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## Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Debra Figone

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

**DATE:** April 24, 2009

### INFORMATION

Following are the key activities to be highlighted this week:

***Japanese Friendship Garden Suffers Loss of Koi***—Over the past two weeks an unusually high number of the Koi fish in the Japanese Friendship Garden at Kelley Park have died. A total of 112 fish have died or been euthanized since Saturday, April 11, 2009. Staff have collected and sent biological samples to a lab for analysis with results due early next week. They are actively monitoring the remaining population, examining fish for external parasites, collecting and shipping more biological samples for laboratory examination and analysis, increased capacity the oxygen levels in the ponds and have aggressively worked to physically remove algae buildup. Staff has coordinated their activities with contract fish biologist Andy Case and have been in contact with the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The fish have been under added stress due to a number of concurrent circumstances, including pond design (not originally designed for fish), annual spawning, and unexpected onset of record high temperatures leading to algae blooms. Staff will provide more information as it becomes available. For more information, contact Mona Favorite-Hill at 789-5589.

***Gateway to Higher Learning***—On April 14, Human Resources hosted the City's first Annual Education Fair and Recognition Event where 56 employees were honored for their outstanding academic achievements in the last two years. The event celebrated City employees from various departments that obtained degrees and advanced learning certificates while serving the City and its residents, including 11 professional certificates/licenses, 25 Bachelor's Degrees, 18 Master's Degrees and two Juris Doctorate Degrees. The celebratory event was a welcome breath of fresh air during these challenging times. The event was also a chance to explore educational opportunities and representatives from 12 colleges and universities were present to speak with employees. For more information, contact Eileen Baudry at 975-1491.

***Camden Community Center Receives LEED Certification***—On April 24, Camden Community Center will receive its LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. As the City's first LEED certified building, the community center was designed and constructed to conserve natural resources, save tax dollars and create a healthier indoor environment for the community to enjoy. The two-year construction project included the addition of a multi-purpose room, teen room, classroom and administrative offices adding an extra 19,000 square feet of green building to the center. For more information, contact Dan Wax at 535-3572.

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***San José Ranked 19<sup>th</sup> Best Walking City*** —San Jose is ranked the 19<sup>th</sup> best walking city in the United States according to a comprehensive ranking of the nation's largest 100 cities. The American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) joined with *Prevention Magazine* and *Sperling's Best Places* to evaluate metro areas based on 19 criteria, including population density, use of mass transit and square miles of local and state parks. San Jose was also recognized for having the most walking and hiking trails of any other city reviewed. To read the news story and view a complete list of rankings, visit the City's trail Web site at: <http://www.sjpark.org/trails>.

***Park Volunteers Recognized at Annual Barbeque Event*** —On April 18, PRNS' Volunteer and Adopt-A-Park/Trail programs held their annual Park Volunteer Recognition Barbeque at Almaden Lake Park. Approximately 50 volunteers and their families attended the event intended to recognize their ongoing support in maintaining quality parks and facilities. To date, the 1,290 Adopt-A-Park/Trail volunteers have contributed over 11,300 hours of service since the start of the fiscal year. For more information, contact Fernando Cazares at 793-5595.

***PRNS Hosts First Citywide Children's Basketball Tournament*** —Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) hosted the first "Premiere Citywide Competitive Basketball League" series for 275 children, ages 9-12. Children from across the City took part in a one-day skills clinic and eight weeks of competitive play. Students from Southside, Los Paseos, Alum Rock, Hank Lopez, and Berryessa Community Centers participated in the series. Championship games were held at the Berryessa and Alum Rock Youth centers, leading up to the finals on Saturday, April 18 where the Berryessa Community Center teams played against teams from Alum Rock Youth Center. Both Berryessa teams were victorious this season. With this successful pilot program, PRNS is looking to build on its success, beginning the next league in September 2009. For more information, contact Suzanne Wolfe at 793-5532.

***Bamboo Garden Plants Treated for Pest Infestation*** —On April 18, PRNS staff treated unhealthy giant grey bamboo plants which landscape the outside of City Hall. The plants have recently become infested with a pest called Bamboo Pit Scale, causing the bamboo stalks to dry up and die. Staff addressed the problem by removing dead stalks and applying pesticide to eliminate any remaining scale. The bamboo plants are expected to return to their healthy green state within the next few weeks. For more information, contact Mike Will at 277-2734.

***Emma Prusch Farm Park Receives County Proclamation*** —On April 7, the County Board of Supervisors recognized Emma Prusch Farm Park with a proclamation as part of Santa Clara County Garden & Green Month. Emma Prusch Farm was chosen for its ongoing commitment to educating the community about organic farming and the county's agricultural history. For more information, contact Alex Pearson at 926-5560.

