

# City of Santa Fe Springs

APRIL

NEWSLETTER

2012

## We've Gone Color!

### City Newsletter Makes a Full Color Debut!

We have gone full color to bring you a better newsletter! The City newsletter has gone from a two-color ink process to full color process to create a more pleasant visual experience for the readers, with the added cost of - \$0.

With all the changes in technology, a full color printing job is more efficient for most printers than a two-color printing process, because the demand is greater for full color projects.

When a printer has multiple jobs to print using the same process colors, they can get more jobs printed on the press. A two-color printing job requires individual inks, which have to be cleaned upon completion, taking up more of the printer's staff time (money) because the inks then have to be removed and reset back to print full color, which is most of what a printer processes.

For this reason, we are pleased to announce that we will be bringing you this publication in full color for your enjoyment.

## City Adjusts Utility Users Tax Effective July 1st

Due to the extraordinary and historic fiscal crisis created by the State's decision to eliminate redevelopment, the City has taken action to adjust the Utility User's Tax (UUT) from the current "phase-in" rate of three and one-half percent (3.5%) to its voter-approved maximum authority of five percent (5%). This action is necessary to help offset the \$13.4 million of revenue that is lost through the elimination of redevelopment. Setting the UUT at 5% will provide the City with an additional \$1.5 million of revenue, which will be dedicated to fund ongoing public infrastructure and other capital improvement projects. The adjusted 5% UUT rate will go into effect beginning July 1st.

The City's action to adjust the UUT is one of several austerity measures taken to make up for the significant loss in revenue that redevelopment's elimination has wrought. Other actions include cuts to programs and services, employee layoffs, and pension reform measures. Each component in and of itself won't come close to curing our \$13.4 problem, but collectively they provide a solid and balanced foundation for the City's fiscal future.

Call City Hall at 868-0511, Ext. 7355 with any questions.

## State's Money Grab Dramatically Reduces City's Budget

### Adjusting to a \$32 Million Loss in Redevelopment Funds

Not unlike all families and businesses, the City has been dramatically impacted by the historic economic downturn of recent years. To add to the ongoing challenges we all have faced the past three years, on February 1st, 400 redevelopment agencies across the state, including Santa Fe Springs' were eliminated. Cities across the state are having to adjust to deal with this monumental change. For Santa Fe Springs, this means that the City's Community Development Commission (CDC), which was responsible for redevelopment, economic development, and affordable housing, and funds City improvements and other Capital Projects, ceases to exist.

Through the state's hasty and rash decision to eliminate redevelopment, Santa Fe Springs will lose a \$32 million funding source that will never return. Needless to say, the state's actions have caused a devastating impact on the City's budget and ability to provide the level of service that our residents and businesses need and have grown to expect. Although the City has done everything it can to adjust to the downturn in the economy the past several years, our down-scaled projections of revenue sources and implemented cost-saving measures will not be enough to deal with the catastrophic loss that redevelopment poses.

The state's actions gave the City one month to prepare for the elimination of redevelopment. Since then, City officials have been working tirelessly to deal with the greatest financial crisis it has ever faced, in an effort to minimize the impact on the community. On February 16, the City Council adopted a plan to realize significant savings for the current fiscal year and lay the groundwork for a balanced budget for fiscal year 2012-2013. The plan makes up for the \$13.4 million of redevelopment funds that annually went to the City's General Operating Budget.

The plan was devised to recognize the community's and the Council's priorities with the intent of minimizing loss of services to its residents and businesses, and to retool City government for greater efficiency, with the goal of streamlining the organization and retaining as many services as possible and the jobs that support those services. The approved plan endeavors to "share the pain" with all stakeholders, which includes the businesses, residents, and City employees, through a combination of service cuts, revenue enhancements, and employee benefit concessions.

Portions of the approved plan have already gone into

effect, including the elimination of approximately 30 City positions. This results in a 20% reduction in non-safety labor force, in addition to the 15% reduction that took place in 2010. As difficult as this process is, the state's actions left us no choice. In order to minimize the

number of positions eliminated through layoffs, the City also offered a two-year retirement incentive, which 10 employees have taken. Through a negotiation process with the City's labor employee groups, the City will also seek greater employee contributions to employee benefits and retirements.

