

Police Chief Lawton leaves strong legacy after 26 years



Retired Police Chief David A. Lawton

The job of police chief is a complicated one, involving many different moving pieces and important responsibilities.

But for recently retired Police Chief David A. Lawton it's always been simple; for him, it's all about people.

Lawton came to the San Gabriel Police Department in 1977 and spent his career in the City with a Mission. He left San Gabriel this fall after serving 39 years in the department and 26 years as the police chief.

When you ask him what he's most proud of, his answer is always the brave men and women in his department. When you ask him what he'll miss, the response is the same.

"It's just a great place to work," Lawton said. "I'm most proud of being able to work with the good men and women of the police department who go out and risk their lives every day for the safety of the community. Giving them the opportunities, tools and resources to do their jobs."

And those tools and resources have changed a lot in the nearly four decades Lawton has been at the station.

"When I first started, the portable radios barely worked," Lawton said. "Now the portable radios work great and most of us have cell phones, which weren't widely used until

the mid 1990s. The department has changed a lot and police work has changed a lot."

Lawton has been part of the changes for the better in the department, some of his notable contributions as chief include bringing back motorcycles and traffic enforcement, improving department technology and launching a leading Neighborhood Watch program. He has mentored many young officers, some of whom weren't even born when he became chief, and has been a strong presence in the San Gabriel community.

During Lawton's tenure as chief, the department handled 675,000 calls for service, issued 214,000 moving citations, issued 350,000 parking citations and arrested 26,000 people.

Change in the department will continue in a big way this year when the site preparation work finally begins on a brand new police headquarters. Though he won't be in the chief's seat to see the long-awaited new station open, Lawton said he's glad the project is underway to replace the old building, which has needed an upgrade "for 20 years."

As for his outgoing advice to the new chief, Lawton said he hopes his successor will maintain his emphasis on the people that make the department great.

"I hope that he will be part of the community and support the officers in doing their jobs," Lawton said.

Moving on from the department, Lawton said he'll miss the excitement of police work and the tight knit family of the SGPD. He plans to travel and enjoy being retired. But there's no doubt it will be an adjustment.

"I've parked in the same parking spot for 26 years, sat at the same desk for 26 years. I've come to the same building for 39 years. I haven't been out of a job since I was 14," Lawton said. "I'm going to learn to be retired, take a deep breath and decompress."

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San Gabriel names Harris Chief of Police



This October, Eugene Harris, a 24-year law enforcement veteran, took the reigns as the city's next Chief of Police.

Harris, 50, is a Southern California native and former United States Marine. Harris began his career with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and joined the Monterey Park Police Department in 1993, where he served as captain for the last seven years. Harris was selected after a months-long search process.

"As Chief of Police, I plan to maintain an enthusiastic, professional environment within the San Gabriel Police Department so that we can continue to provide exceptional police service to residents, businesses and the San Gabriel community at large," Harris said.

Harris is a published author and has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Organizational Management. He is working on his second Master's Degree in law Enforcement and Public Safety Leadership at the University of San Diego. Harris is also a graduate of the POST Master Instructor Development Program, the West Point Leadership Program, POST Command College and the FBI National Academy.

Harris succeeds outgoing Chief David A. Lawton, who retired earlier this year after 26 years as the chief of police. Among his first tasks will be to oversee construction of a new, \$26.5 million police facility that has been more than a decade in planning.

For more information, contact the Administration office at 626.308.2803.



Silent Sundays Series

Fall Event Highlight

Chase, Lloyd, and Keaton

Three Short Silent Film Screenings with Live Wurlitzer Organ Accompaniment

Sunday, November 20th, 2:30pm



For a complete list of events:
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San Gabriel improves emergency management capabilities

The San Gabriel Fire Department is even more ready and well equipped to deal with an emergency after purchasing new equipment and technology and implementing new programs this year.

Much of the improvements and new programs center around the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which serves as the hub of operations for the city during an emergency situation. First, the department upgraded the actual facility, adding new audiovisual capabilities, a new communications center, satellite internet, a generator and restroom facilities.

There is a new public information office that can be used to transmit important messages to city employees and the community through SG Alert, the emergency messaging system launched by the department last year. The facility is also stocked with new electronic devices and meals and water for city employees for up to three days.

The department appointed a volunteer amateur radio coordinator to operate a HAM radio the city can use for backup if other communications go down. There is a HAM radio in the EOC and on a fire engine so emergency responders can communicate.

"In the event of a major disaster the city has a

responsibility to respond, mitigate and recover from the disaster," Division Chief and Emergency Manager Bryan Frieders said. "These new improvements allow us to do that more safely and more efficiently so there is very little, if any, interruption in city services. It allows us to be more responsive to the community and their needs."

In addition to the physical upgrades, the department also implemented a new virtual EOC management system called Veoci. The system allows city leaders to remotely log into the system and maintain and operate key city functions. This will help the city continue operations if a disaster impacts roads and prevents employees from getting to the EOC.

"We needed a logical and robust solution to allow the city to continue its operations during an emergency," Frieders said.

Finally, the department has increased training with emergency responders to ensure that everyone is ready when the emergency hits.

