



# THE ROSE GARDEN NEWS

Publication of Rose Garden Neighborhood Preservation Association Mar 2010

## Mar 2010

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Side entrance across from Antonella's  
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 July 5, 2010 - 6:30 p.m.  
 Sept 6, 2010 - 6:30 p.m.  
 Nov 1, 2010 - 6:30 p.m.  
 Questions?  
 www.RGNPA.org

## Rose Garden Christmas Tree Lane Update

By Jane Hintz

The annual Rose Garden Christmas Tree Lane project had yet another wonderful season this past December. Each year, neighbors line their streets with small "Charlie Brown" trees that hold white lights- illuminating the streets in the darkness. It is a wonderful sight to see, and many times we'll see cars coming to our neighborhood to look at the lights! During the Holiday in the Garden festival in early December, horse drawn carriages take people along the illuminated streets.

We have something like 30 blocks that participate every year, and each year a few more add to the fun. Not only do the streets look beautiful, but we give back to our neighborhood schools in an effort to continue to build community. This year, we donated a total of \$1401 to Trace Elementary, Hoover Middle School and Lincoln Foundation. The schools are so grateful for these donations, and the monies go to fund scholarships, beautification projects, books and other worthwhile causes. They always seek our input into using the funds for the best uses for the students. All of this is generated by a small \$2.00 per tree donation. Thanks to everyone who has participated for the last several years.

So, who makes this happen? Dedicated Rose Garden block leaders drive this program. It's not difficult, but it takes some organization and follow through, so please make sure to thank your block leaders for their help to make this project happen. Some have been doing this for the last 10 years-they keep this project going!

This volunteer project (for those who are interested) is a great way to light up the Rose Garden during the holiday season, raise funds for our schools, as well as get to know the Rose Garden community better.

If you are interested in having your block participate in 2010, your block needs to complete these steps:

1. Designate a block leader (someone to organize the logistics of this) for your street. This will entail ordering and distributing the trees, collecting the money, etc. It's a fun project that helps to get to know your neighbors better.



2. The block leader must contact us to with the intent to include their street in the holiday project by August 1st, 2010. This deadline will ensure a space holder with the tree distributors who are collecting their orders over the summer months! We will provide you with a block leader's guide that includes an easy step-by-step process to use.
3. For more information on the process or to include your street in this project, please email us at [president@RGNPA.org](mailto:president@RGNPA.org) prior to August 1st, 2010.

### Call for newsletter content:

The RGN is published with volunteer effort and we need your help!  
 The RGN accepts articles and general information specific to our neighborhood and our neighbors. We publish quarterly and are always looking for content. If you would like to submit content to be considered for publication, let us know by sending email to [president@rgnpa.org](mailto:president@rgnpa.org).



# What is up in the Hood

by Bob Sippel

As far as construction is concerned at this time the only project I am keenly aware of is the paving on part of Park Ave. If you have ever travelled the end most near Santa Clara that crosses over 880... you will need a mouth guard or a visit to your dentist. Somehow the City has seen fit to re pave this area and the exact date is not known but it will happen.

Crime, luckily in our area, continues to stay on the low side. The only continuance or rise I have heard of from our local PD is the sudden rise in Graffiti (lets report it fast and get it covered) and the occasional car break-n. What I have to say here is **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES LEAVE ANY VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR.** Pretty much that seems to be the biggest issue. You become easy prey especially with anything that can be sold quickly which means basically any electronic type item such as GPS, laptops and Phones.

Our City Forest has trees again so if you want to be green, work with them and get trees planted on your block.

Changes in Solar regulations combined with tax breaks make Solar easier, cheaper and more desirable to install. There are companies out there that will install systems on your home and you pay nothing. We installed Solar over a year ago and it sure is fun watching your meter go the right direction... in your favor.

Don't forget the annual RGNPA Easter egg hunt. It is scheduled for the 27th of March in our own Rose Garden at 10:00 AM.

