

TEMPLE CITY *Voice*

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Local News Politics Science/Environment Sports Entertainment Life Opinion

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OCTOBER 16, 2009

School Board Candidate Interview

Candidates' Forum Rescheduled to Earlier Time

The forum will now take place from 4:30 to 6:30 PM on October 24. The last day to register to vote is October 19.

BY SOPHIA CHANG

The 2009 School Board Candidates Forum, originally planned to be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., will now take place from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

It will still be held on Saturday, October 24, in Room 601 at Temple City High School.

The forum was moved due to a scheduling conflict with one of the candidates.

To provide citizens with the most complete forum and to give the candidates an equal opportunity to address the public, the Temple City High School Junior State of America (JSA) and the *Temple City Voice* (TCV) rescheduled the forum to an earlier time.

JSA Co-President Christine Keung comments, "JSA and TCV really wanted all three candidates to be able to attend the forum, because both organizations hope to provide the best experience possible for the citizens of Temple City. Both organizations have done their best to accommodate all the schedules."

"First, I would strongly encourage everyone to make an effort to attend the
"Rescheduling" on Page 3



NEW CAFES IN TOWN: Cloverleaf, one of the new cafes opened in Temple City, serves as a prime location for teenagers to hang out in town.

School Board Candidate Interview:

Matt Smith

Matt Smith, incumbent school board member running for re-election this November, is no stranger to Temple City.

BY TAYLOR EVANKO

Prior to serving on the school board for a total of 11 years, Smith has always been involved in the community, participating in activities ranging from coaching little league and

"Smith" on Page 2

Smith: “It’s a commitment of time”



School Board Member
Matt Smith

Photo Courtesy of the
TCUSD website

soccer teams to being involved with Parent Teacher Association (now the Parent Teacher Student Association) and serving on the school site council for Longden Elementary School. He was appointed to the school board in 1998 as a replacement for a retiring board member and has served on the board ever since.

When asked about how long it took for him to completely settle in as a board member, Smith responded by saying, “At least a good year into it, if not more.”

Smith realized early on that being a good board member required far more than the minimum duties of public service. “It’s a commitment of time,” he said.

Smith was able to become a more informed

board member by communicating with school board members from other districts through School Services of California Inc., a company aimed at assisting educational agencies across California.

Over the years, he has learned a great deal about issues that other districts have faced and occasionally meets someone dealing with problems similar to those that the Temple City Unified School District (TCUSD) is facing.

“Some issues they are very fun, some issues are more difficult than others, but they are always interesting,” Smith reflected about the issues that frequently come up during board meetings in Temple City.

Two issues that are often discussed are the budget, a problem that school districts all across the state are dealing with as well, and Temple City’s aging facilities. These two issues are not completely independent of each other.

“There are problems that are waiting to happen,” Smith commented on the infrastructure of Temple City’s schools. However, due to the tanking economy, now may not be the best time for Temple City to invest in renovating its schools, something that Smith is very aware of. TCUSD’s shrinking budget does not exactly allow room for projects, such as revamping facilities, that may be needed in the near future.

The budget grew in years 2006-2008, but started to shrink in 2009. It is now down to the size that it was back in 2006. Smith commented on the budget, saying that, “[The] consensus has been that are not out of the woods yet.”

When asked about the upcoming school board elections and his chances of being reelected, Smith responded by saying that he was “optimistic” but isn’t taking anything for granted. “You never know what’s going to happen,” he said.

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UNPUBLISHED, HISTORICAL NEWS STORY

Vacancies Declared on the Planning Commission

City officials will consider applicants who previously applied.

BY RANDY SHUN

Temple City councilmembers unexpectedly voted to shake up the composition of the Planning commission at its meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2009.

"I would suggest that we hold a special hearing," said councilman Vincent Yu, after learning a new individual had filled out an application to serve on the Planning commission. Yu stated he wanted to hear from the applicant, Patrick Horton, and "would still like to consider new people."

The terms for Planning commissioners Don Griffiths and James LeBerthon expire on June 30.

Commissioners are normally reappointed to another term, especially if they express a desire to remain. Terms for city commissioners

last for two years.

