Councilmember Kansen Chu

VOLUME II/ISSUE 4 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Councilmembers Chu, Liccardo and Campos at Educational Park Branch Library's Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Councilmember Chu presents a Commendation to California Waste Solutions for their continual commitment to the City of San José.

Councilmember Chu with Northwood Elementary Parents and Students at the Great American Litter Pick-Up.

Door-to-Door in District 4 Newsletter

Office of Councilmember Kansen Chu

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMEMBER CHU

Dear District 4 Neighbors,

As your Councilmember, it is important for me to know what is happening in our community. In August 2007, I began holding monthly community office hours throughout District 4 in order to receive feedback and provide assistance to residents. Over the past 2 years, I have enjoyed meeting with many of you and being able to assist you regarding City issues. I encourage you to continue to take advantage of the community office hours so that I may be of assistance to you all. Please see page 2 for upcoming dates in Berryessa, North San José, and Alviso.

On June 23, 2009, the City Council approved the budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2009. In order the balance the budget, the City Council needed to make up a $79.4 million shortfall for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. While this was a very difficult budget year, my colleagues and I were able to work collaboratively to preserve essential services in the City of San José, including the including the restoration of Branch Library Hours, Park Rangers, the Horse Mounted Unit, a Traffic Enforcement Unit, police patrol staffing, as well as Satellite and Neighborhood Community Centers.

On July 24, 2009, the State government passed a budget that includes devastating losses of local revenues to finance the state's expenses. Although nothing is final at this time, should the full impact of these proposals takes effect, it would require the City to re-open budget discussions as early as August to find ways to offset the loss of local revenues to the State. It is my hope that the City Council will be able to continue collaborating and finding opportunities for thinking outside the box and being creative in addressing issues and ensuring City Services are not compromised. I will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Best Regards,

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Upcoming Events
- Neighborhood Update
- Transportation Improvements
- How to Get Involved
- State Budget Updates
- National Night Out

Sign up for regular email updates from District 4

Email district4@sanjoseca.gov so you can be added to the email list.
Kansen's Blog: www.kansenchu.com/blog
District 4 Website: http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district4

DISTRICT 4 OFFICE
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113
Telephone: (408) 535-4904
Fax: (408) 292-6459
Email: District4@sanjoseca.gov

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COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 19
Berryessa Branch Library
Study Room C
6:00PM-8:00PM

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 26
Starbucks @ North Park
Study Room C
5:00PM-7:00PM

Councilmember Kansen Chu invites you to attend Community Office Hours in order to get feedback and provide assistance to residents. Staff will also be on hand to assist in handling questions and concerns from residents. If you wish to make an appointment to meet with Council member Chu on any of the listed dates, please call the office at (408) 535-4904.

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 10
Berryessa Community Ctr.
Room 2
10:00AM-12:00PM

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 23
Alviso Branch Library
Community Room
6:00PM-8:00PM

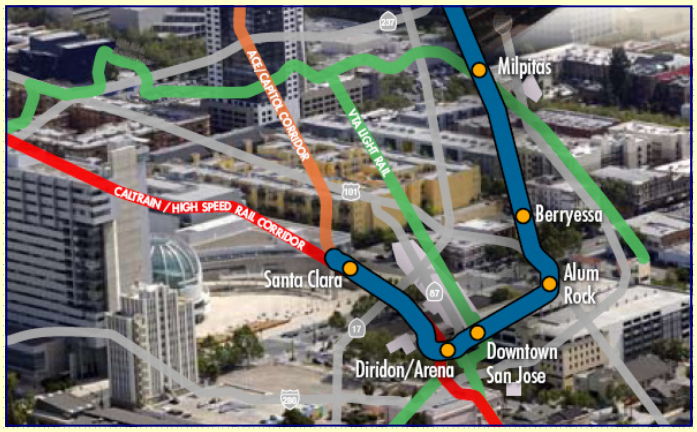
Dates & locations subject to change. Please check the District 4 website for confirmed time and locations..

BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT TO SAN JOSE UPDATE

I would like to thank everyone who attended the BART community meeting on May 6, 2009 at the Berryessa Branch Library. We had an estimated attendance of over 50 community members.

This was an opportunity for VTA to present an overview of the planned BART project and a chance for VTA to hear directly from residents who would be most impacted by the project. Because of the overwhelming interest shown at the community meeting, VTA allowed a one-week extension for the acceptance of public comment for the BART project. I would also like to thank the community members who submitted their feedback during the Environmental Impact Statement public comment period.