Losing this funding source that for years contributed to the vitality of Santa Fe Springs and since its incorporation, made us a world-renowned thriving business community that it is, will forever change us and requires us to alter how we conduct business.

To add insult to injury, the elimination of redevelopment not only entails deep cuts to our budget, it also tragically takes away the main economic development tool that the City has used to great success and benefit

since its incorporation. The proof of the success of redevelopment and the positive way it was used in Santa Fe Springs is evident in the attractive transportation corridors, thriving businesses, and multitude of high paying jobs that this community benefitted from for decades. The elimination of this important tool will make it all the more difficult to "grow the City" in the way we would have hoped to. Nonetheless, the need to support the business community remains a priority for the City. Budget cuts notwithstanding, we will continue to do everything we can to make Santa Fe Springs as business-friendly as possible.

It is important to emphasize that the above mentioned cuts, as significant as they are, will be implemented in a way that minimizes the overall impact on City services. The budget adjustment actions will still allow the City to meet the overall needs of the community and not leave the organization so diminished and depleted that it can only perform minimal functions. Notwithstanding the budget cuts and elimination of positions, the City will still do a wide variety of things, and do those to the highest quality, as our residents and business deserve. However, it will require the City to do many things differently. We ask that you please bear with us as we transition to a leaner, but still responsive, organization.

We encourage the community to continue to support each other, as it has done through many trying times in the past, so that we may prevail and continue to progress together and keep Santa Fe Springs the great place to live, work, and play that we have all come to know and love.



Before



During



After

**The Library  
Modernization  
Project was one of  
the many Capital  
Improvement  
Projects funded by  
the redevelopment  
agency.**

## Inside Highlights...

- P. 2** Home Burglary Prevention Tips
- P. 3** National Library Week
- P. 4** Springtime Events



## City Council Update

City Council meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at City Hall. For details, call the City Clerk's office at 868-0511, Ext. 7314. For new Council meeting minutes and archives of past minutes, visit [www.santafesprings.org](http://www.santafesprings.org).

### January thru March, 2012

- The City Council reorganized at the meeting of January 12th. William K. Rounds was elected Mayor and Richard J. Moore was elected Mayor Pro Tem. For information on boards and commissions which the City Councilmembers represent, please visit the City's website.
- Superior Grocers, one of the largest independently-owned grocery chains in the State, has annually donated to schools in the community for the past 15 years totaling over \$2.3 million. This year, their \$10,000 donation was distributed among the following schools:  
Jersey Avenue Elementary School  
Lake Center Middle School  
Lakeview Elementary School  
Rancho Santa Gertrudes Elementary School
- Due to increases passed on to the City for water costs, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 9360 to amend water rates and service charges by 9.0% effective March 1, 2012.
- In November of 2011, Supervisor Knabe authorized the City to receive a grant of \$150,000 from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to be used for recreational and open space needs of the community. On February 23rd, the City Council approved the grant to be used for enhancement projects at the Clarke Estate.
- Quarterly, the City Council recognizes residents for significant "milestone" achievements. On March 8 the following celebrants were recognized:  
Yoshi Komaki – 90th Birthday  
Helen & Robert Robles – 50th Wedding Anniversary
- Due to the elimination of the City's Redevelopment Agency, and the monumental impact it creates on Santa Fe Springs, on March 8th, the City Council approved an increase of 1.5% to the Utility User's Tax (UUT), raising it to the City's maximum authority of 5% to provide an estimated \$1.5 million allocation to fund Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs).

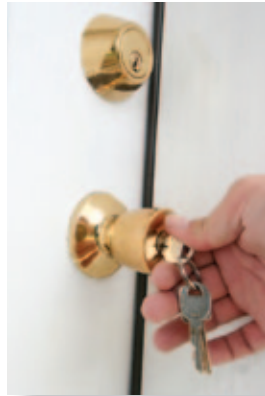
## Home Burglary Prevention

By Captain Aviv Bar

Our home is our castle. It is where we feel protected and where we keep our most valuable possessions, from financial documents to family heirlooms. While we see it as a protected and safe location, criminals see it as a target worth exploiting. A home burglary can net more than just video games and some jewelry, but also provide a criminal with valuable personal information that could result in identify theft and further financial losses.

