



SANTA TERESA FOOTHILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Neighborhood Newsletter

Preservation of the Santa Teresa Foothills | Creation of a public trail along the Coyote-Alamitos Canal
Public Education and Awareness | Safe Neighborhoods | Hillside Development Enforcement

Volume 13, Issue 1

www.STFNA.org

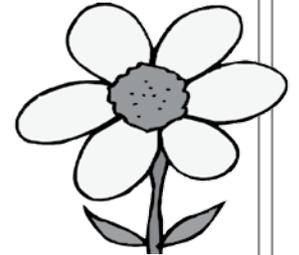
Spring 2013

Neighborhood Meeting

Monday, June 17th

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Santa Teresa Branch Library
290 International Circle, San Jose 95123



STFNA Scholarship Recipient Announced

Jillian Paist is the 2013 Santa Teresa Foothills Scholarship Recipient

The Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association is pleased to announce that Jillian Paist is the recipient of \$1,000 as the winner of the Association's 2013 Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a college-bound high school graduate who has demonstrated a significant commitment to community service. Applicants must live within the Association's boundaries.

Jillian and her family have worked with the homeless and disadvantaged in our community since she was a young girl. Jillian's four years at Notre Dame High School in San Jose has included participation in toy drives and serving breakfast on Saturday mornings to the homeless at InnVision in San Jose. In 2011, she traveled with her church to Tijuana, Mexico to build homes and organize a children's program. The bonds she formed with the other volunteers and the families in Mexico, especially the children, deeply affected and inspired her. In July, Jillian will be returning to Tijuana for another week of service as one of the team leaders. In the fall, Jillian will attend Tulane University in New Orleans to study Public Health. She chose Tulane, in part, because of its emphasis on community service.

Congratulations, Jillian!

The Association is grateful to those community members who donated to the scholarship fund, as well as the five community members who served on the scholarship evaluation committee.

MEET YOUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Come out to meet Councilmembers Ash Kalra (District 2) and Johnny Khamis (District 10)

It's time once again for our biannual neighborhood meeting, which will give you a chance to learn more about what is going on in the neighborhood, from projects that STFNA is working on to crime activity. We'll have the following presentations/discussions:

- City Councilmembers Johnny Khamis and Ash Kalra will give us an update on city activities that affect our neighborhood
- Come hear about the major changes being considered for Almaden Lake Park, and why they are necessary
- We'll discuss the latest news on development at the IBM/Hitachi plant site, the Costco planned for Great Oaks Boulevard and the status of the new SJPD sub-station which should open later this year
- Have you heard about NextDoor.com? Why you might want to sign up. Time permitting, we'll have a quick demo
- We'll talk about a new STFNA initiative to promote neighborhood security
- Learn about volunteer opportunities and ongoing activities such as the neighborhood scholarship, hillside preservation, and trail development

District 2 News Councilmember Ash Kalra

It is almost July, which means my colleagues and I have been busy discussing the upcoming 2013 – 2014 budget season here at City Hall. Back in May, I hosted a District 2 Budget Meeting to review the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and to hear from my residents on what issues are most important to them. If you missed the budget meeting, you can see a copy of the 2013 – 2014 proposed budget documents on the City of San José website by visiting www.sanjoseca.gov, selecting "Government" on the toolbar, then selecting "Budget Office". One of the proposals for the 2013 – 2014 budget includes opening the police substation located off Great Oaks Parkway in January 2014.

On another note, many of you may have noticed the construction going on at the old IBM/Hitachi site off of Cottle Road. Hunter Properties will be developing the new Village Oaks Retail Center, which will be opening sometime in early 2014. The new retail center will have several stores, banks, and restaurants, including Safeway, Target, Petco, Bank of America, Panera, Marshalls, Five Guys Burgers, and many more. Also, the Department of Transportation is working with Hitachi America to complete a series of traffic mitigation and transportation improvement projects, which include regional and local improvement obligations. Construction projects will include the northbound Cottle Road loop ramp off Highway 85, Raleigh Road extension, the widening off Great Oaks Parkway, which will also have an added landscaped median, and a Caltrain Station Access with a pedestrian overcrossing.

