



THE ROSE GARDEN NEWS

Publication of Rose Garden Neighborhood Preservation Association March 2011

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RGNPA is a not-for-profit organization staffed entirely by volunteers from our local neighborhood. The group publishes a newsletter, presents a website and participates in a number of local philanthropic activities. The fee for membership is \$15/year due on November 1st. Additional donations of time and money are always appreciated. Please contact us for more details about how to participate.

Thank you for your support.

RGNPA Board Meetings All Welcome

Join us at our board meetings.
Meetings Listed Below
Community Center @ Hoover
Middle School
1635 Park Ave
San Jose, CA 95126

Side entrance across from Antonella's

Questions?
www.RGNPA.org



San Jose Budget Cuts and Their Effect on Neighborhoods

By Bob Sippel

Well the sad news is in, and effective July 1, lots of changes have occurred. While for months the City has focused its requests for sacrifice on the city workers of San Jose, the unions have dutifully met each challenge. Each and every union gave up the 10% the Mayor asked for and in many cases more than that. The real impact in salary is much greater than that with the increase in health-care, the huge change in deductions, the retirement contribution payments and more. In most cases the net salary loss is in the neighborhood of 19%.

That being said, everyone knew things had to change in order to prevent the loss of jobs and things we expect to get from the city. The 115 million deficit was closed but at great expense to all the citizens of San José. There is a reduction the hours of the community centers and those that are true community hubs, were hit the hardest. Library hours were cut to 4 days a week except for the MLK downtown which is open 7 days a week. Our own library the Rose Garden is open only Mon-Thursday (depending on the day 10-6 or 10-8). Overall there were 500 job losses throughout the city and many of them affect both how we live and the safety of our neighborhoods. Without going into extreme detail, I can say we lost most of our Code enforcement team, the regulars that cleaned up the Graffiti, road crews, etc. Personally, the saddest loss, is the 68 of San Jose's finest Police officers. I personally went to see them off and had to do so from the street as this was a personal event and outsiders were asked to honor the officers but allow fellow officers the private time. Does this mean response times to police calls will rise? It certainly seems reasonable to expect that. I am sure the Chief and Officers will do all they can but in crunch times, only the life threatening events will get the attention. Obviously things have been put into play to avoid any changes in service but staffing levels matter.

Fire was able to bring the 49 laid off last year back but only due to a federal grant. That being said staffing changes have been made and a new system of brown outs is in place. Any station with 2 vehicles (apparatus in them) will be down to one via this Brown out system when deemed necessary. This also means that even a station such as our own station 7 may be gone a lot covering other stations. The net result is that while saving the laid off firefighters, change was made that may well affect our overall health and fire safety.

There were some positive changes as the City will be listing some vacant properties and one of their golf courses. In addition the government has lent us 2 FBI gang specialists to help with gang issues. Also something that has not been utilized and dear to my heart... the city is now going to enforce the rule on blighted, abandoned foreclosures and for once will fine the banks that leave them that way. If applied it can be a tidy income on fines.

On a personal note, things that were scheduled to be shut down such as our own fountain in the Rose Garden were saved by volunteer activity. The Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden worked with donors and saved the fountain for what we believe to be 3 yrs. In fact it is time we all step up to the plate, report crime, remove Graffiti and do some of the work ourselves.

The budget for next yr and yrs to come looks about the same as this year so be prepared for additional change. Times are changing, so stay informed and if you are so inclined, get involved with RGNPA or one of the other fine volunteer organizations in San Jose.

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What is up in the Hood

by Bob Sippel

Well the summer is finally upon us, nice weather has finally arrived but really rain in June and July. Mother nature had a say in all this and I hope she is happy now as we need some good weather so we can see some smiley faces and moms and dads can get a break from the cooped up little ones.

Everyone understands all the economy issues and budget cuts so there is little to comment regarding road repair, new lighting or anything of that nature.

