



Office of Councilmember Nora Campos District Five- East San Jose

WINTER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Redevelopment Agency 2008-2009 Budget

I am excited to share with you that the City Council approved the Redevelopment Agency's budget on December 9, 2008. During the budget process, I made several recommendations that the Mayor included in his Budget Message, including additional funding for gang prevention and intervention services, hiring additional code enforcement officers, and rebuilding the playground equipment at Hillview Park.

In 2007, the City of San José experienced a sharp increase in gang-related incidents that plagued neighborhoods across the city. In response to the increase in violence, the City Council approved an additional \$1 million in June 2008 for community-based organizations to provide gang intervention and prevention services. In an effort to provide community-based organizations and community groups with more funding to help combat gang violence, I proposed setting aside \$500,000 from the Redevelopment Agency 2008-2009 Budget. The money will be used towards the Safe Summer Initiative grants. Please stay tuned for more details.

Additionally, there has been an increase in blight and graffiti issues that deteriorate the appearance of our neighborhoods and affect the residents quality of life. In this budget, I proposed the infusion of funding to hire two additional code enforcement officers for the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative areas. Code Enforcement are an integral core city services that helps keep our neighborhoods and business districts attractive and clean. We must all take responsibility for the appearance of our neighborhoods and report quality of life issues to Code Enforcement. If you have any complaints, please call Code Enforcement at (408) 277-4528 or visit www.sanjoseca.gov/CodeEnforcement.



Lastly, in the Redevelopment Agency budget, \$200,000 was set aside to rebuild the playground structure at Hillview Park, which was destroyed by a fire. I am excited to see that the playground will be rebuilt so the children from the neighborhood will have a safe place to play.

Update: Public Intoxication Arrests Task Force

On November 18, 2008, the City Council held a public hearing during the evening City Council meeting to hear community concerns about public intoxication arrests. This hearing was held in response to an October 19, 2008 San Jose Mercury News article about public intoxication arrests in the City of San José. The story revealed that in 2007, Latinos were arrested for public intoxication at a much higher rate than any other ethnicity in the city. The article also stated the San Jose Police Department arrested significantly more people per capita for public intoxication than any other major city in California.

The public hearing was a great opportunity for the community to have a dialogue with the City Council. I was very pleased to see that there were over 250 people in audience to express their feelings about this issue. I commend the community organizations and groups that participated in the hearing, as well as having their members attend the hearing in large numbers. I applaud the numerous people who summoned the courage to speak before the City Council to share their personal stories impact that public intoxication arrests have had in their lives.

After the City Council heard the public testimony, I proposed that the City form a task force comprised of stakeholders to convene over a 90-day period to provide the City Council with recommendations on the issue of public intoxication arrests. The task force will be comprised of representatives from various community-based organizations, advocacy groups, city departments and county agencies. This is an important first step that will allow for the City, police department and community to work closely together on this matter and will begin to restore trust between the police and community.



If you like more information on this matter, please contact:
Norberto Dueñas, City Manager's office, (408) 535-8081
Javier Gonzalez, Councilmember Nora Campos' office, (408) 535-4905

Santa Clara Valley Water District Sandbag Program

During the rainy season, the Santa Clara Valley Water District provides free, filled sandbags at six locations around the county. All sites are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **For a recorded message that lists all of the current sandbag sites in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, call (888) HEY-NOAH (439-6624).**



East San José residents, closest location: City of San José Central Service Yard, 1661 Senter Road, San José, CA.

Sandbags alone should not be relied upon to keep water outside of a building. Residents should also use baffle boards (plywood sheeting) or sheets of plastic tarp with sandbags. To form a sandbag wall, place bags tightly against one another to form the first layer of defense. Stagger the second and subsequent layers of bags, much like the pattern of bricks in a wall. Sandbags should never be used to build a fortress around the perimeter of one's property. Doing so can actually trap floodwaters between sandbag walls and structures, leading to further damage.

