



NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER E-BLAST



An information-sharing service of the
Neighborhood Development Center (NDC)

August 2009

The mission of the Neighborhood Development Center is to build strong neighborhoods by connecting individuals to information, technology, and opportunities for civic engagement.

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What's new at the Neighborhood Development Center (NDC)?

Please visit us at www.strongneighborhoods.org/neighborhooddevelopmentcenter.htm. The website is constantly being updated so we encourage you to check back periodically for any new updates. The website also has information about the Community Action and Pride (CAP) Grants, San José Beautiful, Volunteer San José, Neighborhoods Commission, Community Leadership Academy (CLA), and more.

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Building Strong Neighborhoods Pilot Projects

Through the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative, the City of San Jose has demonstrated its commitment to promote active community engagement in underserved areas, to create partnerships with city staff and to align resources with neighborhood priorities. Building Strong Neighborhoods Pilot Project Areas is enabling this work to continue in neighborhoods throughout the City.

There are currently three pilot project areas in the City of San Jose:
Seven Trees Area (City Council District 7)
Silver Leaf Area (City Council District 2)
Hillsdale/Camden Area (City Council District 9)

Building Strong Neighborhoods is based on several concepts:

Develop neighborhood leadership

Organize neighborhoods by working collaboratively with residents

Build on neighborhood strengths and assets

Develop clear priorities and connect them to established resources

Help achieve the delivery of city services and neighborhood priorities

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Neighborhoods Commission

The first Neighborhoods Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, July 8th, 2009, at City Hall, Room W 118-119, 200 E Santa Clara Street. The Commissioners were sworn in.

Next Neighborhoods Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 12th, 2009, 6:30PM – 9PM, City Hall Room W118-119, 200 E Santa Clara Street, San Jose CA 95113. Public is welcome to attend.

For additional information, visit:

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/Clerk/commissionboard/NC/NC.asp>

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Keep San Jose Beautiful

Daffodil & Native Bulb Planting Program

Each fall volunteers plant thousands of daffodil and native bulbs throughout the City of San Jose. This year Keep San Jose Beautiful will distribute 30,000 daffodil bulbs and 10,000 native bulbs.

360,000 daffodil bulbs have been planted in the last fourteen years!

Do you have a community group looking for a one day project in the fall? We invite you to participate on this year's planting day, Saturday, November 7.

Daffodils and native plants are planted to beautify school grounds, youth centers, senior centers and parks throughout the city.

Upon request and availability, daffodil and native bulbs are distributed to schools, neighborhood associations, youth centers, scout troops, and park beautification groups. This is a citywide community spirit project with heartwarming results.



Dates to Remember:

Request Period Begins: August 24, 2009. Requests for bulbs must be made by calling (408) 723-1574

Bulb Distribution: October 17 & 24

Time: 10:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Kirk Community Center
1601 Foxworthy Ave.
San Jose 95118



Planting Day: November 7, 2009

NOTE: Bulbs are available on a first come, first served basis. Daffodil bulbs are limited to 250 per organization/location. Native bulbs are limited to 100 per species per organization/location.

For more information about these and other Keep San Jose Beautiful programs, please visit us on the web at www.sjbeautiful.org or call the office of Keep San Jose Beautiful at (408) 723-1574.

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[Keep San Jose Beautiful Grants](#)

Applications for the Keep San Jose Beautiful Cycle 27 Grants will be available to neighborhood groups in August 2009. The deadline to submit grant applications is Friday, September 25th, 2009.

Please visit the website at www.sjbeautiful.org for more information.

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[Volunteer San Jose](#)

[City Hall Tour Guides Needed!](#)

We are looking for volunteers who want to help showcase City Hall to students, seniors and community groups. Guided tours include showing the building from top to bottom, showing the art exhibits, and the council chamber.

