Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 11th
Los Nietos Park
11143 Charlesworth Road

The Easter Bunny is hopping on over to this year’s Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11 at Los Nietos Park. Bring your entire family and enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast, beginning at 8:00 a.m., sponsored by the Sister City Young Ambassadors Association.

Children can participate in crafts, games, the Easter cake walk, and enjoy train rides. Come join the fun and maybe even win a small cake! Pictures with the Easter Bunny will be available for just $2 each. The Easter Egg hunt begins at 10:00 a.m. For more information on this event, please call the Parks and Recreation Services Division at 863-4896.

Earth Day Information Booth
Learn How to Save Water, Energy, and Money!

Visit the City’s Earth Day Information Booth on Saturday, April 11, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and learn to save water, energy, and money! Representatives from local utility companies will be on hand to discuss money-saving tips to help lower your bill and conserve Earth’s precious resources. This event is being held in conjunction with the Easter Egg Hunt at Los Nietos Park to promote environmental awareness. Stop by our booth for FREE samples and helpful information.

Millions of people around the world participate in Earth Day. Here are some things you can do to support this day:

Prevent Harm to the Environment
Don’t dispose of gasoline, oil, weed killers, or other lawn and garden pesticides down the drain, into surface water, onto the ground, or in the trash. Take them to a Household Hazardous Waste Roundup.

Crowd Out Weeds the Natural Way
Keep your grass long. Over-seed your lawn each fall for a thicker lawn in the spring. Slightly longer grass, around 2½ to 3½ inches, is healthier and drought-resistant with fewer pests and weeds.

Reduce Your Waste
In a lifetime, the average American will throw away 600 times his or her adult weight in garbage.

Purchase Paper Products Containing Post-Consumer Recycled Paper
One ton of recycled paper uses: 64% less energy, 56% less water, 74% less air pollution, saves 17 trees and creates five times more jobs than one ton of paper products from virgin wood pulp.

Recycle, Recycle, Recycle
Recycling all of your home’s waste newsprint, cardboard, glass, and metal can reduce carbon dioxide emissions, a greenhouse gas, by 850 pounds a year. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV set for 3 hours or to light one 100 watt bulb for 20 hours. Americans throw away enough aluminum every three months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.

Home Improvement
Try to buy recycled products. It reduces the amount of material going to landfills. Flooring, insulation, plastic lumber, woodwork, shingles, and many garden/lawn products are made from recycled materials.

Buy carpet made from recycled drink bottles (polyethylene terephthalate fiber). This recycled-content carpet is durable, resists moisture and staining, and requires no additional chemicals for its manufacture.

Children’s Day at Heritage Park
Saturday, April 18th
Heritage Park
12100 Mora Drive
12-4 p.m.

Come spend a day filled with good old-fashioned fun! Experience life as children did in the 1800s through games, chores, and entertainment. Enjoy storytelling and dancing, demonstrations of spinning and weaving, get your hands dirty panning for gold or churn butter, and have fun racing or creating arts and crafts. Admission to this event is FREE! Food will be available for purchase. For more information please call Heritage Park at 946-6476.

Celebrate National Library Week
April 12-18

When was the last time you used your Library card? Come into the Library during National Library Week, which is celebrated April 12 – 18, and use the smartest card in your wallet – your Library card! Use your Library card and enter your name in our raffle to win one of two great prize baskets! National Library Week celebrates the local library as a great source of information and learning for everyone in the City.

Visit the Library!
City Council Update

The Community Development Commission and City Council meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays 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 10, 2008
Community Development Commission Meeting
• There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting
• The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 995, requesting approval of a change of zone from M-1, M-2 and B-2 to M-2 on the 3.18-acre property located at 11401 Shoemaker Avenue, (Rio Hondo College).
• The City Council approved a policy for rewarding individuals that provide information leading to the identification, apprehension, or conviction of individuals that illegally dump materials into the storm drains within the City.

