



The Monterey Park Cascades



Volume X, No. XII

Citywide News for Business, Community and Education

Dec. 2012/Jan. 2013

Fire Department Hosts Spark of Love Toy Drive

The Monterey Park Fire Department in conjunction with ABC 7 News will be hosting the 20th Annual Spark of Love Toy Drive kicking off November 23, 2012. Over the past two decades, the Spark of Love Toy Drive has successfully collected more than seven million toys. The campaign collects new, unwrapped toys and sports equipment for underserved children and teens in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Ventura and Riverside counties. Toys collected in the respective counties are distributed locally. The goal of the Spark of Love organization is to exceed last years' collection of five hundred thousand toys.



Please bring your unused and unwrapped toy to one of the Monterey Park Fire Stations:

Fire Station 61 (Headquarters)
350 W. Newmark Ave. (at City Hall)
626-307-1423

Fire Station 62
2001 S. Garfield Ave. (at Elmgate St.)
626-307-1469

Fire Station 63
704 Monterey Pass Road (at Vagabond Dr.)
626-307-1470

In addition to toy donations, monetary donations are also welcome. If donating money, checks can be made out to: Spark of Love Toy Drive c/o California Community Foundation and mailed to:

ABC7 Spark of Love
P.O. Box 5967, Glendale, CA 91221

You can also donate online by visiting www.calfund.org and type in Spark of Love in the search.

The Monterey Park Fire Department wishes you a happy holiday season and thanks you for your donations.

Shop Monterey Park this Holiday Season

Monterey Park residents, business owners and visitors can attest that our community is a unique and vibrant one, so it should be no surprise that it also offers a variety of unique holiday gift opportunities.

For many small businesses, the holiday shopping season is an opportunity to boost sales and revenues to help keep them operating for the coming year. Small businesses are more likely to hire locally and support local community events. The best way to support the business community is to "Shop Local-Shop Monterey Park." As shopping demands rise during the holidays, local merchants find themselves needing additional help and some will hire staff for the holiday season.

Located within Monterey Park are several great places to shop where an assortment of gifts can be found. On the south end of Atlantic Boulevard you'll find Atlantic Square, Prado Center, the Galleria and the Monterey Park Village. Here you can find stylish apparel, shoes, and jewelry, as well as sports and camping equipment-all potential gifts for those special people. North Atlantic features the Atlantic Times Square complex with options for holiday dining and entertainment as well as shopping.

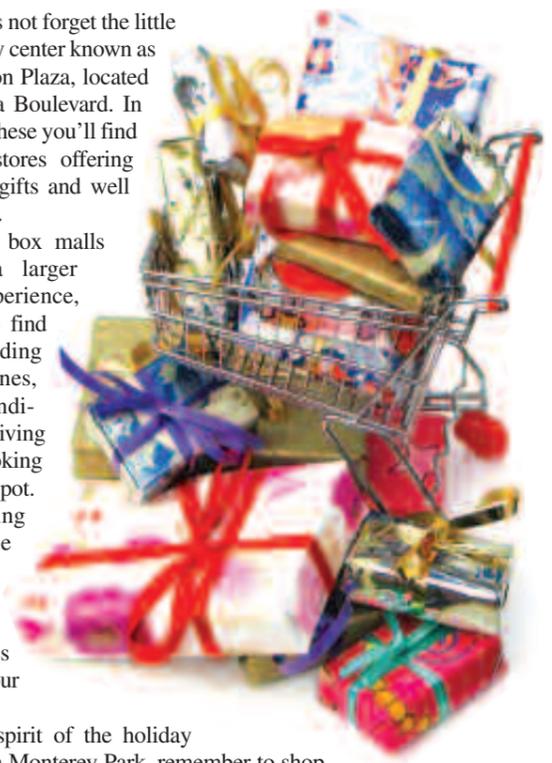
Located where Garvey and Garfield Avenues intersect is Monterey Park's traditional downtown city center. Downtown visitors will find house wares such as beautiful teapots, figurines and chopsticks; as well as jewelry, apparel, and specialty teas. Each of these items might make a lovely gift or a great stocking stuffer.

Other areas where you'll find hidden gems are in the businesses located along Potrero Grande, south Garfield Avenue and central Atlantic Boulevard, where you'll find the Monterey Park

Mall. And let's not forget the little out-of-the-way center known as Casuda Canyon Plaza, located along Ramona Boulevard. In areas such as these you'll find quaint little stores offering both unusual gifts and well known brands.

While big box malls may offer a larger shopping experience, you may also find yourself standing in long lines, crowded conditions, and driving in circles looking for a parking spot. Local shopping offers unique gifts just minutes from your home and provides income to your community.

Keep the spirit of the holiday season alive in Monterey Park, remember to shop local and reinvest in your community



Annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Sing

Start the holiday season with music, lights and a visit with Santa

Monterey Park's Annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Sing will take place on Friday, December 7. Join us at 5:30 p.m. as we welcome Santa with carols and help him light the Monterey Park City Hall tree. Following the tree lighting, attendees will be invited to the Council Chambers at City Hall. The evening will feature festive music, refreshments and a visit from Santa.

Previous years have included holiday entertainment from Rice Elementary School Choir, Garvey Intermediate School Choir, Mark Keppel High School Choir and Schurr High School Band, and the audience singing holiday favorites!

We hope that you and your family will join us for this perfect start to the holiday season. Special thanks to the Monterey Park Sister Cities Commission, and the Eastside Optimists, for their continued support of this event. For more information, please call the Recreation and Community Services Department at 626-307-1388.



City of Monterey Park Election March 5

The City of Monterey Park will hold its General Municipal Election on March 5, 2013. This election is for the purpose of electing two (2) members of the City Council, one (1) City Clerk and one (1) City Treasurer to each serve four-year terms ending in March 2017.

The Office of the City Clerk will conduct a Candidate Election Information Meeting at City Hall for prospective candidates at the following time.

Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers

The dates of nomination for the above stated offices are November 12th through December 10, 2012. If an incumbent does not file, the nomination period will be extended to December 12, 2012. All potential candidates must be a registered voter and live in the city. All forms must be issued from and returned to the office of the City Clerk during these legal dates.

Any registered voter of the City Monterey Park interested in becoming a candidate may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (626) 307-1360.

Register via the Internet for Winter Recreation Classes

Save time and go online at www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us

Why wait in line to register for your favorite Monterey Park Recreation Dept. classes? Sign up via the Internet from the comfort of your home or work computer. Internet users can visit the City's webpage to browse and register for the full catalog of fitness, education, art, music, dance, tennis, martial arts, senior classes, and more available from the Recreation Department.

Registration dates for winter programming:

	Online	Walk-In
General Recreation Classes	Saturday, December 1, 2012	Monday, December 3, 2012
Swim Classes	No Winter Program Offered	No Winter Program Offered

Online registration for general recreation classes is available via the City's website at www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us. Registration can be accessed by clicking on the Recreation Classes/Online Registration button on the front page; or by navigating to the the Recreation Department page; or by searching for "registration information."

Walk-in registration is available at the City Hall Recreation Department, 320 W. Newmark Avenue. For more information contact the Rec. Dept. at 626-307-1388 or visit www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us.

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Monterey Park, CA 91754



CITY OFFICIALS

- MITCHELL ING, MAYOR
- TERESA REAL SEBASTIAN, MAYOR PRO TEM
- ANTHONY WONG, COUNCIL MEMBER
- DAVID T. LAU, COUNCIL MEMBER
- DAVID BARRON, CITY CLERK
- JOSEPH LEON, CITY TREASURER
- PAUL TALBOT, CITY MANAGER
- MARK HENSLEY, CITY ATTORNEY



"Shop Local" at Monterey Park's Farmers' Market Did you know the farmers' market supports local businesses as well as local farms? For the three Fridays before Christmas (Dec. 7, 14 and 21), shop for unique, handmade crafts made by local artisans at the market.

For more details about our Shop Local December events or our upcoming health & wellness event in 2013, email us at montereyparkFM@gmail.com or visit the website at www.montereyparkFM.com.

The farmers' market is located at the library parking lot, 318 S. Ramona Avenue, every Friday from 4-8 p.m., rain or shine.

MONTEREY PARK MEETING DATES

- CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**
1st and 3rd Wednesday • 7:00 P.M.
City Hall • Council Chambers
320 W. Newmark Avenue
- ART & CULTURE COMMISSION**
2nd Wednesday • 6:30 P.M.
El Encanto • 700 El Mercado Avenue
- BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DIST. ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
January, April, July, October
3rd Thursday • 3:30 P.M.
City Hall, Room 266
- COMMISSION ON AGING**
3rd Monday • 11:00 A.M.
Langley Senior Center • 400 W. Emerson Avenue
- COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION**
4th Wednesday • 7:00 P.M.
El Encanto • 700 El Mercado Avenue
- DESIGN REVIEW BOARD**
1st and 3rd Tuesday • 7:00 P.M.
City Hall • Council Chambers
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION**
1st Tuesday • 7:00 P.M.
City Hall • Community Room 102
- ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**
2nd Tuesday • 6:00 P.M.
City Hall, Room 266
- HISTORICAL-HERITAGE COMMISSION**
3rd Monday • 6:30 P.M.
City Hall • Community Room
- LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3rd Tuesday • 7:00 P.M.
Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library
318 S. Ramona Avenue
- MODIFICATION COMMITTEE**
Meets on Call
- PERSONNEL BOARD**
2nd Wednesday • 7:00 P.M.
City Hall • Council Chambers
- PLANNING COMMISSION**
2nd and 4th Tuesday • 7:00 P.M.
City Hall • Council Chambers
- RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION**
1st Monday • 7:00 P.M.
City Hall • Council Chambers
- SISTER CITY COMMISSION**
Meets on Call Quarterly
- TRAFFIC COMMISSION**
3rd Thursday • 7:00 P.M.
City Hall • Council Chambers
- YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD**
4th Wednesday • 6:30 P.M.
El Encanto • 700 El Mercado Avenue

City Hall at Your Service

- Mayor and City Council (626) 307-1255
- City Manager (626) 307-1255
- City Clerk (626) 307-1362
- City Treasurer (626) 307-1488
- Animal Control (626) 307-1217
- Aquatics/ Rec. Classes (626) 307-1388
- Building Division (626) 307-1300
- Business License (626) 307-1338
- Code Enforcement (626) 307-1415
- Community Development (626) 307-1314
- Community Participation (626) 307-1390
- Dial-A-Ride (626) 307-1396
- Economic Development (626) 307-1385
- Engineering (626) 307-1320
- Fire Department Admin (626) 307-1262
- Fire Dept. Ambulance (626) 307-1423
- Fire Prevention (626) 307-1308
- Graffiti Removal (626) 307-1449
- Housing Rehabilitation (626) 307-1385
- Human Resources (626) 307-1334
- Langley Senior Center (626) 307-1395
- Library (626) 307-1333
- Planning and Zoning (626) 307-1315
- Police (emergency only) 911
- Police (non emergency) (626) 573-1311
- Police Comm. Relations (626) 307-1215
- Police Reports & Records (626) 307-1211
- Pothole Report Line (626) 307-2585
- Public Works (626) 307-1281
- Recreation and Community Services (626) 307-1388
- Recycling Hotline (626) 307-2510
- Redevelopment (626) 307-1385
- Refuse (Athens Services) (626) 336-3636
- Special Events (626) 307-1390
- Tree Trimming (626) 307-1292
- Water Billing (626) 307-1342
- Water Dept. After Hours (626) 307-1282
- Weed Abatement (626) 307-1415

Visit the City at: www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us

City Hall Hours

Monday-Thursday: 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Closed Fridays

City Events Calendar

- December 5 Regular City Council mtg., 7:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chamber.
- December 7 Tree lighting and Holiday Sing with Santa, 5:30 p.m., City Hall.
- December 18 City Council guests & presentations mtg., 6:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chamber.
- December 19 Regular City Council mtg., 7:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chamber.
- Dec. 24 & 25 Christmas holidays, City Hall closed.
- Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 New Year's Day holidays, City Hall closed.
- January 2 Regular City Council mtg., 7:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chamber.
- January 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Holiday, City Hall Closed.
- January 22 City Council guests & presentations mtg., 6:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chamber.
- January 23 Regular City Council mtg., 7:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chamber.