Everyone has heard of the increase in the homicide rate in our lovely city but I can say having the pleasure of being one of the 17 chosen to be on the SJPD Chiefs Citizen Advisory committee, that it appears the increase is due to gang activity and not all our gangs... some coming in from other areas. Doesn't reduce the number and the losses by loved ones cannot be understated but at least we can identify as best as possible why the increase. Of course my worry there is with all the reductions in PD, the gang unit was hit also and hopefully as a city we can keep ahead of this issue.

Remember to be diligent in the summer as some crimes occur due to the heat (windows left open while no one is home) and vacations occur so be sure to have someone watch your house, make it look

leaved in via automatic lights etc and turn on your alarm if you have one. It always amazes me how many homes get broken into with alarms that have not been turned on.

Graffiti is on the rise again in our hood and I personally have been removing it. It really makes me cranky when you begin to see it on our trees as it is hard to remove. (Such is the case on the on ramp to 880 south). You can pick up a graffiti kit yourself and if you want to form a group to go out together get a hold of me at president@rgnnpa.org.

Don't forget now there are lots of free things going on in our area and the city. The Guadalupe River Park conservancy has events all summer including day camp. If you like music there is Music in the Park every Thursday eve with changing bands. There is music in other areas surrounding us, Willow Glen, Campbell and Los Gatos. Farmers Markets are all around with the largest being in Campbell but many in our own area are grand. Downtown has several, Willow Glen has one on Saturday and you can find more if you look. If you like hotrods and different kinds of cars you can go to various places in this area to see them at no charge. The largest is by Boston Market at El Camino and Scott every Wednesday night from 4 on... sometimes as many

as 200 cars are there. Check our website for other events and be prepared for our annual Ice cream social. Each and every year Blondie's by the Safeway across from Santa Clara University donates ice cream for this event. This yr it is on August 20th. Check the website for details RGNPA.org and visit Blondie's... she has both Frozen Yogurt and Ice Cream and she even has stools for the little ones to see and pick out the ice cream.

Now I have listed lots of things and left some information off to encourage you to do some investigation on your own. You can call up many things by simply stating the event and there is always our website RGNPA.org.

Be Safe, enjoy the summer love and live.

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Swing Vote

By Pierluigi Oliverio

There have been many times throughout my elected tenure that I have casted the sole no vote. There was the time when I voted against spending \$2.26 million dollars on golf nets for the already problematic golf courses the City owns and most recently I was the only vote against transferring Old City Hall to the County. Other no votes include, funding Mexican Heritage Plaza (again), raising residential recycling fees at a rate higher than inflation, labor contracts that tie the City's hands, converting industrial land to housing, subsidizing Hayes Mansion or housing developments that do not pay property taxes yet require more services.

The City Council met on June 24 to discuss the Mayor's proposal on providing guidance on current negotiations for proposed ballot language and retirement reform. There were 5 Councilmembers in support of the proposal put forward by the Mayor and there were 5 against.

It came to me to cast the final vote. I could have supported the Mayor's proposal, however, I needed the negotiations of such an important issue to be public. Negotiations really need to be made public, in my opinion, so that retirees, employees, residents, basically everyone, could see what is being said.

I attended most of the public negotiation sessions for our city attorney union and found the sessions extremely valuable to hear for myself what was being said. These meetings simply let any member of the public sit and listen. No speaking was allowed by members of the public, however they could observe. This

seemed to be a fair way of doing it instead of some suggestions like mandating that only certain members of the City Council could attend the negotiations and no members from the public or that negotiations should be done during a council meeting which would possibly make council meetings last several days.

Issues of trust have been brought up and I feel public meetings would make those who feel there is a lack of trust to be confronted with the reality of seeing for themselves what is said.

I asked that the motion on June 24 be amended to allow public negotiations for those unions that are open to having them conducted as a public meeting. The City cannot force a union to make the meeting public as they must offer. We debated the topic for 45 minutes going back and forth. The first motion did not entertain making these meetings public if a union was open to it. The vote on the first motion was 5-6 No, which included myself voting No. After considerable discussion a final motion was made that allowed review of proposals for public negotiations. The proposals from the unions would be brought back to the Council for consideration. My preference was to automatically accept proposals that followed the city attorney union public meetings model however there was resistance on the Council.

