



July 2013 Newsletter Message

Dear Neighbor,

What do Saturday library hours, summer swimming, and Music and Movie Nights have in common? First, they are all activities that enrich the quality of life here in Evergreen. Second, we are expanding them after being cut due to the great recession and city budget cuts. Lastly, having them makes our community safer.

Our improving economy and responsible fiscal management are providing the foundation from which to bring back neighborhood services. Libraries are also community centers, swimming pools teach people how to swim and provide a healthy and wholesome alternative to hanging out. Community building events like Music and Movie Nights bring our diverse community together. As we get to know one another, our community becomes safer.

Saturday Library Hours at the Evergreen Branch Library

I strongly advocated for adding Saturday library hours at the Evergreen Branch Library during our recent budget process. