



NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

E-BLAST

August 2010



**An information-sharing service of the
Neighborhood Development Center (NDC)**

The mission of the Neighborhood Development Center is to build strong neighborhoods by connecting individuals to information, technology, and opportunities for civic engagement.

Please note, the NDC has a new phone number (408) 794-6575

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If you have questions about the programs, events, or activities promoted in this newsletter, please contact each individual program directly.

Boards and Commissions

Neighborhoods Commission

The Neighborhoods Commission will meet on August 11 2010 from 6:30 – 9 PM.
City Hall, Wing Room 118-119, 200 E, Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113

For more information about the Neighborhoods Commission, visit
<http://www.strongneighborhoods.org/neighborhooddevelopmentcenter.htm>

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Our City Forest

Make Your Tree Count!

You can be a part of the Green Vision! Help San José reach the 100K tree planting goal by registering plantings online!

Every tree planted in San José brings us closer the goal of 100,000. Next time you plant a tree in the city:

1. Visit Our City Forest's *Every Tree Counts!* website at
www.ourcityforest.org/everytreecounts
2. Answer a few short questions about your tree. ***Registry is for trees planted in San José only***
3. Receive an **Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) coupon good for \$10 off your next \$50 purchase!**

Thank you for supporting the Green Vision! And remember, from the fruit tree planted in your backyard to the seedling planted at a local park, *Every Tree Counts!* So, get online to register and help us "count-up" to 100,000 trees.

Want to learn more? Contact Amanda Grebner at (408) 998-7337 x105 or email
agrebner@ourcityforest.org

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## Free Tree Tours In San José

Join us for an upcoming tour and learn about our city's remarkable urban forest! Your Our City Forest arborist guide will introduce common street tree species in San José, teach about CA natives, and more!



- Walking Tour at SJSU: Tuesday, Aug. 17th from 5:30 - 6:30 PM  
Meet us outside Martin Luther King Library at 150 E. San Fernando St. in downtown San José. From there, we'll head to the SJSU campus to view some exceptional trees!
- Tree Tour on the Tree Mobile: Saturday, Aug. 21st from 10 - 11 AM  
All aboard our 16-passenger shuttle bus for a driving tour of the beautiful trees in Willow Glen! Meet us in the parking lot behind CVS at 1285 Lincoln Avenue for this one-of-a-kind ride.  
\*Limit 15 participants; RSVP to reserve space

RSVP is required for both these free tours. Questions and reservations, please contact Amanda Grebner at (408) 998-7337 x105 or [agrebner@ourcityforest.org](mailto:agrebner@ourcityforest.org). Visit [www.ourcityforest.org](http://www.ourcityforest.org) for more information.

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## Seasonal Tree Inventory Position

*Do you have skills and experience identifying tree species? Love spending time outdoors? If so, consider this exciting opportunity to help collect data about our city's urban forest!*

**When:** Starting immediately!

**Duration:** Through Sept. 30, 2010

**Desirable skills:** ability to read and use maps: tree species identification\*; ability to work closely with the public; experience with database or GIS software helpful  
\*required

*Please note that this position requires much standing and walking in hot summer weather.*

**To apply:** Contact Busara Melrose at (408) 998-7337 x111  
or [bmelrose@ourcityforest.org](mailto:bmelrose@ourcityforest.org).

\*\*Pay rate will be discussed at time of application\*\*

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## San Jose Public Library

### New San José Public Library Hours



|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Monday    | CLOSED       |
| Tuesday   | 11 AM - 8 PM |
| Wednesday | 11 AM - 8 PM |
| Thursday  | 10 AM - 6 PM |
| Friday    | 1 PM - 6 PM  |
| Saturday  | 10 AM - 6 PM |
| Sunday    | CLOSED       |

Sunday walk-in service at King Library only.

New operating hours are in effect at *all* 18 branches of the San José Public Library system. All online services are accessible twenty-four hours a day at [www.sjlibrary.org](http://www.sjlibrary.org). For general information call (408) 808-2000.

Follow us on Facebook! [facebook.com/sanjoselibrary](https://www.facebook.com/sanjoselibrary)

Send us a Tweet: [twitter.com/sanjoselibrary](https://twitter.com/sanjoselibrary)

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## Back to School Resources Available at the Library



### Free Live Homework Help from Tutor.com!

Students of all ages with a valid San José Public Library card can log on to [www.tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com) and receive live homework help from any computer with internet access. *Homework Help is offered daily –*

|                                |                                         |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <i>available: 2 PM - 12 AM</i> | <i>English &amp; Spanish assistance</i> |
| <i>available: 4 - 7 PM</i>     | <i>Vietnamese assistance</i>            |



**Text a Librarian:** Use your cell phone to text a message to a San José librarian! Just text **66746** and start your message with the keyword **AskSJ**. *This service is available Mon-Fri 1-6 PM.*

**24/7 Resources at [www.SJLibrary.org](http://www.SJLibrary.org):** Find articles in multiple databases with one search, use the catalog to locate & request materials, view suggested reading lists and program schedules - Plus much more!

### Other Useful Resources:

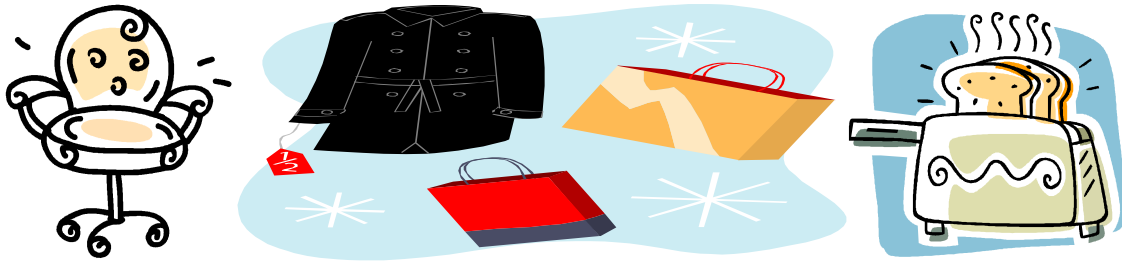
- **Computers are available with a valid library card**
- **Free WiFi is available at any San José Public Library**
- **Pay-for-Print:** \$.15 per page at Branches / \$.20 per page at King Library
- **Group Study Rooms:** Reserve a Group Study Room to work on school projects
- **Scanners:** Scanners are only available at King Library
- **Copy Machines:** \$.15 per copy

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## ***SNI District 5 Flea Market***



*When: Saturday, August 7, 2010*

*Where: PAL Football Stadium*

*680 S. 34<sup>th</sup> Street*

*Time: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm*

Clean out your garage & closets and make a little cash! The SNI District 5 Coalition is having a flea market. This is the first of a series of fundraisers to establish a non-profit that will serve the families in our community.

Spaces are available on a first come, first serve basis for \$10.00. **Sellers arrive at 7:00 AM.** Bring your own tables and canopies for shade (it's very sunny out there).



To pay for your space or spaces in advance contact  
Ezequiel Nevarez at 408 347-1141.

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## ***Time to Reform Binding Arbitration***

### ***Time to Reform Binding Arbitration***

**[Let the City Council know what you think about my proposal to reform binding arbitration.](#)**

**TAKE ACTION – SAN JOSE! [Click here](#)**

Dear Friends,

A major source of San Jose's structural budget deficit has been the unsustainable growth in employee costs. To rein in these expenses, we must take a hard look at binding arbitration, which San Jose voters approved for police officers and firefighters thirty years ago. **While I believe that binding arbitration can be an equitable way to resolve contract disputes with our public safety employees, the process is in need of serious reform.**

Past decisions made by outside arbitrators have had long-term consequences on the city's fiscal health. In 2007 - when the city was confronting its 6th straight year of budget deficits - an arbitrator granted firefighters the right to retire with up to 90% of their salary, increasing the City's ongoing expenses by \$5 million per year. *In addition, the arbitrator granted these benefits RETROACTIVELY - creating a \$30 million unfunded liability that taxpayers had to pay for as well.*

Even the mere threat of binding arbitration has had costly implications. Often, the City Council has approved generous contracts to avoid the risk involved with giving up control of their budgetary decisions. In addition, other employee groups (who do not have arbitration rights) have been reluctant to make concessions in fear that arbitrators will use their concessions to increase compensation for police officers and firefighters, as was done in the '90s.

**My proposal would place some common-sense limits on outside arbitrators to keep them from spending money the City doesn't have.** These reforms would PROHIBIT arbitrators from:

1. increasing pay and benefits by more than the rate of growth in revenues.
2. raising pay and benefits retroactively.
3. creating an unfunded liability that the city is obligated to pay.

**[Read the Mayor's detailed proposal for reforming binding arbitration](#)**

Without these reasonable limits, binding arbitration will continue to deter good-faith negotiations and make it extremely difficult to control employee costs that are growing at an unsustainable pace. In just the past decade, the average cost for police officers and firefighters has gone up by 99 percent!

**[Let the City Council know what you think about my proposal to reform binding arbitration.](#)**

Binding arbitration can only be changed through a vote of San Jose residents, and on Tuesday, the City Council will consider placing my proposal on the November 2, 2010 ballot. Share your thoughts on binding arbitration with the City Council by [e-mail](#) or in person at the August 3rd City Council meeting that starts at 1:30 p.m. ([directions to City Hall](#)).

At Tuesday's meeting, the City Council will also be considering potential ballot measures to: implement a tax on medical marijuana, raise the sales tax in San Jose, and change minimum benefits and contribution formulas for employee pensions. View the [8/3 meeting agenda](#) to learn more about these proposals.

August 3rd is the last meeting that the City Council can place measures on the November ballot, and since there won't be another general election for almost two years, our city can not afford to wait. Please join me in supporting the necessary reforms to control employee costs and restore our city to fiscal health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chuck Reed

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## ***Wonders of Our Water Works:***

Find out where your wastewater goes on a two-hour bus tour of the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (Plant).

**First and third Thursdays and Saturdays of the month  
June – November 2010 • 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.**

### **Take a FREE two-hour bus tour to:**

- Learn how wastewater from 1.4 million residents and 17,000 business sewer connections in eight South Bay cities is cleaned to almost drinking water standards
- Find out how we plan to sustainably rebuild the Plant after 54 years of working around the clock
- Visit the nation's largest urban wildlife refuge

***“One of the  
sleeper hits of  
the year!”***

– Scott Herhold,  
San Jose  
Mercury News,  
2008

### **Sign up for a tour:**

- Visit [rebuildtheplant.org](http://rebuildtheplant.org) and select “Take Plant Tour”
- Email [PlantTours@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:PlantTours@sanjoseca.gov)
- Call 408-975-2556

### **Location:**

San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant – 700 Los Esteros Road, San Jose, CA 95134 (from Highway 237, exit at Zanker Road)  
Park at the administration building and meet in the conference room.

[Sign up for a free tour of your wastewater treatment facility](#)

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