

MANY VOICES, ONE COMMUNITY...

TEMPLE CITY *Voice*

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SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

Station Fire Continues to Ravage L.A. County

By Ivy Vuong

For a week now, thick haze has cast over the Los Angeles region. Wildfires are once again spreading across the northeast, having reached a total of 164 square miles. The largest of the fires, Station Fire, stretches from the city of Acton to the city of Altadena, a span of about twenty miles from north to south.

It has consumed nearly 20 percent of the Angeles National Forest and as of Wednesday, September 2, about 28 percent contained.

Extreme temperatures and low humidity fueled the fire on Sunday night. A large fire had not burned in the last sixty to one hundred years in *"Fire" on Page 2*



WILDFIRES IN LOS ANGELES: Smoke from the Station Fire can be seen near the Temple City public library. Fire officials report that this is only a "preview" of what is to come later on during the fire season.

Wong Appoints A New Editor-In-Chief

By Randy Shun

Sophia Chang, a Temple City High School (TCHS) senior, replaced Jessilyn Chwa as Editor-in-Chief on Saturday, August 22. Chang becomes the fourth person to hold the title.

Chang, previously the assistant editor and community affairs director, plans to use experience and in-group involvement to implement new changes to the *Voice*. "We need more than our writers to know what's going on in the community," asserts Chang, "so we're going to include

more engaging, cosmopolitan news." Her plans include enlarging the paper size, increasing distribution, adding col-

umns, and hosting video news coverage.

In addition to outreach, Chang expects to improve the *Voice's* infrastructure. "We have lots of potential and should bring [the *Voice*] somewhere," she says. Through optimism and efficiency, Chang believes the staff can "work together to bring everyone together."

Chang's involvement with the newspaper began in 2007; her community participation ranges from attending school board meetings to interviewing candidates. As community affairs director, she served as the liaison between the Temple City Unified School District and the *Voice* and organized *Voice* events while as assistant editor.

"Working for the *Voice* has been really rewarding," Chang states, "I've learned so much."

Chang aims to incorporate more articles with a larger *"Editor" on Page 2*

News Brief: State lawyers said Tuesday they will try to take the issue of prison overcrowding to the U.S. Supreme Court rather than obey a state court order to come up with a plan to reduce inmate population.

Sacramento Bee



Fire Possibly Contained by September 15 Continued From Page 1

that area of the San Gabriel Mountains. The steep terrain's dry brush served only as fuel for the fire.

As a result of the Station Fire, a thick haze of smoke has formed this past week, making it difficult for Los Angeles County firefighters to battle the flames.

The flames are also edging closer to Mount Wilson Observatory, which not only serves as a historic landmark, but also as a hub for a network of communication towers used for radio broadcasting and television stations.

The Station Fire has burned more than 64 homes and recreational cabins, mostly in the Big Tujunga Canyon area. It has killed two firefighters, trapped five people, and caused thousands to evacuate. Full containment is not expected until Tuesday, September 15.

However, firefights are beginning to show some optimism battling against the Station Fire. Temperatures are no longer in the triple digits and climate is gradually becoming more humid.

Despite this positive news, the California fire season has not even started. Fire officials report that the

Station Fire is only a "preview" of what is to come. The Southern California fire season usually reaches its apex in the Fall due to the fierce nature of the Santa Ana winds.

La Canada Unified Schools delayed its first day of classes until Wednesday. Temple City Unified began its first day of school on Thursday, September 3, without interruption.

Because of poor air quality, many schools are limiting their outdoor activities and several athletic teams' sports practices have been put on hold. Residents, especially those sensitive to poor air quality, are encouraged to stay indoors.

Interview with the Editor

Continued From Page 1

paper size by the end of the year. "By expanding our coverage, we hope to better inform our community of a broader range of news," says Chang. The *Voice* is expected to move to an 8.5" x 14" frame by mid-December to early January.

The current staff, in conjunction with Chang's new policies, is also upping their performance to meet new standards. TCHS junior writer Jason Alvin Wu says, "We're trying to grow, so the paper may start columns, for the environment or opinions." He mentions widening the scope of the *Voice* allows for writers to feel more connected. "It helps us write about things we care," he adds.

Temple City Voice founder Matthew Wong chose Chang after a recommendation from the Editor Emeritus, Margaret Thi.

"During the summer, I asked Margaret to do an assessment of Sophia," he states. "From what I have seen and heard, Sophia was the perfect candidate for the job."

"I am confident Sophia will do a fantastic job as head of the executive team and the *Voice* itself" he further comments. Their ideals fall in line together; both adamantly believe in the power of students and groups communicating together throughout the Temple City.

Chang, at the end, laughs, "We all have to work together to make Temple City even better."

