Councilmember Kansen Chu

VOLUME II/ISSUE 5 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Councilmembers Chu and Supervisor Dave Cortese at the North Valley Youth Soccer League Opening Day

Councilmember Chu with colleagues and elected officials in the region at a press conference to support single-use carryout bags ban

Councilmember Chu with Supervisor Cortese and Assemblymember Torrico at the District 4 Resource Fair

Door-to-Door in District 4 Newsletter

Office of Councilmember Kansen Chu

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMEMBER CHU

Dear District 4 Neighbors,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our students back to school. Over the past few weeks, my staff and I have attended back to school nights at the elementary, middle, and high schools. My staff and I were able to meet with many of the school administrators, teachers, parents, and students. I also provided support by making available any resources and assistance to the District 4 community.

My office has been working with the Berryessa Union School District to sponsor an evening forum to help parents and the community better understand their neighborhood and how to keep their children safe. This forum will take place on October 7, 2009 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Berryessa Library. We will have speakers from the San José Police Department, the Berryessa Union School District, East Side Union High School District, and the Berryessa Branch Library to provide resources to cultivate safe and healthy neighborhoods in District 4. I hope to see many of you there.

Welcoming the Fall season brings many exciting occasions, including the beginning of another holiday season. From Halloween to Thanksgiving, there are many activities for families to enjoy. On Friday, October 31, thousands of costumed children will be out looking for treats in District 4. I encourage parents to make sure their children are aware of safety concerns in order to make this a fun and safe Halloween.

Best Regards,

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Upcoming Events
- Neighborhood Update
- District 4 Updates
- How to Get Involved
- RDA Budget Update
- Abandoned Boats in Alviso

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

Councilmember Kansen Chu

VOLUME 11/ISSUE 5 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

Door-to-Door in District 4

Newsletter

COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 6
Berryessa Branch Library
Study Room C
7:00PM-8:00PM

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21
Berryessa Branch Library
Study Room C
6:00PM-8:00PM

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
NOVEMBER 18
Berryessa Branch Library
Study Room C
6:00PM-8:00PM

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 9
Berryessa Branch Library
Community Room
6:00PM-8:00PM

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

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BUDGET UPDATE

As the City of San José is preparing the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget, I wanted to take this opportunity to keep our residents up-to-date on the budget outlook for the San José Redevelopment Agency. As many of you are aware, the FY 2009-2010 Budget includes cuts, shifts, and captures billions of dollars in local funding from cities and counties in order to address the State's deficit. Immediate State Budget includes the State's borrowing of $20 million from property taxes. The State plans to take from the Redevelopment Agency $62 million this year and $13 million next year, in addition to a $13 million that the Legislature approved in 2008 to reallocate from Redevelopment and into State funding, for a total of $88 million.

The City of San José continues to face significant fiscal challenges. Unfortunately, faced with the major impact to their budget and the downturn of the economy, the Redevelopment Agency recently had to lay off 24 of its staff, which is roughly 24% of the Agency, and eliminate funding for one additional position and placed many of its projects on hold.

On October 26, 2009, the Redevelopment Agency will be releasing the FY 2009-2010 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget and FY 2009-2013 Five Year Capital Improvement Project Budget. A public hearing regarding the proposed Redevelopment Agency's proposed budget will take place on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The Redevelopment Agency is excepted to review and adopt the Mayor's Redevelopment Agency Budget Message on December 8, 2009 and adopt the budget on December 15, 2009.

Redevelopment is a tool for stimulating economic development by eliminating blight and revitalizing neighborhoods in the 21 Project Areas throughout San Jose. In District 4, Redevelopment funds are generally used for industrial development in North San José. By using this tool wisely, we have and can continue to encourage new development and private investments, and generate jobs and tax revenues.

I am interested in hearing your thoughts, concerns, and priorities during the budget process. For the latest news and updates, I encourage you to visit my website frequently: http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district4.

Councilmember Kansen Chu

VOLUME 11/ISSUE 5 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

Door-to-Door in District 4
Newsletter

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

OLD BERRYESSA LIBRARY UPDATE

First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for your patience regarding the re-use of the Old Berryessa Library. As you may already know, the City Council approved the authorization of staff to conduct an exclusive 90 day negotiation period with East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) for a lease agreement for the former Berryessa Library building in December 2008. The City has continued negotiations with ESUHSD past the 90 day timeline but unfortunately, negotiations came to a halt over the summer due to the budget realities the school district was facing.