The tours consist of:

- Flexible days/hours (10 AM – 2 PM, Monday through Friday)
- 1.5 hours of walking around facility

Volunteers will receive:

- Training material
- Free Parking
- Polo Shirt

This position is very flexible and can be either short term or long term. Great opportunity for College Students or Seniors! If you are interested, please call (408) 535-1244

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Community Meetings/Events

Bike Plan Update

Draft Bike Plan Released for Public Comment (7-30-09) * Public Meeting 8-6-09**

The City of San Jose has released a draft Bike Plan for public comment. The public comment period runs July 30, 2009 through August 27, 2009. Public comments may be emailed to bike.ped@sanjoseca.gov. Additionally, you may provide comments at a Bike Plan public workshop to be held Thursday, August 6, 2009, from 6pm-7.30pm at San Jose City Hall, Wing Room W120, 200 E. Santa Clara Street. Bike racks are available outside the 4th Street entrance to the City Hall wing.

During September 2009, comments will be reviewed and a final bike plan will be prepared for submission to city council. If you'd like to receive updates on this project, send your email address to bike.ped@sanjoseca.gov

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Census 2010

HELP ENSURE SANTA CLARA COUNTY RECEIVES ITS FAIR
SHARE OF FUNDING:
SUPPORT THE 2010 CENSUS!

Join us to share ideas & learn about available resources.

CENSUS 2010 PARTNERSHIP NETWORK BREAKFAST BRIEFING

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

1555 Berger Drive, San Jose - Auditorium

7:30 – 9:00 A.M.

7:30 a.m. – Continental Breakfast & Networking

8:00 a.m. – Speakers & Discussion

8:30 a.m. – Questions & Next Steps

Event is Free & Open to the Public

This meeting location is served by VTA bus line 66, which stops near the intersection of Berger and Old Oakland Road (very close to the event).

Census Day - April 1, 2010 – is quickly approaching. An accurate census count is critical to Santa Clara County because census figures determine the allocation of over

\$300 billion per year in federal funding to state and local programs, services, and schools. The Census officially counts every person living in the United States once every ten years. Many of Santa Clara County's diverse communities are often undercounted, including children, renters, non-English speaking residents, minorities, immigrants, the elderly, displaced homeowners, those living in high-density housing, and the homeless. California could also be in jeopardy of losing a seat in Congress.

Please join us to learn how your organization can get involved, apply for promotional outreach funds, and help increase participation in this critical civic activity.

We hope we can count you in! **Please call the reservation hotline at 408-299-6404 or e-mail census2010@ceo.sccgov.org to register for this important event.** Bring your ideas and questions and share this invitation with anyone interested in making Census 2010 the most successful count in history!

If you do not wish to receive periodic Census 2010 updates from Santa Clara County, please reply to this e-mail with unsubscribe in the subject line.

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[New Program Can Help Santa Clara County Residents Save Energy and Money](#)

Silicon Valley Energy Watch and San José Public Library provide meters to track energy use

San José, Ca --- Residents can now check out free energy meters from several San José public libraries to evaluate their energy use beginning July 20. Saving energy can save you money and help you reduce pollution and greenhouse emissions.

The Silicon Valley Energy Watch, a partnership between the City of San José and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), is lending these Kill A Watt™ and Kill A Watt™ EZ meters to Santa Clara County residents free of charge. This program is part of the City's efforts to educate the community about energy use and efficiency.

Kill A Watt™ and Kill A Watt™ EZ are plug power meters that easily measure the electricity used by plug-in appliances. The meters will help residents determine when and how the most energy is used at home and work. Understanding energy use and associated costs of your appliances will help you determine the best way to conserve energy and save money through simple acts of conservation or efficiency. Tips on savings energy – from the simplest changes to more complex home upgrades – are available at www.svenergywatch.org or at www.pge.com/myhome.

Santa Clara County residents with a valid San José library card can borrow a Kill A Watt™ through this program. A meter can be checked out from one of the following San José Public Library branches for three weeks at no cost. Normal late fees apply.

Dr. Roberto Cruz – Alum Rock 3090 Alum Rock Avenue (408) 808-3090
Evergreen 2635 Aborn Road (408) 808-3060
West Valley 1243 San Tomas Aquino Road (408) 244-4766

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, residential and commercial buildings are responsible for 39 percent of the energy consumed nationwide, producing over a third (36.2 percent) of our greenhouse gas emissions. California imports more electricity than any other state, and our homes use 31 percent of the state's electricity. Appliances consume two thirds of the energy used in U.S. households. As consumer electronics become more common, this number is likely to grow over time.

