

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ

Walk n' Roll Newsletter

November 2021



International Walk to School Day is Back!

After almost 2 years of pandemic school closures, Walk n' Roll was especially excited to celebrate International Walk to School Day again! Over 30 schools participated during the first two weeks in October, encouraging students to walk and bike to school. International Walk to School Day is the traditional kick-off for Walk n' Roll programs around the globe, typically held during the first part of October.

Several schools inspired their students to participate with a “checklist” of activities to prepare for this special day. This included neighborhood walks, designing a route to school for walking or biking, and remembering to drink water. Three schools had special guests on hand to recognize International Walk to School Day – **San Jose District 4 Councilmember David Cohen** spoke at Ruskin Elementary, **District 2 Councilmember Sergio Jimenez** participated at Baldwin Elementary, and Quimby Oak Middle School received a visit with encouraging words from Patricia Andrade, Community Relations for **District 8 Councilmember Sylvia Arenas**.

Where school health guidelines permitted, volunteers greeted students as they walked and biked into school and handed out prizes such as pencils, pens, stickers and rulers. We would like to thank all the parents and City of San Jose staff from the Department of Transportation and Parking Compliance for all their help!

Featured articles

Ruby Bridges Day - November 17

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Brown vs. Board of Education* that racial segregation in schools was unconstitutional. However, many people held onto their prejudices and several southern states continued to segregate.

In 1960, a federal court ordered desegregation of Louisiana schools, and Ruby Bridges – a six-year-old girl – walked to her school where there was a crowd protesting her right to attend. Ruby continued attending that school despite the hostility. Simply by walking to school every day, she would lay down that foundation that further advanced the civil rights movement. Ruby Bridges is a representative of courage, pushing for more so that no one would have to face the same discrimination she confronted.



The California State Senate passed a resolution in summer 2021 to recognize Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. To commemorate her bravery and the civil rights movement, the Walk n' Roll team invites you to walk or bike to school on November 17.

City of San Jose LED Streetlight Conversion Program

Did you know the City of San Jose is converting approximately 27,000 of the approximately 64,000 streetlight fixtures that the City of San Jose owns and maintains to energy-efficient light-emitting diodes or LED fixtures? San Jose was one of the first cities nationally to install smart and energy-efficient LED streetlights. Since 2012, approximately 32,000 streetlights have been converted to LED fixtures. Here are a few of the benefits of LED streetlights:

- Improved lighting quality to enhance street safety
- Reduce maintenance costs, LED bulbs last much longer
- Reduces hazardous waste by replacing old sodium lights
- Reduces electrical costs, LED bulbs are much more efficient
- Reduces light pollution by focusing light beams downward
- Add more light focused on intersections, sidewalks, and crosswalks



Here is a before and after picture of a street with upgrades LED fixtures



SAVE THE DATE: VIVA CALLESJ
Sunday, November 7th, 2021

Viva CallesJ provides an opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to play and explore the City as they walk, bike, skate, or wheel along six miles of open streets. Along the route, there will be multiple activity hubs, where participants can stop and enjoy food trucks, live music, and activities for the whole family. The route has no beginning or end and flows both ways, so participants can join at any point. For additional information, please visit: <https://www.vivacallesj.com>

Featured article



The First-Ever Viva EscuelaSJ

Bachrodt and Horace Mann elementary schools hosted Walk n' Roll's first-ever Viva EscuelaSJ! Students got to use a car-free street block to walk and bike to school. Viva EscuelaSJ is an event where a street is closed to cars during morning drop-off. Students use the whole street to walk and bike to school while enjoying fun activities like giant jenga and cornhole. It's a lot like the popular San Jose event, Viva CalleSJ!

California Walks, Somos Mayfair, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and San Jose Public Library's Maker [Space]Ship shared information with kids and their parents about bike helmets, pedestrian safety and community assistance programs during the pandemic. The library even handed out a variety of free books! Walk n' Roll encouraged students to sign a pledge to walk or bike on Walk n' Roll Days and handed out pedestrian safety booklets and pencils. Students got to try out the new bike rodeo mini-town," complete with a stoplight, crosswalks and sidewalks lined with homes and businesses.

A highlight of Viva EscuelaSJ was having **San Jose District 3 Councilmember Raul Peralez** share encouraging words with the students, congratulating them for participating in these special events and discussing the importance of walking and biking for good health and better air quality. Councilmember Peralez also encouraged families to learn more about **San Jose's Vision Zero initiative**, which focuses on keeping our streets safe for all road users through better street design and community involvement.

Walk n' Roll would like to thank San Jose's Department of Transportation, Office of Cultural Affairs and the Police Department for their enthusiastic assistance with making these street closures possible! If you'd like your school to host your own Viva EscuelaSJ, please contact Ann Jasper at ann.jasper@sanjoseca.gov.



Safety Tips

Pedestrians – Prepare for your walk

Dress in layers and stay warm. Wear reflective or bright clothing to stay visible and be seen.



Cyclists – Stay visible

Prep your bike for a ride! Attach a white headlight to the handlebars to see where you are going and a red taillight to the seat post so vehicles coming from behind can see you.



Self Care – Staying active

Regular exercise helps you stay sharp mentally and is great for your physical health! Even during colder months, try to keep moving!