Conceptually, staff from ESUHSD and the City have agreed to lease the vacant building to ESUHSD under City Council Policy 7-1 (below market lease, i.e. $1/mo.). Because the building is on park land, the City can only enter into a contract of 3 years, with the option of renewal. As part of the agreement, ESUHSD would incur the costs for the rehabilitation of the building. In addition, ESUHSD would have needed to remediate mold infestation, bring building to code (health, safety, ADA), and do tenant improvements necessary to accommodate their programmatic needs.

Given the recent budget constraints of ESUHSD and the monetary investment needed at the start, it proved to be difficult for ESUHSD to make a commitment at this time. Moreover, it has remained difficult to find a tenant who was willing to make such a large investment without a guarantee of a lease period longer than 3 years.

I have met with the City staff regarding next steps and have agreed it was in the best interest to demolish the old Berryessa Library and expand the parking lot. I understand that this vacant building has been an ongoing eyesore in the community for the past few years and I believe that the expansion of the parking lot will better serve the increasing needs of the visitors at the Berryessa Branch Library.

A community meeting is planned for October 28 at 6:30PM at the Berryessa Branch Library to inform the community of the City's decision and to provide a timeline for the demolition and construction.

I want to thank all the community panel members for their time and assistance during the Request for Proposal (RFP) selection process as well as the residents for their input and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me at district4@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 535-4904

Councilmember Kansen Chu

VOLUME 11/ISSUE 5 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

Door-to-Door in District 4

Newsletter

SAN JOSE GOES SOLAR EVENT AT ALVISO LIBRARY A SUCCESS!

On September 19, the San José Goes Solar kick off event was held at the Alviso Branch Library with nearly 100 people in attendance. This event celebrated the installation of 6 solar power systems (20 kW) on City buildings in low and moderate income neighborhoods. The projects were funded by the City's Community Development Block Grant in support of the City's Green Vision goals to reduce energy consumption and increase use of renewable technologies. The event offered energy and water efficiency resources, and solar cooking demonstrations for adults and kids. As a follow up for this event, workshops for children on making solar ovens from pizza boxes will be scheduled at local libraries. For more information, contact Paul Prange, Environmental Services Specialist, at 975-2591.

Community members at the San José Goes Solar event.

Councilmember Chu speaks at the San José Goes Solar event in Alviso.

ABANDONED BOATS IN ALVISO REMOVED

Abandoned boats can be a continuous source of hazardous pollutants. They sink and pollute our waterways endangering habitat, wildlife, drinking water, and recreational boaters. Toxic chemicals from boats can be consumed by people who eat fish out of the bay. 5 abandoned boats have been sitting in the Alviso Marina for a varied length of time, but with some stranded for as long as 30 years.

Removing abandoned boats can be very costly. Just one sunken sailboat can cost upwards of $12,000. With nearly one million registered boats in use, California is the second largest boating state in the nation and spends about $500,000 each year to remove deserted recreational boats from our marinas and water ways.

Abandoned boats have been an ongoing eyesore to the Alviso community. I am happy to inform you that the Alviso Yacht Club has recently completed a project to remove these boats from the Marina. There was no funding available for this; the Alviso Yacht Club used their savings to remove the abandoned boats. The Yacht Club also repaired the dock and made all repairs with the environment's sensitive ecosystem in mind, taking the necessary precautions to not disturb the Marina. The Alviso Yacht Club has been an important fixture in our Alviso community and on behalf of the District 4 community, I would like to convey our many thanks and appreciation for your work in beautifying our community.

Moving forward, a Santa Clara County ordinance has been proposed as a mediation step, particularly for Alviso. My office is working closely with County Supervisor Dave Cortese office and Water District staff to work on the ordinance development. In the meantime, please contact my office if you have any questions or comments.

