



# THE ROSE GARDEN NEWS

Publication of Rose Garden Neighborhood Preservation Association Sept 09

## Sept 2009

RG Ice Cream Social	1
Rock n Roll SJ Marathon	1
Sacramento Ginsu Knife	2
What's Up In The Hood?	3
Kasey's Halloween Gift	4
Bark In the Park	4
The Adventure Starts	5
Signal Removal Protest	6
Guadalupe Park Update	6
Charity Vote—\$100 Prize	7
Historic Roots SJDNA	8
Back To the Future	8
Gonna Get Right To It	9
Thank You San Jose	9
SJDNA Projects/Events	9
2020 Bike Plan	10
Kids Poster Contest	10
Your Car's Computer	11
The Greenbelt Vision	12
Great Public Places	13
Shade Trees Help	14
SJ 2040 Envision	14
Clean Up Day	15
Guadalupe Clean Up	15
Japantown Festival	15
RGNPA Board Meeting	15
Presidents Message	16

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Meetings Listed Below

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1988 Naglee Ave  
(Across from Bill's Cafe)

Sep 7 Mon 6:30-8pm

Nov 2 Mon 6:30-8pm

Questions?

rwalker663@aol.com  
408 244-2535

## Annual Rose Garden Ice Cream Social

Sunday August 30th, 2009 : 2pm - 4pm



The Rose Garden Neighborhood Preservation Association  
Shasta Hanchett Neighborhood Association



Guests: *Rose Garden Mom's • Rose Garden Los Madres • Friends of SJ Rose Garden*

**All the Ice Cream you can Eat!**

Activities • Origami • Paper Airplanes • Checkers • Chess • Bring Board Games



Summer draws to a close. Enjoy the summer sun with ice-cream. RGNPA hosts our annual ice cream social, with free ice cream. Come over to the Rose Garden Park. Meet your RGNPA committee.

Eat delicious *Blondie's Ice Cream* while meandering through the fragrant Rose Garden. Chat with your neighbors while enjoying one of the things that makes the Rose Garden neighborhood such a special place to live. Laze away a wonderful afternoon on us.

Check website for details. WWW.RGNPA.org

Ice Cream Donated by *Blondie's*. 2905 Park Ave: Across from Safeway.  
Membership information and dues payment available.



## Rock 'n' Roll San Jose Half Marathon

Sunday October 4, 2009



**13.1 mile footrace coming to your neighborhood!**

Run with 13,000 runners and walkers with thousands of spectators, family and friends as they pass through RG Neighborhood, Park, Hester, Dana, Bascom and University Way. Starts Downtown and ends at Plaza de Cesar Chavez. View details and road closures at

<http://san-jose.competitor.com/event-info/course/road-closures/>

Plan ahead to give yourself extra travel time to avoid the blockades.

## Sacramento Ginsu Knife

Pierluigi Oliverio



Remember the Ginsu Knives TV commercial from the late '70s? It showed a sharp knife cut through everything from tomatoes to tin cans. The announcer would repeatedly say: ***"But wait! There's more!"***

Well, just when you thought we had balanced the city of San Jose's budget, the state of California says ***"But wait! There's more!"***

The state's own Ginsu Knife just slashed our gaunt budget's belly. As a result of the state's recent action, San Jose lost over \$20 million in property tax revenues out of the general funds. Enough to operate all neighborhood libraries.

This means fewer city services whether code enforcement or neighborhood watch, etc.

\$74.8 million will be taken from the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) Headline projects like the Convention Center expansion, proposed baseball stadium, locating clean tech jobs in San Jose and Strong Neighborhood Initiative projects will be thrown into a casket.

In looking for a lemonade-out-of-lemons solution, maybe we could just make a quick \$74.8 million lump sum payment on the outstanding RDA bonds and dodge the state, since there would be no money, and we would at least have less debt down the road. Not an option.

The state would force RDA to borrow the money to pay the state or make San Jose liable.

However, there is one option that might allow for projects to go forward. RDA is one of the only tools cities have for economic development which provides genuine stimulus to the economy with construction jobs, and, more importantly, future revenues to the city.

The state this year would allow RDA to borrow money from the \$40 million affordable housing funds as long they were paid back by 2015. This simply requires a majority city council vote.

If San Jose would do this, it would allow for economic development that could bring long-term revenues to the city of San Jose.

It is time for the Council to prioritize what is most

**2 RGN Sep 09**

important in 2009 and move forward.

The choices are more affordable housing during a time of current housing affordability (in both rental and home ownership) OR economic development to build a tax base so we can pay for city services like public safety and libraries.

Less affordable housing units will be built this year; however keep in mind San Jose is the number one city providing affordable housing in California.

Affordable housing does not pay park fees or fees to pave streets. In many cases it does not even pay property taxes for ongoing city services. So affordable housing is a net loss on the balance sheet.

Would you choose, more affordable housing or more economic development? Do you think it's time voters started voting on how much affordable housing is built in San Jose?

Regards,  
Councilmember  
Pierluigi Oliverio

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**What's up in the Hood**

By Bob Sippel

**Bob Sippel**

Let me say before I get too far into this article, when I started to write the article I asked all the folks in my neighborhood here in the RGNPA area, "what should I name it". The kids in my neighborhood chose the name of this column and for the sake of the future leaders of America I decided to use it.

**Sewer Repairs**

City Sewer repairs are almost finished. Thank goodness!

**PG&E Markers**

PG&E is marking pavement in front houses as they determine if the proper grounding to our gas lines exist. Some are fine, others are not. PG&E clips a device onto the lines to check for proper grounding. Generally speaking if your house has markings... your ground is faulty and PG&E will be fixing it soon.

**PG&E Repairs**

Most are simple repairs but some require extensive work. PG&E assured me they would let the owner know on more extensive homes. Why do you care if the grounding is right? Less chance of a gas explosion and also some homes have grounded to PG&E and/or water or both.

**Safe Living**

We still live in probably the safest area in San Jose but that being said home burglaries are up. We are lucky. Only five in the entire area. SHPNA and others have been hit worse.

**Burglaries Rise**

Every summer burglaries rise as the heat rises. Folks leave windows open and criminals know this. Lock your windows when you leave and that according to PD usually solves the issues.