Projects in San Jose of concern to the Rose Garden Residents (and others) include the Didiron Station, The Baseball Park, the High speed Rail, BART, and The Alameda the Beautiful Project. Most of these projects will be ongoing projects that will, if approved, be finished in the years to come. The biggest immediate threat to this and every area is the budget crisis that looms over our and the cities heads. The federal and State governments continue to chop money destined for our city in order to balance their bud-

gets. (See the letter from Debra Figone). Whatever your opinion is about how to make budget cuts and who should cut or give up monies, remember to try and walk in their shoes before you make any brash statements. While we all think that all city employees make a ton of money and have hug benefit packages, San Jose is behind most other bay area cities in that regard. A little tightening across the board may be just what we need to survive these times.

The Didiron station and the ball park are going to be a constant discussion and whatever your opinion I suggest you read all that you can on these topics. Naturally anyone for example that is a baseball fan is for the park and those that aren't baseball lovers generally are against such parks. Emotions on these issues ride high and the ones nearest the projected projects are going to be the loudest. BART too is up in the air as current budget problems continue to loom throughout the area.

On another note there is allot of movement and discussion on the new Marijuana Dispensary at 824 the Alameda. Surrounding businesses and neighbors are up in arms as they feel this bringing the wrong element into that area. Most if not all are not standing ground on whether Marijuana dispensaries should exist but is the right place. As it were under current city regulations this type of business and land use is against codes and so the City is currently working on this address. What has happened however is that our own Council PierLuigi Oliverio has introduced potentially a new city regulation? In his presentation Pierluigi clearly states that anything we enact as a City needs to meet current State and Federal government regulations. He further stated we don't want to wait and end up like Los Angeles having this type of business on every corner. In all actuality we already have 6 in District 6 but this one is far the most highly contested. The Alameda Business Association and their members are the most vocal at this point. In addition SHPNA has sent in a letter of concern to the Mayor and Council and

I myself have spoken at the rules committee. Many people are sympathetic to the need for medical marijuana but are concerned about locations of these dispensaries. In addition Pierluigi's goal is to clearly regulate this type of business, tax it accordingly and his hope is should this become a permanent change in SJ Regulations that the monies collected go to support PD and repairs and maintenance of our streets. While my goal here is inform I have to say I stand behind Pierluigi's ideas as having spent a great number of years as a Paramedic in our City I see a need for the use of Marijuana when it is truly needed. In addition I don't want this dispensary or any other to be a stop off point on the way to the arena for party goers. Regulation needs to be tight and right. I have asked SHPNA to have a joint meeting with us and this will be one of many topics of common interest. Watch our website for future dates on this meeting.

***Want Change-become a member-become active and support RGNPA and its board.***

## RGNPA OFFICERS

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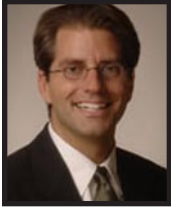
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***Volunteers Welcome***



## The Thinner Blue Line

By Pierluigi Oliverio

Due to the structural budget deficit and the decline of tax revenues coming into the city the January police academy has been postponed indefinitely. By postponing the academy the city saves money but risks neighborhood safety. To be fair it is a balancing act of what you would like to provide and what money you actually have on hand. However as I and others have pointed out the city continues to spend money on items that are not in the city charter. In addition it does not require cuts in these "nice to have" items like our core city departments have done in the past and must do again now. This is clearly problematic.

I think we all understand that police are expensive however it is important to have fully vetted and qualified police candidates who provide safety and trust to San Jose residents. Other positions in our city may have an abundance of qualified candidates who apply but when it comes to police there is a smaller pool with far fewer qualified applicants. It is a position that deserves to be paid well however within the limits of what taxpayers can afford. With that said other city staff provide value to the organization and residents but police put their life on the line at any given moment. One can be cynical about the old police doughnut shop stereotype but in reality police are killed in this country every few days so there is inherent risk.