The final motion which included the opportunity for public negotiations passed on 6-5 vote, which included myself voting yes.

Sometimes a single vote can be symbolic and sometimes it can be the deciding factor. In either circumstance my votes are consistent.

The Alameda the Beautiful Highway- UPDATE

by Bob Sippel

Very good late breaking news, as many of you may know me and some others were part of the Alameda Steering Committee and our job was to work with a design company and layout what we all as neighbors and businesses would ultimately like the Alameda to look like. We came up with a design that was attractive, functional and satisfied Business, in addition to the neighbors, pedestrians and the bike community. Naturally it would have to go in stages.

We made it through the layout phase and the clincher to start utilizing the multimillion dollar grant was to convince property owners to vote on a maintenance district. The reason for that is all the planting, tables, openness, lighting and cleaning could not be done by the city due to budgets. If we got a certain percentage of votes, the City would then proceed to release the money from the grant and matching funds. Eventually, the owners will have to vote on a fixed amount for this maintenance district which would then fund the long term maintenance of the improvements.

The other option under consideration was simple repaving, without all the bells and whistles and none of the safety changes for bikes and pedestrians etc.

Through the hard work of some of the committee members, much of the work by Marc Morris the grant writer from SHPNA, and



with help from the RDO, City staff and The Alameda Business association, the minimum percentage was met and the project can now go to the next level.

This is very good news for the neighborhood and if it moves along well we can look to see change on the business end by Race St first, followed by another phase in the residential areas and finally the freeway and entrance side by 880. It's a grand vision with resources allocated to complete –a rarity in this age of shrinking public funding. Please consider spending time to get to know the local Alameda businesses and discover the benefits of spending money locally. Deepest thanks to committee members for their hard work and dedication.



Presidents Message

by Bob Sippel

This Quarter my message is simple, times are still tough but getting better and if we can all work together to solve issues... the better off we all are. Utilize our website, while we need to work on it some, it is a contact point and has useful information. Join our yahoo group and be active.

Most of all understand we are a volunteer group that tries hard. None of us are paid and we do the best we can. We are here to be your voice in the community, hear the complaints, and make change when we can (hard to do in these times), help reduce over building, work with the schools and overall to keep you informed and make this community a better one. However we need members to do that as your membership supports all that we do. We charge less than almost any neighborhood association and yet we give allot to the community. In addition, if we don't hear from you... we can only guess as to what you would like to see us do. Meetings including board meetings are open to all and we do have speakers from time to time.

We have two big events a yr the Easter Egg Hunt and the Ice Cream social... attend them. We also had the annual garage sale this yr with good results.

It is your community as well as ours... support it.

Also articles for the newsletters can be from you too not just us. Got one to share sends it to us and we more than likely will add it to the newsletter.

I myself spend about 20 hrs a week keeping apprised of issues, going to meetings and supporting this group. I am not complaining just stating facts. There is not a sole in government that doesn't know we exist and plan to voice our opinions. Others work hard on their projects and the one coming up soon is the Ice Cream Social in August. Look for articles on that or plan to be at the Rose Garden in the afternoon of August 20.

Thanks for letting us serve you and please, be active, join and let us know what it is you would like us to do for you.

Insect Stings

by Ceris Schweitzer

Bee stings are a common summer hazard. If a nest is disturbed, bees or wasps can attack in a swarm that can cause multiple stings; which can produce a more severe reaction due to the cumulative effects of the venom. This can lead to life-threatening anaphylaxis, even in people who are not usually allergic to bee stings.



A mild reaction can be the instant pain from the sting to a swelling that can extend several inches or even the whole limb can be swollen. Depending upon the sensitivity to the venom some people can even have nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and generalized edema. Severe reactions can be hives, rashes, itching, breathing difficulties due to swelling in the throat, low blood pressure and potential cardiac arrest. This type of severe reaction only happens in about 0.8% of stings.