**Alarm System**

I for one have an alarm system even in this relatively safe area. It probably doesn't help that the economy is bad and many people are suffering but comparing the numbers from one year to another and they are pretty much the same for this time of year. PS alarms that are off don't work.

**Car Break-Ins**

Car break-ins continue. Mostly due to people continue to leaves valuables in plain sight. This includes GPS devices and the likes. Anything that looks like it has value is suspect.

Car break-ins are fast and furious. Usually two people walk the streets with lights and a punch device and a car follows. They spot a car, hit it fast. Break a window without opening a door, so alarms usually don't go off. Grab items through the window, jump into their car. If any lights come on they are gone.

**Call 911 or 311**

We have people casing the neighborhoods on bikes. If you see strangers report them on 911 or 311 and let PD sort that out.

**Recycle Old Medicine**

Don't forget to use a valuable resource; Lieter's our neighborhood, recycles medicine at their pharmacy. Net result; medicine disposed of correctly and our bay area waters stay cleaner.

**Blondie's Ice Cream**

Lastly if you haven't visited Blondie's Yogurt and Ice cream (Across from Safeway on Park) you need to. Kelly is a wonderful person who supports us each year at the Ice Cream Social by donating the ice cream. Let's support our local businesses when we can. **RGN Sep 09 3**



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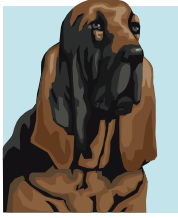
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## Kasey's Happy Halloween Gift

### Kasey's Happy Halloween Gift

Santa Clara County Sheriff  
Sgt. George Schifano



#### A Missing Child

On Halloween night, with all its excitement and kids running around, a young girl turns up missing. After searching 13 hour with the child still missing, the Los Altos Police Department called for K-9 rescue assistance.

I arrived shortly with Kasey, a trained search and rescue bloodhound. We make contact with the Los Altos Police to learn the girl was missing over night and that several citizen volunteers were still searching for her.

#### Prepare to Search

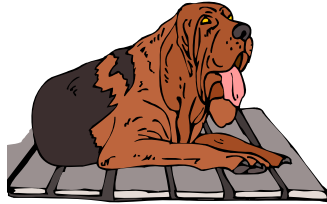
to help prepare Casey for the search, I asked for something of the girl's with only her scent. The family supplied one of her shirts, which I tie up, inside a plastic bag. I took Kasey outside and pointed her away from the house. Then I opened the bag under Kasey's nose giving her a burst of the concentrated scent as it burst out of the bag and I said "find them". Immediately Kasey ran back towards and inside the house, and up the stairs, not stopping until she was inside the girl's bedroom. A good indication she had the scent. Now Kasey was ready to start.

#### Search Over

I took Casey outside on a 15 ft leash and let her sniff in any direction she chose. Within 30 minutes she pulls me into a Juniper Bush where she runs over to a sleeping bag with the little girl sleeping inside. The girl, who left because she was worried about her grades, was returned to her very relieved and appreciative parents. The police department was very relieved as a missing person is always considered at risk.

#### Dog Selection

During my career I have handled two K-9's for the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. My experience and training taught me that not every dog is suited for service work. As different people are better at different careers, different dogs are better suited for straight detection work such as search and rescue, narcotics, or explosives, while others are best suited for protection work.



#### Dogs Testing

We test ours dogs by demeanor, personality, and body language; performing certain tasks to test for proper aptitudes and applications. Casey, being a typical bloodhound, tested out with a basic search and smell aptitude.

#### Train Early

Training for all service dogs is always intense and takes a lot of time and consistency. I started training Kasey at 5 months old, with help from Patricia Moffitt of the Sonoma County Sheriff's office.

#### Basic Training

Training Casey's natural blood hound aptitude to sniff and search was combined with repetition and consistency. At 5 months old, Casey, on a 15 foot leash, watched a person to run away and disappear behind a tree at 30-50 feet, while I repeated a specific verbal "search" command. The same command used all her life. Her sight gave her the direction to go and her smell the ability to locate the person.

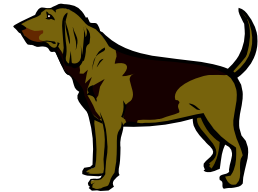
#### Consistency

Consistent training tactics and repetitive tasks intensify as the dog is ready. Kasey and I went through three phases or levels of training with a certification after each phase. We went through novice, intermediate, and expert; which requires a yearly requalification.

#### Law Enforcement Benefit

Service dogs' benefits to law enforcement are proven over and over. As a major law enforcement asset to law enforcement agencies they save time and money in a variety of searches.

Plus a dog's heightened senses, at times, easily achieve in minutes or hours what humans may entirely miss. An example is a single K-9 team completing the work of several search and rescue teams or officers.



#### Dedicated to Kasey

This story is dedicated to my K-9 partner, Kasey, who died of an untimely illness in May of 2009. I was very privileged to have worked with such a fine partner as Kasey. She was a hard working and dedicated partner and is sorely missed.

# Bark in the Park<sup>TM</sup> 2009



The Valley's Premier Event for Dog Lovers and their Pets.

**Where: William Street Park**  
William St. and South 16th St.  
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**When: September 19, 2009**  
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**www.BarkSanJose.org**  
**Yelp Line: 408-793-5125**



**Event Highlights:**  
**Dog Costume Contest**  
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**1PM**

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### From The Desk of The Treasurer

By Rod Johnson

#### The Adventure Starts

Being an adventurer, as the moment presented itself I raised my hand. As the dust settled I was voted group Treasurer. I had much to learn. Adventurer's remorse? I reflected on the situation and took my first tentative steps into this new role. The RGNPA as seen through this Treasurer's eyes.

Starting with the tools of trust, transparency and organization, I learned as a project manager. I assessed what new skills knowledge were needed. I vowed to leave it better than when I arrived.

**Our Mission** The Rose Garden Neighborhood Preservation Association (RGNPA) improves the neighborhood quality of life. In the technical world, impetus for change may lack project details. Maybe that is natural. Many projects would not be started if their difficulty level was known.

Today's RGNPA volunteer organization has a mission, objective and operating principles. Published bylaws are the framework which governs the group to takes action with respect to the mission. The bylaws include the mission and are located on the RGNPA web site at [www.RGNPA.org](http://www.RGNPA.org).