My office is working collaboratively with VTA to ensure that the community is kept up to date with the BART project. We will be holding a community meeting on August 11, 2009 at the Berryessa Branch Library at 6:00PM, to provide residents with an update of the final draft of the Environmental Impact Statement. The final draft of the EIS incorporates all the public comment received during May.



ATTEND THE UPCOMING BART TO SJ COMMUNITY MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2009
BERRYESSA BRANCH LIBRARY
3355 Noble Avenue
6:00PM-8:00PM

Can't attend? Visit www.vta.org for more dates.

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STATE BUDGET UPDATE

I want to take this opportunity to provide an update to you about the current status of the State of California's budget and how it will impact the City of San José if approved.

As many of you are aware, Governor Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders have reached an agreement on a package of proposals to address the State's $26 billion deficit, which includes cuts in programs, shifts in funding, and captures billions of dollars in local funding from cities and counties.

Although nothing is final at this time, should the full impact of these proposals takes effect, it would require the City to re-open budget discussions as early as August to find ways to offset the loss of local revenues to the State. Potential budget actions necessary to address state impacts include eliminations of Public Safety infrastructure, crossing guards, library branch hours, Police Traffic Enforcement, closures of neighborhood and satellite community centers, summer aquatics programs, and possibly more. While nothing is finalized, I am disappointed that the State is proposing to take local funding away from our vital services. If this moves forward, I pledge to make every effort as I have done in the past to ensure that you will not experience an interruption in City services.

In July, the City of San José selected me to represent San José at the Local Government Summit on Governance and Fiscal Reform in Sacramento. This was a two-day forum where mayors, council members, county supervisors, and school board members from across California discussed and debated emerging proposals to reform our state governance and fiscal systems.

The outcome of this summit resulted in the adoption of three key principles to protect local revenue sources, reform term limits at the State level, and allow communities to approve taxes with less than the current two-thirds majority needed at the State level

The City of San José's lobbying efforts continue to strongly oppose proposals to borrow or take San José's local revenues and urges the State to focus on solving the State's budget problems without harming local governments. The City of San José is part of a broad coalition on these efforts, which includes the League of California Cities and other public agencies. Together, cities are pulling together to file a lawsuit against the State of California to protect their local revenue sources in order to ensure that essential services are preserved for their residents.

Further details about the state budget and its impacts to the City of San José will be shared as the budget unfolds and more information becomes available.

Neighborhood Groups

Alviso Water Taskforce
Meets every 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 6PM at the Alviso Community Center
www.alvisowater.org
Contact: alvisowater@gmail.com

Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council
Meets every 2nd Monday of the Month at 7PM at the Berryessa Community Center
Contact: Mike Flaugher
mikeflaugher@yahoo.com

Independence High Neighborhood Association
Meets every 3rd Monday of the Month at 7PM Location TBA
Contact: Dale Warner
ihna@dalewarner.com

North Valley Community Association
Meets every 1st Monday of the Month at 7PM Location TBA
Contact: Karen Navas
kn_nca@yahoo.com
To Subscribe to the Listserve, Please send an email to: NorthValleyCA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Piedmont Hostetter Neighborhood Association
Meets quarterly at 6:30PM at the Berryessa Union School District Board Room
Contact: Cheryl VanZuylen
Cheryl_vanzuylen@yahoo.com

River Oaks Neighborhood Association
Meets every odd month
Location TBA
Contact: Jean Marlowe
jean@jeanmarlowe.com

Townsend Park Neighborhood Association
Meets twice yearly
Location TBA
Contact: Lori Wallace
lori_wp@yahoo.com

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ENVISION 2040 UPDATE

The General Plan is often called the blueprint for the future growth and development of a city. San José is in the process of writing a new General Plan that will define the city's approach to growth for the next 20 years. A task force known as "Envision San José 2040" meets regularly to continue the General Plan update process and make planning recommendations. On August 24 the Task Force will discuss climate change issues; on September 28 it is water-supply issues; and on October 26 they will discuss "Healthy Neighborhoods & Environmental Resources." These meetings are held at 6:30PM at San José City Hall in Wing Rooms 118-120. For more information, please visit the Envision 2040 website at www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/gp_update/default.asp

ATTEND THE UPCOMING ENVISION 2040 TASK FORCE MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2009
SAN JOSE CITY HALL,
WING ROOMS 118-120
6:30PM-9:00PM

ENVISIONSAN JOSE2040

EDUCATIONAL PARK BRANCH LIBRARY GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

On Saturday, June 20, 2009, District 4 celebrated the Groundbreaking Ceremony of Educational Park Branch Library. The new facility will replace the existing branch library with an 18,000 square feet library that will features an Internet café, community living room, technology space, teen room, group study areas, and a community room that will accommodate 70 persons. Once construction is underway, the new library will be expected to be completed by 2011.

