

Distributed on:

MAY - 1 2009

by City Manager's Office  
*Memorandum*

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Debra Figone

**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Weekly Report

**DATE:** May 1, 2009

**INFORMATION**

Following are the key activities to be highlighted this week:

***Special Election Polling Location Information*** —The Office of the City Clerk is once again a polling location for the *Vote by Mail Ballots* for the State Election on Tuesday, May 19. Questions regarding the Election should be directed to the Registrar of Voters at 866-430-VOTE, or see attached flyer.

***Foreclosure Help and Resource Fair*** —On April 23, over 550 households attended the City's "Foreclosure Help and Resource Fair," held at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Attendees were assisted through an intake process which referred them to a number of related services on-site, such as legal assistance, credit counseling, health and human services, employment services and foreclosure prevention counseling. There were four informational workshops presented throughout the event, including: 1) What to Expect-Foreclosure Process; 2) Credit Counseling; 3) Bankruptcy-A legal Perspective; and 4) Reassessing Your Property Tax Rate. Surveys conducted at the resource fair indicated that 97% of participants left with an increased awareness of available options and resources, and felt the event was very helpful. Plans for another Foreclosure Fair are in development. For more information, contact Jacky Morales-Ferrand at 535-3855.

***Foreclosure Help Center To Open*** —On May 13, the Housing Department anticipates the opening of the *Foreclosure Help Center*, a partnership between the City, Don't Borrow Trouble Silicon Valley, and the four local nonprofit agencies certified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to negotiate with lenders on behalf of borrowers in default. Staffed largely by volunteers from the mortgage-lending profession, the Center will assess the needs of homeowners who are in default on their home loans, collect needed loan information, and make appropriate referrals to expedite the process. Homeowners will be seen on an appointment-only basis after an initial screening via the Foreclosure Help Hotline. Until the Center opens, Housing Department staff is staffing the Hotline (792-1242).

***Swine Flu Precautions at the Airport*** —The Airport continues to work with federal agencies and the Santa Clara County Health Department to carry out precautionary measures consistent with other airports across the country. Health advisories have been posted on the Airport website ([www.sjc.org](http://www.sjc.org)) and at locations throughout the Airport. Additionally, staff has increased custodial attention to the International Arrivals Building to sanitize surfaces. Due to precautionary steps taken by the Airport, U.S. Customs & Border Patrol and Mexicana Airlines, the County Health Department determined that Public Health staff were not needed to monitor passengers arriving on direct flights from Mexico. All SJC flights continue to operate as scheduled, including flights to Mexico. For more information, contact John Aitken at 277-5377.

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***Reduced Military Charter Flight Curfew Incursions*** —Over the past month, approximately 50 military charter flights have arrived through SJC, including several 747 aircraft planes. At the Airport's request, military offices and charter operators modified flight schedules to minimize curfew incursions. To date, only four flight operations occurred during curfew hours. Airport neighbors and Council offices were notified of curfew incursions ahead of time, and the level of activity will return to normal in May. For more information, contact Curt Eikerman at 277-4393.

***Standard & Poor's Affirms SJC Bond Rating*** —In its regular review of the Airport's financial status, Standard & Poor's (S&P) Rating Service affirmed its "A" rating for Airport revenue bonds. S&P based its findings on the Airport's market and service area, historic low cost structure, strong debt coverage levels, and diverse revenue base. Despite the challenges of the current economy and declining passenger traffic, S&P's rating is a testament to the Airport's ongoing commitment to prudent fiscal management and cost containment. For more information, contact Terri Gomes at 501-0952.

***State Releases \$5.4 Million in Grant Funds*** —On April 22, the State announced the release of committed infrastructure grant funds which were frozen since December 2008. The release of these funds allows eleven City park and trail capital projects totaling \$5.4 million to move forward. Now that the funds have been released, the City can receive reimbursement for \$1.4 million in grant-eligible expenses incurred and billed to the state. Work on the City's remaining grant-funded parks and trail projects in the pipeline may now resume. For more information, contact Matt Cano at 535-3580.

