

Distributed on:

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by City Manager's Office

## Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Debra Figone

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

**DATE:** October 16, 2009

### INFORMATION

Following are the key activities to be highlighted this week:

***Street Tree Services During and After the Recent Storm***—On October 13, heavy rain and high winds swept through San Jose significantly impacting the City's street trees and resulting in several hundred requests from the public for street tree corrective maintenance services. Department of Transportation (DOT) field staff responded to and inspected approximately 330 reports of damaged or fallen trees in the public right-of-way. Of the 330 service requests, 51 were immediately assigned to the City's contractor either at the request of the property owner or at the request of DOT staff who determined that immediate service was necessary. DOT's Arborist Office will be following-up on all of service requests over the next two weeks to ensure that the needed work was properly completed. Under the FY 2008-2009 Adopted Budget, funding for the City to perform street tree maintenance on behalf of property owners was eliminated and full responsibility for these services was reverted to the property owners. As a result, the Arborist Office informed residents of options at the time and will be sending invoices to property owners for those services provided by the City's contractor within the next 90 days. It is expected that more service requests from the storm will be assigned to the City's contractor over the next week as property owners and residents decide to have the City perform the work or they fail to get the work done in a timely manner. For more information, contact Diane Milowicki, DOT Division Manager, at 277-5496.

***Boccardo Reception Center Stays Open in Full Capacity***—Due to an extremely generous gift from two Silicon Valley families, EHC LifeBuilders' Boccardo Reception Center will now be able to serve San Jose's homeless population at their full capacity of 250 beds. The families read the article in the San Jose Mercury News about the financial struggles EHC was having and felt the need to help. Prior to the donation, EHC Lifebuilders was going to cut the number of beds available to homeless individuals in half. The 2009 Homeless Census and Survey counted over 7,000 homeless people in Santa Clara County. While the City moves to a more permanent solution for homeless residents, there is still a need for emergency shelters. For more information, contact Leslye Krutko, Housing Department Director, at 535-3851.

***Election November 3, 2009***—The Office of the City Clerk, in partnership with the County Registrar of Voters, is an official drop off location for mail-in ballots for the November 3, 2009 election. While the City of San Jose is not conducting an election in November, other jurisdictions in the County (cities of Cupertino, Los Altos, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale) are having local elections. City employees and members of the public who are registered voters in other communities are invited to drop their ballots off at City Hall, in the Office of the City Clerk, Wing-2nd Floor now and through November 3, 2009. For more information, contact Lee Price, City Clerk, at 535-1252.

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***work2future American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Summer Work Experience Program***—918 low-income, at-risk youth participated in work2future's summer work experience program. The youth, ages 15 to 24, worked at over 75 sites around the county, with approximately 120 working directly for the City. Supported under ARRA funds, work2future paid for the youth salaries and also provided work readiness training. The work readiness training includes resume preparation, interviewing and networking techniques, and an overview of careers in the green economy. The State of California Employment Development Department just completed their required audit of the Program with no items of note recorded. For more information, contact Jeff Ruster, Deputy Director OED, at 535-8183.

***First Adult Literacy Learner Celebration Spurs Greater Participation***—On October 5, the Library's adult literacy program, *Partners in Reading*, held its first learner recognition event at the King Library. Over 100 people attended the event including learners, their families and tutors. The expanding program and increased ownership and innovation on the part of a team of community volunteers contributed to the event's success. Two learners received awards resulting from nominations submitted by their tutors; one for "Most Inspiring and Courageous Learner" another for "Learner of the Year." A third "Special Recognition" award went to learner turned tutor, Maria Torres Gafford, an engineer by profession (originally from Mexico), who entered the program needing an opportunity to practice her English speaking, reading and writing skills. According to the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy, it is estimated that 45% of Santa Clara County residents who, if tested, would reveal low level literacy competencies, and as many as 16% (or 277,000) do not have sufficient literacy skills to perform basic daily tasks that require reading, writing or the completion of forms. Another estimated 29% just get by. *Partners in Reading* is gearing up for further expansion to address community needs that will include worksite service delivery. Essential to that effort is recruitment of additional community volunteers to participate in upcoming tutor trainings. The next tutor orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4. If you are interested in becoming a tutor, please call 808-2361 to pre-register for the orientation.

