City Receives Top Honors
League of California Cities Award

This past month, at the League of California Cities - City Managers Conference, the City of Santa Fe Springs was honored with the prestigious 2007 City Managers Department - League of California Cities Award for the Advancement of Diverse Communities. The City was recognized for its commitment to promoting diversity in Santa Fe Springs and the development and implementation of many of the City’s cultural programs, such as the nationally-recognized Student Community Diversity Program, which has carried the message of personal responsibility and tolerance of others through school summits, to over 40,000 students since its inception.

The City Manager’s Department of the League of California Cities established a Committee on Diverse Communities to offer communities within the state, the tools and resources to help increase acceptance of our diversity. This award honors a City organization that has been successful in promoting the advancement of diversity within the community and workplace through the development and implementation of effective programs, policies, and /or practices. The City embraces this prestigious state-wide recognition and with it, celebrates diversity in our community. The City of Santa Fe Springs maintains this commitment and will continue efforts to create a safe and healthy social environment for all to enjoy.

Children’s Day at Heritage Park
Come enjoy a fun-filled day!
Saturday, April 12

The City invites all families in the community to Children’s Day, a fun event designed to tell children about turn-of-the-century entertainment, technology, and chores. The event will be held from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 12th at Heritage Park. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities including arts and crafts, pie-eating contests, panning for gold, butter churning, games, and races.

Admission to this event is FREE! Food and photos will be available for a minimal fee. Come to Children’s Day and learn about the ‘good old days’ in a beautiful surrounding. Please call Heritage Park staff at 946-6476 for more information.

City of Santa Fe Springs Newsletter
March/April 2008

Inside this Newsletter...
- Holiday Trash Collection Schedule
- Children’s Day at Heritage Park
- Youth Scholarships

In Memoriam
Tom Yarwood, City Photographer Remembered

This past month, the Santa Fe Springs community gathered to mourn the passing of City Photographer Tom Yarwood, who had devoted most of his professional career to serving the City of Santa Fe Springs. Over 200 members of the community, including current and former City Council members attended the Memorial Service, where attendees reminisced on many shared memories with Tom.

Through shared stories, family, friends, and City officials, praised Tom’s love of photography and his ongoing commitment to the City, since he was first hired as City photographer in 1961. Four years after he was hired, Tom opened his studio, Whittier Crest Photography. Since that time, he attended and photographed every significant event in the City. His tenure covered all of the City’s Council since incorporation and its four City Managers. Through photographs, Tom documented milestones in the City’s history and helped build a historical archive, including the coverage of last year’s 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Tom enjoyed sharing City anecdotes dating back to the mid 1960’s and sharing WWII stories, with anyone that would lend an ear. His war stories would tell of his second love – flying. Tom was a veteran of the United States Air Force, which he joined at 22 years of age. He was proud to talk about his flights, he flew 70 combat missions! Tom received several recognitions, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, awarded to him in 1944. Even during his time in the service, he found ways to combine his passion for photography; he would carry a camera with him whenever possible. This was Tom, the man behind the lens. This is how the community will always remember him - always with camera in hand, ready to shoot a photograph. Tom leaves behind his beloved wife Doris and son Kurt.
City Council Update

The Community Development Commission 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.

November 8, 2007
Community Development Commission Meeting
There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting
• The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9077 restricting parking of vehicles weighing over 6,000 pounds and implementing a tow-away zone on the west side of Jordan Circle from the centerline of McCann Drive to a point 380 feet north.
• The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9078 approving the use of Community Development Commission funds for the Heritage Park Native American exhibit kiche reconstruction.
• The City Council directed staff to initiate proceedings in accordance with Proposition 218 to consider implementing an increase in water rates and service charges as of February 1, 2008 as recommended by staff.
• The City Council approved Resolution No. 9076 authorizing the sale of a Community Development Commission-owned property acquired and renovated under the Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program (HARP) located at 11408 Clarkman Street.

November 20, 2007
Community Development Commission Meeting
There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting
• The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 987 adopting the 2007 California Fire Code, as amended by the City of Santa Fe Springs, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 18938 (b) and 18941.5.
• The City Council approved an increase in the Library’s material acquisition fund of $30,000.
• The City Council approved Resolution No. 9081 in support of the United States Postal Service issuing a stamp commemorating the late Tom Bradley, former Mayor of Los Angeles.
• The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9082 approving the Amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments.
• The City Council approved installation of a traffic signal and interim lane modifications of the intersection of Florence Avenue and Roseton Avenue and authorized an additional crossing guard at this location.
• The City Council authorized and implemented a revised fee schedule for the senior fitness centers at the Neighborhood and Betty Wilson Centers, which eliminated the current fee for residents of $40 per year.
• The City Council entered into a five-year Facility Use Agreement with the Rio Hondo Community College District that permits the College to utilize City facilities to carry out college credit and non-credit classes.