The City of San José's Green Vision sets a goal of cutting the community's overall energy use in half by the year 2022. California has also set ambitious goals to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

The Silicon Valley Energy Watch delivers energy efficiency education, outreach, and related services to residents, business, and organizations in Santa Clara County. The program is funded by California utility ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. For more information about the Silicon Valley Energy Watch Program, and to see tips on saving energy at home and the workplace, please visit www.svenergywatch.org.

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[Free Thermometer Exchange Program](#)

Mercury is toxic and can cause damage to the nervous system, brain, kidneys, liver, and immune systems in humans and animals. For more information, please call (408)

Bring us your glass mercury fever thermometer and exchange it for a FREE digital thermometer.* Please double-bag thermometers using two sealed plastic bags to prevent spills.

Become Mercury-Wise!
Thursday, August 20, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Santa Clara Senior Center
1303 Fremont St., Santa Clara CA 95050

For more information, please call (408) 945-3000 or visit: www.baywise.org

*Limit one free digital thermometer per household.

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[Lend a Hand to Wipe Out Graffiti](#)

Anti Graffiti Community Volunteer Event August 10-21, 2009

Help us wipe out graffiti in your neighborhood. Lend a hand today. We will provide free Anti-Graffiti kits to all volunteers.

Pick-up your Anti Graffiti kits from the Anti –Graffiti Program Office, 501 Vine Street (cross streets: Almaden Blvd and Woz Way) on: August 10-14 y 17, 21, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Supply pick-up on Saturday, August 8th & 15th, 2009 by appointment only.

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

To arrange 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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[Our City Forest](#)

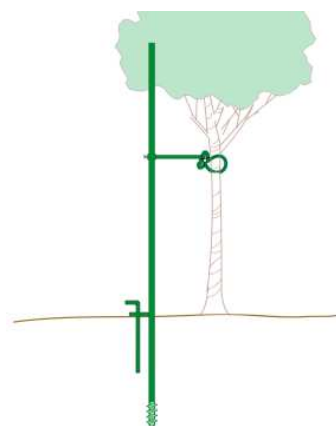
Calling all Our City Forest free tree recipients to return tree stakes!

Did you receive a tree through local non-profit organization Our City Forest (OCF) within the last 2 - 6 years?

Do you still have your green, metal Reddy Stake?

If so, please contact (408) 99-TREES x105 or treecare@ourcityforest.org as soon as possible! The stakes provided with OCF trees are intended to provide TEMPORARY SUPPORT and can damage a tree if left on too long. Green metal stakes are reused by OCF when planting new young trees and we need them back!

If you think your tree might be ready to have its stake removed OR need helping removing a stake, please contact OCF for assistance. You can also return your Reddy stake to our offices at:



151 W Mission St Suite 151
San Jose, CA 95110

If you are a San Jose resident interested in receiving your own free street tree OR want information on our other free programs and services, please visit www.ourcityforest.org or call (408) 99-TREES to learn more!

Our City Forest is a 501©3 urban forestry non-profit that has served the San José area since 1994. With help from City and State grants, and local contributions,

Our City Forest has distributed \$5 million worth of free trees and services to neighborhoods, schools and agencies, including 44,000 15-gallon shade trees, project coordination, tree care, environmental education and volunteer training.

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[Library News](#)

[Expanded East San Jose Carnegie Branch Library Grand Opening – August 29](#)

Join City and Library officials in celebrating the grand opening of the new and expanded East San José Carnegie Branch Library. East Branch is both the oldest public library and the only remaining Carnegie library serving residents in Santa Clara County. The 12,000 sq. ft. design wraps the original Carnegie structure, which is a city historic landmark that is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Following the morning dedication ceremony, community members will be free to explore the new building, check out materials and enjoy free entertainment and light refreshment. Pre-registration for library cards for those who need them is strongly encouraged. Submit your application [online](#), then go to any [San José Public Library](#) with photo ID and proof of current address to pick up your free card.