Governance is by resident volunteers elected yearly. The group mission has evolved over the years, with certain consistent elements. RGNPA mission evolution is inevitable and I seek the opportunity to recalibrate the mission to best help our organization and neighborhood.

**Operations** RGNPA is a "not for profit" organization. My vision is to maintain a sufficient financial base for operations and a net zero cash flow. RGNPA has a web site and a PO Box but no physical office space. People try & fail to reach us by phone. Email or USPS reaches us best. Reading this you already know we publish a quarterly newsletter and sell ad space.

**2009 Projects/Events** RGNPA presents events and philanthropic activities for the neighborhood. A big portion of the RGNPA 2009 budget included the Rose White and Blue Parade, Rose Garden Easter Egg Hunt and Rose Garden Ice Cream Social, We also sponsored rose identity plaques, displaying the rose types at the SJ Municipal Rose Garden.

**Newsletter Operations** I became acquainted and interested in the group through the newsletter after my wife and I purchased our home in 2003. We specifically targeted the area architecture. I was impressed by the effort invested in this neatly folded document. I read everything, including each and every advertiser. My property was appreciating already!

The newsletter is a volunteer effort printed and mailed to every member. Newsletter costs are the 2nd biggest. The RGNPA newsletter delivers relevant information to residents. It celebrates what makes the neighborhood special.

**Dues** You may --or may not, be a current RGNPA member. Yearly dues are \$15/yr and due on Nov 1st. Coinciding with RGNPA elections. Members can vote and hold office. Dues are Sour primary source of revenue. Dues allows us to apply more resources to our mission. If you appreciate the mission and work of our group, please show that support by paying your dues.

If you have not paid dues this year; please mail a check to RGNPA, PO box 59838, San Jose CA 95129. We also accept PayPal account at the email address [paypal@rgnpa.org](mailto:paypal@rgnpa.org).

**5 RGN Sep 09**

(Treasurer - Continued) In summary, thanks for allowing me to serve as your Treasurer. The year has gone quickly and I have much more work to do. Is this a declaration of my candidacy for treasurer in 2010? I'll have to check to see if I have my wife's vote.

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## NOFA Protests Signal Light Removal

By Kirk Vartan

San Jose Department of Public Works (DPW) makes a far reaching decision that may affect ALL neighborhoods.

North of Forest Association (NOFA) residents informed the DWP that removing a traffic light at Forest Ave (West) and Winchester Blvd contradicts the SJ Dept of Planning's own position, to keep the traffic light.

Without public meetings, and no publically distributed documentation, final agreements were made. Will the San Jose Planning Department enforce their position to keep the traffic signal? Or go with a developer's removal plan? Do some San Jose staff members work closer with developers, than neighborhoods?

NOFA feels, under attorney guidance, San Jose may not be complying with its own policies or addressing San Jose residents' needs in this matter.

San Jose owns, operates, and controls the traffic light and intersection; their authority is unchallenged and everyone agrees. So why is San Jose not protecting its own residents and the neighborhood's interests?



Removing the signal light from the signalized intersection at Forest Ave (west) and Winchester Blvd. will negatively impact the existing businesses and area residents.

### Some Traffic Signal Removal Concerns

- Noncompliant with SJ Transportation Impact Policy
- Removal creates hazardous pedestrian conditions
- Unmitigated hazards for existing neighborhoods
- Not supported by San Jose's Director of Planning
- Ignores Director of Planning recommendations
- Does not meet EIR criteria of an acceptable solution
- Not supported by the residents
- Not supported by NOFA and SOFA members
- Not supported by D6 council members
- No known rationale for San Jose to allow the removal
- Does not address ongoing neighborhood requests
- Long term economic impacts unknown
- Precedent set on decision making policy
- Still time to correct before the project is finalized

Does SJ support neighborhoods or developers? Traffic light removal negatively impacts residents. Neighbors want answers & expect more from elected & non-elected officials.

Is the community process broken? Or will San Jose hold a community meeting to address all previously unanswered questions? Attendees could include: Public Works, Planning, Department of Transportation and other necessary departments. It must be soon for recommendations to count.

**The Three ifs** set a precedent impacting other neighborhoods

- If traffic signal removal violates City policy
- If it creates ongoing negative impacts
- If it does not comply with Planning recommendations

**6 RGN Sep09** Learn more: [www.NorthOfForest.org](http://www.NorthOfForest.org)

## Guadalupe River Park & Gardens Update

By Leslie Hamilton, Friends of GRPG



Join us for Oct 10th in the Park (PIP) at Discovery Meadow. PIP features music, crafts and other children's activities, and Radio Disney on Oct 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to the SJ Park Rangers, a *King Snake*, and *Gopher Snake*. *Mississippi Mud Turtle* joined the *Western Toads* and *Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches* at the GRPG Visitor Center at 438 Coleman Ave.



Patch our star attraction is a *Holland Lop-eared Rabbi*. Visit us & also look for Patch Lapin on Facebook.

This fall the Army Corps of Engineers replaces the railroad trestle between Julian St & Coleman Ave. The east trail will close, but there will be a detour on the west side. Check [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org) for details.

Good news – by next year's end, you'll be able to travel from downtown San Jose to Alviso on a paved trail. San Jose secured grants to pave the Guadalupe River Trail from Hwy. 880 to Gold St.

Exciting milestone - Utility poles in Guadalupe Gardens will be removed this fall.

*Envision 2040 General Plan Task Force* July parks meeting voted GRPG as San Js "Central Park." Draft Green Print refers to it as such. Friends of GRPG is enhancing GRPG to rank among the country's great urban parks.

We welcome your comments Contact me at [Leslee@grpg.org](mailto:Leslee@grpg.org) or 298-7657

Friends of Guadalupe River Park and Gardens  
438 Coleman Ave., San Jose, CA 95110  
408-298-7657 (p), [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org)

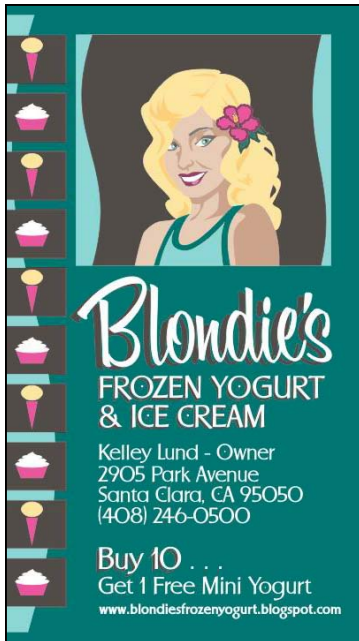
Friends of GRPG provides community leadership for the development and active use of San Jose's Central Park through education, advocacy, and stewardship.