***San José Downtown Parking Guidance System (PGS)*** —The Department of Transportation recently completed Phase II of the PGS system, which involved installing 13 street level signs throughout the downtown to provide motorists with information about parking availability. These signs complement the Phase I garage mounted PGS signs installed at seven City facilities. The PGS signs display the "real-time" number of available spaces in City facilities, reducing the amount of time motorists spend searching for parking which helps to reduce traffic congestion downtown and vehicle emissions. The signs can also be used to display custom messages during major events such as showing evening parking rates and directing motorists to alternate parking facilities when parking facilities fill-up. For more information, contact Joe Garcia at 535-3833.

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***Online Tutoring Now Available in Vietnamese*** —San José Public Library's online tutoring service, *Live Homework Help*, expands its language capability to include Vietnamese. Students, their parents and adult learners will have the option to receive assistance in Vietnamese when logging on to work with a tutor. *Live Homework Help* gives students enrolled in grades K-12, the first two years of college, and even adult learners FREE assistance online from certified tutors. Expert assistance is available for Math, Science and Social Studies, daily\* from 2 p.m. to midnight. Assistance is also available in English and Spanish. To access the service, go to [www.sjlibrary.org/live\\_tutor.htm](http://www.sjlibrary.org/live_tutor.htm) or click on the *Live Homework Help* icon from the Kids or Teens web page at SJLibrary.org. For more information, contact your neighborhood library or call (408) 808-2183. \* Exceptions: *Live Homework Help* is not available on New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

***Books and More! A New Tool to Encourage Reading Readiness*** —Reading together early and often gives preschoolers the best foundation for building the skills to read independently. San José Public Library is providing a new convenient and fun tool for parents to use for family time together. *Books and More!* Backpacks, containing age-appropriate bilingual books, a music CD, a parenting DVD and an entertaining toy are available for checkout at your neighborhood library. Included are read-aloud tips and suggested activities using materials in the backpack, as well as ideas for using household items to extend the learning experience. Enjoy the contents with your child for three weeks, then return it and check out another. *Books and More!* is a great way to introduce your child to an activity that forms the basis for lifelong learning and enjoyment. Stop by your neighborhood library and check it out. For more information, call (408) 808-2183.

***First Annual Utility Solar Conference Coming to San José in July 2009*** —The Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) will be holding its first annual *Utility Solar Conference* at the San José Marriott on July 28-29. The comprehensive conference content is designed by utilities, for utilities, targeting employees across departments from executives to distribution engineers to program marketers. City staff is working with conference organizers to provide tours of many of the City's solar installations. For more information, contact Mary Tucker at 975-2581.

***Illegal Creekside Encampment Cleanup Removes Over 14 Tons of Trash*** —On April 18, removal of trash and debris from five creekside illegal encampments took place along the Coyote Creek and Guadalupe watershed in Council Districts 3, 4, 6 and 7. To date, these expanded encampment clean-ups have removed 48.67 tons of trash and debris from City creeks. These events are a coordinated effort with the Police, Transportation, Environmental Services (ESD), PRNS and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. For each clean-up event, notices are posted prior to the clean-up day, supervised labor is provided by the County Department of Corrections for debris removal, and trash is then hauled to the landfill. This is the fourth of four clean-ups in addition the ten the City already performs as requested by Council in May 2008. For more information, contact Melody Tovar at 277-3892.

***63 Pounds of Unused and Expired Pharmaceuticals Collected for Proper Disposal*** —On April 17, ESD staffed a pharmaceutical collection booth at the West Valley Senior Walk held at the Westfield Valley Fair Mall. A total of 63 pounds of unused and expired medicines were collected from 30 area residents. Staff enlisted the services of the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program for disposal of the collected medicines. Staff also provided information on a variety of pollution prevention topics. For more information, contact Sharon Newton at 277-5695.