The Whittier Police Department receives a number of residential burglary reports each month, all of which are investigated in the field by patrol officers and are then further investigated by detectives. In each case, while looking at the actions of the criminals, officer and detectives also look at ways to educate victims about better protecting their homes in the future. Although home burglaries may seem random in occurrence, they actually involve a selection process. The criminal's selection process is simple: choose an unoccupied home with the easiest access, the greatest amount of cover, and with the best escape routes. Knowing this information can give you an insight into how to make your house safer.

**Burglars love unlocked or open doors and windows.** These points of entry provide no delay and signal that an alarm system is not activated. Each month we respond to residential burglaries where the burglar entered through an unlocked or open door or window. When leaving your home or when you are not in the main area of the home (i.e. sleeping, taking shower etc.), make sure all doors and windows are secure. Some doors and windows are more desirable than others for an entry by a burglar. Side garage doors and windows as well as back doors and windows offer good cover for a criminal operation and are most likely to be left unlocked by a homeowner. Make sure to use high grade locking mechanisms on side gates and all entry doors to your home, not just your front door. Also, doors that have glass panels are very aesthetic; however provide a burglar with an easy method of reaching the internal door handle.



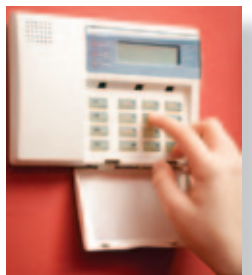
**Interior lighting is necessary to show signs of life and activity inside a residence at night.** A darkened home night-after-night sends the message to burglars that you are away on a trip. Light timers are inexpensive and can be found everywhere. They should be used on a daily

basis, not just when you're away. In this way you set up a routine that your neighbors can observe and will allow them to become suspicious when your normally lighted home becomes dark. Typically, you want to use light-timers near the front and back windows with the curtains closed. The pattern of lights turning on and off should simulate actual occupancy.



Another important area to be well-lighted is the perimeter of your home or apartment especially at the entryway. Exterior lighting on the front of a property should always be on a timer to establish a routine and appearance of occupancy at all times. The practice of leaving the garage or porch lights turned on all the time is a dead giveaway that you are out of town.

**Alarm systems definitely have a place in a home security plan and are effective, if used properly.** The reason why alarm systems deter burglaries is because they increase the potential and fear of being caught and arrested by the police. The deterrent value comes from alarm company lawn signs and decals on the windows. Inexpensive do-it-yourself wireless alarm systems are available online from a variety of vendors and deliver a loud siren to fend off a burglar as soon as they make entry to the home. Search online for "wireless home alarm system."



**Finally, be a good neighbor. Good neighbors should look out for each other. Get to know your neighbors on each side of your home and the three directly across the street.** Invite them into your home, communicate often, and establish trust. Good neighbors will watch out for your home or apartment when you are away, if you ask them. They can report suspicious activity to the police or to you while you are away. On several occasions, I have read burglary reports where neighbors stood and watched suspicious activity, which resulted in the burglary of their neighbor's house, but they never called the police during the incident.

If you would like additional crime prevention information, please visit [www.whittierpd.org](http://www.whittierpd.org).

Aviv Bar is a Captain with the Whittier Police Department and can be reached at 567-9265 or via e-mail at [abar@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:abar@cityofwhittier.org).

## Help Keep Your Neighborhood Safe

*Attend a neighborhood meeting!*

Join the City's Safe Neighborhood Team (SNT) resident volunteers! SNT Volunteers hold their quarterly meetings the first Tuesday of January, April, July, and October, to work with neighborhoods to achieve safety through crime prevention and emergency preparedness readiness. At these meetings, residents learn about safety programs and have the opportunity to share service needs or concerns. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held at Town Center Hall, located at 11740 Telegraph Rd. Please call the Department of Police Services at 409-1850 for more information.

## Interstate 5 South Corridor Improvements

The Interstate 5 (I-5) South Corridor Improvements consists of six separate projects. The I-5/Carmenita Road Interchange Project is the first of six projects that will be completed by the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) with the goal of easing traffic congestion along within the I-5 corridor between the Orange County line and the I-605. This project will involve constructing a new overpass where Carmenita Road crosses the I-5, and approximately one mile of the I-5 Freeway will be widened. Traffic will be maintained on the existing road while the new Carmenita Road overpass is being constructed. Work has already started and the project is anticipated to be completed by 2014. Completion of this project will significantly improve

access to the I-5 Freeway and circulation in this area.