If you believe your home is in danger of being flooded, there are steps you can take in advance of a flood to reduce property damage.

For homes with cement slab floors:

- Use special paints to keep the water from penetrating exterior stucco or brick.
- Patch all cracks in the outside foundation with regular patching mixes.
- Clear dirt away from the bottom of stucco or wood walls and seal the lower exposed edge with caulking compound. Replace the dirt, which will not affect the seal.

For homes with wood floors and crawl spaces:

- Water can leak into crawl spaces and/or basements through foundation cracks, pipe holes, vents, doors or windows. It can also seep between the house siding and foundation sills. Once the crawl space or basement is filled, the water pushes up into the building through floors and wall joints until it reaches the height of the outside flood waters.
- Seal vents and windows with plywood. Vents are required by building codes to prevent mildew and rot. Therefore, all plywood over vents must be removed as soon as the danger of a flood passes.
- Fill cracks in the foundation or stucco wall with cement or other effective crack-filler material.
- Seal small openings around pipes with cement, crack filler or caulk.
- Seal the joint between siding and foundation with caulk.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District recommends that residents and business owners keep sandbags on hand at least through mid-April, since significant amounts of rain can visit the valley during late-winter and early-spring storms. Once the threat of flooding is over, however, there are several ways to dispose of sandbags. Bags provided by the water district are filled with clean, washed sand that can be added to gardens as a soil amendment. Sandbags can also be returned to the sites where they were obtained. The water district asks residents to place used sandbags atop pallets for ease of removal. Sandbags should not be tossed into garbage receptacles because they take up valuable space in landfills. If you have questions about sandbag disposal, call (408) 265-2607 ext. 2459 or 2413.

VTA Nighttime Rail Maintenance Work Underway



VTA is in the midst of a 16-day grinding project at locations throughout its 42-mile VTA light rail system. Rail grinding is a maintenance procedure that removes imperfections in the surface of light rail track and results in a smoother and safer ride for passengers, and lessening noise impacts for nearby neighbors.

Short-term impacts of the rail grinding project include nighttime noise impacts to areas immediately adjacent to the light rail alignment while the grinding is taking place. The contractor is required to maintain noise levels below 85 decibels at a distance of 25 feet from the center of the rail. This noise level roughly compares to shop tools or someone shouting but is quieter than a train whistle or a gas-powered lawn mower.

A 24-hour hotline, (408) 321-7575, has been established for anyone desiring project information or wishing to express a concern regarding the grinding. A map of the areas scheduled for grinding is available at VTA's website: www.vta.org.

For safety reasons, the grinding must be done during late night hours while light rail passenger trains are not running. Properties adjacent to the light rail alignment are not expected to experience noise impacts for more than one or possibly two nights.

Open track, where the rail is mounted to ties, can be ground at a pace of approximately five miles per hour. Embedded track, where the rails are set in concrete, can be ground at a pace of approximately 1.5 miles per hour. The grinder, which is the size of a light rail trolley, generally must make several passes over a section of track before work in that area is complete.

(Source: http://www.vta.org/news/service_notices/rail_grinding_cu.pdf)

The Digital TV Transition

Digital Television (DTV) is an advanced broadcasting technology that will transform your television viewing experience. DTV enables broadcasters to offer television with better picture and sound quality. It can also offer multiple programming choices, called multicasting, and interactive capabilities.

Converting to DTV also will free up parts of the scarce and valuable broadcast spectrum. Those portions of the spectrum can then be used for other important services, such as public and safety services (police and fire departments, emergency rescue), and advanced wireless services.

TV stations serving all markets in the United States are airing digital television programming today, although most will continue to provide analog programming through February 17, 2009. At that point, full-power TV stations will cease broadcasting on their current analog channels, and the spectrum they use for analog broadcasting will be reclaimed and put to other uses.