The City offers a $1,000 REWARD to anyone providing information leading to the apprehension and conviction of individuals needlessly abandoning materials into the City storm drain. To report illegal dumping, please call the Police Services Center at 409-1850. All calls will remain anonymous.

November 25, 2008
Community Development Commission Meeting
• There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting
• The City Council approved the proposed amendments to the Beautification Committee’s By-Laws.
• The City Council approved an agreement between the cities of Santa Fe Springs and Norwalk to participate in a Transportation Management Association and Coalition.
• The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9153 and directed the City Manager to develop land-use regulations that would establish prohibitions against pet rental businesses operating in the City of Santa Fe Springs.

December 11, 2008
Community Development Commission Meeting
• There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting
• The City Council re-organized selecting Luis M. Gonzalez as Mayor for 2009, and Betty Putnam as Mayor Pro Tem.

December 17, 2008
Community Development Commission Meeting
• There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting
• The City Council appointed two Council members to the Whittier Police Department Law Enforcement Service Contract Sub-Committee.
• The City Council approved a Recyclable Materials Dealer Permit for ARC Recycling Center.

January 8, 2009
Community Development Commission Meeting
• There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting
• The City Council re-organized selecting Luis M. Gonzalez as Mayor for 2009, and Betty Putnam as Mayor Pro Tem.

January 22, 2009
Community Development Commission Meeting
• There were no items to report.

City Council Meeting
• The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9160 declaring weeds a public nuisance, declaring its intention to remove them, and setting Thursday, February 26, 2009, as the date for the Public Hearing.
• The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 996 amending and replacing City Code 132.04 as it relates to shopping carts, and adding Sections 132.05 – 132.11.
• The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9158, a request for a parking restriction on Alondra Boulevard.

New Legislation Combats Metal Theft

Recently, the California Assembly adopted AB 844 to combat the growing problem of metal theft throughout the state. The new legislation will now make it more difficult for metal thieves to sell their stolen materials to scrap metal dealers and recycling centers. Assembly Bill 844 now requires scrap metal and recycling companies throughout California to comply with stricter record keeping and reporting requirements, as well as additional identification and payment tracking measures. Such measures will require sellers to provide valid photo identification, a thumbprint, and their vehicle information upon selling scrap metal. In addition, sellers will have to wait a minimum of three days before they can receive payment.

The new requirements will aid local law enforcement in identifying and recovering potential stolen metals at local scrap and recycling yards. Metal thefts are costly for homeowners, businesses, and local law enforcement. The City of Santa Fe Springs has embraced this new legislation and is monitoring local scrap metal and recycling companies to ensure they comply with the new reporting requirements.

Although this new legislation has decreased scrap metal thefts statewide, please remain vigilant in your community by reporting any suspicious activity to the Department of Police Services at 409-1850.

Keep Our Alleys Clean and Safe

Alleys are public thoroughfares to provide access for residents and emergency vehicles in the same way as streets and highways, but because they are hidden from view, they are often not maintained by residents in the same way front yards are. Even worse, sometimes our alleys are misused as illegal dump sites. The City does periodically make “sweeps” of the public right-of-way portion of the alleys and has noticed some areas adjacent to yards are poorly maintained. Here’s what you can do to keep your alley clean and maintain the beauty of Santa Fe Springs.

• Get rid of your bulk items for FREE! Just call! Mattresses, couches, and other large items are needlessly abandoned in City streets and alleys every day. Call your waste hauler before your normal trash collection day and they will remove several bulk items along with your normal trash twice per year for FREE! Consolidated Disposal: 562-347-2100 or CR&R Disposal: 562-944-4716
• Place only authorized trash containers in your alleys. Use only the approved containers authorized by your waste hauler. Containers are to be placed in the alleys no earlier than 6:00 p.m. on the day preceding collection and shall be removed by 6:00 a.m. the day following collection.

