

COUNCILMEMBER VINCENT SARMIENTO

NEWSLETTER

CITY OF SANTA ANA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

Lighthouse Learning Center Play Area Opens



On December 5, 2009 the Lighthouse Learning Center hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Temporary Play Area at 1125 South Standard Ave. The event celebrated a private and public partnership for the benefit of the community.

Early in 2009, Councilmember Vince Sarmiento was invited to speak at the Cornerstone Village Neighborhood Association meeting to have a discussion with the community. The neighborhood is primarily made up of apartment and condominium complexes located between Grand Avenue, Standard Avenue, Edinger Avenue and the railroad tracks. Residents in the community expressed their concerns regarding lack of open space in the neighborhood. After hearing their concerns, Councilmember Sarmiento reached out to private and public partners to utilize vacant land for a temporary play area for neighborhood children on the northeast corner of McFadden Avenue and Standard Avenue.

VT Construction donated the land for temporary use for 18 months. C&C Development and Orange Housing donated funds to level the land and will provide additional fencing. Lastly, Lighthouse Learning Center, a ministry of Mariners Church, is contributing by programming the lot for activities.

Santa Ana Receives \$10 Million in NSP2 Funds

The City of Santa Ana has been awarded \$10,000,000 in Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 funds. Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, these grants are being awarded competitively to applicants who developed the most innovative ideas to address the impact the foreclosure crisis has had on local communities, while demonstrating that they have the capacity to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

In Santa Ana, these funds will be used across targeted areas in 18 census tracts with high rates of abandonment and foreclosure that if left unaltered, will have a debilitating impact on real estate values, crime rates, and neighborhood stability. The housing market in these areas is marked by overvaluation, subprime and adjustable loans, and high unemployment. The City will use these funds to provide down payment assistance for 10 units and to acquire and rehabilitate foreclosed properties in the form of 60 units of single family homes and 30 units of rental housing. These rehabilitated homes will be made available to households whose income is at or below 120% of the area median income, with 25% of the funds going to households at or below 50% median income. Through these activities, the City will be able to stabilize the targeted areas by eliminating the rehabilitating impacts of foreclosure and abandonments.

Free Days to Santa Ana Residents

Bowers Museum (2002 N. Main St., 714-567-3600)

Free admission on the first Sunday and third Tuesday of every month.

Heritage Museum of OC (3101 W. Harvard, 714-540-0404)

Free admission on the first Sunday of each month.

Discovery Science Center (2500 N. Main St., 714-542-2823)

Free admission on the first Monday of every month.

Cal State Fullerton Grand Central Art Center (125 N. Broadway, 714-567-7233)

In the Santa Ana Artist Village is always free to the general public.

Santa Ana Zoo @ Prentice Park (1801 E. Chestnut Ave., 714-567-7233)

Free admission on the second Tuesday of the month for up to 4 per household.

714-647-6900

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