

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

April
2009

Fire Station No. 2 Groundbreaking



Fire Station No. 2 Groundbreaking Ceremony: (L to R) City Manager Debra Figone, Councilmember Kansen Chu, Mayor Chuck Reed, Councilmember Nora Campos, Councilmember Ash Kalra and Fire Chief Darryl Von Raesfeld.

As you drive on Alum Rock Avenue between Capitol Avenue and White Road, you will notice that Fire Station No. 2 has been demolished in order to rebuild the fire station. On Friday, April 3, 2009, I was joined by my City Council colleagues and city staff for the groundbreaking ceremony. I am excited to see that this project is underway and that the residents of East San Jose will have a new fire station that will meet the fire protection and medical needs of so many residents. The rebuilt Fire Station No. 2 is expected to be completed in September 2010.

In September 2007, I was joined by a majority of my City Council colleagues to approve a full rebuild of District Five's Fire Station No. 2. With approximately 4,500 calls annually, Fire Station No. 2 fields the highest volume of service calls of any single station in the City of San Jose and the entire County of Santa Clara County. In addition to protecting most of District 5, this fire station serves a broad, multidistrict area encompassing portions of Districts 4, 7 and 8. The rebuild was necessary not only to provide the residents of East San Jose and the fire fighters who live and work at Station No. 2 with a state of the art fire station that meets the essential facility standards, but, most importantly, to ensure that the public safety bond dollars are distributed in an equitable manner throughout our city.

City Council Honors Cesar E. Chavez

Memorial walkway will be marked with signs connecting downtown and East San Jose, the birthplace of the United Farm Worker movement



The San Jose City Council approved a memorial walkway for Cesar Chavez that will link downtown San Jose to East San Jose, and will be marked by commemorative signs that will highlight seven locations along the five-mile route from Cesar Chavez's former home on Scharff Avenue to

the Plaza de Cesar Chavez in downtown San Jose.

I am inspired to see that, once again, the City of San Jose is recognizing a leader who had an enormous impact on the lives of migrant farm-workers and motivated many to continue fighting for those who are not able

to speak up and defend themselves. As a child, I remember when my parents, my brother and I joined the *causa* (cause) by marching with Cesar Chavez. I look forward to the completion of this great project that will provide our residents with an educational experience and honor a man who affected positive change for so many.

Mayfair NAC Commits \$1M for ACE Charter School



Last year, the Mayfair SNI-NAC identified support for the development of charter schools in the Mayfair community as one of its top ten priorities. There are many great charter schools eager to serve underperforming students, but they are faced with the obstacle of finding land on which to build their campuses. On Tuesday, March 17, the Alum Rock

vacant four-acre lot behind Cesar Chavez Elementary School. ACE Charter School is one of the organizations with which the district will be entering into negotiations. The Mayfair SNI-NAC unanimously voted to support the proposal to allocate \$1 million from Redevelopment Agency funds. The \$1 million in RDA funds will be used to develop an ACE Charter

Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees directed staff to negotiate with several organizations for the use and potential lease of a currently

School in the heart of the Mayfair neighborhood that will not only provide much needed revenue for the Alum Rock Union School District, but it will provide the district with a valuable partner that specializes in educating the district's lowest performing students.

ACE Charter School intends to target underperforming students whose reading level is three to five years behind grade level and prepare them for success in high school. The charter school aims to reduce the number of high school dropouts in East San Jose, where 1,300 students dropped out last year. I would like to thank the Mayfair SNI-NAC for their vision for a school that focuses on the immediate needs of youth in our community.

Important Numbers

Customer Service 535-3500
Anti-Graffiti/ Litter 277-2758
Code Enforcement 277-4528
Abandoned Vehicles 277-5305
Animal Services 578-7297
Tree Removal 277-2756
Street Lights 277-5517
Garbage & Recycling 535-3515
Mayfair Center 794-1060
Hank Lopez Center 926-3895
Dr. Cruz Library 929-0130
Hillview Library 808-3033

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CITY OF
SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Budget Update & Community Budget Meeting

The City of San Jose has not been immune to the effects of the economic downturn – job losses, plummeting housing market, lower sales tax revenue and lower property taxes. For the last eight years our city has been faced with budget deficits, but we have been able to avoid major layoffs, eliminating neighborhood programs and services, and reducing police and fire services. The City Council is currently facing a \$79 million budget deficit in Fiscal Year 2009-2010. This fiscal year alone, the City Manager has asked each department to reduce their operating budgets, look for cost saving opportunities, and layoff employees.

As we face a growing deficit, I will remain committed to ensuring that the City Council makes public safety our number one priority. It is important that our community is engaged in the budget process, so make sure that your voice is heard. In order to provide you with the opportunity to learn about the budget and share your priorities, I will be co-hosting a **Community Budget Meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mexican Heritage Plaza**. You may also contact my office by emailing district5@sanjoseca.gov or by telephone at (408) 535-4905.