Special Announcement for Water Customers

In an effort to increase efficiency and become more environmentally conscious through the reduction of paper use and printing costs, the City now mails water bills every other month. Please call City Hall at 868-0511, Ext. 7333 with any questions regarding your water bill.

Council Meeting Agendas Streamlined

You will notice that the meeting Agendas for the City Council, Community Development Commission, and Public Financing Authority will no longer be separate documents. The Council has given direction to streamline the agendas into one document. a direction which will save staff time and City resources. Any questions concerning the agenda can be directed to the City Clerk barbaragarcial@santafe Springs.org or by calling 868-0511, Ext. 7314.
Opportunities for First Time Home Buyers

The City’s Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program (HARP) gives a qualified, first-time home buyer an opportunity to purchase a home in Santa Fe Springs. The City’s HARP program is designed to both upgrade the housing stock in the City, and provide a home ownership opportunity for eligible low and moderate income residents. 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 to a qualified low or moderate income family that has lived in the City for at least the past three years. Over sixty families have purchased their first home from the City under the HARP program.

HARP home buyers are selected through a random lottery drawing that takes place in City Hall every two years. Applications for the next HARP Lottery will be accepted during the month of May, the deadline for submission is Thursday, May 28th. The lottery drawing will be conducted in June 2009. To obtain more information on the HARP program and lottery, you can download an information fact sheet from the City’s website at santafesprings.org/downloadableforms or call City Hall at 868-0511, Ext. 7309. Please note that HARP program applications are only available for pick up by the applicant from the Department of Planning and Development in City Hall.

Santa Fe Springs Firefighter/Paramedic Honored

Santa Fe Springs Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Gardea received the Silver Beaver Award from the Los Angeles Area Council Boy Scouts of America on January 15, 2009. Established in 1931, the Silver Beaver Award is presented for distinguished service to young people within a BSA local council. The Silver Beaver Award is the highest award that can be given to a volunteer Scout leader at the council level.

Chris has been involved in Scouting since 1972. As a youth, he earned the Eagle Scout and Arrow of Light ranks, the highest youth awards in Boy and Cub Scouting. He was very active in the Order of the Arrow (Scouting’s honor society), where he served as Chapter, Lodge, and Section Chief. He has been a Vigil honor member for 25 years, and received the Order of the Arrow Founders Award for his service. He has served as an adult Volunteer Scout Leader since 1989. He is currently an Assistant Scoutmaster and Webelos Leader for his son’s Pack 418 in Whittier. Chris and Firefighter/Paramedic Darren Spotheller have been the leaders of the Department’s Sheriff Explorer Post 811 for 12 years. The Explorer youth program works under the umbrella of Scouting to mentor young people on a fire service career path.

Chris credits his parents and mentors within scouting that influenced him to pursue a career in public service. “The first aid skills and the Scouting ideals of ‘helping other people at all times’ naturally lead him to the fire service. He is honored to receive such a prestigious award. He says he has been trying to keep the promise he made when he became an Eagle Scout, ‘to give back to Scouting, what it has given to me.’”

Employee Spotlight Teresa Ramirez, Neighborhood Preservation Specialist

The Department of Planning & Development recently welcomed back Teresa Ramirez, when she re-joined the department last year as the Neighborhood Preservation Specialist.

This is a new position in the Planning Department that combines administration of the Rebate Program as well as residential code enforcement duties. Teresa began her City career in the Planning Department in 2002 as an Administrative Clerk I. She later transferred to the Parks & Recreation Services Division, where she worked for 4 years. During this time she had the opportunity to provide support and work on many of the City’s 50th Anniversary activities, which were busy and challenging times, but very rewarding.

Teresa is looking forward to growing professionally in her new position in the Planning Department. Along with coordinating the City’s Residential Rebate and Home Repair Programs, Teresa will also be involved with the HARP Home Lottery that will begin in May. She feels this is a great program as it assists qualified City residents in buying their first home. The Planning Department has found her bilingual skills to be a tremendous asset in assisting residents.