Removing the stinger is the most important thing to do. The longer that it stays in place the more venom can be absorbed. It can take about 2 – 3 minutes for it all to be released. Choose the quickest available method of removing the stinger; scrape it out with a credit card, knife blade or a needle, or use tweezers. Tweezers were thought to pinch the venom sac and squeeze more venom into the person, but removing the stinger as quickly as possible is more important. Apply an ice pack or hold the site under cold running water.

If the sting produces a mild reaction, then an antihistamine may be all that is needed; but emergency medical care may still be required if the person stung starts to deteriorate. If they start to wheeze or have facial swelling, then if epinephrine is available it should be given immediately and make a 911 call.

If the person stung has a known allergy to insect stings they may carry a prescribed epinephrine kit or pen. An injection into the muscle is better than just into the skin. People who have an allergy to insect stings may have more severe subsequent allergic reactions.

To help prevent bee and wasp stings, avoid wearing perfume and dark colors outside, white clothing is best. Keep screens on windows and doors and keep the trashcan closed.

Avoid eating sweet foods outside and drink from a wide-open cup so that you can see what is inside. Do not swat at the bees or wasps as you may cause it to sting, calmly walk away from them. If you are stung, move away from the area; as bees that have stung release a chemical that attracts other bees.

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Survey: Couples Rarely Talk About Life Insurance

By Angela Frangieh, State Farm® agent

A recent State Farm survey shows many people understand the need for life insurance is important but acknowledge the conversation with their spouse might be uncomfortable. Seventy-four percent of couples say they rarely or never discuss the topic. This is particularly true in households with one wage earner.

With women increasingly filling the role of primary breadwinner, financial and emotional stressors weigh heavily on their decision to discuss life insurance at home, and research finds that among couples unlikely to discuss the topic, women are even more likely to remain silent.

The state of the economy influenced the responders. The survey found that more than half of Americans are now focused solely on protecting what they have versus working to achieve their financial goals. Having the income to cover basic household needs (mortgage, rent, utilities and food) must come first.

An earlier study from the research firm LIMRA found that nearly one third of U.S. households currently have no life insurance, the highest level in more than 40 years.

For couples who struggle with discussing finances and life insurance, here are a few suggestions:

- **Make A Plan.** It can be empowering for couples to agree on goals and steps toward achieving a more secure future. For couples experiencing severe economic setbacks, it can be reassuring to have a strategy in place to get back on their feet financially and to prepare for the unexpected.
- **Start Small.** Often couples may feel the gap is too great between what they have to work with financially today versus what they would like to have in the future. But starting with small steps - such as getting educated about life insurance basics - can set the stage for follow-up steps later.
- **Consult an expert.** Bringing in a knowledgeable outside perspective can make the process of discussing life insurance easier and less stressful. These experts have experience guiding the conversation and answering questions. This can help avoid misunderstandings and unneeded stress.

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AlertSCC

By Robert Walker

Today my neighbors and I received an emergency voice message from the SJPD, calling local residents to ask for help finding a "13yr old who is autistic and has the mental age of 6-7 years old was reported missing." Complete with a description. The phone call was made by Alert Santa Clara County Emergency Alert System through the Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services (OES).

This important, innovative service is called AlertSCC. If you did not receive the message you can sign-up for free and receive a variety of emergency and public safety messages.

AlertSCC allows you to register your phone number, mobile phone, email and text messages at <http://www.alertscc.com/index.html> by pushing the RED sign-up button, which takes you to the Registration page.



From here it is just a computer click away from:

- Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services (OES)
- California Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross
- Silicon Valley Chapter, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- National Weather Service
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- Current Earthquake Information
- 2-1-1 Santa Clara County information Services

This back-up emergency information center also a list of other participating cities from Campbell to Morgan Hill. With the recent reductions in San Jose Police patrolling the streets, this system may just be the tool San Jose citizens need help their neighbors fill the service gaps in times of emergency.

For more information or to sign up for AlertSCC go to:

<http://www.alertscc.com/about.html>

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Lost Your Pet? What You Need to Do ASAP!

Melissa Lisbon, San Jose Animal Advocates (<http://sjanimaladvocates.org>)

One day your pet will get lost and you need to know what to do. Did you know that more pets go missing on July 4th than any other day of the year?