Saturday, August 29, 11:00 PM – 6:00 PM

East San José Carnegie Branch Library, 1102 E. Santa Clara St., (408) 535-8450

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[Text 4 Info](#)

Need a short answer to a question?

For example:

- When does daylight savings time begin?
- Where's the closest post office?
- What are the library hours on Saturdays?

The answer is as close as your mobile texting device. **Starting Monday, August 17**, San José libraries invite you to **“Text a Librarian.”** Unlike some services that require you to pay for information, the library as always gives you whatever information you need for free. Your service provider's standard message rates will apply. Text us at

66746 and start your question with **AskSJ**; for example “**AskSJ** What are the library hours on Saturdays?” Send your question whenever it occurs to you. Librarians will respond between the hours of 1 p.m.- 6 p.m., Monday-Friday. Go ahead – check it out. Save the key word and number in your contacts. For other ways to contact a librarian when you need assistance, visit our [website](#)

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[Back to School? Don't Forget a Library Card!](#)

If you're starting to think about back-to-school supplies for your children, here's one item you don't want to overlook: a public library card. At San José Public library, your card gives you access to important library services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You probably know that your library card allows you to borrow, for free, books on a wide variety of topics. Did you know that your card is also the key to a wealth of magazine and newspaper articles, as well as reference resources such as World Book Online? Look for the “**SJPL Articles and Databases**” link on our home page (www.sjlibrary.org). If you're not sure which database to choose, try starting with a broad, all-purpose database such as **Student Research Center** or **MasterFILE Premier**. Simply enter your name, library card number, and PIN to get started. You'll find high-quality information on virtually any subject.

Brush up on your reading, writing, or math skills at our **Learning Express Library**, also found on the “**SJPL Articles and Databases**” page. Students of all ages will find useful resources here, ranging from Elementary School Skills improvement to practice tests for college entrance exams and careers in health care, law enforcement, and other fields. Adults too can find tests to prepare for academic (e.g., GED, ACT, SAT, etc.) and a host of vocational exams (e.g., Cosmetology, Electrical, Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Plumbing, Real Estate, etc.).

Looking for homework help? With a library card, you or your child can receive free assistance from certified tutors online. Students enrolled in grades K-12 or the first two years of college and even adult learners may use this service to receive help in math, science, social studies, and other topics. Ask a librarian for more information. For library hours and locations near you, visit SJLibrary.org and click on [Locations & Hours](#) or call (408) 808-2000.

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UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER

Soul of a People: Writing America's Story

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library is sponsoring a series of events in conjunction with "Soul of a People: Writing America's Story," a new TV documentary on the **Federal Writers' Project** to be broadcast in early fall on the Smithsonian Channel HD. The Library series begins **September 12** when San Jose State University librarian Paul Kauppila presents a screening of excerpts from this new documentary, as well as readings from Federal Writers' Project works and a question-and-answer session. All programs associated with the series will be held at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 2nd Floor, Rooms 225/229. The library is located at 150 E. San Fernando St. at the corner of S. Fourth St. with convenient parking located nearby at the Fourth Street Garage. Admission is free. For more information, visit the program web page or call (408) 808-2397

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Volunteer Management Team

Introducing the Volunteer Management Team At the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department. . .

Ever wanted to volunteer in your neighborhood park or community center but didn't know where to start?

- Got a group or a team that needs a one-day community service project but you aren't sure how to bring it all together
- Maybe you've got some free time and want to join an ongoing volunteer effort to maintain a garden, a park or a program?
- Want to hear how other residents are getting involved in maintaining their parks, keeping them beautiful and safe?

Introducing the Volunteer Management Team!

San Jose's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) Department is proud to introduce our enthusiastic Volunteer Management Team! They are ready to answer all of your questions, coordinate your individual or group service projects or just chat with you about the many volunteer opportunities for all ages and all skill levels in PRNS. The PRNS-Volunteer Management Team is just an email away at ParkVolunteer@sanjoseca.gov or call us at 408-535-3588.

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[Wastewater Treatment Plan Tours Resume for 2009](#)

“Sleeper Hit of the Year” Returns

Event: Free tours showcasing the science and technology behind the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant, where every day more than 110 million gallons of wastewater from 1.4 million residents and 16,000 businesses across eight cities is cleaned. Participants will see where nearly 90% of this water is discharged to the Bay, and learn about how the remaining 11% becomes recycled water.