The I-5/Alondra Boulevard segment will be the second project to start construction. This project will widen the I-5 Freeway to add one additional lane in each direction and realign and upgrade adjacent frontage roads.

Caltrans and the City of Santa Fe Springs are working cooperatively to make sure the general public, affected businesses, and residents, are kept informed about the progress of work. For more information, visit the I-5 South Corridor Improvements website at [www.I-5info.com](http://www.I-5info.com). The website is a valuable source of information about the project and provides businesses with the opportunity to register to receive alerts about construction. Residents and businesses may also visit



the Advocacy Office for the I-5 Freeway Improvements located at Norwalk City Hall, located at 12700 Norwalk Blvd. (inside the City of Norwalk Information Office).



## City Wins Prestigious Award of Excellence from California Redevelopment Association

This past month, the California Redevelopment Association recognized the City with an Award of Excellence for the Villages at Heritage Springs Project, for the project titled “Oil Field Transformation – Preparing for the Villages at Heritage Springs.”

The CRA recognizes outstanding examples of the redevelopment process that result in building better communities, and recognized the development of the 54 acre oil field area and indispensable role of redevelopment to accomplish the transformation to a 546 master planned residential community. The award also acknowledges the benefits derived

**Pictured (l-r): City Manager Thaddeus McCormack; project partners, Bob Comstock of Comstock Homes, Nancy Beresky and Mark Schflett of Waterstone Environmental; and Director of Planning & Development Paul Ashworth.**

from the project, which for Santa Fe Springs, included hundreds of construction-related jobs during a recessionary economy and much-needed new housing in a range of prices for the community.



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



### Senior Services Team:

**Diana Armendariz, Francisco (Franco) Macias, and Beannette (Bee) De La Cruz**

Are you 55+ and looking for something to do? Well, come visit the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center and let our Senior Services team provide you the enjoyment and leisure you deserve.

If it's from Diana who leads the team with her creativeness, Franco who plays a game show host named “Don Torta” or Bee who is the authoritative and the glue that holds the team together; offering great customer service, exciting programs, and activities is their goal. Diana, Franco, and Bee are constantly developing, planning, and implementing innovative activities. These include educational workshops, health screenings, and special events that cultivate and promote the importance of health and wellness, family unity, and intergenerational programming for our community.

**Diana Armendariz** joined the City in 2001 as a Recreation Leader in the Parks and Recreation Services Division where she worked at various parks, Town Center Hall, and the Clarke Estate. In 2007, she was promoted to the Senior Services section within the Family & Human Division. Since then, she has been very instrumental in the development and implementation of the many programs offered at the center today. Aside from senior services, Diana is also involved in many of the programs offered through Family & Human Services such as the Fiestas Patrias event, Thanksgiving, and Neighborly Elf Christmas Basket Program. In her free time she is an avid crafter and enjoys traveling. She is currently exploring nursing schools to fulfill her aspiration of becoming a geriatric nurse.

Like his colleague, **Franco (Francisco) Macias** too joined the City in 2001 as a Recreation Leader in the Parks and Recreation Services Division. He worked at various parks, day camps, and coached youth basketball and football. In 2011, Franco transferred to the Family and Human Services Division where he not only supports senior services, but oversees facility rentals both at the Betty Wilson and Gus Velasco Neighborhood Centers. Franco can also be found leading and organizing the T.E.E.N.S (Teens Engaged In Neighborhood Service) Program held once a month at various locations. Franco is definitely the entertainer of the bunch; he enjoys impersonating celebrities and friends along with tuning his vocal chords by singing karaoke. He hopes to someday secure a career in entertainment.

**Bee (Beannette) De La Cruz** joined the City in 2007 as a Student Intern with the Family & Human Services Division. Since then she has undertaken many different programs other than senior services. Bee had the opportunity to experience home visits with the Division's case managers and helped provide oversight to the Legal Services Program. Most recently she can be found coordinating the City's VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program which offers free income tax preparation to individuals who earn less than \$50,000 a year. Bee will be graduating from California State University Long Beach in June of this year and hopes to utilize her International Business/Marketing degree to work and live abroad. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, hiking, shopping, and hanging out with friends.

So, if its enjoyment, leisure, or education you are looking for, stop by the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center and say, hi, to Diana, Franco, or Bee. Because one thing they all agree on is that the best part of their job, is seeing the smiles they put on people's faces.