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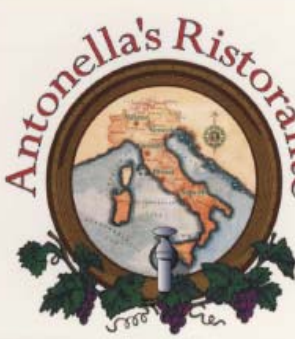
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## Vote For Your Favorite Charity

Explore nearby charities. Learn how they help our community. Vote for your choice. The charity with most votes receives \$100 (in the name of the Rose, White & Blue Parade) from the Alameda Business Association, and a trophy from LoMonaco & Co. There are other charities in the neighborhood. Send us information on the ones you support.

**Selection** Determined by willingness to welcome and help an unannounced stranger. Groups wanting to meet or talk later were removed. Information they sent was used.

Although other charity's provide excellent opportunities. I included only the groups ready to welcome and solve problems on the spot. Read the *Care and Feeding of Volunteers* by Bolton, Bright & Cressy to learn ways to nurture neighborhood volunteers.

### Your Vote Counts

Vote to support a charity. *"Charity is the love toward others that suffers long with them and is kind"* (1 Corinthians 13:4). Learn beyond the newsletter. Go to a website. Phone or visit them to see what they do. Ask your friends and neighbors to vote at the RGNPA web site: [www.rgnpa.org](http://www.rgnpa.org)

#### 1. Andy's Pet Shop

1280 the Alameda, San Jose 408 297-0840 [www.AndysPetShop.com](http://www.AndysPetShop.com)

A 100% rescue animal center. Not a registered non-profit. It is charitable toward discarded animals.

#### 2. Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center

938 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126

408 293-3040 [www.DeFrank.org](http://www.DeFrank.org)

Safe environment free from verbal and physical harassment and fear of disclosures. Promotes better understanding and unity within the community.

#### 3. Braille Center (Braille Transcription Project)

101 N Bascom Ave, San Jose, CA 95126

408 298-4468 [www.brailleproject.org](http://www.brailleproject.org)

Volunteers transcribe Braille textbooks for the blind and maintains a Braille reading library. A Braille Transcription course is offered.

#### 4. Breath California

1469 Park Ave, San Jose, CA 95126

408 998-5865 [www.lungsrus.org](http://www.lungsrus.org)

Breathe California fights lung disease and works to protect lung health. Offers smoking cessation, anti-tobacco advocacy, asthma education and resources, clean air activities and advocacy, support groups for victims of emphysema, COPD, and other breathing disorders, and medical research into the causes of lung disease.

#### 5. Santa Clara Valley Blind Center (SCVBC)

101 N Bascom Ave, San Jose, CA 95126

408 295-4016 [www.visionbeyondsight.org](http://www.visionbeyondsight.org)

Supports those facing uncertainties, fears, and challenges related to vision loss. Living with sight is difficult. Living without vision is impossible.

#### 6. Sisterspirit Bookstore

938 The Alameda, San Jose

408 293-9372 Mona (will email by Friday if can get it together)

All-volunteer serve women's & LGBT communities with personal growth and empowerment resources. Looking for store volunteers.

#### 7. Via Services

2851 Park Avenue, Santa Clara 408 243-7861 [www.viaservices.org](http://www.viaservices.org)

Serves special needs and disabilities. Provides speech and development evaluations & therapy for young children with developmental delays, disabilities & high-risk conditions. Camp Costanoan: residential, outdoor education, recreation & learning center for children & adults, with physical/developmental disabilities & special needs such as autism, cerebral palsy and Down syndrome.

To vote, go to [www.rgnpa.org](http://www.rgnpa.org)

# *A story of city dwellers working together to achieve their hopes.*

San Jose Historical Downtown Neighbor Association's (SJHDNA) life cycle.  
From birth to dormancy. A community ends in UNITY

## **Historic Roots, Modern Lifestyle In the Saint James Historic District Bob Carlson, Past SJDNA Board Member**

*Upscale new neighborhood reborn from San Jose's hidden gem "The original park" St James Park.*

*A mixed-use, high-density, high rise and single family transit-oriented neighborhood North of SJ downtown core and East of San Pedro Square.*

### **Saint James Historic District**

One of four major residential growth areas within a mile and a half of the city center, adding more than 5,000 housing units (1500 apartments, condominiums and town homes) in the past 15 years.



Previously single-use residential with useful commercial centers within walking distance.. Many more housing units planned, including high rises.

**Saint James Park** (Developed in 1868) Historically an important downtown public space. First developed as Saint James Park. Consists of two square blocks (7.6 acres). A Senior Center. a children's playground, & an historical monument.



**Historic Landmark** Designation of Historic Places and part of SJ's Saint James Square Historic District, eligible for California Register of Historic Resources.

As the centerpiece of the Saint James Historic District, the park serves as a reminder of the history of the area.

**Saint James Park is listed on the National Register**

Learn More at [www.stjameshistoric.org/](http://www.stjameshistoric.org/)  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/groupstjameshistoric\\_sj/](http://groups.yahoo.com/groupstjameshistoric_sj/)

## **Back To The Future By Jack Wimberly Immediate past President SJHDNA**



Neighborhood associations come with a uniqueness all their own but most share a common thread of yards and single family dwellings, with a dash of charm.

Downtown San Jose is host to many domiciles, that lack this thread. Her neighborhoods consist of thoroughfares, mass transportation, transient workers, travelers & transient residents.

Wind the clock back 30 years to see a downtown emerging from a chrysalis of negligence. The idea of a downtown "neighborhood association" to a court clerk crossing Saint James Park on the way to work would be laughed into traffic on North First.

**1998** A person planning an Easter egg hunt in St. James Park was told by police to search the park with a metal detector for hypodermic needles. None were found.