Alviso Marina

Abandoned boats in Alviso

Councilmember Kansen Chu
VOLUME 11/ISSUE 5 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009
Door-to-Door in District 4
Newsletter

COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

PIEDMONT/HOSTETTER STREETLIGHT

Having safe neighborhoods continue to be a priority throughout the City of San José. There has been substantial progress to improve our road networks in Berryessa. Many had contacted my office to express concerns regarding the intersection of Piedmont Road and Hostetter Road. I am happy to inform you that the traffic signal has been installed at this intersection and was activated on September 16, 2009.

MABURY/COMMODORE PARK STATUS

As part of the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget process, City Council has deferred the opening of 3 park projects to help offset the General Fund impacts, which is anticipated to have impacts of new Parks operated facilities in 2010-2011 of $1.6 million and in 2011-2012 of $2.3 million. To ensure the City is able to maintain and operate the new facilities that are currently funded, all projects not yet under construction have been analyzed to determine if accelerating or decelerating them would help the City's financial sustainability in the near future.

With the current economic climate, the cost of constructing and maintain the park are crucial points to consider. Unfortunately, after analyzing all fully funded Parks project not yet under construction, the Mabury Park was recommended for deferral. Despite this, the planned Park remains a priority for me and I will continue to work with staff to ensure completion.

KING BRIDGE WIDENING EFFORTS

The widening of the King Road Bridge remains a high priority for the City of San José. Unfortunately, there is not a feasible way to construct the bridge independent of a comprehensive project for a flood control improvement along Penitencia Creek between Coyote Creek and Dorel Drive. Because the existing bridge constrains flow along the river, removing or replacing it, without downstream creek channel improvements, would create flooding issues for an existing neighborhood west of King Road.

Since 2003, the Corps of Engineers has been in a process with various environmental regulatory agencies to determine their preferred alternative for the creek design. The Water District has the Upper Penitencia Creek project funded in their Capital Improvement Program, but only through their 2011 Fiscal Year, and only for the Planning Phase. After that, the project will only move forward once the Federal Government funds this Corps project.

Once the channel improvements are funded, the City can move forward with the revised bridge design so that the construction can occur concurrently. The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) has been willing to participate in the cost of the bridge reconstruction, and the City will also apply for Federal Highway Bridge Replacement grant to help reduce the City's cost.

In the past few months, I have met with our State lobbyists and Federal lobbyists regarding the widening of the King Road Bridge and asked for their assistance in advocating for State and Federal funding to support the completion of this project. I will provide another update once more information becomes available.

Councilmember Kansen Chu

VOLUME 11/ISSUE 5 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

Door-to-Door in District 4

Newsletter

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

Councilmember Kansen Chu

VOLUME 11/ISSUE 5 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

Door-to-Door in District 4

Newsletter

DISTRICT 4 EVENTS

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

OCTOBER

3 ST. VICTOR'S CHURCH FIESTA
10:00AM-10:00PM October 3 &
1:00PM-8:00PM October 4
St. Victor's Church
3150 Sierra Road

5 NORTH SAN JOSE TASK FORCE MEETING
6:30PM-9:00PM
Novellus
4000 North First Street

7 HEALTHY FAMILIES, HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS
Parent Awareness Forum
6:30PM-8:30PM
Berryessa Branch Library
Community Room
3355 Noble Avenue

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

12 COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY
City Hall Closed

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

17 BERRYESSA SENIORS' AUTUMN DINNER AND DANCE EVENT
4:00PM-6:00PM
Berryessa Community Center
3050 Berryessa Road

NOVEMBER

28 OLD BERRYESSA LIBRARY
Community Meeting Update
6:30PM-8:00PM
Berryessa Community Center
3050 Berryessa Road

2 NVCA GENERAL MEETING
North Valley Community Association
7:00PM-8:00PM
Berryessa Union School District
Board Room
1376 Berryessa Road

18 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 SANTA VISITS ALVISO
Planning Meeting
11:30AM-12:30PM
Alviso Branch Library
5050 North First Street

26 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
City Hall Closed on November 26 and November 27

The Mayor and Councilmember Chu at the San José Goes Solar event at the Alviso Library.

Councilmember Chu with Veterans at the POW/MIA Flag Raising Ceremony at San José City Hall.

Councilmembers Chu speaks at the Alviso Town Hall Meeting.

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