The problem with pushing out the new police academy class is that we are trying to keep up with retirements, not add additional police but just keep up. We have 80 police retiring this year (some due to low morale) and the same number next year. It takes 18 months to get a police recruit out on the street. Our police force much like our professional city staff is starting to peak on retirements. There will be massive turnover in the next 5-8 years for the entire city workforce. This turnover is why 2nd Tier Pensions (benefits taxpayers can actually afford) for new hires is so important to do now. So by pushing out the academy the ratio of police to residents will decrease even more. What does that mean to you? Well maybe it is less police officers that are giving out speeding tickets in our neighborhoods. Maybe it is less officers investigating a homicide, rape or burglary. Maybe it is less police working on gang prevention and suppression. Certainly it will lead to more police overtime which is an additional variable cost that is tough to budget.

The Council has discretion to ensure that a police academy does occur now, as it only takes 6 votes. The Council in the short term could simply allocate \$4.5 million from the anti-tobacco funds (Healthy Neighborhood Venture Fund) and designate the money towards the police academy for 45 officers. We have \$7.8 million dollars in this fund that has not been spent and could be directed on anything the Council wants. Others would like to consider using these same funds to allow for more affordable housing and others would like to keep the status quo and continue to fund charities/non-profits which are not in our city charter. The remaining funds could be part of the longer term strategy to hire civilians to swap out police officers from desk duty and get them back on the street. The Police Chief, City Manager and City Audi-

tor agree on this as stated in the recent report by the City Auditor.

I cannot be everything to everyone nor can the City be everything to everyone. We have to make choices that inevitably have trade-offs and make some unhappy. I was elected to vote on issues and make tough choices.

The results of my web based budget survey are in with 839 responses and are posted on the internet at [www.sanjoseca.gov/district6/](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district6/)

Finally, I am showing the film No Impact Man, Monday, March 15 at 6:30PM. The film is about family who tries to live a zero carbon footprint lifestyle.

Free seating is limited. Please email me to save you a seat at :

[Pierluigi.Oliverio@SanJoseCA.gov](mailto:Pierluigi.Oliverio@SanJoseCA.gov)



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## Dignity sometimes only comes with Death

By Bob Sippel

Recently the neighborhood changed in size by one. Most people would never notice the change or even know the individual. For years the Rose Garden area has had a homeless person living under the 880 bridge at Bascom Ave. While there have been from time to time others and other groups on the other side of Bascom the space occupied by this homeless person was solitary. He never allowed others to habitat his space and unlike many of the other homeless areas, he kept his clean. He packed up his personals everyday and kept the area free from trash. Only on occasion would we see the remnants of his existence and that usually correlated around the same time of an illness or for an occasion where physical limitations prevented the daily ritual. This person's name was Craig. He hardly spoke to anyone and most of the time refused any form of gift including clothing. He started his life under the bridge many years ago; in fact most of use that may have known him as best you could... never knew how long he had actually lived there. He started off as many homeless do with somewhat normal attire and various levels of hygiene. Only in the very last yrs of his life did that

change. Towards the end one often saw him in tattered and torn clothing or covered in plastic sacks. He threatened no one, accepted very little and lived a solitary life.

Most recently many of you may have noticed flowers and wreaths around the area he lived in. He recently passed and had it not been for some of the cards lying at the feet of the wreaths, most of us would have never known his name. I know I wouldn't. His only dignity came unfortunately from his death.

I wrote this article to honor Craig... a unique person that braved the hot, cold, the hungry and lived a solitary life. One that most of us wish we never lived. In this day of economic conditions we may never know if one of us will be forced into that unfortunate lifestyle. If we do, I hope more than a few remember who we are and how easy it is to become homeless.

I suppose what made me notice Craig is the fact that while he had nothing... he cared for and attended the area he lived in with pride. That same something we don't always see when we spot the home of a homeless



person or group. I did not really know him and yet I will always remember him when I pass under the Bascom/880 overpass to enter the freeway.