**2007** 6 people arrested in St. James Park from resident and business owner complaints of open drug sales & use, public urination & public drinking.

Flip forward to 2009 to find court clerks renting chic live/work lofts a few blocks north on 1st St.

The park has-changed. Transient women, and sometimes men, of the night replaced by a children's playground and Frisbee-playing residents.

The neighborhood surrounding Saint James Park has changed remarkably. The key player was a plan; implemented with vision and experience. A mass effort to build both infrastructure and structures for residents; to move in and take hold of their surroundings.

New faces came, and went. Concerns and issues affecting downtown residents are similar to those affecting say Shasta Hanchett, but Shasta Hanchett doesn't have the same gravitational focus Downtown does – (Continued next page)



### Gonna Get Right To It...

It was an honor to serve as Founder President, a board member *at large* and as a downtown citizen.

### SJHDNA Starts

We quickly learn the importance and purpose of neighborhood activism/advocacy from our neighbors in Hensley, Horace Mann, North Side and Japan town, who create new grassroots entities called *Neighborhood Associations* which got City Hall's attention by businesses & residents discussing issues together with San Jose bureaucracies *to make a positive difference in our neighborhood, and downtown*

We joined St. James Place, Park Townsend & Villa Torino to create the *Saint James Historic District*.

HOA Plaza Condominium members form a NA to improve St. James Park & public safety. *John Fortt • Sal Pizzaro • Melanie Datta • Bekki Leu • Pam Dougherty • Roman/Madelen Gafiteanu • Alma • Bob S • Donovan Bayuga*

1<sup>st</sup> SJHDNA board represents high density communities. *Pete Furman • Bob Carlson • Shirley Bell • Vicky Baugh • Jerri Carmo • Bruce Freisen • Darlene Freisen • Nilda Grant*

### SJHDNA Project Support

SJHDNA was heard on Downtown Policy, Public Safety & Projects for a larger community picture.

Thanks for letting us be part of your community. See you downtown...we still have lots to do! As issues arise, so will SJHDNA.

**Moving forward:** Residents to continue your efforts. Contact the *San Jose Downtown Residents Association*.

Respectfully Yours,  
Frank Penrose, SJHNA



### Thank You San Jose

Our thanks to just some of the many neighbors, business, politicians and city workers who supported SJHDNA to make a positive neighborhood and downtown difference.

*SJ Downtown Association*, for belief & support of Park Cinema & Music • Barry Swenson Builder • Lofts & Condos • MM Diversified • Morocco's Restaurant • Scott Knies & his SJDA • PRNS • RDA • St James Senior Ctr • Teske's • 3rd St Community Ctr • Trials Pub • Trinity Church • Troy Tibble • Vova • Workman's Emporium • Zanutto's Markets • Sam Liccardo & staff • Cindy Chavez • DNFL Members • DNLF • Don Gagliardi • Lenora • Lisa J • Joan C • Patti Autumn • Christi Welter • Carol S • Estelle Kadis • Mona Onstead • Anis G • Deborah C • Ken Podgorsek • UNSCC • Alex Marthews • PAC SJ • SJ

**9 RGN Sep 09** Downtown residents neighborly support, *and many, many more...*

### SJHDNA Article II:(Condensed)

To represent and inform members on issues pertaining to neighborhood enhancement, preservation and to promote a "walking community".

The Association shall focus and take appropriate action to preserve and enhance neighborhood quality of life. Advocate appropriate retail development, land use, building use, and neighborhood resources.

Enhanced communication among residents with forums to share information, meet their neighbors, and discuss neighborhood issues and initiatives. Promote neighborhood philanthropic activity involvement and St. James Park activities to bring people to the neighborhood.



### SJHDNA Projects & Events

- 2002 Came together to address St James Park
- 2002 HOA Neighbors gets ball rolling
- 2002 Address Park issues
- 2002-09 Repeatedly Request Master Plan budget
- 2003 Worked on St James Master Plan
- 2004 Drug Free Signs placed on St James Park grounds
- 2004/5 St James NA established
- 2004 Park signs placed: *Drug Free Zone*
- 2004 Separate drug dealers from *homeless*
- 2005: Reclaim our neighborhood and PARK with *1st National Night Out* at St James Park!!
- 2005 Champion Drug Free Zoning of St James Park  
No other SJ Park had this designation
- 2005 Promoted first National Night Outings
- 2005 Promote new neighborhood businesses
- 2005 Promoted crime awareness & prevention with Kim Gaddis & the SJPD/Police Services
- 2006 First Cinema in St James Park (SJDTA Partnership)
- 2008: Master Phase—Phase 1 release \$3 million
- 2008 National Crime Prevention Award: Frank Penrose
- 2009 SJHDNA officers vote to close down

### Back to the Future (Previous page)

Strong groups come from strong constituencies, whether a large or wealthy. These advocates focus on their special interest. Just as residents came and went, so did SJHDNA members.

After years trying to gather a strong constituency with a concerted voice, SJHDNA unanimously decided that disbanding was in the best-interest. Factors contributing to the deterioration of the group's impact are many. But optimism and relief, overshadowed the struggles of an organization with much at stake, vying for a voice, working for the success of downtown.

Jack Wimberley,  
Immediate Past President, SJHDNA

## 2020 Bike Plan Update

By Robert Walker

### Executive Summary

*Bike Plan 2020* defines the City of San José's vision to make bicycling an integral part of daily life in San José.

### Vision

Safe, convenient & commonplace bicycling.

### Goals

*Bike Plan 2020* achieve this vision in next eleven years, identifies five broad Goals, strategies & specific Actions.

- Bikeway Network : 400 mile Bikeway Network
- Mode Share : 5% of all trips taken by Bike
- Safety : Reduce bike collision rate by 50%
- Parking : Add 5000 bike parking spaces
- Validation : Gold-level Bike Friendly Community status

### Performance Measures

- Bikeway Network: 20 miles new bikeways each year
- Mode Share: Increase bike share 1% every 2 years
- Safety: Reduce bike collision rate by 5% each year
- Parking: Install 500 new bike parking spaces yearly
- Validation:

Achieve Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community status by 2013

Achieve Gold-level Bicycle Friendly Community status by 2020

### Bike Plan

Defines a 450 mile network of on-street and off-street bikeways. Primary focus is on-street network and connections to the off-street network. Learn More at:

[www.sanjoseca.gov/transportation/bikeped/bikeped\\_update.asp](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/transportation/bikeped/bikeped_update.asp)



## Kid's Water Conservation \* 2009 Poster Contest

*Why Water Conservation Matters!*

Ages 6 -12, may submit a poster. June 21 - Sept 21, 2009

1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners for each age group

**Individual and Group Submissions.** One winner per age group. Winning posters exhibited in Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum Oct 3, 2009 - May 15, 2010.