***Diagnosis of Koi Virus Confirmed in Japanese Friendship Garden Ponds*** —The results of pathological testing from U.C. Davis labs confirmed the diagnosis of Koi Herpes Virus (KHV) in the fish from the Japanese Friendship Garden Ponds. The virus, relatively new in the U.S., has no known cure or vaccine. U.C. Davis experts identified this outbreak of the virus as one of four on the west coast over the past eighteen months. Staff concluded the fish were contaminated due to the likely release of 'pet fish' infected with the virus into the ponds without knowledge or permission from staff. With a confirmed diagnosis, staff has begun to identify and implement steps to render the pond system safe for future fish populations. This involves draining the ponds and keeping them dry and empty for four to six weeks. Following the dry period, staff may fill the ponds with water for appearance during the busy summer season but withhold the release of new fish stock into the ponds until cooler fall temperatures set in. The City holds an additional 150 fish in propagation tanks at the Friendship Gardens which have not been in contact with the contaminated fish. As of April 28, we have lost 215 koi with 50 fish still on display. U.C. Davis experts have strongly recommended the euthanasia of the remaining 50 fish as we will be unable to rebuild the program with the existing fish. For more information, contact Mona Favorite-Hill at 793-5589.

***Major Renovations to PRNS Website*** —The Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) department is in the midst of a major renovation to its website. Its goal is to develop a website that provides online information for all PRNS programs, services and facilities. Given the large and disparate functions of the department, staff anticipates this full renovation will take some time to complete. The initial focus will be on the website's basic structure, PRNS public programs, regional parks and 'hub' community centers. These updates will be followed by the alphabetical creation of information pages for each of the neighborhood parks and satellite centers. For more information, contact Mona Favorite-Hill at 793-5589.

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***Public Input Sought at May 16 Plant Master Plan Workshop***—On Saturday, May 16, the Water Pollution Control Plant will host its first community workshop as part of the Plant Master Plan process. The workshop includes an optional bus tour, followed by an open house, a project overview, and a public input session. Regulators, project partners, stakeholders, and residents across the Plant's eight-city service area are invited. The workshop will focus on how implementing new treatment technologies will create the opportunity to envision new land uses on the 2,600 acres of Plant lands, such as jobs-based development, a clean tech center, expanded habitat protection areas, and community amenities such as trails. Staff will gather public input using a visual preference presentation, and attendees will express their opinions using hand-held clickers. This overview and input gathering will continue throughout the summer via presentations to stakeholder groups and the *Wonders of Our Water Works* public tours program. After May 16, the public can also view the workshop presentation and give input on the project Web site. Input from these various methods will be used to finalize project metrics to evaluate alternatives; the alternatives will be ready for public consideration in 2010. Due to anticipated large turnout and limited seating, reservations are recommended. To reserve a seat, call 408-975-2556 or visit [www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan). For more information, contact Kirsten Struve at 945-5180.

***City Hosts Workshop on Procuring Environmentally-Friendly Furniture***—On Earth Day, April 22, the Environmental Services Department hosted a Green Furniture Workshop at City Hall. The featured speaker, Mr. Eugene M. Lisa, shared his knowledge on sustainable, recycled and bio-based materials and how to prepare purchasing specifications for green furniture orders. The workshop was attended by 30 representatives from private companies, the County and staff from Environmental Services, Public Works, General Services and the Library Department. Feedback was very positive, with attendees noting that they are now more knowledgeable and can tell when vendors are "greenwashing" their claims. For more information, contact Linden Skjeie at 975-2577.

***Office of Emergency Services Sponsors Report***—Authored by the Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation at San José State University and funded by an Urban Area Security Initiative grant, the Office of Emergency Services has published a preliminary report on the reasons people do not seismically retrofit their homes to protect against earthquake damage. Entitled, "Barriers to Mitigation: A Pilot Study," the report can be found on the OES website at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/emergencyServices>.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

***Rediscover the Rosegarden Celebration***—Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to Noon, Naglee Ave @ Dana Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126. Please contact Edwin Cortez at 408-277-5986 for information.

***Affordable Housing Week Events***—For more information, call Jacky Morales-Ferrand at 535-3855 or see attached flyer.

- ***Community by Design: Innovations in Affordable Housing***—Wednesday, May 13, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Roosevelt Community Center, 901 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose.
- ***One Paycheck Away***—Thursday, May 14, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the San Jose City Hall Rotunda, 200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose.

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- **Foreclosure Help** —Monday, May 18, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Roosevelt Community Center, 901 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose.
- **Why It's a Good Time To Buy a Home** —Friday, May 22, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the San Jose City Hall Rotunda, 200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose.

**Grand Opening Grace Art & Wellness Studio** —Thursday, May 14, 2009, 5 p.m.- 7:30 p.m., 146 South 10th Street, San Jose, CA 95112. For more information, call Teresa Quijance at 277-4007.

**Spring into Health; 50+ Wellness Festival & Fun Walk** — Friday, May 15, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., San José History Park, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, 95112. Contact Tracey Gott at 979-7906 for information.