*Miller  
Hinkle*

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## City Works to Balance Budget

By Debra Figone, City Manager

The City of San Jose, like private sector companies, has been hard hit by the economic downturn. For the budget year that will start in July, the City is facing a \$100 million deficit.

How bad is a \$100 million deficit? If we shut every community center, wiped out all of our recreation programs, and closed all of our branch libraries, we still would not have solved our budget problem. After eight straight years of budget reductions, there are no easy solutions left.

While many other cities have already been forced to make significant reductions in the services they provide, the City of San Jose has historically been able to soften these community impacts through the strategic use of reserves, strong fiscal policies, and a long tradition as a well-managed City.

The decisions our elected officials face in June will require a difficult balancing act between significantly reducing costs while sustaining the best mix of critical City services, such as police, fire, street maintenance, parks and library services.

To minimize cuts in service, which also means eliminating positions, the City is asking employees for wage and benefit concessions, looking at new revenue sources, and exploring where we can be more efficient or restructure how we deliver services.

That said, there are hurdles to success in these areas. Any new revenues in the form of taxes must be approved by voters, who may not be supportive. In the area of employee concessions, we are targeting a 5% reduction for all employees, which could reduce the deficit by \$30 millions, and have begun the process to negotiate with bargaining units. However, changes to City employees' wages, benefits or pensions can only be made after going through the negotiating process with the City's 11 bargaining units.

If new revenues or employee concessions are not achieved, it will mean more significant service reductions and lay-offs. We are still in the early stages of developing next year's budget, so the "solutions" will change. But among the proposals are significant reductions, including closing fire stations, reducing police staffing, shuttering community centers and cutting branch libraries back to three days per week.

All of these proposals will be the subject of much public debate. The City of San Jose uses a community-based budgeting process to help ensure that our decisions reflect the values and priorities of our community. You can stay informed and make your opinion on these issues heard. Check the City's Web site ([www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov)) to find information about the budget. Meetings to share information and hear public comment about the budget will be held in every City Council District starting in March. The City Council will hold study sessions for two weeks in May, and public hearings are scheduled for May 18 and June 14.

For more information, contact the City Manager's Communications Office (535-8170).

## Services for Rose Garden Seniors

By Monica Ferrier



### Silicon Valley Positive Aging Forum (Series)

Thursday, March 11, 5:30-7:00

Avenidas, 450 Bryant Street, Palo Alto

Concierge-Style Services: The Beacon Hill Village Model

Speakers: Lisa Hendrickson & Susan Poor, Founding Directors of Avenidas Village and San Francisco Village

To register and for information about upcoming events, visit: [www.leadingage.org](http://www.leadingage.org)

### Silicon Valley Positive Aging Forum (Series)

Thursday, April 8, 5:30-7:00

Avenidas, 450 Bryant Street, Palo Alto

Cities for all Ages

Speaker: Don Weden, Retired Principal Planner, Santa Clara County Planning

To register and for information about upcoming events, visit: [www.leadingage.org](http://www.leadingage.org)

### Home Care Agencies – Panel Discussion

Thursday, March 25, 1:00 p.m.

1871 The Alameda (near Hedding), San Jose

To register, call 408/984-6661 or visit [www.AgapeLTC.com](http://www.AgapeLTC.com)

### Elder Abuse

Thursday, April 29, 1:00 p.m.

1871 The Alameda (near Hedding), San Jose

To register, call 408/984-6661 or visit [www.AgapeLTC.com](http://www.AgapeLTC.com)

For news of other senior-related events and resources, visit the Calendar page at [www.eldercarescout.com](http://www.eldercarescout.com)

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## Presidents Message

by Bob Sippel

The board and I continue to work behind the scenes to make the Rose Garden area a better place to live. One of the problems that we experience, which turns out to be the same one in many of the neighborhood associations, is the lack of input from the members. It is important for us to receive feedback so we can try to move on issues that may affect us all. Naturally budget issues from all of the various government levels makes this task even harder. In an attempt to get more parties interested in what goes on with the RGNPA we have added speakers to the meetings. The very Next speaker will be Our City Forest. You can always access our website at [www.RGNPA.org](http://www.RGNPA.org) and get the information regarding upcoming meetings and events. In fact, due to the tireless efforts of the website committee and the webmaster himself, Bob Mortensen... we have been able to post and link many events and happenings throughout the city.

