



## June 2012 Newsletter Message

Dear Neighbor,

Everybody wants to have a place to call home. It's been the dream of Evergreen Little League (ELL) to find permanent playing fields for over ten years now. In the spirit of creative partnerships, we have been working to help make that dream a reality for hundreds of young ball players, their families and coaches.

I am proud to join with Evergreen Little League, the parents, players and coaches who participate in their program in an effort to create homes for their ball players. Since 1962 Evergreen Little League has taught kids to play ball in both the baseball and softball leagues. Today, ELL has 430 boys and girls ages 4-18 in their baseball program and 115 girls in their softball league. They are the largest Little League in the City of San José. In fact, they are so large the league warmed up to the idea of working on a multi-site project to provide a more immediate solution for this rapidly growing league in a more cost-effective way.

I know as a parent how important participating in team sports can be to the development of a child. So many lessons about life are learned when a player has to rely on and trust his/her teammates to advance in a game. Building confidence, learning about good sportsmanship, realizing that practice makes your skills better, sharing success, discipline and stepping out of a comfort zone are all lessons that can be part of playing on a ball team.

Even though we are still in the early stages, I'm happy to say we are in positive discussions with staff from the City of San José, Evergreen School District and Evergreen Little League to see how we can partner to better meet the needs of the community. When board members from Evergreen Little League first contacted me, I knew there would be a way to come together and find a common goal for residents and students, by forming stronger partnerships where we can better utilize our resources.

After reviewing some options the board members realized that finding one home field to support all of the 32 teams in the league would be difficult and costly. Enthusiasm is growing that through this partnership, some immediate goals can be realized such as providing home fields for their senior teams and possibly a home for the girl's softball teams.

We are working on a plan where we can simultaneously share city and school district land as well as shared operations and maintenance resources to provide more opportunities for the youth of Evergreen. Evergreen Little League will also be contributing financially to this project. This partnership recognizes that by sharing resources we can save money, provide benefits to the city and school district and ensure access to quality youth baseball, softball and t-ball fields for the youth of the Evergreen area of San José - a real win - win for the community.

By locating the home base fields adjacent to facilities, it will provide enhanced opportunities for residents to participate in Evergreen Little League. The collaboration will focus on locations where city parks and schools are jointly located to provide most efficient use of resources. And finally, it will provide an "identity" for ELL through enhanced amenities. By identifying a home base field, permanent snack shacks can be built to create a revenue stream for the league to help support its programming and signage will attract more players to the program.

The Evergreen Little League softball program had a record number of participants in the 1970's but over the years the program suffered dwindling numbers. In 2005, the program made a come back and

through this collaboration we are making the girls softball program a priority in the community and the league will be able to attract more girls into the program and continue to grow.

I want to emphasize that these discussions regarding agreements are in process and many of the details are still being worked out but we are making progress.

The next steps in the process include the city, the Evergreen Elementary School District and Evergreen Little League entering into discussions regarding the potential scope and responsibilities of a formal agreement on field usage, renovation and maintenance of the fields and construction of snack shacks. I am very encouraged by the positive reception from all the collaborating entities. I look forward to holding this creative partnership up as an example of best practices in sharing community resources.

As always, my office is open to input or questions by emailing [district8@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district8@sanjoseca.gov), or calling (408) 535-4908.

I want to keep you informed! Sign up for the District 8 newsletter. Go to [www.sanjoseca.gov/district8](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district8).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rose Herrera". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rose" and last name "Herrera" clearly distinguishable.

Councilmember Rose Herrera