**Posters Judged:** on Water Conservation Message, Creativity, Originality, Artistic Design

**Guidelines:** 11x14 white paper, (recycled), free at Museum. Use Crayon, watercolor, poster paint, markers, ink, cut or tissue paper and fabric. *Do not use what smears, cracks, or chips.*

Individual is one person. 2 to 4 are a group. Group age is the age of the oldest member. Only original artwork accepted.

**Helpful Hints:** Draw why we need to conserve water. What limits supply. How to reduce water use. One point on how water is important to life and how to save water. Use large letters, few words. Simple, strong colors and heavy lines.

Each young person to submit a poster receives a family pass to Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum good: June 21 – Sept 21, 2009.

**Contest Winners** receive museum free family admission: Oct 3, 2009 - May 2010. One poster & one pass per child.

**Contestants may attend** Water Conservation Exhibit & Native Plants Gardens opening at Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum.

For complete guidelines, visit: [www.egyptianmuseum.org](http://www.egyptianmuseum.org)  
Or phone 408.947.3636.

**Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum**  
San Jose

- > Workshops and Tomb Tours daily
- > Junior Archaeologist Program
- > Peace Garden
- > Research Library
- > Free Planetarium Shows

Discover Ancient Egypt in Your Own Backyard

[www.egyptianmuseum.org](http://www.egyptianmuseum.org)

Since 1928

## Your Car's Computer

By Adrienne Akinsete



You are acquainted with computers at home and work, but are you surprised to learn a computer determines how much fuel is needed to create the spark that sets your car into motion.

Both a home and a car engine computer rely on information given for accurate output. Today's drivability and no-start diagnosis begins when you describe your car's problem, followed by a thorough mechanical check.

Describing car problem helps the technician focus in on faulty mechanical parts affecting the sensors your car's computer uses to determine how much fuel is needed.

Once mechanical problems are eliminated, computer diagnostic determines which sensors are OK. A car computer adjusts fuel flow based on sensor input. Sensor malfunction can cause the engine computer to add fuel, or run lean, adding to bad fuel economy and driving problems.



Your car's computer warns you when things go bad. The check engine light is one such indicator. Also, excessive smoke, poor acceleration, unusual noises, strange smells and difficulty in starting are all signs to take seriously.

Five simple preventive maintenance steps help protect the environment & improve gas mileage, saving gas money.

**Step One:** Keep your car properly tuned for low emissions. A 21st Century tune-up can improve gas mileage by 4%. Check: battery, charging and starting; engine mechanical; Power Train Control (include onboard diagnostic checks); fuel; ignition; and emissions. Fix serious maintenance problems, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, to add up to 40% more gas mileage.

**Step Two:** Check and replace dirty air filters regularly. Dirt, dust and bugs choke off air to create a "rich" mixture - too much gas burning for the amount of air. That wastes gas, causing lost engine power. Replace clogged air filter to improve gas mileage by 10%.

**Step Three:** Check and replace spark plugs as needed. Car spark plugs, fire up to 3 million times every 1,000 miles. This results in a lot of heat, electrical, and chemical erosion. Dirty misfiring spark plugs waste fuel.

**Step Four:** Maintain your cars cooling system. Faulty cooling thermostats cause engines to run too cool, lowering fuel efficiency up to 1 or 2 mpg. Improved radiator caps let radiators operate at higher temperatures before boiling over, increasing efficiency to reduce emissions.

**Step Five:** The last step for a "green" car is to properly maintain and repair your car as outlined in the *Car Care Guide* for needed care when it needs it and why. A copy of the free guide may be ordered on the Car Care Council Web site, [www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org).

Trevor Clarke

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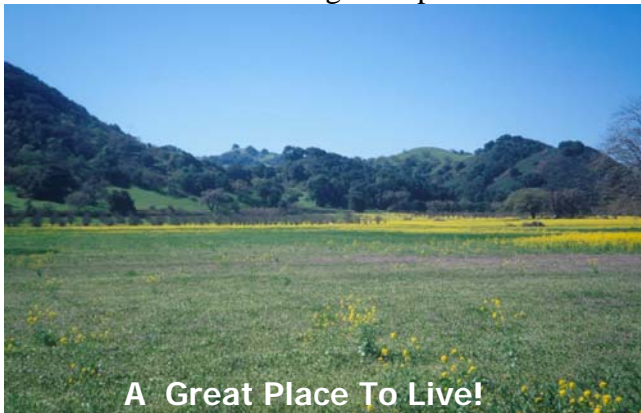


## The Greenbelt Vision

By Michele Beasley  
Senior Field Representative  
Greenbelt Alliance

Exploring the outdoors has always been second nature to me. Growing up in San Mateo County, I was lucky to camp beneath the redwoods at Butano State Park as a girl scout and go berry picking along the coast with my family. As a member of Notre Dame High School's crew team, I rowed past Redwood City's tidal wetlands at the crack of dawn.

It wasn't until I returned home in 2000 after two years in Africa that I realized just how much of the beauty of the Bay Area was at risk from poorly planned development. The dot com boom had set off another wave of growth and development and I was saddened to see the result was more traffic and lost green space.



A Great Place To Live!

A job working with the homeless in the East Bay opened my eyes to the disparity in living and wage conditions for so many people trying to make ends meet. A region as talented and wealthy as the Bay Area should not have so many families slipping through the cracks.

I wanted to help make the connection between social equity and the environment more apparent to my home region. And so in 2004, I joined Greenbelt Alliance as its South Bay Field Representative to advocate for the protection of the region's iconic landscapes and the creation of more thriving, equitable neighborhoods.