One of the ways we support our efforts is through membership. If you are not a member you should be.

Look for a posting of a mutual meeting with SHPNA. Helen Chapman (president of SHPNA) and I are planning a mutual meeting to allow members of both areas to familiarize themselves with issues that affect us all. This meeting will also highlight issues of common cause. It is important to try and make some of the meetings in order to keep yourselves aware of the ever changing climate. Remember our very next annual happening will be the Easter egg hunt. Look for it on the website.

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## The Alameda the Beautiful Highway

by Bob Sippel

The Alameda the beautiful project continues to move forward. Since I am on the TASC force for this project I am more aware of every detail. For those un- aware a grant was issued for the sum of \$250,000. As part of the grant a TASC force was formed made up of business, nonprofit, interest groups, and neighborhood leaders. I am part of that group. The TASC force is chaired by a member of the SJ Redevelopment agency. The TASC force met very regularly until such time we picked a design group to move on with the project. Parts of the grant dictates' that input from the community is essential so several public meetings have occurred. Each and every meeting the BMS Group (design group chosen) gathers input from these meetings, collects the information and puts it into a format that can be understood by all. This includes drawings and renditions that allow visual interpretation of what the area could look like. This planning portion is nearing its end and the last public meeting for input will be at the Westminster Church at 1100 Shasta Ave (The Alameda/Shasta) from 6-8. BMS will take all the information gathered, with changes and put together a visual rendition of what the Alameda could look like when the project in its entirety is complete. My personal thoughts are that BMS is doing a beautiful job and that seems to be the consensus amongst all parties interested. In addition without the excellent help from the SJ Redevelopment agency, SJ DOT and the Alameda TASC force members... I think this project would be far from the wonderful place it is today. The second exciting portion is the DOT and our cities interest in eventually converting this 4 lane street into a 2 lane, fully integrated, Pedestrian and bike friendly environment with concerns for safety all around.

Another portion of this project that deeply affects the project is the fact that the Alameda is really a state highway. State highways don't allow such things as sidewalk seating and some of the more business and spectator friendly changes that could happen to the Alameda. So the state and our City are negotiating to take over the Alameda and it will then be governed by the City of San Jose. This

part of the project is well on the way and all parties (the State and the City) are very much for this. Due to the fact the interest was high and the potential changeover very likely the plans for the future of the Alameda were based on City vs. State regulations. Money is an issue as the Alameda hasn't been maintained as well as it could be so the City needs money to solve that issue. All that is being worked out and that appears to be a go at this point and in fact should happen in a manner suited to finishing the project as a whole.

There have been several choices (based on community input) that BMS has presented and overwhelmingly the choice to fix it up with the same number of lanes to start with (lots of change even then) and later convert the highway to a two lane version. This is a very complicated plan and more than I can explain in detail with any understanding. That being said what is in the works across the board is to maintain the Historical look from 880 to approximately Julian and then provide a viable business district from there to the Diridon Station. The historical side would maintain that look including all the trees and some additional landscaping. A median for pedestrian safety is planned and with bump outs which make the distance shorter for one to scoot across the Alameda. Historical lighting is thought to be a plus on both parts of the project. Neighborhood marker signs are planned and there are lots and lots of potentially good things on the table, but if one wants to know more... go to the April 7th final community meeting as stated above. There you can see all the grand plans and put in your two cents. The initial planning ideas by contract have to be done by May 1 so if you ever want to make a change in that Grand Highway... be there.