If you want to learn more about these projects, or to learn more about other events happening District 2, you can visit my website at www.sjdistrict2.com.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Councilmember Ash Kalra
District 2 Office – City of San José
(408) 535-4902
District2@sanjoseca.gov

Traffic Alerts

- **Cottle/85 Interchange & Great Oaks Off-ramps**
Construction started to modify the Route 85/Cottle Road interchange and the Route 85/Great Oaks off-ramp. Improvements include construction of a new northbound loop onramp at Cottle Road and modification of the northbound off-ramp. In addition, the offramp of southbound Route 85 at Great Oaks will be widened. Expected completion by the end of 2013.
- **Blossom Hill Caltrain Station Overcrossing**
Construction has begun on a new pedestrian overcrossing linking Hitachi development site to the Blossom Hill Caltrain Station. Once completed, the facility will be owned, operated and maintained by the City. Expected completion by the end of 2013.

Major Changes Coming for Almaden Lake Park

Almaden Lake is a 32-acre man-made water body which was originally a privately owned gravel quarry. The lake is located within the city of San José's 65-acre Almaden Lake Park. Walking trails, playgrounds, picnic areas, bocce ball courts, swimming, fishing and boating are under city responsibility.

Unfortunately, Almaden Lake is one of the most polluted bodies of water in the state, due to high concentrations of methylmercury, and high bacteria and algae counts, which currently render the lake unsuitable for swimming.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is working on plans to clean up Almaden Lake. Regardless of which of several options they decide to pursue, the lake and surrounding park will be **very** different from what they are today.

All of the options under consideration include creation of a channel for Los Alamitos Creek, which runs through the lake. Several of the options include adding "Open Space", which really means filling in parts of the lake.

Options under consideration include:

- Channel with East and West Lakes
- Channel with West Lake and Open Space
- Channel with East Lake and Open Space
- Channel with Open Space

Project schedule

- Planning phase: 2011 -2013
- Design phase: 2014 - 2016
- Construction phase: 2016 - 2018

Steps for project approval

Water district staff will identify a recommended project and prepare a document that analyzes the environmental impacts of the project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The team will then present the recommended project and CEQA document to the water district's board of directors for their consideration and approval.

This is an extremely complicated issue, with no easy solutions. The SCVWD has held multiple public meetings, but there still seems to be little public awareness of the magnitude of the problems with the lake and the impact of the proposed solutions.

At the STFNA General Meeting on June 17, Ngoc Nguyen, West & Guadalupe Watershed Engineering Unit Manager for the Santa Clara Valley Water District will give a brief overview of the project. We'll also provide information about how you can stay informed about the project, and how you can provide input as the SCVWD prepares to make some very important decisions that will affect all of us.

For more information, visit
<http://www.valleywater.org/Mercury/AlmadenLake.aspx>

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood security is everyone's concern, especially in light of reductions in SJPD staffing and a concurrent increase in crime.

To address growing concerns about neighborhood security, STFNA will be launching a new initiative to establish effective neighborhood safety and awareness programs throughout the STFNA membership area. Use of location-based social networking tools like NextDoor.com are part of this. Another effective tool is Neighborhood Watch.

STFNA will be working over the next few months to establish Neighborhood Watch coverage for as much of the STFNA membership area as possible. This will require organization and coordination on a street-by-street basis.

There are more than 4200 homes in the STFNA membership area. STFNA cannot possibly organize this program for our entire membership area, but we can facilitate an organizing meeting for people who are interested in establishing Neighborhood Watch in their immediate neighborhood.

Watch for an announcement about this organizing meeting in the next few weeks. If you're interested in participating, and especially if you're willing to help organize a block-level meeting, send an email to contact@stfna.org, or talk to any of the STFNA Board Members at the General Meeting on June 17.

Even if we don't achieve 100% coverage, expansion of

NEXTDOOR.COM

Nextdoor is a private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it's free.

People are using Nextdoor to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- Find out who does the best paint job in town
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog
- Find a new home for an outgrown bike

The Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association does not normally recommend or endorse particular products, services or candidates. However, we do think this service will be of interest to many of our members.

Time permitting, we'll give a brief demo of NextDoor.com at our General Meeting.