**Plant Master Plan Community Workshop** —Saturday, May 16, 1:30 p.m.; Plant bus tour at 2:00 p.m.; Open house at 2:30 p.m. 700 Los Esteros Road San Jose, CA 95134. Seating is limited. Call 975-2556 to make a reservation or email [Matt.Krupp@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Matt.Krupp@sanjoseca.gov) for more information.

**Wonders of Our Water Works Bus Tours** — Tour the Water Pollution Control Plant and adjacent wildlife refuge to see this marvel and learn how our clean effluent protects the adjacent wildlife refuge and Bay. First and third Saturdays, May-October, 9:00-11:00 a.m., and 1:00-3:00 p.m. (exceptions for the month of July). Group tours also available first and third Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. For information, call 975-2556 or visit <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan/tour-reservations.asp>

**2009 Community Budget Meetings** —Below is a listing of remaining meetings. Please contact Ernest Azevedo at 535-8119 for more information.

- District 4 —Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. Alviso Community Center, 5050 North First.
- District 9 —Thursday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. Cambrian Branch Library, 1780 Hillsdale Avenue.
- District 2 —Saturday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m. Edenvale Library, 101 Branham Lane.
- District 1 —Monday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. Archbishop Mitty High School, 5000 Mitty Way.
- District 5 —Wednesday, May 14. Location and Time to be announced.
- District 3 —Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. San Jose City Hall, Wing Rooms 118-119.



Debra Figone  
City Manager

Attachments



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK

*Affordable Housing Week* helps promote awareness of the challenges we face in creating sustainable and affordable communities that meet the needs of all residents. The City of San José will celebrate Affordable Housing Week, May 11 through May 22, with a special lecture series on interesting and educational topics designed to engage and enlighten participants.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009, 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

**EVENT** Community by Design: Innovations in Affordable Housing  
**PURPOSE** A panel will discuss how affordable housing adds life to a community, including Green building design elements, supporting the arts community and providing community space for services.  
**LOCATION** The Roosevelt Community Center, 901 East Santa Clara Street, San José  
**CONTACT** Kristen Clements at 408.535.8236

**THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009, 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

**EVENT** Project Family Connect  
**PURPOSE** The Project FAMILY Connect event will help families find housing, access medical and dental care, school enrollment, employment opportunities, job search resources, legal services, youth services, food, and much more.  
**LOCATION** InnVision's One Stop Homeless Prevention Center - Georgia Travis Center, 297 Commercial St.  
**CONTACT** Jarrod Gray at 975.4487

**THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009, 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

**EVENT** One Paycheck Away  
**PURPOSE** Affordable housing is the lynchpin to making living costs reasonable, preventing poverty, and keeping communities stable. This topic will be discussed by a panel that will provide a perspective on social equity, policy and the new poverty standard.  
**LOCATION** San José City Hall Rotunda, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, San José  
**CONTACT** Melissa Whatley at 408.975.4418

**SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009, 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

**EVENT** 2009 Whistle Stop Housing Tour - Winchester Light-Rail Line  
**LOCATION** Starting Location: Water Tower Plaza, 300 Orchard City Drive, Campbell  
**CONTACT** Register at: <http://whistlestop09.eventbrite.com>

**MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009, 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**EVENT** Foreclosure Help  
**PURPOSE** With the escalation of foreclosures in San José, 14,000 in 2008, there is no better time to provide information and education on this important topic. A panel will discuss current city and county statistics and City assistance to those in need.  
**LOCATION** The Roosevelt Community Center, 901 East Santa Clara Street, San José  
**CONTACT** Sandra Murillo at 408.975.4415

**FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2009, 12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

**EVENT** Why It's a Good Time to Buy a Home  
**PURPOSE** Questions about the housing market, if this is the right time to buy a home, the status of tax credits and the availability of City funds are just a few of the questions that will be addressed in this interactive presentation.  
**LOCATION** San José City Hall Rotunda, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, San José  
**CONTACT** Brandi Hoffman-Ooka at 408.535.8232



# **BALETS** **HERE**

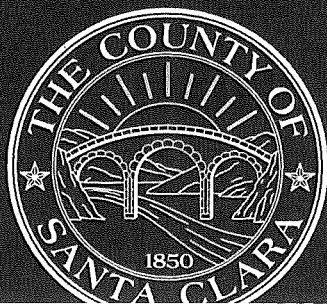
**Vote by Mail ballots  
may be dropped off  
at the location, date,  
and time listed below.**

**Office of City Clerk**

**Wing, 2nd Floor**

**8am – 5pm**

**Want to become a Permanent Vote by Mail Voter?  
Call 866-430-VOTE or go to [sccvote.org](http://sccvote.org)**



**Santa Clara County  
Registrar of Voters**