TEMPLE CITY *Voice* STAFF

Sophia Chang
Editor-In-Chief

Randy Shun
Senior Editor

Ivy Vuong
Assistant Editor

Vacant
Art Manager

**Directors of
Community Affairs**
Chris Du
Leslie Wu

2009 - 2010

Artists

Ava Cheng
Jason Alvin Wu

Staff Writers

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

Margaret Thi
Editor Emeritus

Matthew Wong
Founder

Avant Garde Gives Progress Report

By Matthew Wong

Robert Paz, program director for Avant Garde, gave a progress report before the Temple City Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) on Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

During the first thirty days, Avant Garde has conducted a study that included identifying blight, revitalization and economic development.

Avant Garde is also sixty days away from making a full recommendation to the CRA, and forty-five days away from designing a concept with the owners of the Alpha Beta property, Paz said.

In his oral report, Paz also discussed the city's Façade Improvement program. The Façade Improvement program is a city-sponsored cash rebate of \$25,000 for business owners to remodel the exterior of their businesses.

Avant Garde, an economic development and redevelopment consulting firm, was hired by the City Council in March 2009. Councilmembers approved the contract with Avant Garde on April 7.

The economic development firm hopes to incorporate three phases in their proposal to City Hall: commercial revitalization, increase the tax base and conduct a feasibility study of the project expansion area.

In addition to working with City Hall, Avant Garde has been working with the Temple City Chamber of Commerce.

"We want to make the Chamber [of Commerce] go ninety miles an hour," Paz said in March.

On May 5, the City Council selected councilman Vincent Yu to work with Avant Garde as it completes Module 1, and appointed councilmembers Tom Chavez and Fernando Vizcarra to work with the firm during the Module 2 process.

Last year, the previous City Council engaged in a series of actions aimed at boosting the local economy.

In April 2008, the City imposed a moratorium on non-retail businesses.

Two months later, the council adopted the Small Business Development Center proposal, which was lobbied by the Temple City Chamber of Commerce.

Then in September, the City Council ended the moratorium, bowing to pressure from business owners.

A few months later, in December, the council voted to join the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership (SGVEP). The SGVEP is a regional economic organization.



SUSIE'S KITCHEN

4819 Temple City Boulevard #A
 Temple City, CA 91780
 Phone: 626-286-9317

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



This week's comic was drawn by Ava Cheng.

FOUNDER'S COLUMN: THE JOURNEY THUS FAR

When I first made the decision to start a community news publication, I did not anticipate the amount of time or the work I would have to spend on it. I was not sure if this idea would last for just a few weeks or only a couple of days. For me, the *Temple City Voice* was a community project, not just a fun, summer activity.

Now, three years later, a lot has changed (and more changes are coming).

The *Temple City Voice* is growing as an organization. Our staff is increasing in numbers. Recognition among members of the community has expanded.

We have nearly doubled the number of locations where residents can pick up a print copy of the *Voice*. And, since last year, we have uploaded electronic versions of our weekly issues onto our blog.

In addition, we plan on co-sponsoring a third candidates' forum with the Temple City High School Junior State of America (JSA). Two years ago, we coordinated our first joint candidates' forum with JSA. The forum featured candidates running for the local School Board. More so, we recently held a City Council candidates' forum in January. This forum was one of two held during the campaign season.

As we continue to promote our non-profit news publication, we have outreached to local business sponsors. These businesses, like *Susie's Kitchen*, *C-Cup* and *Rose Donuts*, have generously contributed to our cause. Of course, we cannot forget to acknowledge our behind-the-scenes sponsors, *Big-1 Pharmacy* and *Tender Care Home Health*. Both *Big-1* and *Tender Care* have been our longest and largest sponsors and we certainly want to extend a big "thank you!"

Two weeks ago, I appointed a new Editor-in-Chief, Sophia Chang. Since I have begun working with her, I can see a sense of determination to carry on and greatly improve the *Voice*. I am confident Sophia and the staff will be successful as we continue our fourth year of publishing.

Matthew

Matthew Wong is an incoming third-year at the University of California, Davis. Wong founded the Temple City Voice in July 2006.



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...

Can be sent to our
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<http://templecityvoice.wordpress.com>

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Interested in sponsoring the *Temple City Voice*?

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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|-------------|--|
| September 7 | Labor Day (<i>No School</i>) |
| 8 | Planning Commission MTG
<i>Council Chambers @ 7:30 P.M.</i> |
| 9 | Board of Education MTG
<i>District Office @ 7 P.M.</i> |
| 10 | Back to School Night
<i>Longden Elementary</i> |
| 11 | Patriot Day |
| 15 | City Council Meeting
CANCELLED |