The groundbreaking ceremony included various activities for families and attendees. One of the activities included 'Dream Rocks,' which allowed attendees to inscribe on rocks their hopes for the new library. These rocks will become part of the new library's foundation.

The groundbreaking ceremony also marked Educational Park Branch Library's final day of business for the original 14,084 square feet library, which has served residents of Districts 3, 4 and 5 since 1976.

I would like to thank SJ Library staff for co-organizing this event with my office. I would also like to thank Councilmembers Sam Liccardo and Nora Campos, for this library is in a special location that borders all three districts to serve our residents.

Councilmember Chu speaks to community members during the Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Councilmember Chu with SJPD Captain Alcantar at the Groundbreaking Ceremony.

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COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Fruit Vendors in District 4

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to District 4 residents who have brought to my attention the concern over street vendors in our neighborhood. Many of the concerns addressed to me have been the source of the vendor's produce and products.

More so, there is doubt that the vendors have in their possession city permits which is required to sell produce and products to the public. It is essential that residents of District 4 report questionable vendors to the San Jose Police Department and Code Enforcement Division.

The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department has been very helpful in responding to sightings of vendors in San José and I urge you to contact this Department if you require assistance. The Public Health Department can be reached at 408-792-5040.

@First Development Update North First St. and Holger Way

@First Properties have begun constructing a project on North First Street that will bring retail to the residents of District 4 which will include a Target and a 77,000 square feet retail village. The project will also have over 1 million square feet of office space, and over 300 premier hotel rooms.

Construction for the project is moving forward as planned and continues to have a planned completion date of 2012.

Rendering of @First Project

Berryessa Flea Market Development Update

On Tuesday, July 7, 2009, a community meeting took place to provide residents with an update about the proposed development of the San José Flea Market site.

In 2007, San José City Council approved the rezoning of property located on and around the current site of the Berryessa Flea Market that would allow for residential properties, mixed-use and commercial property, and a school. Currently, the project has submitted the first Planned Development Permits (PD Permit), which would allow for construction of 105,000 square feet of commercial and 243 residential units north of Berryessa Road in the first phase. The first phase will also require traffic improvements which include widening of Oakland Road between Commercial Street and Highway 101, adding 2 left turn lanes on Commercial Street and widening of Highway 101-Northbound entrance from Oakland Road. A public hearing is expected to take place in the next few months.

The Berryessa Flea Market, located south of Berryessa Road, will be untouched during this first phase and approximately 20 acres of the current parking lot will remain open for flea market patrons. It is my understanding that the Berryessa Flea Market will not close until a site has been identified in San José as replacement property.

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City & Community Contacts

City Hall Call Center
(408) 535-3500

Abandoned Vehicles
(408) 277-5305

Alviso Branch Library
(408) 263-3626

Alviso Youth Center
(408) 586-7624

Anti-Graffiti & Litter
(408) 277-2758

Berryessa Branch Library
(408) 808-3050

Berryessa Community & Senior Center
(408) 251-6392

Berryessa Youth Center
(408) 262-1014

Code Enforcement
(408) 277-4528

Crime Prevention
(408) 277-4133

Garbage & Recycling
(408) 535-3515

Parks & Recreation
(408) 535-3570

Sidewalk Repair
(408) 277-3158

Street Lights
(408) 277-5517

Street Sweeping
(408) 277-2571

Tree Trimming & Removal
(408) 277-2756

Meet the District 4 Team

Edesa Bitbadal, Chief of Staff
edesa.bitbadal@sanjoseca.gov

FOCUS AREAS
Land Use, North San José Neighborhood, Redevelopment, National Issues, Media Relations, Economic Development, Office Technology, and Personnel.

COMMITTEES
Rules and Open Government; Community and Economic Development

Margie Espinoza, Executive Assistant
margie.espinoza@sanjoseca.gov

FOCUS AREAS
Councilmember Scheduling, Office Administration, Constituent Services, and Event Planning.

Stephanie Fong, Policy Analyst
stephanie.fong@sanjoseca.gov

FOCUS AREAS
Berryessa Neighborhood, Budget, Sister Cities, Parks & Recreation, Capital Projects, Seniors, Youth, Internship Coordination, Code Enforcement, Web Content, and Constituent Services.