Regular City Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the City Hall Council Chamber, 320 W. Newmark Ave.

For other city events please visit the Community Calendar at www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us.

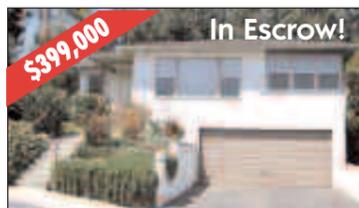
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2124 Verde Vista Dr., Monterey Park
3 Bed/2.5 Bath, Family Room 1818 sq. ft., New Paint, View



2046 Vancouver Ave., Monterey Park
3 Bed/1 Bath, Covered Patio Nice, Clean Affordable Home



2189 Brightwood, Monterey Park
3 Bed/Family Room/1.75 Bath. Sharp! Remodeled View Home. 1500 Sqft



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Year of the Snake: The 2013 Chinese New Year Festival is Around the Corner!

Pursuant to the huge success of Chinese New Year Festival in 2012, the city of Monterey Park, the city's Business Improvement District Advisory committee (BIDAC) and World Journal Los Angeles, LLC will collaborate again to co-produce one of the largest events during Chinese New Year season in East Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley.



The Festival has been scheduled on Saturday, February 2, 2013 (10 a.m. - 9 p.m.) and Sunday, February 3, 2013 (10 a.m. - 7 p.m.). The area of the Festival will be expanded to cover the section on Garvey Avenue starting from Garfield Avenue and stretching five blocks eastward to reach Alhambra Avenue.



Compared with the 2012 Chinese New Year Festival, the upcoming event in 2013 will be even larger in magnitude and with a more exciting program, because there will be a lot more vendors, more diversified retailing businesses, longer period of operation, and more exciting activities, including an on-site youth singing contest.

There will be 220 vendor booths, representing different types of ethnic Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Indonesian and other Asian cuisine and snacks. Other areas of attraction include gifts and souvenirs, toys, home appliances, various businesses and services.

LA Voice, the Youth Cup Singing Contest sponsored by World Journal Los Angeles, LLC, will be held for the first time on the site of the festival for two days, including a semi-final contest and a final contest. Visitors to the festival will be invited to pick the most popular on-site singer among all contestants. There will be other winners picked by judges. The singing contest will occupy one of the two large stages built on the site. The other stage will be used to present scheduled performances that will go on for two days during the festival. Visitors will be entertained by shows of dances, bands, martial arts, cooking demonstrations and more.

A separate area will be reserved for a carousel which will be open till 9 p.m. on the first day of the festival and 7 p.m. on the second day.

The festival will be open to the public. There will be no admission charge. Residents in Southern California are welcome to bring family and friends to the two-day event.

The Snake (?) is one of the 12-year cycle of animals forming the Chinese zodiac and related to the Chinese calendar. The Chinese Snake symbolizes wealth, nobility, the self-made spirit that leads to success and is a guardian saint.

Ancient Greeks believed the snake was the god of medicine. In recent history people use a snake-ornamented staff to represent Western medicine. The emblem of the World Health Organization of the United Nations also has the image of a snake. People born during the Year of the Snake are said to be endowed with wisdom and deep philosophical understanding. They are thinkers who excel in finding solutions to complex problems.

For more information, visit the city website at www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us and search for "Chinese New Year Festival."

City E-Newsletter Keeps You Up To Date

Publication features news on a twice-monthly basis via email. Social media feeds like Twitter and Nixle also available.

Subscribe to Monterey Park's new e-newsletter and stay informed about what's happening in your city. Available by email, the e-newsletter is designed to be a quick and concise roundup of city events for people on the go. The e-newsletter is produced about twice a month and features information and calendar items that might not have made it into the monthly Cascades newspaper.

Subscription is easy—simply visit the city homepage and look for the "E-Newsletter and Social Media" link and pick the way you'd like to be informed about city issues.

Additionally, for those who want a bit more information, you can also sign up for our news release and city council agenda mailing lists.

As a news release subscriber you'll receive the same timely information that the media receives about current issues and events. Subscribers to the council agendas will receive meeting notifications and a summary of items. Email from both lists contain links back to the city website for further reference or updates.

Your subscription insures that you're receiving official city notifications as soon as they're released. And of course, you can unsubscribe at any time.

In addition to our e-mail lists, city departments such as police and fire also offer links to popular social media like Nixle or Twitter. For example Twitter users can follow general city info @CityofMPK. For more information about electronic mailing lists or social media, please visit the city website at www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us and navigate to Quick Links>Email Subscriptions and Social Media Links.

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Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Closed Sunday & Monday



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4. Trig & Pre-calculus

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Fee: \$280/month,
\$180/month for low-income families

Time: Mon.-Fri.: 1:30 - 6:30 pm

Location: 605 N. New Ave. Unit A
Monterey Park, CA 91755
(Walking distance from Mark Keppel High School)

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City Council Action Review

Live webcasts and on-demand archives of Monterey Park City Council meetings are available at www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us

City Council Meeting of October 17, 2012

The City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., with all Council Members present.

Agenda Item 1 City Manager Talbot Reported that Item No. 11 is continued and there are corrections on the Staff Report for item No. 16.

SUCCESSOR AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Item 2 The City Council approved payment of warrants and adopted Resolution No. SA-23 of the Successor Agency to the former Monterey Park Redevelopment Agency allowing certain claims and demands per warrant register dated October 17, 2012 totaling \$7,323.56 and specifying the funds out of which the same are to be paid.

Agenda Item 3 The City Council received and filed the investment report for the Successor Agency as of September 2012.

Agenda Item 4 The City Council approved the minutes from the Successor Agency to the former Monterey Park Redevelopment Agency special meetings of September 11, 2012, September 27, 2012 (cancelled) and October 1, 2012, and the regular meeting of September 19, 2012.

Agenda Item 5 The City Council awarded a service agreement to JWA Urban Consultants, Inc., in a form approved by the City Attorney, in an amount not to exceed \$66,000, to complete the tasks outlined in the scope of services for the Housing Successor Agency effective July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013.

HOUSING SUCCESSOR AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Item 6 The City Council approved payment of warrants and adopted Resolution No. HSA-11 of the Housing Successor Agency to the former Monterey Park Redevelopment Agency allowing certain claims and demands per warrant register dated October 17, 2012 totaling \$350.96 and specifying the funds out of which the same are to be paid.

Agenda Item 7 The City Council approved the minutes from the Housing Successor Agency to the former Monterey Park Redevelopment Agency regular meeting of September 19, 2012.

PRESENTATION: JON TRAW – STREAM-LINING OF PERMIT PROCESS -- UPDATE REPORT.

The report was received and filed.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Item 8 The City Council approved payment of warrants and adopted Resolution No. 11526 allowing certain claims and

demands per Warrant Register dated October 17, 2012 Totaling \$485,597.83 and specifying the funds out of which the same are to be paid.

Agenda Item 9 The City Council received and filed the investment report as of September 2012.

Agenda Item 10 The City Council approved the minutes from the regular meetings of September 19, 2012 and the Special Meetings of September 11, 2012 and September 19, 2012.

Agenda Item 11 The City Council continued this item to adopt a Resolution nominating Council Member Luis Ayala from the City of Alhambra to represent Cities with Prescriptive Water Pumping Rights on the Board of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority.

Agenda Item 12 The City Council received and filed the 2012 Annual Report with the City Clerk; adopted Resolution No. 11527 declaring intent to levy and collect increased assessments within Business Improvement District No. 1 for Program Year 2013 and set a public hearing for November 21, 2012 to consider such action.

Agenda Item 13 The City Council authorized the City Manager to execute an agreement to purchase some new video equipment and from VMI for \$72,997.24 from the Cable Television Grant Fund.

Agenda Item 14 The City Council authorized the City Manager to execute a standard public works contract, in a form approved by the City Attorney for the Sidewalk Reconstruction on Collegian Avenue to the lowest bidder, E.C. Construction of South El Monte, in the amount of \$154,045.50.

Agenda Item 15 The City Council authorized the City Manager to purchase seven Ford Crown Victoria's from Wondries Fleet Group for \$184,503.41 per Monterey Park Municipal Code § 3.20.050(3).

Agenda Item 16 The City Council adopted Resolution No. 11528 amending The City's Position Classification Plan To Include One Revenue Collection Specialist Position, One Deputy Fire Marshal Position And One Recreation Supervisor/Senior Center Position, Establish Salary Ranges For The Classifications, And Make Appropriate Unit Determination; authorized the City Manager to execute an amendment, in a form approved by the City Attorney, to the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the General Employees Unit, represented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 347 to include the salary range established for Revenue Collection Specialist; and Authorize the City Manager to execute an amendment, in a form approved by the City Attorney, to the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Mid-Management Unit represented by the Mid-

Management Association to include the salary range established for Deputy Fire Marshal and Recreation Supervisor.

Agenda Item 17 The City Council authorized the City Manager to execute an amendment, in a form approved by the City Attorney, to the Professional Services Agreement with Clinical Laboratories in an amount not to exceed \$331,000 for Fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Water Utility Division.

Agenda Item 18 The City Council adopted Resolution No. 11529 pursuant to Public Contracts Code § 20168, finding that an emergency exists within the City and authorize contracting without the need for bidding pursuant to § 22050 purchase of carbon for Well 5.

Agenda Item 19 Oral and Written Communications

PUBLIC HEARING

Agenda Item 20 The City Council held a Public Hearing but continued the item to adopt a Resolution to establish Underground Utility District on Monterey Pass Road from Garvey Avenue to Floral Drive.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item 21 The City Council adopted Resolution No. 11530 approving the Memorandum of Understanding for Contract Year 2012-2015 between the City of Monterey Park and the Monterey Park Service Employees' International Union; Resolution No. 11531 approving the Memorandum of Understanding for Contract Year 2012-2015 between the City of Monterey Park and the Monterey Park Confidential Employees' Association; and Resolution No. 11532 approving the Memorandum of Understanding for Contract Year 2012-2015 between the City of Monterey Park and the Monterey Park Mid-Management Association.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR/COUNCIL AND AGENCY MATTERS

The City Council discussed the possibility of placing term limits on the March 2013 Ballot. No action was taken.

The City Council discussed and clarified the notification procedures of Council members regarding Public Safety situations. No action was taken.

Council communications and committee reports from Council Representatives of specific organizations. No action was taken.

Adjourned: The City Council adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 7 The City Council adopted Resolution No. 11533 supporting the completion of the 710 Freeway.

Oral and Written Communications

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item 8 The City Council Continued this item to authorize the City Manager to execute the Exclusive Negotiation Agreement, in a form approved by the City Attorney between the City and City Ventures, LLC.

Agenda Item 9 The City Council received and filed a report update on activities regarding the transfer of fire protection, paramedic, and incidental services to the consolidated fire protection district of Los Angeles County.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR/COUNCIL AND AGENCY MATTERS

Council communications and committee reports from Council Representatives of specific organizations. No action was taken.

