



El Monte NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 8, 2008 ***Operation Sparkle***

El Monte, Calif. - On Saturday March 8, 2008, the City of El Monte Public Works Department will be hosting "Operation Sparkle" targeting a clean up effort on Lower Azusa Road from the east city limits to the west city limits.

The scheduled clean-up is part of an ongoing collaborative effort between the City of El Monte and community volunteers that targets major roadways along with residential areas for clean up, painting and beautification.

Between 150 and 200 volunteers will check in for breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 8, 2008 and team up with city employees. They will be issued shovels, rakes, paint rollers, gloves and trash bags. At 8:00 a.m. the clean-up process will begin, which includes debris clean up, weed removal, and curb and fire hydrant painting.

Operation Sparkle has been an ongoing clean-up effort in El Monte for the past 13 years. It began in 1995 when the City Council asked for staff to help coordinate a citywide beautification effort, focusing on Garvey Avenue. Mayor Ernie Gutierrez said, "This is a great opportunity for residents to get involved in keeping El Monte looking great. We have even had 5 year olds pull weeds out of the sidewalk. What a great lesson for kids to learn about civic pride!"

Check-in for volunteers beginning at 6:30 a.m. will be located in the parking lot of Arroyo High School football field at the Santa Anita Avenue. entrance, (just north of Lower Azusa Road off Santa Anita Avenue, Thomas Guide page 597 E4). Arroyo High School's address is: 4921 Cedar Avenue, El Monte, CA 91732.

Press parking will be available. Members of the Press are also invited to photograph city employees and volunteers working together cleaning up Lower Azusa Road.

For more information contact Rene Bobadilla, Public Works Superintendent, (626) 329-2339.
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El Monte, a city incorporated in 1912 and home to more than 125,000 residents, is a full-service city located in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley. It is freeway-close to all of Los Angeles, bisected by Interstate 10 and abutting Interstate 605. El Monte is home to a mega auto mall and boasts the largest single car dealership in the world, Longo Toyota.

El Monte can also be visited on the web at www.ElMonteCA.gov

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