

COUNCILMEMBER VINCENT SARMIENTO

NEWSLETTER

CITY OF SANTA ANA

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008

Message From Vincent Sarmiento



In the last few months, my wife and I have been involved in higher education programs throughout Santa Ana. This

spring we supported and observed Santa Ana High School students in the YMCA's mock trial which took place at Chapman Law School. It was very exciting to see bright kids with the ability to argue a case and explore the legal field.

Eva volunteered for the Orange County Bar Foundation's Higher Education Mentoring Program, which prepares female high school students for college. She presented a workshop about turning 18 and the legal responsibility students acquire. She also spoke on a career panel about her experiences in college and the legal profession.

At the Higher Education Program's graduation, I recognized students for their achievements in the program. I also presented certificates of recognition for the Orange County Bar Foundation's Project Self interns, which are students from the City of Santa Ana that are placed in an 8-week internship at law firms.

Finally, I addressed students from ConquistAmerica Education Foundation. The program is intended to promote access to underserved youth who lack financial assistance for college. I can honestly say that in the last few months I have met many overachieving students that have a desire to not only achieve their goals, but also help others achieve their dreams. I am certain the city's future will be placed in very good hands.

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Ethics News

In February 2008, Section 401.05 was added to the City Charter, which requires the adoption of a Code of Ethics and Conduct for elected officials and members of appointed boards, commissions and committees. An ad hoc committee of the Council met commission members to seek their input and in June 2008 a final Code of Ethics and Conduct was approved by the Council.

The Code establishes high standards of conduct for all elected officials and members of appointed boards, commissions, and committees. It also serves to increase public confidence in City government. Elected and appointed officials of the City will be asked to certify that they have received a copy of the Code of Ethics and Conduct and that they will conduct their duties in accordance with the provisions in the code.

Saving Energy Together—Solar Installation Fee Waiver

In order to encourage the use of solar energy in homes and businesses, the City of Santa Ana currently waives permit and inspection fees for solar installation projects. Solar energy systems are quiet and produce clean energy with no emissions. Installing 1-kilowatt of solar power is the equivalent of planting 50 trees, which helps keep the air clean. Solar technology reduces the need to generate fossil-fuel based power, lowers long-term investment costs for new electric facilities, and enhances our community's environment. For more information, please visit www.santa-ana.org/green or call (714) 647-5800.

City Employee Spotlight

SOURI AMIRANI DESIGN ENGINEERING

Souri Amirani has been with the City of Santa Ana since 1986 and currently serves as the Deputy City Engineer in the Public Works Agency. She holds a Master's of Science in Civil Engineering from Cal State Long Beach and is a registered Civil Engineer.

As the manager of the Design Engineering section, she is responsible for planning, budgeting and design of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) such as the City's current \$100 million residential Street Improvement Program, which will improve 200 miles of the city's streets. In addition, she manages the right-of-way section that acquires properties for street widening projects like Bristol Street. She has been successful in helping the City secure more than \$30 million in grant funding for arterial street improvement projects including the recent work on Flower St., Grand Ave. and Broadway St.

Calendar of Events

Terra Cotta Warriors Exhibit

Free every Friday afternoon at Bowers Museum

Zoofari 2008

August 23, 5:30pm—midnight at Santa Ana Zoo

Santiago Creek Wildlife & Watershed Center

August 27, 5:30 pm, 900 E. Memory Lane

Santa Ana Zoo Carousel Grand Opening

August 30, 11:00 a.m.

Concert in the Park

September 6, 6-10pm at Morrison Park

Garage Sale Weekend

September 6 and 7

Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park

September 9, Free Santa Ana Residents Day