December 13, 2007
Community Development Commission Meeting
There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting
• The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9084 declaring the final results of the November 6, 2007 General Municipal Election.
• The City Council entered into a five-year Facility Use Agreement with the Rio Hondo Community College District that permits the College to utilize City facilities to carry out college credit and non-credit classes.

December 20, 2007
Community Development Commission Meeting
• The Commission approved an Award of Contract for Phase II of the Bus Stop Improvement Project.
• The Commission adopted Resolution 2008-07 approving the use of Community Development Commission funds for the Lakeview Park Building Project at 10225 South Jersey Avenue.

City Council Meeting
• The City Council conducted the public hearing and adopted Resolution No. 9085 ordering the vacation of Resin Place north of Alondra Boulevard.

What To Do If You Are Involved In A Car Accident

Helpful Tips
Even the most cautious drivers are subject to automobile accidents. If you are involved in an accident, it is important to remain calm and remember that your safety and that of others, is most important. Below are some important tips to help avoid unnecessary complications that may arise as result of an accident and to help reduce the stress caused by the situation:

• If it is clear, safe, and legal, move the vehicles involved out of the flow of traffic.
• Make a first aid check of all persons involved in the crash. Your safety and that of others is more important than damage to vehicles.
• Call the police, and if necessary, call emergency medical services.
• Gather information, ask to see the other person’s driver license and write down their name, address, and driver license number.
• Exchange insurance information. Do not discuss “fault” or make statements about the crash to anyone but the police.
• Exchange telephone numbers for contact information.
• Gather the names of all persons in the vehicles and people who witnessed the accident.

Holiday Trash Collection Schedule
Due to the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday, trash collection will change as follows.

If Your Normal Collection Day Is: | Trash Collection Will Be:
--- | ---
Monday, May 26 | Tuesday, May 27
Tuesday, May 27 | Wednesday, May 28
Wednesday, May 28 | Thursday, May 29
Thursday, May 29 | Friday, May 30

The street sweeping schedule will not change due to the holiday. If your trash is being collected on your normal street sweeping day, please place your trash cans on the curb or in your driveway as to not interfere with street sweeping. If you have any questions please call City Hall at 868-0511, Ext. 7361.

City Council Update (cont.)
Employee Spotlight

Tim Rodriguez, Mechanic II

Tim Rodriguez has lived in Santa Fe Springs since he was 11 years old. He began a career with the City 27 years ago, when he was hired as a part time Maintenance Attendant in Public Works. Tim held different positions within the department throughout the years, and eventually moved over to the Fleet Section in 1995, where he became a Mechanic. This is when his passion for cars really flourished. Since then, Tim has been utilizing his mechanic skills by keeping the City’s fleet of vehicles and equipment in safe operating condition, as Mechanical Technician II.

Many residents and car enthusiasts in the community know Tim for his work restoring and customizing vintage vehicles. Tim started developing his talents at a very young age by restoring bicycles. As a teenager Tim owned and restored a lengthy list of Volkswagen beetles and vans and now his efforts are focused on Chevrolet’s from the 50’s and 60’s. Tim’s creativity has produced several show-winners including his most recent prize “Gold Digger” a 1957 Chevrolet Belair convertible low rider. Tim and his car is featured on the cover and in articles in Low Rider Magazine and in the 2008 AC Delco Calendar (July) distributed to garages, auto parts stores, and body shops nationwide.

Tim’s talent and eye for detail was recruited by the City to lead the restoration of the prized 1958 Chevrolet Public Works truck for the City’s 50th Anniversary Celebration. This vehicle participated in the City parade and was displayed at numerous events, including the Car Show held at the Sculpture Garden.

Circa early 1980’s, Ron Kernes with the City’s Assistant Engineer and Project Manager Kerens with the City’s Conservatory building.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)

Are you puzzled by new tax law and which credits and deductions you can still take? The City of Santa Fe Springs Neighborhood Center is offering FREE tax preparation assistance through the VITA/ TCE Programs. VITA which is Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is available to individuals and families that are of low to moderate income (generally, $40,000 and below) who file basic tax returns. Appointments are available through April 14, 2008, but are filling quickly. To schedule an appointment, or for more information please call the Neighborhood Center at 692-0261.

Councilmember Ron Kernes Retires

32 Years of Public Service

At the start of the year, City officials honored Councilmember Ron Kernes, upon his retirement from the City Council. Councilmember Kernes retired after 32 years of service to the City of Santa Fe Springs, making him the second longest serving Councilmember in the City’s history.