For more information, or to join the Santa Teresa Foothills neighborhood, visit <http://www.nextdoor.com>

District 10 News Councilmember Johnny Khamis

Councilmember Johnny Khamis' District 10 latest Newsletter (June) is available on the web at:

<http://sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17851>

Highlights include:

- Traffic Safety, with details on several D10 traffic safety improvement projects, and a reminder about San Jose's Social Host Ordinance. If you have concerns about speeding or other traffic violations in your area, there is a link you can follow to request traffic enforcement. Johnny has reached out to every school principal in D10 to learn more about how to support them on safety issues.
- City Budget is a major focus at this time of year. Johnny has submitted proposals that focus in improving public safety, saving the city money, and promoting better customer service, including a recommendation to explore whether County-wide fire services would save money and improve public safety
- Construction at the northeast corner of Almaden Expressway and Coleman Road. The City is working with a new developer for the Sycamore Terrace and Playa Almaden project. The original project has been reduced from over 50 homes to 27 homes, including 9 below-market-rate units for moderate-income households

To receive daily updates on the latest happenings in the city and in District 10, friend Johnny on Facebook or follow him on Twitter. You can also find helpful information on the District 10 web site at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3563>

STFNA BOARD MEMBERS:

Jon Reinke - President

Matt Freeman - Vice President

Lynne Paulson - Recording Secretary

John Hesler - Treasurer

Rick Mandel - Director

Trudi Konzem - Director

Jack McKinney - Director

Ash Kalra - Director

Johnny Khamis - Director

The STFNA Board thanks San Jose City Council Staff members Stacie Shih (D2 Community Outreach Manager) and Victor Gomez (D10 Council Assistant) for their support and assistance.

Have questions about the neighborhood, or about the association? E-mail us at
contact@stfna.org



JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION!



STFNA Membership Application and Renewal

Name: _____

E-mail: _____
(your e-mail is private and will not be shared outside of STFNA)

Address: _____

City / Zip code: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Check here if this is a renewal.

Mail form and enclose check payable to:
Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Assoc.
PO BOX 53432
San Jose, CA 95153

Register online
www.STFNA.org
or email
contact@stfna.org



Please accept my voluntary contribution of: \$20 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$_____ Other

Tell us which issues interest you the most:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foothills Open Space Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote Alamitos Trail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Education and Awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Neighborhoods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch |

Other: _____

THANK YOU!

San Jose City Budget

With the City of San Jose's fiscal condition improving thanks to savings from Fiscal Reforms, the City of San Jose entered the FY 2013-14 budget cycle poised to avoid service cuts for the second year in a row and with a limited amount of funding available to improve key services. As a result, Mayor Reed has recommended using these limited funds to address the community's top priority: enhancing public safety.

Mayor Reed's recommendations include a number of measures to improve public safety services, such as:

- Allocating additional funding for police officer recruitment and training
- Creating 21 new Community Service Officer positions to assist with non-emergency calls and field crime reports
- Providing an additional \$4 million in police overtime funds as a stop-gap measure while new officers are being hired and trained
- Adding \$3 million over the next two years for gang prevention and suppression efforts
- Opening the South San Jose Substation
- Retaining 49 firefighters whose salaries were previously underwritten with federal grants, and purchasing cardiac monitors/defibrillator units for front-line fire apparatus
- Providing one-time funds over a two-year period to address concerns about homeless encampments
- Allocating \$1.7 million over two years for neighborhood traffic calming efforts.

Mayor Reed has also recommended setting aside some of the limited funds available for modest pay increases to help retain talented and experienced city employees.

More information about the proposed City budget can be found online at:

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=183>



Curie Drive Clean-Up Update

This year we will not be having an annual clean up day. We plan to resume this project next year.

In the meantime, the five park strips could use some sweeping/hoeing of weeds. If you, your family or a group of neighbors would like to take time on your own to do some work, please feel free to do so at your convenience. Teenagers can earn community service hours for the project.

While the City does not have the budget to come out and maintain these strips, this year they did come out and spray for weeds.

Let's keep Curie Drive looking clean and maintained. Your efforts are appreciated!

Questions? Contact Jacqueline_Price@mindspring.com

STFNA Scholarship Fund

The Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association Scholarship is made possible by designated contributions from community members and is not supported by STFNA Membership Dues.

If you are interested in supporting this program, please contact the STFNA Treasurer or email contact@stfna.org