

MANY VOICES, ONE COMMUNITY...

TEMPLE CITY *Voice*

© ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

JULY 24, 2009



SUMMER CONCERT IN THE PARK: Summer concerts continue to be increasingly popular among residents. On Wednesday, the band Cold Duck performed 70s music on Wednesday, July 22.

Vizcarra Elected Mayor of Temple City

By Randy Shun

In a rare mid-term reorganization of the City Council, Temple City councilman Fernando Vizcarra ascended to the Mayor's chair on Tuesday.

Vizcarra, elected in 2007, replaces councilwoman Judy Wong. Wong is the currently embroiled in a scandal related to the Piazza development.

Despite the change in mayor, Vizcarra plans to restore the "detracted trust towards city officials." He pledged to renew active participation in community redevelopment and code enforcement, the major planks of his agenda.

"We need to focus more **"Mayor"** on Page 2

T.C. Voice: Celebrating Our Third Anniversary

By Jason Alvin Wu

After three years of volunteer, news reporting service, the *Temple City Voice* is celebrating its anniversary this Friday.

In July 2006, Matthew Wong, then an incoming senior at Temple City High School, decided to create a nonpartisan, non-bias news publication for the city of Temple City.

"When I founded the *Temple City Voice*, I envisioned a news publication, run mostly by students, which would bring up community issues not being raised by the present media" says Wong.

Wong's attempt to combine student activism and community awareness has resulted in a sideline syndication that utilizes high school students to engage in civic functions while learning the mechanics of government.



Also known simply as the *Voice*, the student-led organization has grown from a few volunteers to a size that complements its role in expanded news coverage of city and school affairs.

The slogan for this upcoming year is, "Many Voices, One Community."

"The past three years, we've focused on expanding the *Temple City Voice* in the community," explains Jessilyn Chwa, Editor-in-Chief, "but this year, the *Voice* is more about uniting the staff together."

"Our goal is not only to expand in the city, but to strengthen our staff as a whole," says

"Anniversary" on Page 2

News Brief: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders finally agreed on Monday, July 20 to erase California's \$26 billion deficit by cutting across state government, shifting costs into the future and taking funds from cities and counties.

Sacramento Bee

Exclusive Interview with New Temple City Mayor Continued from Page 1

on sales tax," says the Mayor. "We don't charge utility taxes like other cities and won't resort to police and fire taxes unless we absolutely have to, and we don't have to."

His plans include redevelopment of the downtown district, attracting more consumers to the region and improving communication among the city, businesses and citizens. The issue of sales tax ranks as one of the greatest concerns for Temple City.

"We need to draw sales tax-producing businesses into the city," states Vizcarra. The Mayor also cited popular chains as potential solutions to the problem.

According to Vizcarra, proper code enforcement has led to Temple City's "safety, cleanliness and sense of community," but improvements on a municipal level may further Temple City's small town qualities.

"Fair code enforcement should be equally applied to everyone," he comments.

The Mayor supports continued cooperation with the Temple City School Board. "Our school system is one of the best," he says. Vizcarra attributes a rise in

citywide property values to the Temple City Unified School District.

Vizcarra has been a resident of Temple City for more than forty years. Prior to his tenure as councilmember, he served as Mayor and councilman.

In March 2007, Mayor Vizcarra defeated former councilman Dan Arrighi in a coin-toss. Both had received the same number of votes.

Vizcarra is a retired managerial administrator. His wife, Joan Vizcarra, was previously a member of the School Board.

Anniversary
Continued from Page 1

Chwa. Chwa is an incoming senior at Temple City High School (TCHS) and is the *Voice's* third editor-in-chief.

The *Temple City Voice* staff consists of students from both the Temple City and Arcadia high schools.

"Sometimes people don't take us seriously," states Assistant Editor Sophia Chang, "but we still offer nonpartisan, fair news while working on important projects, such as voter polls and city forums."

Chang and Randy Shun, Senior Editor of the *Voice*, both served as the community affairs director last year. Both are seniors at TCHS.

Chris Du, also a senior at TCHS, was tapped into the position of community affairs director. The other community affairs director position is still vacant.

"Matthew and Margaret [Thi], the founder and the editor emeritus, respectively, have divided up [the executive] duties more equally," comments Chwa, "so the running of the newspaper will become easier."

The *Temple City Voice* experienced some restructuring earlier this summer. Five individuals will compose of an executive team that will assist the editor-in-chief in fulfilling her duties.

Last week, Margaret Thi, a former editor-in-chief, was formally introduced as the editor emeritus. Thi will help guide and train the members of the executive team.

As the *Voice* enters its fourth year of operation, it hopes to not only remain active in community affairs, but also to continue garnering respect from the residents of Temple City.

TEMPLE CITY *Voice* STAFF

Jessilyn Chwa
Editor-In-Chief

Randy Shun
Senior Editor

Sophia Chang
Assistant Editor

Ivy Vuong
Art Manager

**Directors of
Community Affairs**
Chris Du
(Vacant)

2009 - 2010

Artists

Ava Cheng
Jason Alvin Wu

Staff Writers

Katie Brown
Christine Keung
Darren Lai
Aiden Leong
Jessica Liu
Vincent Wei
Leslie Wu

Margaret Thi
Editor Emeritus

Matthew Wong
Founder

Background: Light gray with a thin black border.