Climate change makes our work even more imperative. By 2035, two million more people will live in the San Francisco Bay Area. The challenge is to provide places for people to live and work without destroying the beauty of the region and the health of the planet. At Greenbelt Alliance, we believe the region can grow

12 RGN Sep 09 sustainably, and we must.

If we change how the Bay Area grows, we can make our region more climate-friendly, affordable, and economically competitive, while protecting our farms, forests, and watersheds.



San Jose Approaches

In Santa Clara County, that means preventing the premature development of open space areas like Coyote Valley. This vital wildlife corridor links two mountain ranges. Building more homes and jobs here makes little sense when there is so much opportunity to accommodate growth within San Jose.

Old warehouses and surface parking lots sit empty around Diridon Station and along North First Street. If new and underused neighborhoods are designed around people instead of cars, San Jose will establish itself at the forefront of modern living.

For our climate, our health and our quality of life, we can no longer sacrifice the Bay Area's stunning open spaces to subdivisions and traffic while we neglect our urban neighborhoods and suburban downtowns. Now is a good time to plan for a better way to grow.

Michele Beasley  
Senior Field Representative  
Greenbelt Alliance  
1922 The Alameda, Suite 213  
San Jose, CA 95126  
408-983-0856

[www.greenbelt.org](http://www.greenbelt.org)  
[www.growsmartbayarea.org](http://www.growsmartbayarea.org)

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**Creating Great Public Spaces  
Is San Jose Up to the Challenge?**  
By  
**Helen, On Hester**

On a recent vacation to Alaska I visited Vancouver Canada to reflect on the vast difference between their very urban downtown & San Jose, currently updating its General Plan (Envision San Jose 2040) with qualities to create an urban destination, vibrant economic headquarters, a green walkable & bikeable city.

For years, San Jose looked at downtown Vancouver and tried to emulate it's high rise housing as a way to lower our carbon footprint and attract young workers to live, work and play.



**The Journey Begins** Our journey began by building the many high-rise developments that greet you as you travel downtown. However, a few pieces are still missing.

Downtown San Jose lacks vibrant public spaces to engage you and draw you further and further into its heart, to walk or bike from one destination to another.

**Separate Bike and Pedestrian Paths** Vancouver pedestrians and bicyclists travel on separate paths. Their trail system entices you with many interesting features; small restaurants, shops, public art, water features, parks. So you move along, without noticing the vast array of high rise businesses and residences around you.

**Parking Parks** Of particular note are parking garages landscaped creatively with parks built over the top. A very effective use of space. Open parks encourage trail journeys to discover other opportunities without a car.

My hope is the San Jose General Plan Task Force discovers this vastly underutilized economic engine of our open spaces and public green ways. So crucial to attract high-wage companies & their employees to invest in SJ.



With these green building blocks in place, SJ would be an even more attractive place to live, work, shop, & invest, as the economy recovers.

**The San Jose Open Space Challenge**  
I challenge San Jose to compete with other cities and create vibrant public spaces that reflect us as the city of innovation.



**Developer's Environmental Impact** (Editor)  
Only SJ lets developers pick consultants to write proposed project EIR's. Coyote Valley 2007 Draft EIR unprecedented public criticism of [1,000 pages](#) of negative comments got a residents call to end developer-controlled EIR's.

Objections by 55 organizations, individuals, 28 public agencies including US Fish & Wildlife Service. SJ decided to overhaul Draft. Revision & Re-planning costs estimated at 2.5 million dollars & a year to complete.

**Developers End Specific Plan 3/18/08**  
Coyote Valley developer/landowners stop funding Specific Plan process, terminating process. Developers cite costs & planning delays. News reports of increased political opposition and environmental groups claim grossly inadequate environmental, fiscal analyses flaws were factors that contributed to ending the proposal.  
Source: [Wikipedia.org](#)

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Dr Thomas Santucci DC



## To Tree or not To Tree?

By Robert Walker

### A Neighborhood Project

Temperatures measured in sun & shade on an average temperature day had a 2-4 degree difference. Is the difference more on a really hot day?

We thank Our City Forest who plant shade trees in San Jose that “absorb CO2, considered the primary cause of global warming”. [www.riverdeep.net](http://www.riverdeep.net). What happens when we lose our trees.

#### Did Tree Cutting Help the Mayans Perish?

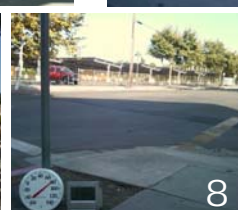
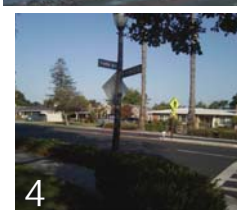
Did Mayan tree cutters’ raise temperatures in the rainy season by 2-5 degrees Celsius, reducing rainfall nearly 30 percent. Did this cause the Mayan civilization to fall? Did “Easter Islanders seal their doom the same way?” (Springhold.net Blog)

*We must be in the presence of trees to appreciate them.* Frederick Olmsted.

#### Shade/Sun Temperature Differences on Dana Ave

Fahrenheit Degree readings on a warm day: Aug 15, 2009  
Test temperature differences on your block on a very hot day.

	Temp in F°	Set Up	Time	Cross Streets
1	79°	Shade	16:50	Dana/El Dorado
2	79°	Shade	16:55	Dana/McKendrie
3	81°	Shade	17:10	Dana/Davis
4	83°	Sun	17:18	Dana/Hedding
5	79°	Shade	17:27	Dana/University
6	83°	Sun	17:39	Dana/Emory
7	79 °	Shade	17:50	Dana/Naglee
8	79 °	Shade	18:00	Dana/Brooklyn
9	83 °	Sun	18:11	Dana/Brooklyn



## 2040 Envision Future Park

By Kathryn Mathewson

Secret Gardens

### Vision Needed For Future Parks 2040

San Jose Parks are in the hands of the 2040 Envision San Jose General Plan Task, which met July 24th to discuss San Jose’s future park system.

A discussion on “big versus small parks” was followed by a motion to have a “Grand Park.” Public comments mentioned the Guadalupe Park and the Fair Grounds.

Pat Dando moved the Grand Park be the Guadalupe River Park (GRP). Without discussion GRP was voted Grand Park.