Frequently we get emails from neighbors and see signs on telephone polls with pictures of missing pets. Do you know what to do if your pet gets lost? San Jose Animal Advocates, our community animal support group has developed a concise, small pocket-sized card entitled, Lost Your Pet? 5 Things to Do Immediately.

Here is the list:

1. Notify your neighbors
2. Post flyers around the neighborhood
3. Search online for lost San Jose pets
4. Go to the San Jose Animal Care Center
5. Place a lost pet ad on Craigslist

We have supplemented these action items with handy links to help you create a Lost Pet flyer and to help you search for lost pets in San Jose. Did you know that if your pet ends up at our municipal shelter you only have 72 hours to claim him/her? When you lose a pet, timing is everything!

To complement our Lost Pet guidance, we have included some important "prevention tips" on the reverse side of the card. These suggestions such as licensing your cat or dog, could end up saving their life! Have you thought about microchipping your pet? All vets and shelters scan animals upon arrival so if your pet is microchipped, they will contact you to pick up your pet.

If you would like one of these handy cards to keep on your refrigerator or by the phone, feel free to contact us at:

sjanimaladvocates@gmail.com.

A happy pet is a safe pet!



Lost Your Pet? 5 Things To Do Immediately

1. **NOTIFY your neighbors**
 - In person and via email
 - Post to your neighborhood e-mail group
2. **POST flyers around the neighborhood**
 - Useful online tool: <http://bit.ly/lost-pet-flyer>
 - Remember to always include a photo!
3. **SEARCH online for lost San Jose* pets**
 - <http://bit.ly/sj-lost-pets>
4. **GO to the San Jose Animal Care Center***
 - 2750 Monterey Hwy, San Jose, CA
 - 11:00am - 4:30pm, closed Mondays
 - Lost pets are only held for 72 hours, so don't wait!
5. **PLACE a lost pet ad on Craigslist**
 - <http://sfbay.craigslist.org>

* Applies to residents of San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Milpitas, & Cupertino. If you live in another jurisdiction, check our website under Directory for the corresponding animal shelter.



Prevention Tips

- **SPAY/NEUTER** all of your pets
- **MICROCHIP** your pets and update the registration when you move
- **LICENSE** your cats and dogs
This is a requirement in San Jose, but will also help reunite you with your pet if they are lost.

See: <http://sanjoseanimals.com/licensingInfo.asp>
- **PUT** a collar and ID tag on all cats and dogs
- **KEEP** cats indoors
The average lifespan of an outdoor cat is less than 5 years, compared to 12+ for indoor cats.
- **SECURE** backyard enclosures
Small dogs can easily escape through small openings when frightened.

 San Jose Animal Advocates
sjanimaladvocates.org

 San Jose Animal Advocates
sjanimaladvocates.org

How Can We Make Our Neighborhoods Better and Safer?

By Bob Sippel

Budget crunch or not there is lots we can do to help ourselves. How many of you actually know not only your immediate neighbors but those at the end of your street, or better yet 2 blocks over. How many Kids in your neighborhood know where they can go if they feel threatened and no one is home or they can't reach home? How many know why so many fire vehicles show up at a scene. How many of you have taken CPR or First aid. How many of you have graffiti kits (free from the city), do you know why it takes PD time to arrive at things in our very safe neighborhoods. I bet that many of you cannot answer some of these questions. It is time to learn and there are resources.

In addition, I felt while I believed I knew all my neighbors and the local public safety folks... I found out I really didn't. My wife and I then made a commitment to have a block party (actually 4 or 5 blocks) each yr. We provide food, plates etc and other things like a jump tent, but ask others to bring things. This has occurred for going on 7 yrs with amazing results and now we all not only know each other but work together on not only community projects but help each other with everyday issues such as plumbing, electrical and more. Not everyone can make this commitment but everyone can plan one, ask for donations to help defray any costs and who doesn't like to each someone else's cooking for a change. Our annual event includes about 150 neighbors and then local Pd and fire.

