletic Park
11641 East Florence Ave.

The American Cancer Society’s signature event returns for its sixth year in Santa Fe Springs. Mark your calendars and plan to be a part of this fund raising phenomenon! Since the first relay in 2002, Santa Fe Springs Relays have raised over $750,000 towards the noble mission of eliminating cancer as a major health problem through cancer research, education, advocacy, and services.

The Santa Fe Springs Relay Committee encourages your support and invites you to take part in making the 2007 Relay a huge success! Become a sponsor, or create a team and take the opportunity to fight back against cancer. Teams come from businesses, clubs, families, friends, hospitals, faith-based groups, schools, and service organizations.

For more information, please contact Peggy or Phyllis of Target Specialty Products, Inc. at 802-2238.

www.acsevents.org/relay/ca/santafesprings

Save the Date!
24TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

Monday, October 22
Rio Hondo Golf Club - Downey

Please call the Chamber of Commerce at 944-1616 to reserve your spot, or to learn more about tournament sponsorships.

Your City Council
Joseph D. Serrano, Sr.Mayor
Ronald S. KernesMayor Pro Tem
Louie GonzálezCouncilmember
Betty PutnamCouncilmember
Gustavo R. VelascoCouncilmember

POSTAL PATRON
City of Santa Fe Springs
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670