Also the Grand Highway is another project that affects the Alameda. Basically the Grand Highway is a plan to make El Camino Real (the Alameda is part) a gorgeous highway from end to end. Now is our chance to have a jewel, historically intact, beautiful highway with a productive business and social gathering area that is ours.





## Exceptional Critters

By Rod Johnson

I need to start out by saying that I am an unabashed "critter lover". I enjoyed "Tom and Jerry" when I was a youngster and I know how strong empathy can be when animals get hurt. With all that said, exceptions can be made when animals of any kind threaten our safety, our property and our quality of life. In this article, I'll offer some information on one of the exceptional critters in our neighborhood; the black rat A.K.A the roof rat.

Roof rats originally came from the tropics carried on ships and now cover all temperate regions on earth. It's not their fault they are so successful. A single female rat with enough food can have six litters numbering up to ten young per year. Roof rats are typically dark brown or black in color and they have some physical attributes and behaviors that clearly set them apart from their distant cousin, the Norway rat, A.K.A. brown rat. A roof rat is built for climbing and its tail is longer than the entire length of its body. The brown rat has a shorter tail and a thick body. The body of the roof rat can be 6-8 inches long and it has a "skinny" appearance. It also has very large ears, which is the easiest way to identify them at a distance. The brown rat is almost never found above ground level and they are usually the culprits if you've found rats going after food or garbage around your home. Take a close look at the power lines in our neighborhood just before dark and you can see roof rats heading out for their breakfast.

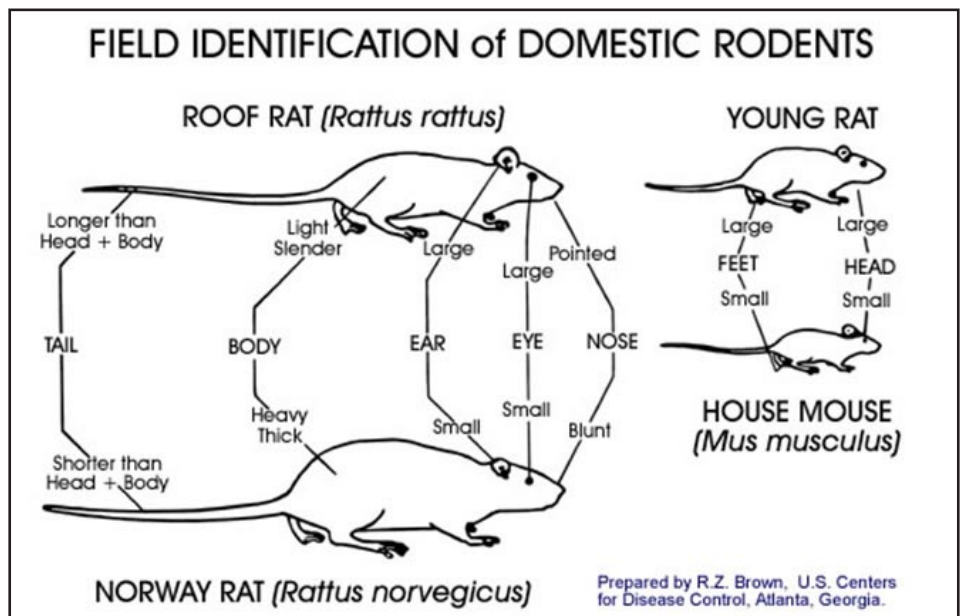
The wakeup call for me came, unfortunately, in the dead of night when I awoke to the loud sound of scratching. This went on for a few nights and then it suddenly went away. At the time, I thought that was a good thing. The next thing I remember was rustling in my attic crawl space near dawn. The attic noises went on for weeks as I researched what was going on. The roof rat rarely interacts with people because they are nocturnal and they don't care much for people food but they can do extensive property damage if left unchecked. Starting fires by chewing on electrical wires is the worst I've heard of but lesser impacts include, using their entire habitat as a bathroom, noise at night and shredding soft materials such as insulation. Once you know you have roof rats, you know you have to start getting rid of them. As much as you might like critters, the sound of rats in the attic is not conducive to peace of mind.

