

MANY VOICES, ONE COMMUNITY...

# TEMPLE CITY *Voice*

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AUGUST 14, 2009



**END OF THE YEAR BANQUET:** On Saturday, August 8, the Temple City Voice staff members gathered together to celebrate the end of another great year by eating lunch at Applebee's.

## National Night Out Brings Community Together

By Vincent Wei

Temple City's 26th annual National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 4 at Temple City Park from 6 to 9 P.M.

National Night Out, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), is a community-police partnership that has been held the first Tuesday of August ever since 1984.

It is a crime and drug prevention event that is aimed to generate support for local anticrime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

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## Getting to Know Superintendent Kang-Smith

By Sophia Chang

At first glance, Superintendent Chelsea Kang-Smith is every bit the head strong leader that she was in high school: she wears an inviting smile and exuberates confidence that isn't intimidating, but instead welcoming.

Kang-Smith is currently the Superintendent of the Temple City Unified School District, overseeing seven schools, and was previously area superintendent in San Diego, overseeing 27 schools. She has been a principal, an assistant principal, a high school and middle school teacher, and a substitute teacher.

Kang-Smith's involvement in education began in her prime. During college, a friend slyly coerced her into helping out at a Sunday school camp. Kang Smith calls the event "a great experience", with a roomful of toddlers squealing, screaming, and crying serving as her impetus in children's education. She stresses creativity as cru-



cial in education and realizes "we tend to get "bogged down by standards".

Despite her extensive background, Kang-Smith's introduction to Temple City began as a fluke. She had never heard of the town, but a district-hired firm immediately acknowledged her as an eligible candidate. One trip down Las Tunas and she was instantly drawn in.

"When I came [to Temple City], I saw a quaint town only seen years ago... I saw this as a diamond in the rough," Kang-Smith says, reflecting upon her initial drive around the city, "...there is great potential in this city."

Now, as area Superintendent, Kang-Smith is focused on building bridges between the

**"Superintendent" on Page 3**

**News Brief:** Three federal judges ordered California officials to cut the state's prison population by 40,591 inmates in the next two years. California's prison system is currently operating at 190 percent of its design capacity of 79,828 inmates.

Sacramento Bee

# Yu: Should City Hall Be Open on Fridays?

**By Randy Shun**

Temple City councilman Vincent Yu has expressed some concerns about the policy of closing City Hall on Fridays.

The city's current 4/10 work schedule policy was adopted last year. City Manager Charles R. Martin had recommended closing Fridays to save utility costs for Temple City.

During the May 5, 2009 city council meeting, councilman Yu stated a number of people had commented to him about the city's work policy. Yu asked city staff to look at the new schedule to gauge how citizens were responding to it, he said.

Since July 2008, City Hall and the Civic Center have been opened Mondays through Thursdays

from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. However, both city buildings have been closed on Fridays.

Most city employees now work four days a week, ten hours per day.

According to city staff analysis, City Hall and the Civic Center have reduced its natural gas costs by 43 percent, resulting in a savings of approximately \$1600.

Electricity usage has fallen by 4.5 percent, albeit an accurate account of savings could not be identified because Southern California Edison, the city's electric company, changed the way it calculated electricity usage rates.

The study period of the analysis began in July/August 2008 through February/March 2009.

staff schedule on the same days were advantages of the current city policy, Flod said.

The most successful and efficient schedule for providing service was the 9/80 schedule, the previous work employee schedule, councilman Fernando Vizcarra stated. Councilman Dave Capra agreed.

Former councilwoman Cathé Wilson, who was in attendance Tuesday evening, disagreed. Wilson commented that the current schedule was working and asked why fix it if it was not broken.

Linda Payne, Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, stated that the Temple City Chamber of Commerce had received more than 12 complaints. She urged the City Council to consider councilman Vizcarra's suggestion of re-instating the 9/80 work schedule.

City Manager Martin cautioned against reversing the city's work schedule policy due to the low number of city employees. Martin stated it could dangerous if certain staff worked alone.

After council discussion, Yu stated he wanted to further study the issue before making a change.

Temple City's neighboring cities, with the exception of the city of Arcadia, are all closed on Fridays, according to the city staff report.

There has been some light complaints stated assistant to the City Manager Gary Flod at the Tuesday council meeting.