For more information, contact Division Chief and Emergency Manager Bryan Frieders at 626.300.0734 or bfrieders@sgfd.org. To sign up for SG Alert, visit www.sangabrielcity.com/SGAlert.

Infrastructure Spotlight

Del Mar Avenue Phase 1 complete

The first phase of the Del Mar Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation Project is completed, and drivers have a new smooth ride from Mission Road to Chestnut Avenue.

The city has already begun planning for the next phase of paving, which will go from Norwood to the 10 Freeway. Construction on that phase is expected to begin this winter.

City celebrates new Public Works facility



On Aug. 31 the Public Works Department hosted a grand opening and ribbon cutting for its brand new headquarters at 917 E Grand Ave. The state-of-the-art building will make it easier for the department to serve the city and its residents. It also makes way for work to begin this year on the new Police Department headquarters, which will be built on the old Public Works site.

Marshall Park project underway

Construction will begin soon on Marshall Park, a brand new 2.24 acre park located on the former John Marshall Elementary School site. The project will bring a neighborhood park to an area of the city that was lacking in open space. The park is scheduled to open by summer 2017.

For more information on these projects, contact Public Works Director Daren Grilley at 626.308.2825 or dgrilley@sgch.org.

Veterans Day recognition and tribute



The San Gabriel Rotary Club, in partnership with the City of San Gabriel will honor local veterans during the annual Veterans Day Tribute and Luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Grapevine Arbor Park. Lunch is free for residents who have served or are currently serving in the military.

In addition to the lunch, the city will celebrate Veterans Day by displaying the Veterans Honor Wall at the San Gabriel Public Library during the week of Oct. 31 through Nov. 4 and at the Adult Recreation Center from Nov. 7-11. The wall features photographs of San Gabriel community members who have served or are currently serving in the military.

For more information, contact Community Services Manager Tom Boecking at tboecking@sgch.org or 626.308.2875.

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Ring in the holidays with San Gabriel



Celebrate the holiday season with several traditions and fun events in the city this winter.

On Tuesday, Dec. 6 the city will host the 40th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting at Plaza Park, 428 S Mission Drive starting at 6 p.m. The event, sponsored by the City of San Gabriel and the San Gabriel Women's Foundation, will feature musical and dance performances from local youth groups, delicious holiday refreshments, children's activities and a special visit from Santa on the Fire Department's historic Mack fire engine.

For more information, contact Recreation Coordinator Veronica Luna at vluna@sgch.org or 626.308.2875.

Then, San Gabriel residents will get a special treat just before Christmas, as Santa rides

through the city streets on the Fire Department's 1957 Mack fire engine. Starting on Dec. 20, Santa will be out each night from 5:30-9:30 p.m. On Dec. 20 Santa will be in the southwest corner of the city, on Dec. 21 he will be in the southeast, Dec. 22 in the northwest and Dec. 23 in the northeast. The railroad tracks and Del Mar Boulevard are the dividing lines in the city quadrants.

For more information about Santa's tour of the city, contact Fire Department Administrative Deputy Chief Derrick Doehler at 626.308.2885 or ddoehler@sgfd.org.

Mission Playhouse to have brand new marquee

This summer, crews completed demolition of the old Mission Playhouse marquee, making way for a brand new sign, a long-awaited project for city staff and the community.

The old sign was not original to the iconic and historic Playhouse, but was built in the mid-1950s. For the city and theater staff, it never quite fit with the gem that is the Playhouse, and the brick columns were somewhat jarring against the historic architecture of the theater building.

In addition to its design flaws, the marquee has been in disrepair for years, with crumbling plastic aged by the sun and old plastic lettering that had a tendency to fall off of the sign. Not to mention that theater staff had to spend time changing the lettering by hand each time a new show was added.

Finally, after years of hard work, city staff got the plans for a new marquee, designed by the city's historic architect, approved by the City Council in 2013. The design was also OK'ed by the Planning Commission and the San Gabriel Historical Association (SGHA). A piece of the old sign will actually be preserved for the SGHA museum.

This fiscal year, the Playhouse staff was able to finally find the funding, about \$125,000, to make the project a reality. The Public Works Department offered to take care of the demolition, which gave the project a large cost savings.

The new marquee will have both modern technology and a historical feel, blending the two for the most aesthetically pleasing and useful end product. The sign will be an energy-efficient LED message board, with the ability to post new city and theater information, including emergency notifications, quickly and easily. The design will be historically representative of the architecture of the Mission Playhouse building, and also will blend with the historic fabric of the Mission District.

The new marquee will be completed by the end of October.

For more information, contact Mission Playhouse Director Anna Cross at 626.308.2865, ext. 227 or annacross@missionplayhouse.org.



The old Mission Playhouse marquee was demolished this summer, making way for a brand new marquee that will blend both modern technology and the historical architecture of the Mission Playhouse.

En Breve...

Ciudad lanza cuenta WeChat

La Ciudad de San Gabriel puso en marcha una cuenta oficial en WeChat el propósito es para darle información a los residentes acerca de eventos de la ciudad, noticias, servicios de la ciudad, la seguridad pública y otra información importante. Siga la ciudad a WeChat ID: SanGabrielCity.