Consumers who rely on antennas (including outside antennas and "rabbit ears") to receive over-the-air broadcast signals on TV sets having only analog tuners will need to obtain separate digital-to-analog set-up converter boxes to watch over-the-air TV. These boxes receive digital signals and convert them into analog format for display on analog TVs. Analog sets connected to such converter boxes will display digital broadcasts, but not necessarily in the full, original digital quality.

Between Jan. 1, 2008, and March 31, 2009, all U.S. households will be eligible to request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two, digital-to-analog converter boxes. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has responsibility for administering the coupon program. (Please note that these coupons will expire 90 days after mailing). More information can be found at www.DTV2009.gov.

For more information, call the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-225-5322 (TTY: 1-888-835-5322) or visit the Commission's digital television website at: www.DTV.gov.

(Source: <http://www.dtv.gov/whatisdtv.html>)



Graffiti Wipe Out Volunteer Week

Lend A Hand To Wipe Out Graffiti

Residents are encouraged to volunteer to wipe out graffiti in their neighborhoods. The City of San José Anti-Graffiti Program will provide Anti-Graffiti kits to volunteers.

Anti-Graffiti Community Volunteer Week January 12 - 18, 2009

Pick-up your Anti-Graffiti kits from the Anti-Graffiti Program Office - 501 Vine Street (Cross Streets: Almaden Blvd. and Woz Way) on:

January 12 - 17, 2009
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 18th by appointment only

For more information, or to set up and appointment contact the Anti Graffiti Program at (408) 277-3208.

To arrange an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act to participate in this public event please call (408) 277-3208 or the TTY number, (408) 294-9337, at least 48 hours before the event.



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If you would like to receive District Five updates, please contact javier.gonzalez@sanjoseca.gov to be added to the listserv.

CAP Grant Cycle 23 is NOW OPEN!

The City of San José is committed to the strengthening of neighborhoods. The City believes that the power to transform and shape the future of our neighborhoods lies in strengthening civic participation. The mission of the Community Action & Pride (CAP) Grant Program is to promote the development of healthy and self-reliant neighborhoods by supporting residents to:

- unify for action;
- actualize their collective power; and
- create community-based solutions to meet the long-term physical, social, and economic challenges of the neighborhood.

With this in mind, the CAP program provides financial support to offset the cost to resident-based groups that:

- conduct activities that build or strengthen their neighborhood organization;
- organize neighborhood projects to improve conditions; or
- organize and conduct activities that address issues important to neighborhood quality of life.

The Community Action & Pride (CAP) Grant Cycle 23 Application is now available via the NDC CAP Grant Website <http://www.strongneighborhoods.org/CAPHOMEPAGE.asp> or at the NDC office located at 1601 Foxworthy Avenue, San Jose, CA 95118.

Who Is Eligible?

Neighborhood Associations or other neighborhood-based groups located within the City of San José. See the Cycle 23 Grant Guidelines for details.

What Does CAP Fund?

The CAP grant funds projects that strengthen local neighborhoods and promote long-term community building. Such activities may include community newsletters, beautification projects, and community events such as National Night Out.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Technical assistance is available from the Neighborhood Development Center between December 15, 2008 and February 11, 2009. You can reach CAP Grant staff at (408) 723-4114. You may also reach us by emailing alex.ruvalcaba@sanjoseca.gov.

Applications are due February 13, 2009!

Santa Claus Delivers Toys to Students at Cureton Elementary



On Friday, December 19, 2008, Santa Claus delivered a present to each of the 570 students at Horace Cureton Elementary School. I was joined by BAE Systems employees, Target Stores and Toys for Tots to distribute toys for the students at Cureton Elementary. All the new toys were wrapped by BAE Systems employees and volunteers. It is important that our community come together during these difficult economic times to help those in need. Cureton Elementary was selected because the school did not participate in some type of gift giving program and eighty percent of the students qualify for the state's free or reduced lunch program. This activity was a special treat for the students, as well as for my staff and I greatly enjoyed seeing every student walk away with a smile.

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