Adjourned: The City Council adjourned the meeting at 10:11 p.m.

STREET BEAT

Crimes by Location

October 2012

AUTO BURGLARY

200 N ATLANTIC BLVD
900 S ATLANTIC BLVD
800 E MABEL AVE
1300 AVENIDA CESAR CHAVEZ
500 W GARVEY AVE
800 W EL REPETTO DR
600 CREST VISTA DR
300 E GLEASON ST
300 N ATLANTIC BLVD
GERHART AVE / W RIGGIN ST
600 E GRAVES AVE

AUTO THEFT

1300 AVENIDA CESAR CHAVEZ
300 S MC PHERRIN AVE
1900 WILCOX AVE
1500 KEMPTON AVE
500 W HAMMEL ST
500 E NEWMARK AVE
500 N ORANGE AVE
700 W GARVEY AVE
CREST VISTA DR / BRIGHTWOOD ST
200 N NICHOLSON AVE
300 E HELLMAN AVE
BLEAKWOOD AVE / W FLORAL DR
200 E HAMMEL ST
400 W RIGGIN ST

BURGLARY COMMERCIAL

2300 S GARFIELD AVE
1900 PORTRERO GRANDE DRIVE
400 S ATLANTIC BLVD
600 GRANDRIDGE AVE
2200 S ATLANTIC BLVD
500 N ATLANTIC BLVD
500 N ATLANTIC BLVD
100 W GARVEY AVE
400 S ATLANTIC BLVD
1100 CORPORATE CENTER DR

BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL

400 WEST NEWMARK AVENUE
2000 GRAYLOCK AVE
1500 SUNRISE DR
900 S LINCOLN AVE
100 ELIZABETH AVE
400 S ALHAMBRA AVE
400 S ATLANTIC BLVD
900 W EMERSON AVE
800 W EL REPETTO DR
1000 GRANDRIDGE AVE
600 N ORANGE AVE
1500 LUNAR DR
400 W EL REPETTO DR
300 W EL REPETTO DR
100 N RURAL DR
100 W RIGGIN ST
300 N MOORE AVE

STRONG ROBBERY

100 E GARVEY AVE

ADDRESSES ARE LISTED BY HUNDRED BLOCK NOT THE ACTUAL ADDRESS

Special Council Meeting of November 7, 2012

The City Council meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m., with all Council Members present.

The City Manager announced the appointment of City Librarian Arvizu and the resignation of Community Development Director Jim Basham.

SUCCESSOR AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Item 1 The City Council approved payment of warrants and adopted Resolution No. SA-24 of the Successor Agency to the former Monterey Park Redevelopment Agency allowing certain claims and demands per warrant register dated November 7, 2012 totaling \$20,034.59 and specifying the funds out of which the same are to be paid.

Agenda Item 2 The City Council approved the minutes from the Successor Agency to the former Monterey Park Redevelopment Agency regular meetings of October 3, 2012 and October 17, 2012.

HOUSING SUCCESSOR AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Item 3 The City Council approved payment of warrants and adopted Resolution No. HSA-12 of the Housing Successor Agency to the former Monterey Park Redevelopment Agency allowing certain claims and demands per warrant register dated November 7, 2012 totaling \$703.76 and specifying the funds out of which the same are to be paid.

Agenda Item 4 The City Council approved the minutes from the Housing Successor Agency to the former Monterey Park Redevelopment Agency regular meetings of October 3, 2012 and October 17, 2012.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Item 5 The City Council approved payment of warrants and adopted Resolution No. 11534 allowing certain claims and demands per Warrant Register dated November 7, 2012 Totaling \$1,304,271.38 and specifying the funds out of which the same are to be paid.

Agenda Item 6 The City Council approved the minutes from the regular meetings of October 3, 2012 and October 17, 2012 and the Special Meeting of October 3, 2012.

Monterey Park CASCADES is published monthly by the City of Monterey Park

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Winter Holiday Safety Tips from the Fire Department

It's a joyous annual tradition for many Monterey Park families. The Monterey Park Fire Department hopes everyone will enjoy a joyous holiday season. However, it is always of importance to stress the need to be aware of certain safety hazards that are always associated with the season. The following tips will help keep you and your family safe as we enjoy another holiday season and ring in the New Year.

Tree Fire Hazards

Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

Tree Selection, Care and Disposal

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. Heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times. Consider using a potted tree.

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.

Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory. If there is any question as to the integrity of your lights, replace them with a new set of lights. Do not leave holiday lights on while unattended.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Follow the directions on the light sets when connecting your lights. Connect lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.

Decorations

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame retardant and placed away from heat vents. Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace. Wrapping paper can produce dangerous sparks and a chemical buildup in the home that could cause an explosion.

Artificial Christmas Trees

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Candles

Keep candles away from decorations, and place them in sturdy, non-combustible holders. Never leave lit candles unattended. Don't leave children unattended in a room with lit candles.

For more information about winter holiday safety, please contact the Monterey Park Fire Dept. at 626-307-1423.

Don't Let Thieves Ruin Your Holiday

As we move into the holiday season, it's time to start shopping for gifts for family and friends. You aren't the only one who will be looking for holiday gifts though...during this time of year, thieves prey on unsuspecting shoppers to get their holiday gifts.

As you prepare for this holiday season the Monterey Park Police Department would like to remind you of the typical scams and thefts that generally increase during this time of year. Being aware of these thefts and scams can help you savor the holiday spirit and spend a delightful season with your family.

When you park your car, be sure you are not displaying items that a thief would be interested in. Don't leave items such as shopping bags, laptop computers, GPS devices, mobile phones, and backpacks/briefcases out in the open. If you have a garage door opener, do not leave the control openly displayed in your car.

When you're paying for items, don't flash large amounts of money at the register. Use the trunk of your car to keep your packages out of sight. Keep your car locked at all times. Be sure and make several trips to your car to deposit packages in the trunk. Don't allow yourself to become so burdened down with packages that you become a tempting target. When walking through parking lots, be aware of your surroundings. Walk with authority. Don't look like a victim!

Be aware that thieves and pickpockets also do some of their biggest business during the holiday season. Ladies, don't dangle your handbag from your shoulder. That creates a perfect setup for a purse-snatcher. Instead, keep your purse tucked tightly under your arm and wear the strap across your body. Better yet, don't even carry a purse. Place your checkbook, cash, or credit cards in your front pockets. Avoid carrying your checkbook, cash, and credit cards all together in one wallet, because if a thief gets the whole package together, they can cash checks with your identification and run up a large credit card bill in a short amount of time.

If you go to an automatic teller machine, try to go during the daylight hours. If you must go at night, go with another person and pick a machine that is well lit and visible to passing traffic. If anyone is lurking near the machine, pass it up and find another.

Remember, whether you are leaving the house to go shopping or out for an evening of Christmas parties, lock your doors and windows! Don't leave the drapes open with your presents in plain view. Christmas presents displayed around your tree can be a pretty sight, but can also be quite tempting to burglars.

Never give your credit card number over the telephone to anyone when you did not initiate the call. Be sure that you are dealing with a reputable company when ordering merchandise on your computer or over the telephone.

If you are leaving town for the holidays, make sure your home appears occupied. Leave inside and outside lights on timers and have your neighbors pick up newspapers, mail, and take flyers off your door. Ask neighbors to park in your driveway. Put a timer on a talk radio station for several hours a day.

Don't forget fire safety as well! If you choose to have a live Christmas tree, make sure it is always properly watered. Never leave tree lights on when no one is at home. Remember, ornaments can also burn.

After Christmas, don't put out empty boxes advertising your new purchases (VCR's, microwaves, etc.). Break the boxes down and deposit them in your trash, recycle bin or dumpster away from your home.

By using a little planning and some good common sense, most holiday crimes can be avoided. Don't forget that Holiday safety doesn't mean just looking out for yourself...If you see any suspicious behavior in your neighborhood or while you're out shopping, call the police to report it.

For further information please contact the Monterey Park Police Department Community Relations Bureau at 626-307-1215 or visit the City website at www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us.

Police Department Citizens Academy Class to Begin in January

The Monterey Park Citizens Academy is an exciting, dynamic and informative course that meets once a week for eleven weeks. The academy is designed to provide residents and non-residents an interactive, hands-on, comprehensive overview of the Monterey Park Police Department and the city. Classes include an introduction to the detective bureau, K-9 units, patrol procedures, and other various department programs. Students from the recent graduating class had this to say, "Lots of good information about home protection and emergency preparedness. The fact that we had the opportunity to learn difficulties and dangers of the police officers' job was enlightening."

For an exciting and informative experience, participate in the next Citizens Academy class. The first class is held at the Community Room # 102, City Hall, on Thursday, January 24, 2013 and ends on Thursday, April 11, 2013. The class meets every Thursday evening for eleven weeks from 6:15 to 9:00 p.m.

Upon completion of the program, participants will receive a certificate of achievement. Applications can be picked up at the city hall Community Relations Bureau at 320 West Newmark Avenue or one can be mailed to you.

Minimum age of participants is 16 years; minors under the age of 18 years must have a signed parental consent form on file. Participants cannot have any felony convictions, be on parole or probation, or have been arrested for a misdemeanor within the past year.

Due to the popularity of this class, it is recommended that interested parties send in their application as soon as possible.

For further information or to have an application mailed to you, please contact the M.P.P.D. Community Relations Bureau at 626-307-1215.



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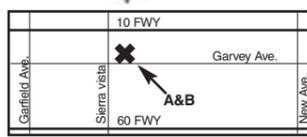
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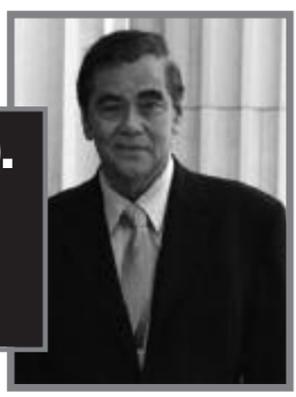


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LAMP Literacy, ESL and Citizenship Preparation Program

The Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library offers the opportunity for second language learners to learn English reading, writing and speaking skills all in one location. There are many levels of classes available to meet different needs of learners. Students will become familiar with many different American Cultures, writing techniques and styles as well as learning to speak the English Language to enter the workforce. Register in the Literacy and Citizenship Department of the library on the second floor. Winter Recess begins December 16, 2012. Registrations for the Spring Semester begin on January 7, 2013. New semester begins January 13, 2013.

ESL (English as a Second Language) Classes

The LAMP Literacy Program has every level of ESL classes available to help English Language Learners gain reading, writing and speaking skills. Students are pre-tested to determine their proficiency levels and to assist in placement of appropriate levels.

ESL classes available are; Phonics – Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m., Beginning Literacy–Mondays/ Wednesdays 12-2:00 p.m. and also on Tuesdays /Thursdays 12-2:00 p.m., Beginning Low- Mondays 7-8:30 p.m., Beginning High –Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Intermediate –Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesday evenings 7-8:30 p.m., Advanced ESL - Mondays/Tuesdays/ Wednesdays 3-5 p.m., and English Conversation on Sundays 1-3:00 p.m., 3:00-4:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All classes are open enrollment and anyone interested in joining a class can come by the LAMP Literacy office located on the second floor of the library for more information and to register. A material fee of \$20.00 is required for each semester.