If you hear noises in the walls or attic, you almost certainly have roof rats. Other signs are gnawed citrus or empty snail shells with holes in them. The rat needs access to the roof and I've seen articles talking about pruning trees, hedges and ivy. It probably won't work in the Rose Garden neighborhood because we have overhead electrical lines that provide a bridge to every single house. Entry points for roof rats are up high and sometimes difficult or impossible to get to. You could spend a lot of time on exclusionary strategies and not really have any success. They only need one access point. In many cases, brown

and roof rats live in the same areas, so keeping pet food and refuse storage areas clean is essential. Cleaning up dog and cat feces is also critical, as that is really one of the brown rats' favorite foods. Poison rat bait is quite effective but it also has some down side. Rat poisons can have unintended consequences when they reach squirrels or even the stray cats that might eat a poisoned rat and get a dose themselves. Trapping roof rats is revolting, but it is all-in-all the most effective and cleanest way to do it.

Trap selection is very important. I've tried various trap types including plastic, live traps and wire snap-traps. The only thing that is effective is "victor brand" rat traps. Fix the trap to a larger piece of wood so they don't drag themselves to an inaccessible place. Don't waste your time with anything else. I've seen traps resembling big rat hotels but they are expensive and I never tried them. It might be worth doing for someone too squeamish for snap traps. You have to see where droppings are and place traps in those locations. I use steak meat for bait and it's very effective. Peanut butter is irresistible to rats but I've seen many traps licked clean and still set. Another important thing to remember is that rats of all types are very suspicious of new things in their environment and they might not touch a trap for 2-3 weeks. When trapping in the home, remember to schedule enough trap-checking visits. Don't make the mistake of forgetting the trap or you could end up with a bad smell in the house. In my case, I tie a thread to the trap just long enough to dangle through the access hatch so I can check it from inside.

I hope this article leaves you empowered to save the time and trouble roof rats can consume. Now that I've learned about the damage and sickness rats can cause in our neighborhoods, I don't feel that "eradicating" them is unreasonable. I actually consider the rat to be a superior foe. It's a foe that I keep fighting for my own good and that of my neighbors with the full realization that I will never completely win. It's just another humbling, character building aspect of owning a home in our neighborhood.



## We need a Vote on Potential Gateway for the Alameda

by Bob Sippel

The next community meeting is Wednesday April 7 at Westminster Church, 1100 Shasta Ave from 6-8pm. That is on the corner of The Alameda and Shasta.

We need your vote on a location for the proposed Rose Garden neighborhood gateway

The next community meeting for The Alameda, A Plan for The Beautiful Way will be April 7 and will present the conceptual design plan for The Alameda. The design plan proposes a gateway to the entire Alameda district as well as neighborhood gateways to each neighborhood adjacent to The Alameda. The neighborhood gateways will be unique elements that announce an entry point into the neighborhood and it is proposed that elements at the gateway could possibly include monuments, flowering trees, lighting and signs. The project team is determining the proposed location for each of the gateways and would like your vote on the Rose Garden gateway location. The Alameda district gateways are proposed at McKendrie Street and Stockton Avenue to bookend The Alameda. The neighborhood gateways are proposed along The Alameda at a cross streets. Where would you like the Rose Garden gateway to be located?



Please cast your vote for the proposed location of the Rose Garden gateway and bring it to the community meeting on April 7, or email your opinion to the President of RGNPA. Visit [www.rgnpa.org](http://www.rgnpa.org) and click the About Us tab and scroll to Contact Us. Click on President's email and cast your vote.

Thank you for your input!

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## A Bunny that Lays Eggs, Really?

By Ceris Schweitzer

When the grass grows green and the spring equinox approaches I realize that it's getting close to that time of

year when we have to go out and purchase hundreds of plastic eggs. The annual Easter Egg Hunt is upon us.