Eventos de la Ciudad en el Otoño

El viernes 28 de Octubre será la diversión del Festival Anual de Otoño en el Distrito de la Misión y en Arbor Park, localizado en 320 S Mission Drive. Y luego cerca al día de gracias, la ciudad tendrá el 41º anual trote de guajolotes el sábado 19 de noviembre en Vicente Lugo Park, en la esquina de Wells y Ramona. Para más información llame al 626.308.2875.

Eventos de la Navidad

Las vacaciones están casi aquí y hay mucho que esperar. El martes 6 de diciembre, la ciudad tendrá el 40 año del evento de iluminación del árbol en el parque de la plaza, 428 S Mission Drive comenzando a las 6 pm Luego, los residentes de San Gabriel recibirán un regalo especial justo antes de Navidad, cuando Santa Claus se pasea por las calles de la ciudad en el motor 1957 Mack con del Departamento de Bomberos. Este evento será los días de diciembre del 20-23.

Infraestructura

La construcción se inició en el otoño del Marshall Park, un parque de 2.24 acres de nueva construcción situado en la escuela primaria que era John Marshall. El proyecto traerá un parque a la comunidad en una zona de la ciudad donde no hay otras áreas o parques comunitarios. El parque está programado para abrir en la primavera de 2017.

公共建設日

本市啟用微信

聖蓋博市在微信上啟用官方賬號，為市民提供重要的的信息，如城市活動，新聞，服務，公共安全和其他內容。在微信上關注聖蓋博市，ID: SanGabrielCity.

本市舉辦秋季活動

10月28日星期五，本市將舉辦年度秋季嘉年華活動在教會區和葡萄藤木公園，320 S Mission Drive。然後在接近感恩節的11月19日星期六，本市將在Vicent Lugo公園舉辦第41屆年度火雞跑的活動，位於Wells和Ramona。如需更多信息，請致電626.308.2875。

聖誕節活動

節日季節馬上就要到臨了，有很多可以期待的活動。在12月6日星期二，本市將舉辦第40屆年度節日樹點燈活動在Plaza公園，428 S Mission Drive，晚上6點開始。然後本市居民將在聖誕節有特別的活動，在12月20日至23日，聖誕老人將乘坐本市消防局1957年的Mack消防車來巡遊本市。

公共建設

秋季建設工程將從Marshall公園開始，一個全新的2.24公頃的公園坐落於原John Marshall小學。這個項目將為缺乏公共場所的地區提供一個公園。計劃將於2017年春開放。



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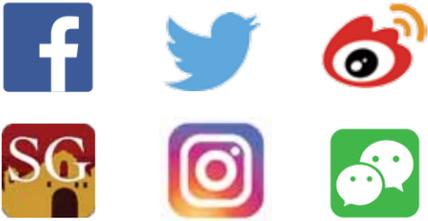
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Persons with Disabilities

Any person with a disability, who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the city events, programs or activities in this publication, should direct such request to the Community Services Department at 626.308.2875 at least 48 hours before the event, if possible.

For more information, visit our website at www.sangabrielcity.com.

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City launches WeChat account

In August, the City of San Gabriel launched an official account on WeChat, the popular Chinese social communications app, in an ongoing effort to connect with and engage Chinese-speaking residents.

WeChat, and China-based counterpart Weixin, report more than 762 million monthly active users and have surged in popularity both in the U.S. and abroad. With its official WeChat account, the city

hopes to reach Chinese-speaking residents on a platform they are already using and in a language with which they are comfortable to educate them about city services, community news, public safety, upcoming events and more.

The WeChat account builds upon the city's ongoing effort to better communicate with and serve Chinese-speaking residents, a goal laid out in the City Council's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. This included the launch of the city Weibo account, another Chinese social media platform, last year.

Follow the city using WeChat ID: SanGabrielCity.



City to host Fall Fun Festival

On Friday, Oct. 28 the city will host the annual Fall Fun Festival in the Mission District from 5-9 p.m.

The event will feature trunk-or-treating, children's carnival games and activities, a costume contest, cartoons in the Mission Playhouse and a special Haunted Zone in Grapevine Arbor Park. The Fall Fun Festival is a family-friendly event open to all ages.

For more information, contact Recreation Coordinator Veronica Luna at vluna@sgch.org or 626.308.2875.

San Gabriel to host 41st Annual Turkey Trot

The city will host the 41st Annual Turkey Trot on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Vincent Lugo Park, at the corner of Wells and Ramona.

The Turkey Trot features a 5K and 10K run, a youth 1K run and a 5K walk. Registration in any race includes a finisher medal, refreshments, a Turkey Trot T-shirt and a chance to enter a raffle for some great prizes. The top three finishers in each age



category will earn a special medal and each first place finisher will receive a gift card for a turkey.

Register by Oct. 21 for early bird pricing: \$30 for 5K or 10K and \$15 for the 1K run or 5K walk. Prices will increase by \$5 after Oct. 21. Registration is available on the day of the event. Register today at the Community Services Office, 250 S Mission Drive, or online at www.sangabrielcity.com/530/Turkey-Trot.

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