



NEWS

**San Marcos Fire Department Senior Volunteer Program awarded**

On September 17, 2004, at the California League of Cities Annual Conference held in Long Beach, the San Marcos Fire Department Senior Volunteer Program was selected as one of the 2004 recipients for the "California Cities Helen Putnam Award for Excellence." The award will be officially presented at the San Marcos City Council Meeting on October 12, 2004.

Established in 1982 by the League of California Cities, the Helen Putnam Award recognizes cities that deliver the highest quality and level of service in the most effective manner possible. The League has stated, "The intent of the Helen Putnam Awards for Excellence is to encourage and celebrate the excellence of California cities as demonstrated by beneficial innovations, resourceful efficiencies, improved public service and overall public trust and support".

"Since its inception in February of 2003, Senior Fire Volunteers have performed well over 10,000 hours of community service and have worked on a number of projects related to fire safety, with their most recent project being the installation of smoke detectors for the senior citizen community stated Captain O'Brien, who serves as the Departments Senior Fire Volunteer Coordinator.

"Senior Fire Volunteers are an important component of our operations and we are extremely proud to have them working along side us," stated Larry Webb, Fire Chief of the San Marcos Fire Department. "Further, the leagues recognition of the San Marcos Fire Senior Fire Volunteer program has validated the importance of senior volunteers in the public safety arena".

Besides the daily support, senior fire volunteers augment

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Munchkin Street Fair and the Kiwanis Child Safety & Family Resouce Day:  
Saturday, May 14 at 9 AM - 4 PM

[City of San Marcos: Youth Awards Program](#)

Nominations Deadline Date:  
Friday, April 26  
Ceremony Date: Sunday, May 1 at 2 PM

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DEFENSIBLE SPACE SAVES LIVES](#)

Due to the above average rain fall this winter, the vegetation around your home will become extremely dangerous as it dries out and summer temperatures rise. The time to act is now....

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Soon:

[City Hall Closed, May 20, '05](#)

[City Council Meeting](#)

[City Hall Closed, May 30, '05](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

emergency response to fires and other major emergencies as they provide incident support with equipment and firefighter rehabilitation responsibilities. Additionally, they provide increased fire station security, as seniors are able to assist outside vendors when fire personnel may be out on emergency calls.

The benefits associated with the Senior Fire Volunteer Program are clear. The citizens receive increased fire services without a larger fire budget. Fire safety employees are no longer pulled out of their first-in response areas to perform routine administrative tasks, and are now more available to fulfill essential fire duties in the field. Finally, the Senior Fire Volunteers have meaningful, engaging activities that keep them connected to the community.

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