Citizenship Preparation Classes

Citizenship Preparation classes are available at the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library. Persons who plan on becoming New Citizens should prepare for their Interview exam within six months prior to submitting their N-400 application. Citizenship Preparation classes will assist students with knowledge of American History, Government and Civics covered during the examination. Classes are offered on Sundays from 1:15-3:15 p.m., Mondays from 6:00-8:00 p.m., Tuesdays from 6:45-7:45 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Persons planning to become New Citizens should register early for these classes before submitting their N-400 Citizenship application. A material fee of \$20.00 is required for each semester. For more information, please contact the LAMP Literacy Office at (626) 307-1251.

One to One Tutoring for Adult Literacy

If you know an adult learner who cannot read or struggles in reading, call the LAMP Literacy Program. Adult learners are matched with trained literacy tutors who will give reading and writing instruction in English to adult learners who have little or no reading skills. All learners are pretested for accurate placement with tutors. Enrollment to the one to one literacy program is free and funded by California State Library Literacy Services. Monterey Park residents are given priority on waiting list. Please be prepared to present identification. Call the LAMP office for more information at (626) 307-1251 or visit the literacy office on the second floor of the library.

Join the LAMP Team of Volunteers!

The LAMP Literacy Office is looking for motivated people who are interested in tutoring adult learners in one-to-one English Language Instruction, or small groups of adult learners, or Citizenship Preparation coaching. Training will be provided for all volunteers. The LAMP Literacy Program will supply all needed training materials at no cost. Please contact the

LAMP Literacy Office at (626) 307-1251 for more information or stop by and fill out an application. Give the gift that will last a lifetime by helping someone learn English so they can flourish and prosper in their communities

Family for Literacy Night December 17, 2012

Jingle! Jingle! Santa is Coming!

On Monday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, The LAMP Literacy Program will present a dramatic Storytime play about the Children's Books in the library and how they celebrate Christmas Eve waiting for Santa Clause to arrive. This interactive storytime will teach parents of children ages 1 to 6 how to instill reading habits at early ages with creativity and dramatic play methods. Parents interested in attending with their children must pre-register at the LAMP Literacy Office on the second floor of the library. Free books and refreshments will be given away at the presentation. Please call the LAMP Literacy office at (626) 307-1251 for more information.

Be a Donor as You Grocery Shop!

Check off your grocery list and smile as you shop at your local Ralphs Grocery Store. It's a new convenient way to donate to your library. The Friends of the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library invite you to register at www.ralphs.com/myralphs to help raise donations for the library. It's quick, convenient and simple. Just follow directions on how to make the library your preference for your contributions. Bring out the altruistic humanitarian in you. Make the list, check it twice, and then pat yourself on the back. You just made a contribution to help support the library.



Santa Storytime

Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa Claus will arrive at the library for a special storytime on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:30 pm in the Storytime Room. Children and their parents are invited to the storytime featuring holiday songs and stories. Each child will have a chance to talk to Santa and receive a special treat from his magical bag. Parents can bring their cameras to take a photo of their children with Santa. For more information, please call Children's Desk at (626) 307-1358.

Holiday Preschool Storytime/Craft Program

To celebrate Christmas, the Children's Services Department will conduct a holiday preschool storytime on Thursday, December 13 at 10:30 am for preschoolers and their accompanying adults. After the stories, children can participate in a holiday craft "Make Your Own Pop-Up Christmas Tree" in the Arts & Crafts Room. The program materials are free. For more details, please call the Children's Desk at (626) 307-1358.

Winter-Theme Preschool Program

The Children's Services Department invites preschoolers and their accompanying caregivers to participate in a special "winter-theme" preschool storytime on Thursday, January 10 at 10:30 am in the Storytime Room. After the stories, children are invited to participate in a "Penguin" paper craft program in the Arts & Crafts Room. The program materials are free. For more details, please call the Children's Desk at (626) 307-1358.

"Giant Scrabble" Tween Program

Children ages 9-12 are invited to join the Giant Scrabble game on Thursday, January 17 at 2:00 pm in the Friends Room. Join the spelling fun as we work in teams building words using giant letters. Light refreshments will be served compliments of the Friends of the Monterey Park Library. For more information about this free pre-teen program, please call the Children's Desk at (626) 307-1358.

Storytimes

Storytime is a fun way to promote reading with activities that include stories, songs and participation. The library offers the following storytimes for infants through third grade:
Tuesdays 7:30 pm
Wednesdays 4:00 pm
Thursdays 10:00 am for infants (one parent or caregiver per child is required)
Thursdays 10:30 am for preschoolers

Each storytime lasts about 30 minutes. For safety, children need to be accompanied by an adult/guardian during all storytime programs. There will be no storytimes during the last week of December and the first week of January 2013. Storytimes will resume on Tuesday, January 8, 2013. For further information, please call the Children's Desk at (626) 307-1358.

Homework Assistance Program

The Children's Department offers a free Homework Assistance Program for elementary school children who need help with their homework while studying at the library. Local high school students participate as homework helpers by volunteering their time and expertise on school subjects such as English, mathematics and science. The program is held in the Homework Assistance Room Monday through Thursday from 3:30-5:00 pm during the school year and is conducted in English. Please call the Children's Desk at (626) 307-1358 for more information about this free service.



Home Energy Seminar

Learn energy efficiency strategies and how to reduce energy costs at the Home Energy Seminar on Sunday, December 2 in the Friends Room. Information about Southern California Edison's and the Gas Company's Energy Savings Programs will be available. Information in Mandarin will be presented from 1:30 pm -2:30 pm and in Cantonese from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. To register for the free seminar and for more information call Global Energy Services at 1-888-898-6788.

January Monday Night Computer Classes in Cantonese

Monday night computer classes in Cantonese are scheduled for January 7, 14, and 28 at 7 pm in the computer lab located on the second floor of the library. Space is limited and registration is required for the free classes. Adults wanting to learn basic computer skills that include mouse, keyboard, Microsoft Word and the Internet are encouraged to register for the free classes at the Reference Desk or by calling 626-307-1368.

January Wednesday Morning Intermediate Computer Classes

The library will offer Intermediate Computer Classes in English on Wednesdays, January 9, 16, 23, and 30 in the Computer Lab from 10:30 am – 12 noon. The classes are for adults who have basic computer skills and want to learn how to create documents, write text, edit, paste, and save using other Word features. Pre-registration is required. For more information contact the Reference Desk at 626-307-1368.

January Thursday Morning Beginning Computer Classes

The library will offer Beginning Computer Classes in English on Thursdays, January 10, 17, 24, and 31 in the Computer Lab from 10:30 am – 12 noon. The classes will focus on basic skills with keyboard, mouse, Word and Internet Searching. Pre-registration is required. For more information contact the Reference Desk at 626-307-1368.

Join the Library Team of Computer Volunteer Instructors

The library is looking for volunteers to teach computer classes, basic, intermediate, or advanced during the day or evening. Please call the Reference Desk at 626-307-1368 for additional information.

Open Computer Lab

An open computer lab Tuesday evenings January 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 7:00-8:30 pm is available for adults wanting to practice computer skills. The lab is designed to offer reinforcement and practice time for adults in the library's computer classes and is also open to those needing personalized help with computer programs such as E-mail, Microsoft Word, Excel, and the Internet. A library staff member will be present to answer questions. There is no registration required, but seating is limited to a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information contact the Reference Desk at (626) 307-1368.

Chinese and International Film Programs

The public is invited to the library's special film screenings featuring award winning films. The Chinese Monthly Film Program on Sunday, December 16 at 2 pm in the Friends Room and the International Film Programs on Wednesday, December 19 at 2 pm and Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 2 pm in the Friends Room are free programs with light refreshments compliments of the Friends of the Monterey Park Library. For additional information contact the Reference Desk at 626-307-1368.

Artist of the Month, Dan D'andrea "Images of Interest" Exhibit

Local photographer, Dan D'andrea is the January Artist of the Month at the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library. The public is invited to view Mr. D'andrea's "Images of Interest" photography exhibit inspired by music from January 1 -30 in the main lobby on the first floor of the library. Mr. D'andrea believes music is part of the recipe of making a good photograph. He often listens to music while taking photos to capture the mood and feeling of his images. Along with his images he has provided a list of songs that correspond to each image and invites the viewer to discover the music that inspires his artworks. Mr. D'andrea has worked as a photographer for the Los Angeles Sheriff Department's Air Unit, the Los Angeles Harbor Department and the Los Angeles Airport. The Artist of the Month programs are partnership programs with the Friends of the Monterey Park Library and the Monterey Park Art & Culture Commission. For more information about the exhibit contact the Reference Desk at 626-307-1368.

San Gabriel Mountains Forever Project

Learn about the San Gabriel Valley's largest recreational backyard, the San Gabriel Mountains and the need to protect this forest and wilderness area on Sunday, January 27 at 2 pm in the Friends Room. Guest speakers from the San Gabriel Mountains Forever advocacy group will talk about their goals to establish federal Wilderness designation for unprotected wilderness sections of the San Gabriel Mountains and to establish a new San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area that would include urban communities along the San Gabriel River. A month long display at the library from January 1-31 will exhibit information about the San Gabriel Mountains Forever Leadership Academy and the benefits of protecting the San Gabriel Mountains. For more information contact the Reference Desk at 626-307-1368.

Midweek Movies @ the Library

The first Wednesday of each month features an action pack adventure that rocked the box-office. On Wednesday, December 5 at 3 pm, Peter Parker discovers a clue to understanding his parents' disappearance when he was young. Peter's path leads him on a collision course with his father's former partner, Dr. Curt Connors in this superhero film rated PG-13 with a runtime of 136 minutes. The film program is free and snacks will be provided compliments of The Friends of the Monterey Park Library. For more information contact the Reference Desk at 626-307-1368.

Continued next page

LIBRARY *Continued from page 6*

JF Programs
Fun Programs By Youth For Youth

The Junior Friends, a teen volunteer organization at the library will host a holiday theme card making craft on Wednesday, December 12 at 3 pm. The Junior Friends host a program each month for youth at the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library. For more information contact the Reference Desk at 626-307-1368.

Dystopian Book Club

Hey middle schoolers! Did you enjoy reading The Hunger Games? If so, come to the library to check out a copy of Divergent by Veronica Roth. Set in a futuristic society, the book has something for everyone- plenty of action, adventure, romance and a thrill seeking heroine who likes jumping off buildings and moving trains. Read the book and join us on Tuesday, December 18 at 4 pm in Class Room #2 on the 2nd floor for book discussion and refreshments. Library copies are limited, so hurry and pick up yours today. For more information contact the Reference Desk at 626-307-1368.

Books to Movies

The Teen Book Club will meet to read, I am Number Four on Wednesday, December 26 at 3 pm. This YA sci-fi-thriller is the first book in the Lorien Legacies about a

group of nine teens gifted with special powers called "legacies." As the guardians of Earth they are forced to battle with Number 4 leading the challenge. "We each have our own story. We know the time has come to share them with you. Our legacies are your only hope." Copies of the book are limited. For more information see Darren at the Reference Desk.

Financial Aid Workshop

The Chinese American Citizens Youth Council will present a financial aid workshop on Sunday, January 6 at 2 pm in the Friends Room. Students and parents are invited to attend the free workshop to learn about government grants, loans and public/private scholarship resources. If you are a student planning on going to college or a parent concerned with financing college, then this program is for you. For more information contact the Reference Desk at 626-307-1368.

ACT Practice Test

Are you a Junior or Senior in High School? Is college part of your future? Do you need help with the ACT test? Sign-up for the free ACT practice test through Princeton Review and take the test on Sunday, January 13 at 1 pm in the Friends Room. Seating is limited and students must sign up online at www.PrincetonReview.com For more information contact the Reference Desk at 626-307-1368.