## National Prescription Take Back Day

**Saturday, April 28 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
**Aquatic Center, 10145 Pioneer Blvd.**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will hold a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. This is a great opportunity to dispose of any unwanted or expired medication safely and properly. Through three previously held take-back days, the DEA and its state and local partners

have removed 498.5 tons of medication from circulation in the past 13 months. Join these efforts to help reduce the risk of prescription drug diversion and abuse, and help increase awareness of this serious issue. For more information call Police Services Center at 409-1850.

## National Library Week April 9-14

Plug in, turn on, and tune in: **You Belong @ your Library!** What's happening at the Santa Fe Springs City Library? What isn't? Whether you're researching, surfing online, checking out the latest music and DVDs, reading books, or looking for programs that suit your interests, there's no place better than the Library. Come into the Library during National Library Week, which will be celebrated from April 9 - 14, and celebrate all the resources the Library provides the community. Come into the Library and enjoy what your local Library has to offer. Visit [www.sfslibrary.org](http://www.sfslibrary.org) for hours of operation and programming information or call 868-7738.







CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS  
P.O. BOX 2120 • SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA 90670-2120  
For information regarding this newsletter, call 868-0511.  
[www.santafesprings.org](http://www.santafesprings.org)

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*Your City Council*

William K. Rounds ..... Mayor  
Richard J. Moore ..... Mayor Pro Tem  
Louie González ..... Councilmember  
Joseph D. Serrano, Sr. .... Councilmember  
Juanita Trujillo ..... Councilmember



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



**Chamber News**

**Knabe to Address  
the “State of the  
County”**

*Wednesday, April 25 - 11:30 a.m.*



Supervisor Don Knabe will be addressing the state of Los Angeles County and the Fourth District at a luncheon at Town Center Hall on Wednesday, April 25th at 11:30 a.m., hosted by the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce.

As the new County Supervisor in the Santa Fe Springs area, Supervisor Knabe will speak about the ongoing challenges of the global economic crisis and the impact of the state budget on Los Angeles County. With the County’s caseloads for programs and services at an all-time high, he will discuss how the public and private sectors must join together to put people back to work.

Supervisor Knabe will be joined by City Officials who will provide the most current information on the state of the City.

The cost to attend is \$25 per person. You may register online for this event at [www.sfschamber.com](http://www.sfschamber.com). For more information, please call the Chamber office at 944-1616 or e-mail [Lindsay@sfschamber.com](mailto:Lindsay@sfschamber.com).

**You're Invited to the  
Diamond Club**

**Destiny Dinner - Friday, June 29**

The Chamber of Commerce will hold this year's Destiny Dinner at Anaheim Stadium's prestigious Diamond Club on June 29th. It will be an evening of entertainment, great food, and a fabulous silent auction - all overlooking the beautiful home of the Angels!

The annual Destiny Dinner is the major fundraiser for the Youth Enrichment Fund which provides funding for the Destiny Scholarship, Powell Grant, Mentor Program, Future Business Leaders, and CHOICES®. The Destiny Scholarship and Powell Grant recipients will be introduced at the dinner. If you are interested in attending, being a sponsor or donating an item to the silent auction, please call the Chamber at 944-1616.



**Egg Dyeing Day**

Wednesday, April 4 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
All City Parks  
**Free!** (limit 2 eggs per child)

**Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, April 7 at 10 a.m.  
Los Nietos Park  
**Free!**  
(Pancake breakfast for sale at 8 a.m. by the Sister City Young Ambassadors)

**Active Adults April Showers  
Spring Dance**

Friday, April 13 at 9:15 a.m.  
Neighborhood Center  
Fee: \$5/person pre-sale; \$7 at the door

**Sandy Lynn's Barnyard  
Extravaganza and Petting Zoo**

Thursday, April 12 from 3:30 - 5 p.m.  
Cesar Chavez Library Garden  
**Free!**

**Children's Day**

Saturday, April 21 from 12 - 4 p.m.  
Heritage Park  
**Free!**

**Community Excursion to  
Filmore & Western Railway**

Saturday, April 28 from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Fee: \$28/person, includes transportation.  
Lunch is at your own expense. (Trips are offered to City residents. Interested non-residents are placed on a waiting list).