Moving to Southern California at the age of 21, Ron attended Compton High School and Compton Junior College. He is a graduate of the School of Naval Intelligence, University of Maryland and proudly and honorably served his Country in the United States Navy. Councilmember Kernes first began his service to this community in 1976, when he was appointed to the City’s Traffic Commission. He first was elected to the Santa Fe Springs City Council in April of 1978. He subsequently won re-election six times in 1982, 1986, 1990, 1994, 1999, and 2003, and served as Mayor seven times throughout his career.

While Ron served as City Councilmember, he represented the City in numerous governmental agencies, including the Independent Cities of Los Angeles County, the Gateway Council of Governments, the Southeast Area Social Services Funding Authority, the California Contract Cities Association, and the Southern California Association of Governments. He was also the City Council’s representative in several committees, including the Friends of the Library, Historical Committee, and Finance Committee, among others. Ron was instrumental in the transition and redevelopment of the City’s oil fields and oil-related industrial properties, in particular the redevelopment of brownfields and the Telegraph Road Corridor. In 1997, he was recognized for his commitment to the community and selected Residential Citizen of the Year by the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Ron’s contributions to the betterment of the City are numerous and will not be forgotten. Now that he is retired, he plans to spend more time with his children and grandchildren, as well as dedicating more time to his hobbies which include, golfing, boating, and water skiing. The City Council and staff wish Ron the best in his retirement and all of his new endeavors.

Standing near what would become the intersection of Telegraph Road and Mora Drive (current day site of the Chamber of Commerce and Geezers) with the developer for the Heritage Corporate Center. The Union Pacific Railroad Bridge is visible in the background.
Applications for the annual Destiny scholarship and Powell Grant are now available at the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce, local high schools, and City facilities. 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 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 be a City resident for two or more years.

The deadline to turn in scholarship and grant applications is Monday, March 31, 2008. Applications must be submitted to the Santa Fe Springs Chamber/League Youth Enrichment Fund, 12016 Telegraph Road, Ste. 300, 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 call 944-1616.

Applications for the annual Destiny Scholarship and Powell Grant are now available at the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce, local high schools, and City facilities. 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 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 be a City resident for two or more years.

The deadline to turn in scholarship and grant applications is Monday, March 31, 2008. Applications must be submitted to the Santa Fe Springs Chamber/League Youth Enrichment Fund, 12016 Telegraph Road, Ste. 300, 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 call 944-1616.

The City’s annual Youth Citizenship Awards applications are now available at City Hall and career centers in the local high schools. The City will select ten recipients for this scholarship award, who demonstrate good leadership and good citizenship in their school and community, and meet the following criteria:

- High school senior or community college student (under 21 years of age)
- Minimum G.P.A. 2.75
- City resident

All eligible students are encouraged to apply! Applications will be due at City Hall on Friday, March 28th by 5:30 p.m. Please call 868-0511, Ext. 7538 for more information.

Applications for the annual Destiny scholarship and Powell Grant are now available at the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce, local high schools, and City facilities. 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 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 be a City resident for two or more years.

The deadline to turn in scholarship and grant applications is Monday, March 31, 2008. Applications must be submitted to the Santa Fe Springs Chamber/League Youth Enrichment Fund, 12016 Telegraph Road, Ste. 300, 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 call 944-1616.

The City’s annual Youth Citizenship Awards applications are now available at City Hall and career centers in the local high schools. The City will select ten recipients for this scholarship award, who demonstrate good leadership and good citizenship in their school and community, and meet the following criteria:

- High school senior or community college student (under 21 years of age)
- Minimum G.P.A. 2.75
- City resident

All eligible students are encouraged to apply! Applications will be due at City Hall on Friday, March 28th by 5:30 p.m. Please call 868-0511, Ext. 7538 for more information.

Applications for the annual Destiny scholarship and Powell Grant are now available at the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce, local high schools, and City facilities. 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 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 be a City resident for two or more years.

The deadline to turn in scholarship and grant applications is Monday, March 31, 2008. Applications must be submitted to the Santa Fe Springs Chamber/League Youth Enrichment Fund, 12016 Telegraph Road, Ste. 300, 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 call 944-1616.

The City’s annual Youth Citizenship Awards applications are now available at City Hall and career centers in the local high schools. The City will select ten recipients for this scholarship award, who demonstrate good leadership and good citizenship in their school and community, and meet the following criteria:

- High school senior or community college student (under 21 years of age)
- Minimum G.P.A. 2.75
- City resident

All eligible students are encouraged to apply! Applications will be due at City Hall on Friday, March 28th by 5:30 p.m. Please call 868-0511, Ext. 7538 for more information.

The 43rd Annual Golf Classic is being held on Monday, May 19, at the prestigious Hacienda Golf Club. If you would like to be a part of the Golf Classic by participating or if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities for this event, please call the Chamber today at 944-1616.