"You've Got Talent" – A Success

By Pedro Chan

Monterey Park's third annual "You've Got Talent" show, held August 25 at the Barnes Park Amphitheater was a big success. A total of 26 contestants participated in the contest before an audience of 400. Judges were Betty Chu, Former Mayor; Monica Chow, Accountant/Property Management; and Gwen Hollingsworth, Teacher at San Marino Montessori School.

The youngest contestant was 5 and the oldest 63. Each participant did their best presentation to a maximum of three minutes. Each one was judged by stage presence, audience appeal, costume and ability. After two hours of intensive competition, the winners were: First place \$500 – Fairly Tale Duet by Jackie Li and Chun-Sheng Wang Second place \$250 – 11- year-old Mea Heatley singing "Because of you". There were two winners for third place at \$100 each – Shaolin Kung Fu by 9-year-old Nathan Chao and Dance Group "Miracle –Ribbon Fantasy" by Dance Impressions Productions.

The talent contest was presented by Art and Culture Commission, the City of Monterey Park, and sponsored by Chinese American Citizens Alliance-Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge.



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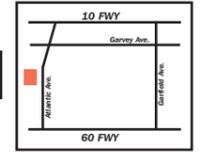
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The Azteca Dancers invited festival attendees to dance and celebrate Dia de Los Muertos at the Alhambra Latino Association's annual cultural festival.

Dia de Los Muertos Festival celebrates the dead with art and culture

The Alhambra Latino Association's annual Dia de Los Muertos cultural festival infused San Gabriel High School's campus with traditional Mexican art, dance, music, and food on Saturday, November 3. The event, from 11 am to 6 pm, offered a festive environment honoring Mexican heritage and the holiday Dia de Los Muertos, the Day of the Dead.



With their faces painted, Sisters Bianka and Sofia Audelos celebrate Dia de Los Muertos at the Alhambra Latino Association's annual cultural festival. Bianka, a 7th grader and ASB member at Emery Park, said the day helps her to remember her uncle who passed away.

Artist and educator Ofelia Esparza who was an invited guest speaker at the festival is passionate about Dia de Los Muertos and having its significance understood and not confused with Halloween. "I always say it's not Mexican Halloween; it's a very special time to remember loved ones. We celebrate the life of our loved ones, not their death, how they are loved, still loved and remembered," she said.



The Chuchin Dance Company, directed by Jesus Mejia, performed several traditional dance numbers in the auditorium at San Gabriel High School.

Ofrendas (offerings) and altares (altars) with candles, incense, food, drink, photographs, and mementos are prepared for the dead. Ms. Esparza explained: "We remember our loved ones in a way that's visible. It's a visual way not just for ourselves, but for them. We feel that they're going to visit us, and that's why the flowers are pungent, there is incense, and all the colors are just signals, that 'Yes, we have an ofrenda prepared for you, come and visit us.'"



Granada Elementary DDH K-4 students perform Los Equeletos in the auditorium at San Gabriel High School.

SGHS's Multipurpose room played traditional music as attendees viewed the colorful altars and a student art competition. Several school classes participated and made altars for their loved ones. One student honored his grandfather with a memory box including his grandfather's favorite things: wrench, calaveras, flowers, and a miniature tequila bottle. In an essay accompanying the altar, he wrote, "My grandpa loved to work very, very much. No matter what the cause, if he was sick, he would still go...Everyday he would read a book. He had enjoyed reading so much."

Other altars were constructed for relatives, parents, and prominent figures, such as Caesar Chavez, Steve Jobs, and Whitney Houston. An altar made by San Gabriel High School staff and students featured pictures and clippings of Martha Wu, a former office manager at SGHS who passed away in September.

Outside the Multipurpose room, there was a courtyard of craft and artist booths and face painters. Food vendors were plentiful offering Mexican food, drinks, and treats.

Outdoor performers included the Azteca Dancers, dressed in full traditional costume, painted faces, and headdresses, who danced to drums for close to an hour, ending with an invitation to the audience to participate and dance around the campus.

Inside the school's auditorium, a full slate of student and local performers entertained a large and appreciative crowd. The Chuchin Dance Company performed several colorful and vibrant numbers (Colas, Sones Antiguos) and musicians from San Gabriel and Mark Keppel High Schools, and the AUSD Middle School Honor Band played. A first-time performance of Los Esqueletos by Granada Elementary DHH K-4 students acting with paper skeletons ended with the audience waving their hands to show applause.

Master of Ceremonies Joe Rodriguez praised, "It's phenomenal to see arts and culture so alive in the Alhambra Unified School District."



Celebration of Life Art Contest Winners

The Alhambra Latino Association unveiled the winners of its Dia de Los Muertos Celebration of Life Art Contest and Exhibit on November 3 during its cultural festival. 132 art pieces were submitted for judging. Congratulations to the winners!

High School Winners:

- 1st place: Helimar Hernandez, 12th grade, SGHS (artwork pictured above)
- 2nd place: Mariela Sanchez, 12th grade, Century HS
- 3rd place: Sharleen Mock, 9th grade, Alhambra HS

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Local Elementary Schools Receive Free Vision Screenings from the Lions Club

The Monterey Park Lions Club completed their 31st year of their annual "Free Eye Screening Tour" for Monterey Park elementary school children. This year's event, which began in September and finished in mid October, screened a total of 2,258 elementary school kids in kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades. Victor Chan of the Lions Club said "Through the 31 years we've screened over 60,000 children. In addition, the Lions receive help from the schools' nurses, staff, and P.T.A.s that make every screening a successful one".



Dr. Dennis Lin, a Lions member and Monterey Park optometrist, also stated: "Finding undetected vision problems is a key factor in ensuring that young students at elementary schools will be able to maximize their learning experience and not fall behind in school. If they cannot clearly see what the teachers are presenting in class, the students are most likely to be unable to perform as well as their peers with good vision, and therefore be in a disadvantaged position."

This year through the Lions' free eye screening, 18% of the students that were screened were identified with vision issues. The parents of those students will be notified and will be advised to go to an eye care professional. If they cannot afford glasses, the Lions Club along with Dr. Lin can provide some support.

The Lions have proudly served the community for more than 70 years and are passionate about helping Monterey Park's children. If you would like to find out more or join the Monterey Park Lion's great community service club, please stop by any 1st or 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Lions Manor, 215 N Chandler Avenue, Monterey Park, 6th Floor, at noon for the Lion's Luncheon.

1,000 New Books Donated to the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library

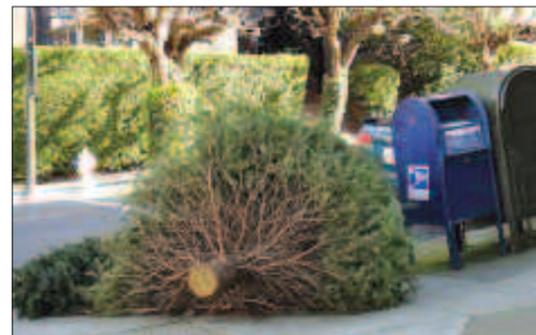
Given this is the season for giving thanks and thinking of others in our family and community, Navarro's Towing has made a commitment to donate 1,000 brand new books to the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library. The books will be delivered to the library on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 by Navarro's Towing. The books are very diversified and include self-help books, children's books, historical books, novels and a wide assortment which can appeal to all ages and interests. Navarro's Towing has always made it a prior-

ity to be involved in the community and what better way to give to the entire community than by donating books for the entire community to enjoy. Navarro's Towing has been the Official Police Garage for the City of Monterey Park Police Department for the past nine years and feels a special responsibility in the City of Monterey Park. Eddie and Norma the owners of Navarro's Towing have always been involved with literacy programs as they view literacy as one of the keys to success.

Source: Navarro's Towing press release

Christmas Tree Curbside Pickup and Recycling

Beginning December 26 through January 8 you may place your Christmas tree on your curb on your regular trash day for pickup.



Preparing your tree for pickup will help to insure that it gets recycled and turned into compost instead of going to a landfill. Please remember to:

- Remove all lights, decorations, nails, tree stands and water buckets
- Cut the tree in half if it is over six feet tall
- Place the tree on the curb next to your automated containers on your normal trash collection day.

If you live in a multi-family unit with bin service collection, place your tree at the curb (or alley, if applicable) on the same trash day as the single-family homes in your immediate neighborhood. If you are unsure of the day or whether your street has alley collection, please call Athens Services at 626-336-3636.

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Open to all Los Angeles County residents

Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste the right way on Saturday: DECEMBER 15, 2012

BUSINESS WASTE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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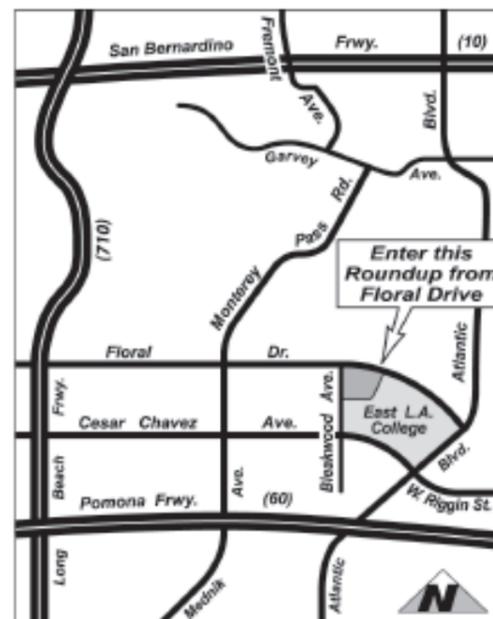
- Brake fluid, paint, paint thinner, cleaners with acid or lye, pesticides or herbicides, household batteries and car batteries, pool chemicals, motor oil, oil filters, expired pharmaceuticals, anti-freeze, and fluorescent light bulbs.
- Household electronic waste which includes: Computer monitors, televisions, computer CPUs, keyboards, printers, cellular phones, etc.

What you CAN'T bring to an event:

- Hazardous waste and electronic waste from businesses.
- Explosives, ammunition and radioactive materials.
- Trash and tires.
- White goods such as refrigerators, stoves and washing machines, etc.
- Controlled substances.

How to prepare items for transportation:

- Bring the items in a sturdy box, preferably in their original labeled containers.
- Do not mix the items together.
- There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste per trip.
- Be prepared to leave your containers and boxes. Remove all other items from your trunk.



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Home-generated sharps waste such as hypodermic needles, pen needles, syringes, lancets, and intravenous needles SHOULD NOT be placed in your trash. Bring them to the Roundups or visit www.CLEANLA.com for alternate disposal options.

For a complete listing of what you can and cannot bring or information on events, contact: 1(888) CLEAN-LA • www.CleanLA.com, or 1(800) 238-0172 • www.lacsd.org.

You can also take your used motor oil to more than 600 oil recycling centers in Los Angeles County. Call 1(888) CLEAN-LA for a complete listing.

Printed on recycled paper.

American Legion Post 397 December and January News

On December 22, 2012, the American Legion will be hosting a Christmas Party for Veterans and their families. Unfortunately, the Legion did not have toys donated for this event so we are in need of toys, of at least \$10, for children ages 7 to 16 years. Please drop by with your donations.

On New Years Day, 2013, the Legion will be open, selling pozole and tamales, for \$7. Please join us.

Friday dinners for December will be December 7, 2012, offering lasagna and salad and December 21st, serving carne asada. Friday Dinners are from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Come by after work and enjoy a home cooked meal.

Friday dinners in January will be held January 4th, serving Chile beans, salad, and corn bread, January 18th chicken pot pie casserole, and on January 27th, Sunday, serving breakfast brunch of eggs and sausage.