Besides saving on utility costs, shorter employee commute time, light Friday foot traffic and full

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Mondays-Saturdays: 11 AM to 7:30 PM  
Sundays: CLOSED

# Interview with Superintendent Kang-Smith

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Chelsea Kang-Smith

Courtesy of TCUSD website

the city and the district was not too great," Kang-Smith comments, "it needs to be rebuilt... because in the end it's not about 'your kids' or 'my kids'; they're all 'our kids'."

Recently the city and district had been unable to work out the Joint Facility Use Agreement, stipulating school sites could be used for city functions and vice-versa.

She also hosts numerous joint meetings with city council members and views their "interaction [as] important to the community."

As for bettering the education experience for students and parents alike, Kang-Smith and the District have engaged in various projects to tackle attendance and lack of communication.

The program *Teleparent*, which informs parents of their children's performance, received a positive reaction from parents all over the city.

Positive Saturday schools, in which classes will serve as "catch-ups" and still count towards attendance, will be enacted in the future. Her plan

to implement full day kindergarten at La Rosa has already received a 90% parent approval rate.

Kang-Smith could not stop stressing the important of attendance.

"Money is allocated to schools not based on total student population, but rather it is based on average daily attendance," Kang-Smith states, "We went from a 97.43% attendance rate to a 97.74% attendance rate; for this, we received a \$96,000 increase."

But statewide budget cuts have forced the district to reconsider its current financial situation; this includes considering whether retaining staff members, hiring teachers, and increasing class sizes.

For grades four through twelve, class sizes will increase from 33 to 34 students per teacher, a move Kang-Smith expects not to diminish instructor education.

She has also reconsidered renovation projects, including remodeling as the Oak Gym, the high school track, and the high school swimming pool.

city and the district and making a difference in parents' and students' lives.

"The relationship between

which classes

## National Night Out Promotes Community Awareness

Continued from Page 1

The night was filled with fun and excitement. Children and adults were able to enjoy the free food, including hot dogs and hamburgers, while Miss Temple City and her Honor Court handed out raffle tickets with prizes, such as Dodgers tickets.

Squad cars, fire trucks, officers on horses, and a moon bounce were several of the many attractions for adults and children to enjoy.

Many parents and children were able to spend time outdoors with their family for a night, while learning how to protect their city from crime at the same time.

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN: HOPEFUL RECESSION

Is California's government falling apart? California's debt is valued at over 60 billion dollars. Many companies have issued layoffs and they continue to issue them. Several of my friends' parents have received them, as have some of my extended family members.

California's recession is considered to be the worst since the Great Depression in the 1930s and early 1940s. Many adults are losing their jobs and their houses, and eventually, their lives. If they have no job, how are they going to support their family? What's going to happen then?

I can't say that I know what it feels like to be without a house or to live without enough support. I don't know what it feels like to have to worry about food, to see if there's enough food to feed everyone for the day.

I have friends whose houses are on foreclosure and friends whose houses have already been taken away from them. I never know what to say to them because if I complain about my life to them, it seems like what their family is going through is so much worse. It's like their family's life is falling apart.

The worst that I've experienced is LA county's raised tax. With Temple City's tax percentage at 9.75, it makes my mom not want to go shopping as much, especially in areas with an even higher tax percentage. I love shopping.

I love shoes and clothes—like any typical teenage girl, and it makes it hard to see so many dazzling shoes and pretty clothes with no money to buy it with. But it's just life; you get on with it.

I see families living out in the streets, in areas, such as Chinatown, Downtown, and certain areas in Pasadena. I don't want to pity them, but I don't know what else to do. One day, I'd like to help those that are less fortunate. I just don't know how yet.

At least for the time being, we're only stuck in a recession; we haven't hit a depression. Yet.

But the U.S. Government is hopeful; they say that "the worst recession since the Great Depression could be coming to an end shortly... [with a] recovery stronger than previously projected." If our government can be hopeful, we can be hopeful too. Hopefully.

*Jessilyn*



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!

## TEMPLE CITY *Voice*

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Letters to the Editor...

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |        |    |   |
|--------|----|---|
| August | 18 | City Council Meeting<br><i>Council Chambers @ 7:30 P.M.</i>                 |
|        | 19 | Seniors Registration Day<br><i>TCHS 7:30 A.M.—3:30 P.M.</i>                 |
|        |    | Concert in the Park<br>Ft. The Rockit Scientists<br><i>TC Park @ 7 P.M.</i> |
|        |    | Board of Ed. Meeting<br><i>District Office @ 7 P.M.</i>                     |
|        | 21 | Juniors Registration Day<br><i>TCHS 7:30 A.M.—3:30 P.M.</i>                 |