***Councilmember Herrera's League of California Cities Appointment***—The President of the Peninsula Division of the League of California Cities, Ron Swegles, has appointed Councilmember Rose Herrera to the League's Committee on Transportation, Communication and Public Works (TC&PW). The TC&PW Committee reviews both state and federal legislation as it relates to issues of transportation funding, construction, public works, telecommunications, and other related areas. The practice of the Committee is to recommend to the League Board preliminary positions on legislation, based on existing League positions, adopted annual conference resolutions, and the collective knowledge and experience of Committee members. Next year transportation will continue to be a major area of interest to the LOCC as local governments continue to advocate for the protection our gasoline sales tax revenue for our streets and roads. At the federal level, for San Jose the reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU Act will be critical to fund the BART project and other major transportation infrastructure projects. Congratulations to Councilmember Herrera as she takes on this new role with the LOCC in 2010! For more information, contact Betsy Shotwell, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, at 535-8270.

***ESD Employee Named "Person of the Year" by The WasteReuse Association***—The WasteReuse Association, a professional organization dedicated to advancement of the beneficial and efficient use of water resources, recently recognized San Jose's South Bay Water Recycling Division Manager, Eric Rosenblum as their 2009 *Person of the Year* for his energetic support and advocacy

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of water recycling. In acknowledging him for his contributions to the field of water recycling, WaterReuse also recognized the City's investment in South Bay Water Recycling and its longstanding commitment to developing sustainable water supplies, as well as its enthusiasm and confidence in promoting the importance of water recycling for the future. For more information, contact John Stufflebean, Director, ESD at 535-8580.

***City of San Jose receives Department of Energy Solar American Cities Grant***—The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded Solar America Cities grant funds to the City for seven solar projects – the largest number awarded to any city in the nation. The projects will make it easier and more cost-effective for residents to install solar on their homes, provide job training for disadvantaged youth in the growing solar industry, as well as help residents learn about solar options. For more information, contact Mary Ellen Dick, Office of Sustainability Manager, ESD at 535-8555.

***ESD Staff presents San Jose's Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy to Government Procurement Managers at Conference***—On October 8, Linden Skjeie of Environmental Services gave a presentation at the Sixth Annual Cooperative Conference of the National Institute of Government Purchasers and California Association of Public Procurement Officers held in Sacramento on how the City implements its Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy to 50 procurement managers from state and local governments in northern California. For more information, contact Linden Skjeie, ESD Supervising Environmental Specialist, at 975-2577.

***River Trash Cleanup Activities***—On September 23, ESD in partnership with PRNS and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) worked to remove 3.62 tons trash and debris from the Guadalupe River over a two-day period. The cleanup effort was completed as part of the City's Trash Prevention and Removal MOA with the SCVWD. For more information, contact Elaine Marshall, Environmental Services Program Manager at 277-5697.

***Contact Center After Hours Phone Transfer Update***—Following an upgrade to the City's primary telecommunications server, the Customer Contact Center identified issues with the transfer of after-hours telephone calls to the answering service. While implementing a temporary "work around," staff continued to work with Nortel and AT&T. Staff was able to identify a configuration anomaly, which it then corrected. The issue has been resolved and after-hour calls are now being successfully transferred to the after-hours answering service. For more information, contact Vijay Sammeta, Deputy Director, ITD at 535-3566.

**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

***Making Magic Alum Rock Education Foundation Golf Tournament***, Friday, October 16  
Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., Los Lagos Golf Course, 2995 Tuers Road, 95121. For more information, contact Liz Best at 794-1065.