Contact Commander Gabriel Suarez (626) 232-4850. "Like" us on Facebook. Email: post397@gmail.com. Call the Post at (626) 571-9211.



Monterey Park Water Division Display

Have you ever wondered how the City's water system delivers water to your home? How about what a water main break and repair look like? Been curious to see a new, automated water meter or how water is treated to remove contaminants? If you answered, "Yes!" to any of these questions, please stop by City Hall to see the display case that the Monterey Park Water Division has set up for the public. There you will find examples of the equipment and pictures that illustrate the challenges and hard work that are required to deliver safe, clean water to Monterey Park residents and businesses. Please also feel free to call the Water Division at (626) 307-1296 with any questions you may have regarding the water system or the high-quality water that we provide.

Holiday Festival of Lights Contest

Judging to take place from
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 12

Recreation and Community Services is now taking entries for the "Annual Holiday Festival of Lights." Residents are encouraged to nominate their own home or any other well decorated home or business in Monterey Park.

Categories:
 Best Yard Display
 Overall Lighting Display
 Spirit Award (best holiday spirit)
 Group Award (two or more homes or businesses)

Submit addresses in-person to the city hall recreation department or by calling 626-307-1388.

Winners to be notified.

Mark Keppel High School's
Winter Concert

Friday, December 7, 2012
at 7 p.m.

Featuring,
Band, Orchestra, Guitar,
& World Drumming

Tickets,
\$5 pre-sale; \$7 at the door

Refreshments for sale
MKHS Auditorium - 501 E. Hellman Ave - Alhambra, CA

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Feb. 2nd (SAT) from 10am~9pm
Feb. 3rd (SUN) from 10am~7pm

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World Journal (Event Producer)

MPK-TV Upgrading Council Chamber Television Equipment

New equipment to provide higher quality images and improve coverage of public meetings

Monterey Park's cable TV station is planning a renovation project that will update council chamber equipment and improve coverage of meetings.

"The new equipment should improve our broadcast quality and allow us to cover the meetings more efficiently," said the city's T.V. producer Randy Ishino. He adds, "Our staff and volunteers are really looking forward to using the new technology and exploring the new options we can utilize."

The project includes the installation of four robotic video cameras as well as control room equipment to produce live and recorded meetings for broadcast. The new cameras will be permanently installed on the walls of the council chamber and operated by remote control. In the control room, there will be new video switchers, television monitors and electronic graphics equipment.

Financing of the project will come from a special account funded by the cable T.V. companies for the express purpose of supporting such projects.

MPK-TV is the city's government access station and programming such as council meetings and special events are available on Charter cable channel 3, AT&T U-verse channel 99 as well as via streaming over the Internet.

Even if you're not a cable TV subscriber or an Internet viewer, the new equipment will provide the benefit of a higher quality recording for historical purposes. DVDs of council meetings are available from the city clerk's office should residents need them.

MPK-TV has been producing city meetings and other programming since the 1980s when Falcon Cable TV began offering services. In earlier days, the city negotiated with cable TV providers for the funds to gradually repair or replace the equipment as it wore out. However, several years ago, the State of California changed the franchise laws regarding cable TV services. Now, cities receive funds directly from cable TV providers for the specific purpose of maintaining television equipment. Because of these funding sources, Monterey Park does not use general funds for MPK-TV equipment purchases.

The project is scheduled to be completed in late November/early December. Tune in to MPK-TV on Charter channel 3, AT&T U-verse channel 99, or our web streaming feeds and see what's happening.

For more MPK-TV information, such as program schedules and web streaming info., please visit the city website at www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us and navigate to City Government>Recreation and Community Services>MPK-TV, or search for the term "MPK-TV."

A Guide to the Night Sky for December

The "King of the Gods" reigns supreme

By Tre Gibbs, L.A.A.S.

Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, rises in the east around 5:30 pm early in the month of December. It will be the brightest object in the night sky, aside from the moon, and shares the sky with Aldebaran, the 'eye' of Taurus the Bull. Jupiter has been called "Earth's bodyguard" in that it is so massive and its gravitational pull is so strong, that objects speeding towards our planet, that could possibly hit us, get caught in Jupiter's gravity and are literally deflected away from our beautiful, blue planet.

Jupiter is currently in retrograde, meaning instead of appearing to move eastward through Taurus, it actually appears to be moving in the opposite direction, or westward through the Bull. There's a fascinating reason for this retrograde motion and if you don't know already, here it is: Jupiter will be at what's called "opposition" on the 3rd of this month, which means at midnight, Jupiter will be directly overhead - which also means that it comes into perfect alignment with the Sun and Earth (this is what happens once a month with the moon which is why it appears to be "full" - it's at opposition). As Earth, which orbits the sun faster than Jupiter, catches up and passes Jupiter, from Earth, Jupiter appears to move in the reverse direction, or westward against the background stars.



Later in the month, we have the Winter Solstice happening on December 21st. This solar event signals the end of Autumn and the beginning of Winter in the Northern Hemisphere. Solstice is derived from Latin - 'sol' is sun and 'sistere' is 'to stand still'. In effect, due to Earth's axial tilt, the sun appears to slowly get lower and lower in the sky as winter approaches until it appears to actually 'stand still' before it begins to head back north and get higher in the sky, as we make our way through winter & towards spring. On the night of the solstice, The asterism known as The Winter Triangle will be directly overhead, also signaling winter's arrival (see figure).

Late in the month of December, on Christmas night, a spectacular conjunction awaits as a waxing gibbous moon rises just below Jupiter in the east a little before sunset. Be sure to follow both as they cross the evening sky together - although you will have to wait to see Jupiter - they rise just before 4:00 pm and though you'll be able to see the moon, it will have to get darker before the sun's glare allows Jupiter to shine through. Then, over the next few nights, watch the moon as it slowly moves east, away from Jupiter, and into opposition and becomes full on the evening of, or technically the morning of, the 28th at 2:22 AM

Enjoy the celestial wonders this December, celebrate Jupiter's magnificent domination of the night sky and how it helps to keep us safe and... keep looking up!

The L.A.A.S. meets at Monterey Park's Garvey Ranch Observatory every Wednesday night, rain or shine, from 7 to 10 p.m. All members are eager to answer your questions, and let you have a peek through our 8" telescope, weather permitting.

Feel free to contact us via any of the methods below. We would love to see you there!

Address: Garvey Ranch Park, 781 S Orange Ave, Monterey Park, CA 91755
 Web: <http://www.laas.org/>
 Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/losangelesastronomicalsociety>
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Almond Alert!

Almond Nuts Causing Epidemic of Broken Teeth



In the last few months virtually every day one or more patients have come in with cracked, broken or sensitive teeth. It's an epidemic. The culprit is most often...ALMONDS. Recent publicity regarding the nutritional value of almonds has been abundant. These claims have basis in the numerous scientific studies dating as far back as the 1990's. Most recently the International Society for Horticultural Science published the following statement: "Nuts have been shown to possess substances which significantly reduce risk of coronary heart disease, some types of cancer and several other diseases..." Hazelnuts, almonds as well as other nuts have been the subject of studies cited.

The nutritional value of almonds need not come at the expense of broken or cracked teeth. Almonds can be purchased in slivered form, albeit slightly more costly. Considering the cost of fillings and crowns, the cost of buying almonds in a "kinder" form is minimal. Another suggestion is to put almonds into a blender with milk or juices. Nutritional value is thus preserved without the risk of damaging teeth.

While we are on the subject of foods damaging to teeth, be careful of the following:

1. Popcorn. Popcorn is a favorite vehicle for losing weight, if no butter is used. Popcorn is easily substituted for more caloric snacks. However, there is always a chance of a stray kernel that can crack or damage teeth. These little kernels are as hard as rocks.

2. Ice. Ice has more nutritional value than plain water. The pleasure of chewing on ice is again cracked teeth that may require costly dental restorations.

3. Hard candy. Hard candy may be delightful treats, but may expose teeth to higher risk of decay and breakage. Certain kinds of cough drops are also hard. Do not chew them. Let them melt in your mouth.

4. Foreign objects in food. Every now and then a patient reports having broken a tooth by biting on a tiny rock, sliver of metal or other kinds of foreign objects in his/her food. This could be food served at a restaurant or purchased from a supermarket. If this happens, you should notify the manager of the restaurant or market immediately. Preserve the foreign object and keep it in your possession. You may request reimbursement from the establishment for the expense of restoring the broken tooth.

Another important way you can reduce risk of heart disease and cancer is to remove all sources of infection in your mouth. Numerous studies have been cited in our previous columns about the association of systemic diseases to untreated oral infections, the most significant being pyorrhea or periodontal disease. If you have mouth odors, bad taste, bleeding or swollen gums, or broken down teeth be sure to see your dentist for diagnosis and treatment.

You should also contact your physician regarding the advisability of using nuts or any food supplement as a means of improving your health and lowering the risk of disease.

But if you do experience a sharp pain in the tooth or jaw when you bite on something hard, go to your dentist right away before the nerve in the tooth gets damaged and needs root canal treatment.

The first thing that I do when I'm trying to lose weight is substitute something with low calories for my usual snacks. Popcorn is a great substitute for chips and other salty snacks, but a stray kernel (and there is always a stray kernel, isn't there?) that hits your teeth right can fracture or break your teeth. Another thing to be on the lookout for with popcorn is the stray kernel shard. Sometimes those little pieces can get right under your gums against your tooth and be nearly impossible to get out since it is suctioned to the tooth.

Dr. John Chao is well known as an authority on dentistry throughout Southern California. He is the host of Smile Talk, a popular radio talk show on KFWB 980 AM, airing 7-8 p.m. on Sundays. He is a lecturer and clinical instructor at the Ostrow of Dentistry of USC in the Dental Public Health Division, teaching on the subjects of pain and anxiety management, ethics and professionalism. For his work at USC, he has been named "Outstanding Part-time Faculty for 2012." As the inventor of the "Pinhole Surgical Technique®, he uses his office in Alhambra as an educational center for interested dentists from the US and other countries. For questions, comments or information, contact Dr. Chao at ChickensWelcome.com, or 626-308-9104.

Northrup Elementary holds a mock Presidential Election

Northrup Elementary held a Mock Student Election in conjunction with the 2012 My Vote California State Student Mock Election sponsored by the Secretary of State Debra Bowen and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

On Friday, October 26, voting took place in the school auditorium, which was converted into a polling place.

Each student Northrup ASB representative Asca Rosales places an "I Voted" sticker on Keilani LaGuard Brown after she placed her ballot in the voting box.



All 743 students kindergarten through eighth grade participated and had the chance to discover the importance of democracy. "It gave the students a firsthand experience with the electoral process by giving them a chance to make their voices heard on the candidates and issues important to them and their families," Principal Stacie Colman-Hsu said.

Northrup teachers engaged students in the week prior to the mock election through standards-based lessons and activities in order to prepare their students to become informed and involved voters.

Eighth grade student and ASB Representative, Asca Rosales, summarized her experience, "I gained knowledge of the political parties and how important it is to vote as an American."

The results indicated that students voted 58% Barack Obama for President and 52% Dianne Feinstein for U.S. Senator. Northrup student election results will be compared with the 2012 election national outcome.

"This process was valuable in teaching our students the power and impact of our country's democracy!" Colman-Hsu said.

5th Annual District College Fair Attracts Record Attendance, Educates Thousands

Alhambra High School sophomore Brenda Perez and fellow students from the Horizons class, a college research class, attended their first Annual District College Fair on October 18.