When: **First and third Thursdays** of each month, 10:0 a.m to noon, and **first and third Saturdays** 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., not through October.

Where: The San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant
700 Los Esteros Road, San José, CA 95134

Reservations: Reservations are required.

Visit: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan/> to make a reservation, or call (408) 975-2556.

Background: Plant Tours were heralded in 2008 by Scott Herhold of the *San Jose Mercury News* as “One of the sleeper hits of the year.” The 2009 tours include a new feature: In addition to exploring the Plant and seeing the treatment process in action, residents will have the opportunity to learn about and provide input on best uses of the Plant’s 2,600-acre site. The newly introduced public input session serves to gather information about public values as part of a master planning effort. The outcome will be a Plant Master Plan for repairing and upgrading the Plant and its processes, and for uses of the Plant lands. The new master plan could transform the Plant and its lands from a hidden necessity into a world-class facility and a regional asset. Changes at the Plant will also support San José’s Green Vision goals. Reducing energy use, generating more electrical power from renewable sources, and increasing recycled water production and use support the Green Vision goals of energy self-sufficiency, receiving power from renewable sources, and recycling or beneficially reusing 100 percent of wastewater. San José’s Green Vision is a 10-point plan to invigorate the economy and improve the environment over a 15-year period. Learn more about the Green Vision at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision/>. Learn more about the Plant and the master planning process at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan/>

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[Help shape San Jose's future with Wikiplanning!](#)

Dear Residents and Friends of San Jose,

The Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan Update is creating the blueprint for the City's future growth and development, and the City of San Jose would like your input.

With support from The Knight Foundation, we have created an online "wikiplanning" site where you can help shape the future of San Jose over the next 30 years!

Complete our survey and you will be eligible to **win complimentary tickets from San Jose's arts, entertainment, and cultural organizations!** You can also learn more about the Envision San Jose 2040 city planning project, provide feedback in our discussion forum, or post and comment on your own and others' photos.

Follow these simple instructions to participate:

- 1) Go to WWW.WIKIPLANNING.ORG
- 2) Enter your e-mail address
- 3) Use the password **2040**

Our goal is to have more than 10,000 participants, diverse in age and background.

Thanks! Your participation will make a difference in San Jose's future!

For more information on the Envision San Jose 2040 process, you can go to http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/gp_update/default.asp.

To sign up for e-mail updates on the Envision San Jose 2040 process, you can go to http://www.sanjoseca.gov/development/subscription/email_updates.asp.

Contact Lee Butler at 408-535-7851 or at Lee.Butler@sanjoseca.gov with any questions.

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[Resources Available for Neighborhood Associations](#)

The Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) continues to have the following resources available for neighborhood associations and individual residents that are interested in or are currently working on improving their neighborhood.

High-Speed Gestetner copy machine (Free use - just bring the paper! Great for copying flyers and newsletters). Library with resource books on grants, organizing, volunteers, leadership, etc. Meeting rooms at Kirk Community Center.

Please be aware that NDC staff is frequently in the field. If you need services provided by the NDC, please call to ensure that someone will be available at the office to assist you. Please contact NDC staff at (408) 723-4114 for more information or to make an appointment for the use of these resources.

CONTACT US:

Neighborhood Development Center
1601 Foxworthy Avenue
San José, CA 95118

Office: (408) 723-4114 Fax: (408) 264-2359 E-Mail: ndc@sanjoseca.gov

Website: www.strongneighborhoods.org/neighborhooddevelopmentcenter.htm

The NDC E-Blast is published on a monthly basis. If you would like to submit an article of citywide interest or if you would like to provide any feedback, please send an email to ndc@sanjoseca.gov. Articles are subject to editorial decision to publish or edit for publication. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others in your organization.

If you wish to add an email address, are receiving duplicate emails, or no longer wish to receive emails from the Neighborhood Development Center, please send us a reply to ndc@sanjoseca.gov. Feel free to forward to others in your organization.

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