After discussing Yu's idea, councilmembers unanimously voted to declare three vacancies on the Planning commission.

Besides the seats Griffiths and LeBerthon occupy, the commission had an additional vacancy due to Cynthia Sternquist's appointment to the City Council.

The City Council then collectively voted to re-confirm all the appointees on the Parks and Recreation. The terms for Dan Arrighi, Nanette Fish and Andrea Olivas were extended until June 30, 2011.

Interim city manager and parks and recreation director subsequently announced that there would be an unexpected resignation from one of the commissioners on the Parks and Recreation commission. (The *Temple City Voice* believes this

individual is Pamela Yugar.)

The city will advertise the vacancies over the next ten days. Interviews will occur on Monday, July 6 at 6:30 p.m. and will be conducted in the City Council chambers. Previously applicants, who would like to be considered, must be re-interviewed.

Also on Tuesday night, the City Council passed its annual budget. City staff predicts that Temple City will have approximately \$31.6 million in reserves, in addition to the \$4.3 million owed by the Community Re-development Agency, at the end of the 2009-2010 fiscal year.



ATTN READERS:

To see an online-only City news story, "*Temple City Consorts with San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, Again,*" please visit our online blog.

Forum will now take place from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. instead of the proposed time

Continued From Front Page

candidates' forum. Both JSA and the *Temple City Voice* are working hard to inform the entire community about the time change," says Matthew Wong, founder of the *Temple City Voice*. "I would also like to apologize in advance for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused."

He explains that the changes were made "for full representation from all the candidates running for School Board."

"We firmly believe it is important for the community to be informed and active. The forum is an opportunity for the voters to listen to the School Board candidates. Please, take a few hours off to come to our forum and remember to bring your family and friends!

To the Asian (and Asian American youth) community, I strongly urge you to come out and ask questions."

The three candidates, Kenneth Knollenberg, Matt Smith and Joe Walker are running in the November 3, 2009 school board elections. The *Voice* is also publishing school board candidate interviews, which can also be found online.

Monday, October 19, is the last day to register to vote for this election.

For more information, please contact the *Temple City Voice* at (626) 377-2837 or at templecityvoice@yahoo.com.

FOUNDER'S COLUMN: DO WE CARE?

The 2009 school board election is just a little more than two weeks away.

Two seats are up for grabs and three candidates, including the two incumbents, are running to fill them.

The *Temple City Voice* and the Junior State of America (JSA) will be co-sponsoring a candidates' forum next Saturday, October 24 at Temple City High School. All the candidates are expected to attend.

In addition, the *Temple City Voice* has been publishing interviews with each of the candidates running for the school board.

Information about the school board race is and has been available for a few weeks. The public will also have at least one opportunity to address the candidates.

The question is, do we even care? Is this election boring because only a few candidates are running? Or maybe it is unimportant because the race is not even competitive?

I think that is a fair question to ask—do we even care?

Based on the average daily hits and the types of searches the *Temple City Voice* blog has received, it appears that Temple City voters do not care about the November election. Normally, during the election season, the blog gets about 40-60 hits, with numerous searches on the candidates. But so far, we have only averaged half of that.

I am wondering if this election even matters at all. And, why shouldn't it matter?

I am hoping I am wrong, that I am misguided, that Temple City really does care, because it matters. This election, like any other election, matters. It's important and YOUR voice, the VOICES of Temple City, need to be heard.

If you've committed yourself to participate in this election by voting, or volunteering on someone's campaign, I want to thank you. Thank you for caring. Thank you for recognizing the significance of ACTIVE community participation.

It's not too late. You, Temple City can still participate. I look forward to coming home next Saturday to attend the candidates' forum, and you bet I will vote. I always do, and you should too!



Matthew

TEMPLE CITY *Voice*

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Letters to the Editor...

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October	17	Fall Festival @ Temple City Park 10 AM-4 PM
	20	City Council Meeting @ Council Chambers, 7:30 PM
	24	S.B. Candidates' Forum @TCHS Room 601, 4:30-6:30 PM
	27	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting @ Council Chambers, 7:30 PM
	30	Staff Development Day (NO SCHOOL)



PLEASE RECYCLE!