"I came tonight because I don't want to prepare last minute for colleges and I don't want to rush into things," Brenda said. The fair provided ample opportunities for the future psychology major to speak with college recruiters.

Close to 3,000 students and their parents attended the Alhambra Unified School District's 5th Annual District College Fair on October 18 at San Gabriel High School to learn about two and four year colleges, trade schools, military, and other post-high school options. The event was the largest college fair yet for the District with 64 colleges and universities represented.

Career Education Technician Monica Marquez with the assistance of ROP/CTE Counselor Virginia Valdez and ROP/CTE Technician Liza Hernandez started planning the event 10 months ago.

"I was excited to see so many reps coming out this year despite all the budget cuts colleges are facing," Marquez said. "Students were able to pick everybody's brains and get the information they needed. It was like one-stop shopping for colleges."

Alhambra sophomore Danielle Medina learned about schools that provided scholarships. "Honestly, if I never came to college fair then I would've never known about [St. John's University's scholarships]. I'm glad I came to get a new perspective on colleges and different ideas of the same basic ones," she said.

San Gabriel senior Ana Michelle zeroed in on the Mills College table because she had received an email from the women's college and wanted to learn more about them. "I learned that they are a very small school, and they have great internship opportunities, and they have small classes so they can focus more attention on their students," she said.

Mills Admission Counselor Casey Mills spoke of the benefits of going to an all female college. "Women's college graduates have been shown to graduate more confident, more often times successful in fields that are male dominated. You are two times more likely to go into math or science if you went to a women's college... When you graduate, you'll be able to assert yourself and really know who you are and what your passions are," she said.

Ana learned that her future major Sports Science is not one of Mill's offerings, which will help make her decision on whether or not to apply to the school.

Alhambra senior Adrian Uribe plans to major in architectural designing and drawing or accounting and found the programs at Rio Hondo and East Los Angeles Community College. He is thinking about attending Rio Hondo and then transferring to Arizona State University. "Tonight was very helpful," he said. "I found out about great colleges and majors." Many students visited the community college tables to learn what is needed to successfully transfer to a four-year university.

One of the busiest tables of the night was UC Berkeley. San Gabriel senior Karen Lam said, "The rep advised me to make sure that I take the personal statement very, very seriously. The admissions officers really pay attention to character for those essays."

The College Fair was made successful with water bottle donations by the Alhambra and San Gabriel PTSA's, a light dinner by Mark Keppel PTSA, a coffee donation by Starbucks, and volunteer support by San Gabriel FBLA, Courtesy Club, and Key Club members. Bilingual staff members were available to translate for parents.



San Gabriel senior Ana Michelle receives information about Mills College at the 5th Annual District College Fair on October 18 at San Gabriel High School.

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Special Dates To Remember . . .

Dec 13 – Langley Holiday Luncheon
Dec 17 – Commission On Aging, 11:00 A.M.
Dec 24, December 25 – Center Closed
Dec 31, January 1 – Center Closed
Jan 14 – Commission On Aging, 11:00 A.M.
Jan 21 – Center Closed
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Monterey Park's five senior citizen clubs meet at Langley Center on the following schedule:

M.P. Senior Citizens Club, Friday, 10 a.m.
Japanese/American Club, 3rd Saturday, 1 p.m.
Club Amistad, Wednesday, 12:30 p.m.
Club Bella Vista, Thursday, 12:30 p.m.
Chinese/American Sr. Citizens Club,



1st Saturday, 1 p.m.
BINGO - EVERY FRIDAY AT 1 P.M.
COME JOIN THE FUN!
Everyone over 18 years of age is invited to play. No children are allowed.

BINGO – On the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th SUNDAYS. Door open at 10 a.m. Early Bird, 12 Noon Everyone over 18 years of age invited. No children are allowed.

BRIDGE - Contract or Duplicate – Mondays and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. If you play contract Bridge and are looking for a good group to share an afternoon of bridge with, come join us. Those who play 500 also welcome new players. All seniors are invited.

Classes Offered by Langley Center

AMERICAN CULTURE Thur., Beginner 1- 3 p.m.; Intermediate, 3-4 p.m., Free.

BEADING CLASS, Mon., 9-11 a.m. Free –Pay for materials used.

CHINESE HEALTH EXERCISE – Class every morning, 7 a.m. – 8 a.m. Free.

CHINESE KUNG FU FAN DANCE CLASS, Saturdays, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING – Mon. or Thur, 9 -11:30 a.m. \$4 per class plus cost of materials.

CHINESE PAINTING II and CALLIGRAPHY – Thurs., 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., (donation)

CHINESE PAINTING FRIDAY AFTERNOON – 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.,

CHINESE YUAN CHI DANCE/EXERCISE CLASSES, Mon. - Thurs., 8 a.m. -10 a.m. Free.

COMPUTER – NEXT SESSION WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY

DANCE CLASSES – Tues. and Thurs., 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., \$5.

DANCE CLASSES - Wed. and Fri., 7 p.m.-10 p.m. \$5

ENGLISH CONVERSATION – Thur., 9:15-11:30 a.m.

KARAOKE – Tuesday, 9 a.m. -12 noon

LINE DANCING Fri., 9 – 11 a.m. (donation)

NEEDLECRAFT WORK SHOP, Tue., 9-11 a.m.

Music Groups

FRIENDSHIP CHORUS Wed., 9:30 a.m.-12 noon

CHINESE EVERGREEN CHORUS Wed., 1 – 3 p.m.

CHINESE OPERA Mon., 9 a.m. – 12 noon.

CHINESE OPERA Fri., 9 a.m. – 12 noon.

City Exercise Classes

WINTER CLASSES
REGISTER AT CITY HALL

Chair Fitness for Seniors – 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Tues /Thurs, \$55 Thurs only \$28

Total Fitness for Active Seniors - Fees \$66 2 day class, \$33 one day class

Beginning: 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Mon/Wed

Intermediate/Adv: 3:00 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. Mon/Thurs

Intermediate/Adv: 3 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. Tues

Zumba Gold for Seniors- Tuesday, 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m, \$33

COMMISSION ON AGING – The Commission will meet DECEMBER 17, JANUARY 14, 11:00 a.m., at Langley Center. The public is invited.

CONCERT BAND of Monterey Park – Meets Mondays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Musicians wanted, all instruments, brass, woodwinds and drums. Must be able to read music and have own instrument and music stand.

DANCE EVERY TUESDAY, 1-3:30 p.m. Dance to the music of the Incredible Time Machine, plus refreshments and door prizes, \$2.00.

DIAL-A-RIDE For service Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.– 4 p.m., dial (626) 307-1396. This is a free service for seniors 55 years of age and over, providing transportation within Monterey Park City limits, except for medical needs, and then into adjacent communities only. Dial-A-Ride provides two shopping tours a month to Town Center, Montebello or Wall-Mart, Rosemead, 12 – 2:30 p.m.

FOOD BANK FOR QUALIFIED SENIORS 60 PLUS DEC 11, JAN 8 (2nd Tuesday of month), Barnes Park, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

HAIRCUTS First come, first served. Wednesdays and Fridays, 8-11 a.m. Suggested donation, \$5. Beautician – Suggested donation, \$6 (The donation maintains equipment and purchases barber supplies.)

Health Screening & Related Services

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC – Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m., Volunteer Nurse Ann Martinelle

BLOOD SUGAR SCREENING – DEC 4, JAN 8 – 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., Nurse Claudia Ang, from Garfield Medical Center

FOR LOAN: Senior residents may check out a wheel chair, walker or crutches for a limited time.

HOUSING RIGHTS CENTER A Walk-In-Fair Housing Clinic (1st Tuesday of month) DEC 4, JAN 8, 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m., for persons needing assistance related to landlord/tenant laws (no appointment needed) for a free consultation with a housing counselor. For information, call 1-800-477-5977

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL Call 211 for services available throughout L.A. County.

IN-HOME REGISTRY SERVICE Provides you with names of individuals who can work in your home offering a variety of skills. Our registry includes: LVNS for skilled nursing care,

injections, etc. Certified Nurse Assistants for personal care needs such as feeding, bedside care, bathing, etc.; homemakers/companions – for housework, meals, laundry, errands, etc; plumbers, electricians, handymen, gardeners, etc. who will come to your home. Payment for the work performed is determined between the worker and you. If you reside in Monterey Park and are 60 or over and need this type of in-home care, call Langley, (626) 307-1373. Applications for work are available

JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR at discounted prices. Bring your jewelry or watches to Langley Center on a Wednesday, 8 a.m. -11 a.m. for repair or estimate. Service provided by Mr. Kit Moc. Langley Center does not warrant or guarantee any aspect of any repair.

LUNCH PROGRAM – American or Chinese Hot Lunch served Mon. thru Fri. to those 60 years & over.. Reservations must be made at least 2 days in advance. Suggested donation, \$2.

MAH JONG The Bamboo Club meets from 1-4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

MATURE DRIVER'S IMPROVEMENT COURSE 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Seniors completing the 8-hour course will be certified and eligible to get a 5% to 10% reduction on their premiums for bodily injury & property damage liability for up to three years with participating insurance companies. State Certificate of Completion, \$1.00. Information call (626) 307-1395. CALL FOR THE CENTER FOR SCHEDULE

METRO "TAP CARD" The CARDS will be processed from the 25th of the month through the 10th of next month, Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. To receive the City's discount, you must be 62 or older and have proof of residency which must include identification with name and address imprinted, such as a Driver's License, DMV ID Card or Utility Bill, and a valid "TAP CARD".

NOTARY PUBLIC Virginia Greene, a Notary Public, Wednesday, 12 noon – 2 p.m. Notarizations \$8 per signature for Langley Center Seniors; Refinance Loan Documents, \$45 per set, Sale Loan docs - \$50 per set, 2 sets refinances docs – 1st set \$45, \$30 second set, (must be 2 loans for same property), 2 sets of sale loan docs - \$50 1st set, \$45 second set (must be 2 loans for same property); Subscribing witness forms - \$10; Custodial documents forms \$10.

SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICE The Montebello Social Security Office will no longer be offering this service at Langley Senior Center, due to Social Security Service staffing and budget constraints.

TAXI COUPONS will be issued each month, on the 1st Monday of the month - to qualified senior residents, 65 years and older; whose household income meets the Los Angeles County poverty guidelines (\$11,170 per year for one member, \$15,130 for two, \$19,090 for three or \$23,050 for four). Those meeting the guidelines are allowed 2 coupons a month, and the value of each coupon has changed from \$7 to \$11. You may use only 1 taxi coupon per trip. The coupon expiration date is 30 days and is only valid for the month it is issued. Sign up at the office.

EARLY MORNING TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS, AND EXERCISE

MON - FRI, 6:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.
DECEMBER 10 – MARCH 15, 2013 - Fees are \$39.00

SAT PLAY 8:00 A.M.- 12:00 NOON
DECEMBER 15 - MARCH 9 - Fees are \$26.00



Trips and Tours

TRIPS DESK IS OPEN FROM 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. MONDAY - FRIDAY

Trips are for senior citizens 50 years and older only, no exceptions. Sign up with Tour Director for all excursions as early as possible trips are limited and are on a first pay basis. All casino dividends are subject to change. Monterey Park's Recreation/Community Services Department acts only as an agent in putting together day and extended trip packages and does not assume any liability for illness, injury, damages, loss, accident, or delay due to any act or default of any company or person involved in the trip, nor can we be held responsible for changes made by the tour operator or hotels. CANCELLATIONS: To receive a refund, if you must cancel a trip, mail or bring your ticket to the office. A telephone call is not sufficient. (Day Trips: at least five working days prior to date of trip; Overnight Trips: at least 14 working days prior to departure date; Extended Excursions: as stipulated for specific tour). We make no refunds after the designated time. If you wish to cancel after the specified time limit, we will try to resell your ticket if a waiting list exists for the trip. A cancellation fee of \$2 per person on day trip ticket and \$5 per person on overnight trip ticket will be withheld from the refund. You may not transfer from one trip to another, sell, or give away your ticket without a cancellation fee. After paying the cancellation fee, (with the approval of the Tour Director) you can sell or give away your ticket to a qualifying senior prior to trip departure. On any trip there is the possibility of a fuel surcharge. If this occurs, you will be notified prior to the trip.