We live in such a safe neighborhood that staffing for PD is based on demand. We demand less so at times our officers may be at another area so it may take them time to arrive. That being said, live threatening events always get immediate attention. So be thankful you live in a relatively safe neighborhood.

Fire comes to the scene when it's a medical emergency with one vehicle to offer assistance combined with the local Private

Paramedic ambulances. However if there is a fire the department sends in a compliment of three (3) vehicles. May not need them but if you don't have them and you need more it takes time for them to arrive. National Safety Standards and history of this type of emergency dictates this level of service. Don't like it watch your home burn while they send for help. (Brutal but true statement).

CPR and First aid are getting simpler and offered all over. We may even try to host a community event without cards But in order to do so need numbers of folks that may be interested so let me know at president@RGNPA.org

With budget cuts come more Graffiti and its time we all rolled up our sleeves. If Graffiti gets out of hand our neighborhoods will not only look horrid but since there is a gang element to this... the gang activity will most likely increase. To get your kit call 277-3208 or go to 501 Vine St, San Jose. To report graffiti call 277-2758. Remember though with budget cut backs the graffiti removal will take longer and the longer it ups the more it will happen.

Let us all step up to the plate... we need each other in these rough times.



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Real Estate Update

Provided by Kellie Kemp, Alain Pinel Realtors

Recent Sold Homes in the Neighborhood

www.kelliekemp.com

Address	Beds	Baths	Square Footage	Lot Size	Days on Market	Sale Date	Sale Price
744 CHAPMAN STREET	4	3	2,852	9,500	97	05/26/2011	\$1,335,000
1795 WEST HEDDING STREET	5	3.5	3,067	11,280	43	05/31/2011	\$1,125,000
1180 MCKENDRIE STREET	4	2.5	3,125	5,500	96	05/11/2011	\$925,000
1887 PARK AVENUE	3	2.5	2,127	5,023	4	04/26/2011	\$745,000
2020 EMORY STREET	2	2	1,549	7,776	48	05/25/2011	\$720,000
1782 PARK AVENUE	3	2.5	1,581	1,591	28	5/24/2011	584,500
2109 BEL AIR AVENUE	3	1	1,040	6,300	9	06/10/2011	\$535,000



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July 2011

Happenings and Events

The Annual Rose Garden Ice Cream Social is Here Again!

What: RGNPA's annual Ice Cream Social

When: Sunday, August 28, 2-4pm

Where: Stage area of the Rose Garden (in the center of the Garden beneath the redwood trees)

Come enjoy a Rose Garden tradition at the annual Ice Cream Social, sponsored by RGNPA. All are invited to come and mingle with neighbors and enjoy delicious ice cream and toppings graciously provided by Blondie's Yogurt. Members of RGNPA can pay their dues at that time and non-members can sign up.



African American Heritage House 2nd Annual Sweet Tea Party on the Patio (Fundraising Event)



The Tinsley's host the 2nd Annual Patio Sweet Tea Party on Saturday, August 20, 2011 at 1695 University Avenue, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. A variety of live entertainment featuring Jeff Jones, who successfully did Broadway routines in Europe. Also Carol Jones, local singer and musical artist is back by popular demand, and other performing artists.

Arrival is 1:00pm with socializing and seating until 1:30pm. The Silent/Live Auction and live entertainments from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Treats served from 3:00pm to 4:00 pm, with appetizers (canapés and bruschetta), variety of sandwiches, potato salad, mixed green salad, desserts (mixed fruits, fruit tarts, and chocolate fondue) all prepared by Chef Mary Vianzon. Tea served continuously.

Learn how the AAHH supports the history of the African American community to provide diversity of cultural heritage through presentations, visual performing arts, art exhibits, Children's Theater, historical and cultural education.

Do you have any information on the history of the African American community in the Bay Area that you would like to share with us. If so, please contact us. If you have any artifacts or items you wish to share please let us know that you are willing to display them to the sweet tea party.

The African American Heritage House (AAHH) is a non profit organization, dedicated to preserving the history of the African American community in the bay area

**With limited seating, please RSVP by August 15, 2011. Dress Code: Casual.
Your support of this organization will be appreciated.**