City, District Agree to Re-Form Ad Hoc Committee

By Matthew Wong

The City Council of Temple City and Temple City School Board agreed to re-establish an ad hoc committee between the two locally elected bodies on Thursday, April 16, 2009.

Mayor Pro Tempore Fernando Vizcarra and councilman Tom Chavez will represent the City of Temple City, while School Board Clerk Matt Smith and School Board Member Janet Rhee will represent the Temple City Unified School District (TCUSD).

TCUSD Superintendent Chelsea Kang-Smith gave a solemn introductory speech at the beginning of the joint meeting on Thursday.

"[The state budget crisis] is hitting us hard," stated Kang-Smith. Kang-Smith also called the cuts approved by California state legislators in February 2009 "significant."

According to Kang-Smith, the TCUSD is expected to lose \$3.5 million over the next two years.

"The City is [also] losing revenues," countered City Manager and City Attorney Charles R. Martin. "We're down approximately 5 percent [in revenues]."

Like Kang-Smith, Martin urged the two entities to "work together, rather than working separately, as enemies."

Relations between the City and District worsened in 2008 after the School Board refused to extend the Facilities Use Agreement. School Board members had deemed the no-charge agreement between the City and District unfair.

The School Board did extend the contract to September 2008. After a joint meeting in September, the School Board once again extended the deadline to June 2009; however, there was an understanding that further discussion on the Facilities Use contract would occur throughout the year.

At the September 2008 meeting, Superintendent Kang-Smith stated the current contract was "unequal and unbalanced."

District officials provided figures of the City's use of District facilities and vice-versa. According to the TCUSD, the District's use of City facilities amounted to 9 days, or 44 hours; on the other hand, the City's use of District facilities totaled to 223 days, or 4,434.5 hours.

To compensate for the City's additional use of District facilities,

District officials had proposed that Temple City pay a lump sum of \$5000 for the variable costs associated with use of District facilities.

"There is an inequity," admitted Parks and Recreation Director Cathy Burroughs at the joint meeting on Thursday, April 16.

City officials disputed the District's original claim that the District's use of City facilities amounted to 44 hours. According to Burroughs, the actual number of hours amounted to approximately 1200.

After discussion regarding how the City might fix the inequity of facilities use with the District, School Board Clerk Smith recommended reinstating an ad hoc committee.

Councilman Chavez agreed, but raised questions about whether a contribution to the District would be considered a gift of public funds or whether other school districts could view the City's donation showing favoritism to TCUSD.

Consensus was eventually reached and both bodies approved by a 4-0 margin to re-establish an ad hoc committee.

School Board President Robert Ridley and councilman Dave Capra were absent.



This week's comic strip was drawn by Ava Cheng.

EDITOR'S COLUMN: TO A NEW YEAR

Friday, July 24 marks the third year anniversary of *Temple City Voice*. It's already been three short years since Matthew founded *Temple City Voice*, and what a journey it's created for itself since then.

Beginning in 2006 with a small and inexperienced staff, *Temple City Voice* has grown and has come a long way in three years. *Temple City Voice's* main goal has been to promote community awareness and participation among students and residents of Temple City, and I'll say it's certainly done its job.

Temple City Voice has changed over the years, but the changes have been for the better. Years pass by, and senior staff members graduate and move on to college, but new members continue to join and the staff continues to grow.

Joining in 2007, I've served one year as a staff writer and my second as Editor-in-chief. From only two short years, I've met some incredible people and I've learned many things from my experiences.

I'm certainly looking forward to this upcoming year. There have been several changes: three staff members graduating, adding and changing roles, and reevaluating position duties, but these changes will definitely make *Temple City Voice* a better run newspaper. This past year included staying up late on many stressful nights, nights that have taught me lessons that I wouldn't have learned anywhere else.

Being Editor-in-chief over a student run newspaper isn't as easy as it sounds. It's certainly much more work than I expected, and at times, much more than I could handle. It's taught me lessons about not procrastinating and not waiting until the last minute. It's taught me lessons on communication and working with others. Working with others and demanding them what to do isn't as easy as it sounds. Getting things to go your way hardly ever works. Just because you tell someone to do something doesn't mean they'll do it.

As hard as it is to accept that things don't always go your way, you have to. I've gone through many stressful days, weeks, and months with *Temple City Voice* and its staff, but I can't say that I haven't enjoyed this past year. I've created many memories, and I hope to create even more this upcoming year.

Jessilyn

TEMPLE CITY *Voice*

Volume 4, Issue 1

Letters to the Editor...

Can be sent to our
P.O. Box 1255
Temple City, CA 91780

Phone: 626 - 377 - 2837

Blog:

<http://templecityvoice.wordpress.com>

E-mail: templecityvoice@yahoo.com

Interested in sponsoring the *Temple City Voice*?

[Send an e-mail!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|--------|----|--|
| July | 24 | Camp-A-Palooza
<i>Live Oak Park (All Day)</i> |
| | 29 | "Sounds of Summer"
Concert in the Park
Featuring Cold Duck
<i>Temple City Park @ 7 P.M.</i> |
| | | Special Board of Ed.
Meeting
<i>District Office @ 7 P.M.</i> |
| August | 4 | National Night Out
<i>TC Park</i> |



The *Temple City Voice* encourages the concept of recycling. When you have finished reading this weekly news publication, please recycle the paper. Let's save the Earth together!