FARMERS MARKET & GROVE – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Depart at 9:00 a.m. – return at 3:00 p.m. See the Grove and Farmers Market decorated for the Holiday season at 3rd and Fairfax in Los Angeles. Plenty of shops full of festive cheer – (Nordstrom's, Banana Republic, Nike, the Gap, Swarovski, Crate & Barrel, Multi-cultural food choices, bakery, ice cream and candy shops.) Ride on the electric Trolley between the Grove and Farmers Market, where you're just steps away from its wide range of delights. \$8.00 (Monterey Park residents only. This is a Prop A trip.)

PALA CASINO – DECEMBER 17

Another Gamblers special get-away-day. Depart at 8:30 a.m. and return at approximately 5:30 p.m., check in time 7:45 a.m., \$8.00 per person; receive \$5.00 for added play at casino. MUST HAVE PLAYERS CARD # AND VALID PHOTO ID AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.

CABAZON OUTLET STORES – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013

Find impressive savings at premium stores. Clothing, shoes, home furnishings, housewares, gift and specialty items, and a variety of food choices. \$8.00 per person. Trip includes driver's tip. Depart promptly at 8:30 a.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m. (Monterey Park residents only. This is a Prop A trip.)

Monterey Park Cascades

Mail to Monterey Park Homes & Businesses

For Advertising Information

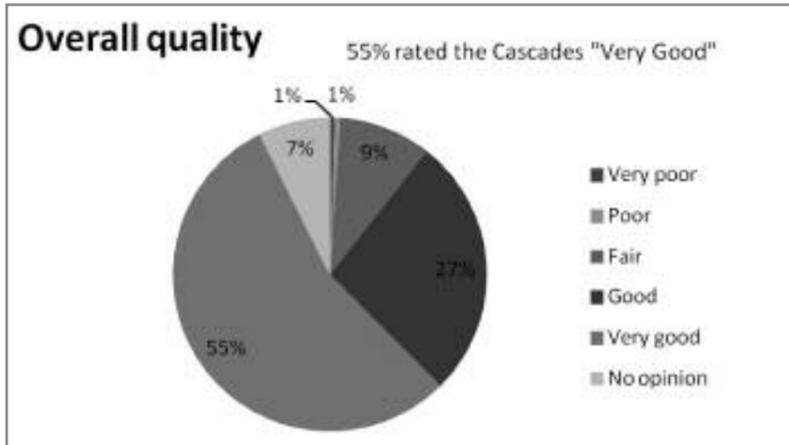
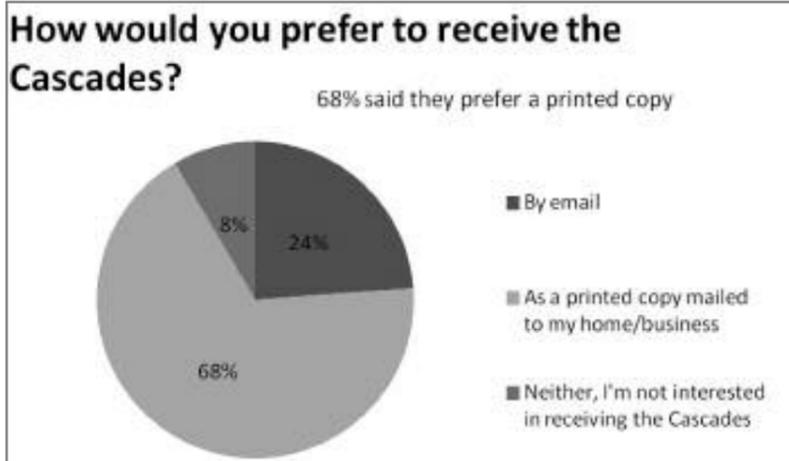
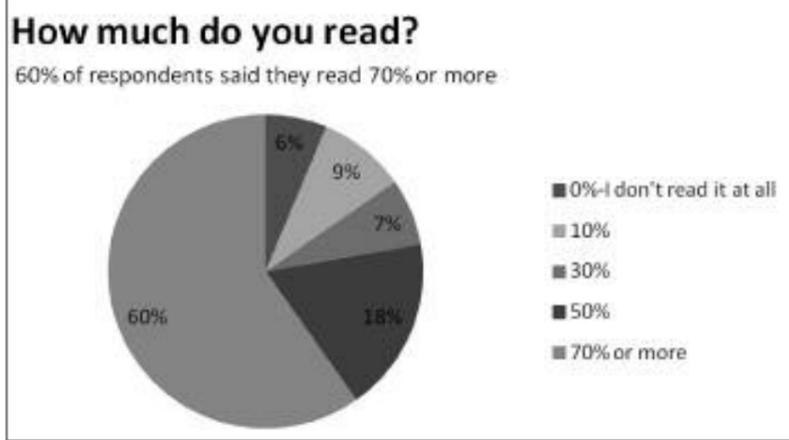
(626) 622-8157

email: terrillpub@verizon.net

Readership Survey Results

Last month we invited readers to fill out a survey about the Cascades newspaper. As of the print deadline for this edition, we received approximately 189 responses via U.S. mail, the city website and handouts at the Harmony Festival Car Show/Artisans' Faire. We'd like to thank all the people who took the time to return the survey whether they completed it by hand or online.

Selected results from the Cascades readership survey



A few people also included handwritten comments on the form before they mailed it in. Generally these comments indicated that they preferred to receive a printed copy because they "don't use email or a computer" and their position that "seniors rely on the Cascades as a source of city information."

For those who submitted their email addresses via the online survey, the MPK e-newsletter is now active on a twice a month basis, please check your inbox for future editions. If you would like to sign up for the e-newsletter, or you signed up and didn't get the email, please visit the city website and navigate to "Quick Links>Email Subscriptions and Social Media Links" to update your preferences.

U.S. Passport Services

Available at the

Monterey Park City Clerk's Office
320 West Newmark Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754
(626) 307-1361

Hours of Operation
Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Appointments preferred

On-site Photo Services Available
No appointment required \$10 for a set of 2 photos

For emergency passport service contact:
National Passport Information Center Customer Service Office
11000 Wilshire Blvd. 1st floor, West Los Angeles, CA 90024 1 (877) 487-2778

To download passport forms or for additional information
Visit the Passport Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State at www.travel.state.gov or call toll-free 1-877-487-2778.

Scam and Theft Prevention Tips from the M.P.P.D.

You've survived Thanksgiving and now the season is in full swing. Shoppers will be spending their hard earned money on those special gifts that loved ones have been asking for all year. The stores will be crowded and deals may be too hard to pass up after Thanksgiving.

As you prepare for this holiday season the Monterey Park Police Department would like to remind you of the typical scams and thefts that increase during this time of year. Being aware of these thefts and scams can help you savor the holiday spirit and spend a delightful season with your family.

If It's Too Good To Be True, Then It Probably Is

Scams come in many forms (the alleged policeman's ball, found money/jewelry, aid to a family in dire need, etc.) and through various means (mail, phone, Internet, personal contact in public parking lots, etc.). It's human nature to want to help others, but it is important to verify the legitimacy of the entity asking for your generous donation. By contacting your local police department, the Better Business Bureau (BBB of the Southland, www.labbb.org, e-mail info@labbb.org, phone (909) 825-7280, fax (909) 825-6246, PO Box 970, Colton, CA 92324-3052), or the Federal Trade Commission (phone (202) FTC-HELP/(202) 382-4357 or www.ftc.gov) you can help you minimize your chances of becoming victimized.

Auto Burglaries/Thefts

Minimize your chances of vehicle burglary by not placing or storing valuables in your vehicle. On a daily basis you should be aware of those tempting items in plain view such as loose coin/money, lap top computers, PDAs, purses, cellular phones, etc. If you must temporarily store valuables in your vehicle place them out of view in the trunk. Decrease your chances of becoming an identity theft victim by removing items containing personal information such as checkbooks, paycheck stubs, credit card statements or other mail.

To minimize the risk of vehicle theft, park your vehicle in a secure location (in a locked garage, behind a locked gate, in your driveway, in an attended parking lot, or in a well lit area).

Make it harder for suspects to take your vehicle. Most suspects are opportunists and look for the easiest vehicle to steal. Always roll up the windows, lock the doors, and take the keys. Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine on. Discourage vehicle theft by using a steering wheel lock. Install and monitor your vehicle alarm system. Install a "kill switch", vehicle recovery system or any reputable anti-theft device. Do not leave spare or "valet" keys in your car.

Consider re-keying your older vehicle's ignition and door locks. It is common for suspects to use a shaved or modified key to easily enter your vehicle and start the engine. Using a shaved key is easy work for the thief and gives the appearance of someone (looking like the owner) simply entering his or her own vehicle.

Residential Burglaries

Always lock and secure your residence while away (that includes the window that is left ajar for ventilation). Don't advertise your valuables by placing them in view from the window. Use of timers to turn on and off lights or a radio in different time cycles is very helpful.

Robberies

Walk with confidence and always be aware of your surroundings. Follow your instincts about uncomfortable situations that could lead to you being robbed. Don't carry unnecessary valuables or personal items with you. Walk in a group, with a friend, or with family members if possible. For women, if your purse has a long enough strap, wear the strap across chest to prevent someone from easily grabbing your purse.

Mail Theft

It is not uncommon for people to send packages and/or letters containing cash or checks to loved ones during the holiday season. To minimize theft of these items, consider direct delivery/deposit inside the post office. Avoid placing items in your mailbox that can be accessed and taken by anyone. Provide a means of secure delivery through a locked mailbox or by scheduling someone to be home to receive any expected packages.

To receive further in-depth information on each of these topics please contact the Monterey Park Police Department Community Relations Bureau at 626-307-1215 or visit the City website at www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us.

FREE Electronic Waste Recycling Event

Evento Gratuito de Coleccion de Desperdicios Electronicos

電子廢物回收及籌款行動

Drop off your E-waste at:
Mark Keppel High School
馬凱波高中停車場
501 East Hellman Ave,
Alhambra, CA 91801
(At Parking Lot Entrance on Hellman Ave)

A Fundraiser for:
籌款收益將捐到

Mark Keppel High School

JAN 26 & 27, 2013

1月26日和27日, 2013年

Saturday & Sunday

星期六及星期日

9am - 3pm

Proof of California Residency Required!
請帶備加州居民身份證明

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Computadoras, TV, Monitores, LCDs, Teclados de Computadora, VCR, DVD, impresoras, escáneres, copiadora, facsimil, fuente de alimentación, Telefonos celulares, Baterias de Carros

電腦, 電腦顯示屏幕, 手提電腦, 電腦零件, LCD 視像器, 電視機, 傳真機, 印刷機, 電話, 錄影機, VCD/DVD 機, 充電器, 汽車電池等等

Service provided by Attan Recycling Corp., A State of California Approved Recycling

For more info call 1-909-591-8408 or visit
www.attanrecyclingcorp.com

This fundraiser benefits MKHS by providing funds for items that enhance students' learning. Please support this event.

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