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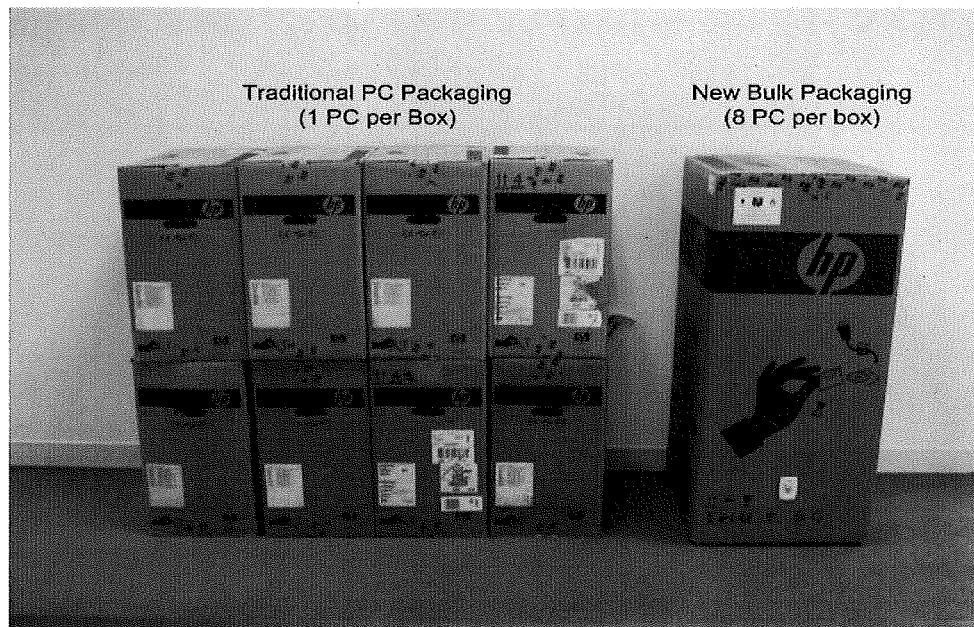
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***COPS Hiring Program Recovery Update*** —At the April 7 Council Meeting, staff received approval to apply for grant funds from the COPS Hiring Program to hire and fund up to 75 police officer positions. On April 14, staff submitted the City's final grant application requesting funding for 25 police officers. The decision to apply for funding for this number of officers was influenced by the grant guidelines which commit the City to retain grant-funded officer positions for at least 12 months after the 36-month grant cycle. In light of forecasted General Fund shortfalls, it was determined that it was prudent to apply for 25 positions to ensure that the grant's retention obligation could be met at the end of the 36-month cycle. The COPS Hiring Recovery Program is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. For more information, contact Lisa Perez at 277-2450.

***Green IT*** —As part of the City's continuing efforts toward "green" technology, the Information Technology Department has worked with its personal computer (PC) supplier to move toward eco-friendly packaging whenever possible. In doing so, the City's supplier now transports desktop PCs in a bulk packaging model (see picture below) which requires smaller delivery vehicles and translates to 6.67 pounds reduction per PC, in packaging material (or 19% of the total PC weight of a traditional PC shipment). For more information, contact Vijay Sammeta at 535-3566.



**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

***21<sup>st</sup> Annual San José Children's Faire*** —Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Discovery Meadow, West San Carlos Street and Woz Way. For more information, please call (408) 808-2617.

***Great American Litter Pickup*** —Saturday, April 25, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Servando Perez at 277-3208 or [Servando.perez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Servando.perez@sanjoseca.gov). Locations listed below.

- Starbird Youth Center, 1050 Boynton Avenue, San Jose, CA 95117
- Oak Grove High School, 285 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA 95123
- Roosevelt Community Center, 901 E. Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95116

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- Berryessa Community Center, 3050 Berryessa Road, San Jose, CA 95132
- Alviso Youth Center, 5040 N. First Street, San Jose, CA, 95134
- Mayfair Community Center, 2039 Kammerer, San Jose, CA 95116
- Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128
- Cry Out Christian Fellowship, 3167 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95111
- Dove Hill Elementary, 1460 Colt Way, San Jose, CA 95121
- Camden Community Center, 3369 Union Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124
- Pioneer High School, 1290 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA 95118

***Domestic Violence Information and Resources Workshop*** —An Informational Session to Promote Healthy Relationships and Build Peaceful Communities. Monday, April 27, 6:00-8:30 p.m. San Jose City Hall Rotunda. Free Food and Child Care. No registration necessary. Contact Eve Castellanos at 535-8101 for more information.

***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.

- ***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.
- ***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>

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

District 10 —Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. Vista Park Community Room, 475 Hyde Park Drive

District 8 —Wednesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. Leyva Middle School, 1865 Monrovia Drive.

District 4 —Thursday, April 30 at 6:00 p.m. Berryessa Community Center, 3050 Berryessa Road.

District 4 —Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. Alviso Community Center, 5050 North First.

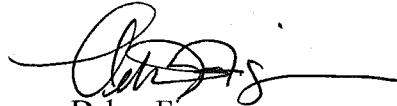
District 9 —Thursday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. Cambrian Branch Library, 1780 Hillsdale Avenue.

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