Teresa was born and raised in Norwalk and was involved with the Los Angeles County Sheriff Explorer program. She also attended Cypress College. Prior to working for the City, she was employed as a Legal Secretary – Paralegal. She has found that a lot of the skills she learned then have been very valuable in her new position.

Teresa has two daughters, Alexis, who is a freshman at Santa Fe High School and Anissa, who is six years old and attends Lakeview School. In her free time, she loves to travel and read, but says her family (immediate and extended) is her priority, along with her friends. Teresa came back from Christmas happily engaged. She will become Mrs. Cavallo sometime in mid-2009. Her City family wishes her a happy engagement.
City and Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Opportunities

Applicants Sought for $20,000 Destiny Scholarship

The Destiny Scholarship is just one of the many programs offered by the Santa Fe Springs Chamber/League Youth Enrichment Fund, which is an incorporated, non-profit entity. This scholarship strives to provide an opportunity to change a student’s direction in life, or their ‘destiny’ by offering a $20,000 scholarship to an exceptional high school senior who lives in Santa Fe Springs. To date, scholarships totaling $280,000 have been awarded.

Applicants for the 16th annual $20,000 Destiny Scholarship are now available. Applicants must be a senior in high school, a resident of Santa Fe Springs for two or more years, have a minimum GPA of 3.0, and a SAT score of 1400 or higher.

The Destiny Scholarship is funded solely through donations from the community. Please call the Chamber of Commerce at 944-1616 for more information.

Grant Application Available for a Career in the Arts

Applicants for the $2,500 Powell Art Grant are being sought. Applicants may be graduating high school seniors, or be currently enrolled in college, art academy or trade school, and must be a Santa Fe Springs resident.

The Powell Art Grant was created to recognize an individual’s talent and interest in vocational fields related to the Arts. The fields include, but are not limited to music, art/drawing, writing, drama, art history, and graphic arts, to name a few. Applications are available at the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce Office, local high schools, and City facilities, and are due March 20, 2009.

The grant was established in 1999 to honor former Santa Fe Springs City Manager Don Powell and his wife Jackie. Their passion for the Arts created the ‘Art in Public Places’ project, which has numerous art pieces displayed throughout the City. The Powell Grant is funded solely through donations from the community. Please call the Chamber of Commerce office at 944-1616 for more information.

City Scholarships Available

Memorial Scholarship Program

The City of Santa Fe Springs’ Memorial Scholarship Program, now in its 24th year, presents six recipients with an award of $1,000 each. These scholarships were established in the memory of three former and beloved members of the City Council who believed that higher education was the pathway for success and leadership.

The criteria for each Scholarship varies, but the minimum eligibility is as follows:
1. Be a resident of Santa Fe Springs
2. Be a high school senior
3. Demonstrate potential success in college or trade school by maintaining a 3.0 GPA or greater
4. Provide a letter of reference attesting to the good moral character and ethics of the applicant

Scholarship applications are available to students through their respective high school’s College/Career Centers. The deadline to turn in applications is April 3rd. Please call City Hall at 868-0511, Ext. 7655 for more information.

Youth Citizenship Awards

Are you a senior in high school looking for a little help to pay for college? The City is once again making applications available for the annual Youth Citizenship Awards, which recognize students who exhibit active citizenship in school and the community.

High school seniors and/or community college students (less than 21 years of age at the time of the deadline for submission) who are City residents and maintain a grade point average of 2.75 or higher are encouraged to apply! Ten cash awards will be presented in the following categories:

- Excellence in Citizenship (Three $750 Awards)
- Outstanding Citizenship (Three $500 Awards)
- Service in Citizenship (Four $250 Awards)

Applications are currently available at City Hall and the Career Centers at the local high schools. They will be due to City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30th. For more information, please call City Hall at 868-0511, Ext. 7538.