COMMITTEES
Neighborhood Services and Education; Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support.

Kathy Duong, Policy Analyst
kathy.duong@sanjoseca.gov

FOCUS AREAS
North Valley Neighborhood, Land Use, Environment, Public Safety, Housing, Airport, Childcare, Newsletter, Code Enforcement, Web Content, Vietnamese Media Relations and Constituent Services.

COMMITTEES
Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support; Transportation and Environment

Yvonne Wong, Council Assistant
yvonne.wong@sanjoseca.gov

FOCUS AREAS
Alviso Neighborhood, Mobilehome Communities, Human Rights, Transportation, Community Outreach, Code Enforcement, Chinese Media Relations and Constituent Services.

COMMITTEES
Human Rights Commission; Mobilehome Advisory Commission; Santa Clara County Valley Habitat Conservation Plan

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DISTRICT 4 EVENTS

For up-to-date event information, visit sanjoseca.gov/district4 and email district4@sanjoseca.gov to receive e-Notices.

AUGUST

1 BERRYESSA FARMERS MARKET
9:00AM-1:00PM
Occurs every Saturday
Berryessa Union School District
1376 Piedmont Road
Visit the District 4 Booth!

4 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
District 4 Resource Fair and
Movie Night: Kung Fu Panda
6:00PM: Resource Fair
Sunset: Movie Screening
Noble Park
3355 Noble Avenue

11 BART TO SAN JOSE COMMUNITY MEETING
Environmental Impact
Statement Update
6:00PM-8:00PM
Berryessa Branch Library
3355 Noble Avenue

Independence High School Cavalry Band performs at the Berryessa Art and Wine Festival.

19 COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS
Berryessa Branch Library
Study Room C
6:00PM-8:00PM
3355 Noble Avenue
Please call (408) 535-4904 to schedule a 15 minute appointment

24 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
For all schools in District 4

28 SAN JOSE COMMISSION APPLICATIONS DUE 5PM
Visit
www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk
for available vacancies so
you can serve the
City of San José.

SEPTEMBER

29 FAMILY FESTIVAL & RESOURCE FAIR
Sponsored by District 4 &
My Project Youth Connect
9:00AM-2:00PM
Morrill Middle School
1970 Morrill Avenue

7 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
City Hall Closed

9 OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES PRESENTATION
Emergency Plan for
Alviso Residents
6:00PM-8:00PM
Alviso Branch Library
5050 North First Street

9 PARENT STUDENT AWARENESS FORUM
Be an informed family
6:00PM-8:00PM
Berryessa Branch Library
3355 Noble Avenue

14 BERRYESSA CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
General Meeting
7:00PM
Berryessa Community Center
3050 Berryessa Road

28 SJ GENERAL PLAN 2040 TASK FORCE MEETING
Topic: Climate Change
6:30PM-9:00PM
San José City Hall
Wing Rooms 118-120
200 E. Santa Clara Street

The Mayor and Councilmember Chu looks on as the City of San José celebrates Fire Department's 155th Anniversary.

Councilmembers Chu, Campos and Kalra attend the Annual Police Memorial to honor San José's fallen.

Councilmember Chu presents a Commendation to Pastor Mary Lou Perez at Jubilee Christian Center for her commitment to District 4 youth.

Event dates are subject to change. Please contact the District 4 office at (408) 535-4904 to confirm events.

VOLUNTEER IN DISTRICT 4!

Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley

The Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley strives to provide high quality care and rehabilitation for injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife within the Silicon Valley Community. Volunteer to assist our wildlife!

(408) 929-9453 • www.wcsv.org

Adopt A Park Program

Adopt a Park Program strives to protect and enhance San José's neighborhood parks and open spaces by volunteer support, and at the same time dedicated to educating San José residents about the importance of parks. Adopt a Park today!

(408) 793-4190 • www.sjadoptapark.org

Santa Visits Alviso

Santa Visits Alviso has been serving the Alviso Community since 1983 and is dedicated to bringing gifts & the Spirit of the Holidays to hundreds of toddlers and teens every year. Santa Visits Alviso is an all volunteer organization & is active year long.

rpsantos@scvwd.dst.ca.us • www.alvisosanta.com

Friends of the Library Program

District 4 is proud to have two libraries to serve our community. Call today for volunteer opportunities!

Friends of Alviso Library • (408) 263-3626

Friends of Berryessa Library • (408) 808-2181

Office of Councilmember Kansen Chu

Council District 4, 18th Floor
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, California 95113

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www.kansenchu.com/blog