Do the A's Know Their Way to San Jose?

San Jose City Council approved several recommendations to lay the groundwork to build a professional baseball stadium

It is not often that a Major League Baseball team seriously considers relocating to a new city and calling it home. The Athletics are searching for a new home in the Bay Area. The City of San Jose has an opportunity to seize the moment and bring a professional baseball team to the South Bay. Residents of our city could benefit from having an MLB team and from the construction of a baseball stadium, as it would create new jobs, increase sales tax

revenue for the city, and market the city of San Jose nationally, while providing a more robust experience for those who live, work and play in San Jose.

On March 11, 2009, Councilmembers Rose Herrera, Nancy Pyle and I issued a memorandum to the Rules and Open Government committee recommending that a full City Council discussion take place regarding the Athletics and building a baseball stadium in San Jose in an open and transparent meeting. We

also noted the importance of having a process that is inclusive of the community so that all voices are heard and concerns can be raised and receive proper responses. On April 8, 2008, the City Council voted on several recommendations that would prepare the city to do business with the A's by assessing the next steps needed to prepare the site, developing an outreach process to reach out to residents and businesses, and analyzing the financial impacts of a potential stadium.



In recent months, the number of properties in San Jose subject to foreclosure has increased significantly. Much of the foreclosure activity is concentrated in neighborhoods in Central San Jose, East San Jose, and the southern stretch of the Monterey Highway. Based on the increased number of recorded Notices of Default, and the high number of adjustable mortgage loan resets, there is concern that the number of foreclosures in San Jose will continue to rise.

In October 2008, I

submitted a budget funding request for the Redevelopment Agency 2008-09 Budget to hire two additional code enforcement officers. These two additional code officers, along with Strong Neighborhoods Initiative code officers, have been assigned to proactively go block by block in zip codes most affected by foreclosure to identify bank- or lender-owned properties. They are working to ensure that banks and lenders are maintaining and securing foreclosed properties. If you see any suspicious activity at a foreclosed

home, please call the San Jose Police Department at 9-1-1. If the property has blight, such as overgrown vegetation, garbage, or is unsecured, please contact Code Enforcement at (408) 277-4528.

The City of San Jose will be sponsoring the second Foreclosure Prevention Fair on Thursday, April 23, 2009 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. For help with a foreclosure, call (408) 794-1242.

If you have any other questions, please contact my office at (408) 535-4905.

GRANTS Safe Summer Grant Initiative

In October 2008, I submitted a budget proposal to Mayor Reed for inclusion in the Redevelopment Agency 2008-09 Budget. My proposal requested that \$500,000 be set aside for gang intervention and prevention programs, and my colleagues on the San Jose City Council voted to support this one-time use of funds for the 2009 Safe Summer Initiative Grant (SSIG) Program. The intent of the SSIG program is to provide San Jose youth, ages 6-18, with unique recreational and educational opportunities to keep them safe, active and engaged in positive programs from June to September. This program will provide mini-grants in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$30,000 to eligible applicants who will provide safe and fun recreation opportunities to youth in San Jose, paying special attention to those areas identified as "Hot Spots."

All applicants must register for free on BidSync by visiting www.bidsync.com. Once applicants have completed registration they can search for the bid number (PRNS-CSD-04-09-01) in order to download the application packet, receive updates, answers to frequently asked questions, and to download addendums. All inquiries regarding the SSIG RFP application process must be made via email on BidSync. Responses to questions submitted will be posted on Friday, April 17, 2009 and Friday, April 24, 2009.

The deadline for submitting the SSIG RFP application is Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

Cesar Chavez Commemorative Breakfast

On Tuesday, March 31, 2009, Rita Chavez Media and I co-hosted the 8th Annual Cesar Chavez Commemorative Breakfast at the Mayfair Community Center. It was a successful event that attracted over 350 attendees to celebrate and honor the life of Cesar E. Chavez. I would like to thank the Chavez Family Vision, Inc for presenting me with the *Si Se Puede* award.



Prepare for the Census 2010

Every 10 years, the United States Census gathers important data about every person living in the U.S. Beginning on April 6, 2009, U.S. Census workers started surveying in San Jose neighborhoods. As the first step in gearing up for the 2010 Census, field workers began "address canvassing" in Santa Clara County to verify and update existing residential addresses and area maps.

The City of San Jose is partnering with the County of Santa Clara, Valley Transportation Authority, and local communities to assist the U. S. Census Bureau with outreach efforts. An

accurate Census count is important to the City of San Jose, as well as other local government agencies, because the Census count is used to make important decisions about the amount of funding our agencies receive. Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on Census data.

For more information about the 2010 Census or employment opportunities, please visit www.census.gov/2010census/ or call the Local Census Office at (408) 343-8140.