GRP information not presented at the Task Force meeting:

1. Parkland owned by the FAA has restrictions
2. Some FAA restrictions: no tall trees, tree height limitations, no plants which attract birds.
3. Noise, and air/soil pollution levels are high
4. No tests and made on air/soil pollution levels
5. Airport buildings must be cleaned at least twice a week so they are not black.
6. What will this soot do future vegetation to health?
7. It appears no one knows or has studied this.
8. If San Jose decides to have an Olympic event, will this pollution and location be a detriment?

With over a billion dollars spent in city subsidies on the downtown Guadalupe River for over 20 years, the river should be a magnet for people and businesses. It remains a dead space economically and socially.

Instead, Fairground events like carnivals, race tracks, and music events happen on downtown streets. Will these problems continue in greater abundance, because the GRP has many more limitations than downtown?

The Task Force will discuss the ratio of parks to people on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Some would lower San Jose’s 3.5 acres/1000 standard; including schools. San Jose’s actual park acreage is 2.5 acres/1000. District 6 has even less.

Let us also consider the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) the 6 to 10 acres/1000 residents recommendation of “Close to Home” park space, not including schools.

Issues to consider to develop a Vision for San Jose Parks.

- Work with Center for Park Excellence to emulate outstanding U.S. park ideas.
- Turn Brownfield's to parks
- Bioremediation: Create new land with new green business
- Nature oriented parks to reduce “nature deficit disorder.”

Become carbon neutral and reduce plant water needs 50 - 75% with healthy biological soil. Buy land for the future and not developing. Stop selling public land for private profit. Find creative alternatives to obtaining park land and helping park deficit districts.

in our technology environment (including little to no Astro-turf), the economics of open space and land uses around large parks. Let us bring the Fairgrounds and Old Monterey Highway to the discussion and planning.

To help plan take the survey at [www.wikiplanning.org](http://www.wikiplanning.org) and use the password 2040. . For more detailed information about these meetings visit: [http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/gp\\_update/calendar.asp](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/gp_update/calendar.asp)



**1221 Fairview Avenue**  
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**1675 Cross Way**  
Willow Glen  
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**915 Chapman Street**  
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**David Martz**  
408.230.0555  
I live and work in the Rose Garden



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**1285 Bird Avenue**  
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**INTERO**  
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

**COASTAL CLEANUP DAY : Clean Guadalupe Creek**  
Sat, Sept 19, 2009 - 9am -12pm

Bring friends/family. Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, gloves & sun-screen! Volunteer Information page has instructions & locations. Print & sign Liability Waiver. Give to Site Coordinator at start. Under 18yrs. Parent signature & adult supervision for entire event. Go to [www.cleanacreek.org/](http://www.cleanacreek.org/) for details & other opportunities.

**Guadalupe River Clean-Up Sites**

- Meet:** Guadalupe River Park & Garden Center  
438 Coleman Ave  
408 298-7657 or [info@grpg.org](mailto:info@grpg.org)
- Meet:** Outside Children's Discovery Museum  
408 806-4269
- Meet:** 501 Vine St: Almaden Blvd/Woz Way  
408 277-3208: [servando.perez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:servando.perez@sanjoseca.gov)

**Japantown Festival**  
FREE EVENT 10a- 5p  
Sat, Sept 26, 2009  
Historic Japantown  
5th & Jackson, San Jose  
Food, Arts & Crafts  
Fine Art, Plants  
Martial Arts, Car Show  
Kids Zone & Green Zone



**RGNPA July Board Meeting**

The RGNPA July Board meeting held at Zanotto's, included the SJFD presenting how to join the SJ Heart Safe Defibrillator training program and how budget cuts may affect SJFD services.

Printed by **Jp** graphics

**RGN Ad Space Rates**

4-Yearly	1 Issue	Size	Spec's	Inches
\$265	\$85	1 Business Card	3.5 x 2	
\$500	\$160	2 Business Card	3.5 x 4	7 x 2
\$740	\$240	3 Business Card	3.5 x 6	
\$980	\$315	4 Business Card	3.5 x 8	
\$1,200	\$390	½ Page	3.5 x 9	7x4½
\$2,350	\$770	1 Page	7 x 9	

To advertise in the Rose Garden News contact Robert Walker: (408) 244-2535 or [rwalker663@aol.com](mailto:rwalker663@aol.com)

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**Volunteers Welcome**

Membership Renewal Request    RGNPA  
Your Dues are now payable    PO Box 59838  
Please send \$15 check to        San Jose, CA 95159  
Or  
Pay dues on-line at    RGNPA.org (with PayPal)



**President's Message**

We continue to live in one of the finest places anywhere. Our weather, all be it off this year, is grand. We are pretty safe and the economy, short of healthcare, appears to be getting better.

Our park roses continue to amaze us and others, due to the SJ Park Dept & Friends of the Rose Garden working together. Life is good.

RGNPA is on track with many of the issues we set aside to work on. We are still need to hear from you as to what we should try to change.

Those changes could be in our organization, the area or even the city. Several changes this year are accomplished or well on their way.

- Rewrote simpler by-laws that read easy
- Website redone so its easier to use
- Website has more information.
- Website attracts over 2000 visits a month
- June newsletter had 16 pgs of good articles
- Spend more time at meetings that affect us
- We joined hands with other neighborhood associations to help the area as a whole
- Many RGNPA members joined auxiliary associations to better our neighborhoods

RGNPA Officers and members sit on the District 6 Leadership Group, the United Neighborhoods, Envision 2040, The Alameda Steering Committee, the Budget Task Force and more.

This keeping in touch keeps our area one of the best & safest to live. Change for RGNPA is done in a slow, orderly fashion to ensure it lasts. The Board does all this for our neighborhood's interests.

Our weakest link is your input. We want a membership increase, with more active members. You are welcome to visit and give direction at our RGNPA board meetings.

Neighborhood meetings are coming soon on proposed changes to the Alameda to ensure it change in a fashion that fits the neighborhoods wishes.

Watch our website and other media for dates & times. We need to be present or at least tell me your ideas, as I am on the steering committee.

RGNPA Nov annual meeting approaches fast. If you like what is happening or want Board changes you must be a member and be there to vote. We have changed our policy so its easier & membership dues are collected then. Help us continue to make change  
Bob Sippel, RGNPA President    **RGN Sep 09 16**