***Filipino History Month Flag Raising Ceremony***, Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.  
San José City Hall Plaza. For information, contact Council District 4 at 535-4904.

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***Foreclosure Prevention and Resource Fair***, October 21<sup>st</sup>, Mexican Heritage Plaza, 1700 Alum Rock, from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Leslye Krutko Housing Director, at 535-3851.

***One-Stop Homeless Prevention Center Tours***, Over the next three months, EHC LifeBuilders will be providing one-hour tours to anyone interested in learning more about the innovative services at EHC LifeBuilders' new One-Stop Homeless Prevention Center located at 2011 Little Orchard Street. The tour will consist of a short presentation outlining the program, how it assists clients to achieve stability and self-sufficiency in Santa Clara County, and additional information such as program goals and outcomes, success stories, as well as methods and principles implemented at the site. Tours will be held three times a month from October through December, or by special appointment. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Ray Bramson at 539-2103 or at [rbramson@ehclifebuilders.org](mailto:rbramson@ehclifebuilders.org):

***October:*** Tuesday, October 20 – 11:30-12:30; Friday, October 23 – 10:00-11:00;  
Wednesday, October 28 – 12:00-1:00

***November:*** Wednesday, November 4 – 9:00-10:00; Thursday, November 12 – 10:00-11:00; Tuesday, November 17 – 2:00-3:00

***December :*** Thursday, December 3 – 10:00-11:00; Tuesday, December 8 – 2:00-3:00;  
Wednesday, December 9 – 10:30-11:30

***“Day of the Dead: a Passion for Life” Exhibit***, An exhibit of more than 50 images captured by accomplished local photographer and community newspaper publisher Mary J. Andrade. The exhibit, located on the second floor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library continues through Friday, November 27. For additional information on the photo exhibit, contact Veronica Murguia at (408) 436-7850 ext. 12 or at [veronica@laoferta.com](mailto:veronica@laoferta.com).

***“The Art of Remembrance” Exhibit***, An exhibit of traditional altars curated by Mary Jane Solis, located on the fifth floor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library through Saturday, November 14. The exhibit is part of Día de los Muertos 2009 presented by San Jose Multicultural Artist Guide and Teatro Familia Aztlan, in collaboration with the City of San José, Castellano Family Foundation, Target Stores, Mexican American Studies Department and Cesar Chavez Community Action Program at SJSU, Assemblymember Joe Coto and Councilmembers Madison Nguyen and Sam Liccardo. For more information, call 272-9924.

***Unveiling of Deep Space Images from NASA's Great Observatories***—On November 17 at noon, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library will host an unveiling of never-before-seen multi-wavelength images produced in collaboration by NASA's Great Observatories—the Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope, and Chandra X-Ray Observatory. The Library is one of two institutions in the Bay Area (152 nationwide) selected to host this special event in celebration of the International Year of Astronomy. The International Year of Astronomy Great Observatories Image Unveiling is made possible by special funding from NASA's Science Mission Directorate. The project is collaboration between the Space Telescope Science Institute, Spitzer Science Center and Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. The image unveiling takes place in the King

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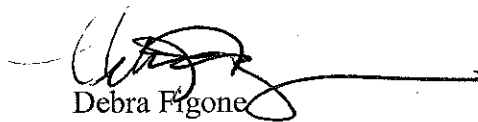
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Library's Fourth Street Lobby and will be followed on Saturday, November 21 with a day of discovery activities for all ages, including lectures by faculty from the SJSU Physics & Astronomy Dept. For more information, call 808-2397.

***Wonders of Our Water Works Bus Tours Extended Through November 21, 2009***, First and third Saturdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m., and 1:00-3:00 p.m. Free two-hour bus tour of the Water Pollution Control Plant to learn how wastewater is treated. Participants must be 10 years or older. For reservations, contact Bruce Frisbey at 975-2542, or visit [www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan/tour-reservations.asp](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan/tour-reservations.asp)



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