I thought about this strange event, why eggs and why the bunny emblems? So I decided to do a little research into what they mean to Easter. How did they get there? Here is the result of my simple search for the origins of the Easter egg and the Easter bunny.

Long before Christianity was a religion, eggs were dyed and consumed at spring festivals in Ancient Greece, Rome, Persia and Egypt. The egg is a symbol of rebirth, health, luck and healing. The word 'Easter' is derived from the Anglo-Saxon Goddess 'Eastre' or 'Eostre' the goddess of spring.

The origin of the Easter bunny comes from France and Germany about 400 years ago. The first edible bunnies were made about 200 years ago and made of pastry and sugar. German settlers brought the Eas-

ter bunny concept to the US in the 1700's. If children had been good the Easter bunny would leave brightly colored eggs in a nest for them to find.

The eggs and the bunny seemed to be mixed up together and some of my research dug up these ideas; the goddess of spring found a wounded bird and transformed it into a rabbit or hare to survive the winter. It was not completely transformed and still was able to lay eggs. An alternate idea is that hares do not live in burrows; they create a hollow that looks similar to the nest of the lapwing bird. In spring eggs would be found in these nests suggesting that the hare had laid eggs.

So whatever the origins really are you can trust that the RGNPA will be hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt at the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. It will take place on March 27th at 10 a.m. sharp rain or shine. Last year 2000 eggs were collected within 6 minutes, so we are increasing our numbers, but please show up on time. Please bring a basket to collect your eggs and a small goodie to share, and we'll provide coffee, water and apple juice to drink. Happy Hunting!

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## Rose, White and Blue Parade

By The Alameda Business Association

Are you interested in being in this year's parade?

Here is how you can participate:

- Contact us to get involved!
- Attend a parade workshop. Visit our website after March 1, 2010 for dates, times, & locations. This workshop is designed to help put together a great entry, and have fun doing it. They are open to the public, and you are not obligated to enter the parade by attending the workshop.
- Fill out the 2010 Parade Unit Application (PDF) that can be downloaded from our website at [www.rwbparade.org](http://www.rwbparade.org) or 408-795-1859 to request an application be mailed to you.

Send it via email to: [rwbparade@gmail.com](mailto:rwbparade@gmail.com)

or mail to:

Rose, White & Blue Parade  
919 The Alameda  
San Jose, CA 95126





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## Happenings and Events

### Annual RGNPA Easter Egg Hunt

**March 27th** is the Annual RGNPA Easter Egg Hunt. It starts at 10:00 AM at the Rose Garden itself. If I were you I would be sure and get there early as this is an event parents and kids come too. Can anyone contain kids during an Easter egg Hunt... the answer is no so things move fast. We are so far planning on doing some age group divisions so the little guys and gals have a chance.

### Board Meetings

Remember every other month we have our board meetings and members are encouraged to come. We do the board meeting after speakers and things of interest so please come. Remember the schedule then is **Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept and November, the first Monday of those months at 6:30PM at the Hoover Center on the Naglee side entrance**. This is a good time to learn more about what is going on, perhaps get involved and learn things from our speakers.

### Annual Ice Cream Social

**August 29th** is our annual Ice Cream Social. It too is at the Rose Garden and starts at 2 and ends at 4. This is a great event and a little bird told me that Blondie's is going to provide ice cream once again. This last year we invited SHPNA and will probably do that again. Good Company, beautiful view (Roses are in full bloom) and great ice cream.

### Alameda the Beautiful

Also place on your calendar the Alameda the Beautiful presentation and final suggestions by the community will happen at the Westminster Church at 1100 Shasta Ave, San Jose from 6-8 On April 1, 2010. BMS, The TASC force and the SJ redevelopment agency will be presenting the information. If you want to have a say in how the Alameda should look in the future don't miss out.

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](http://RGNPA.org) (with PayPal)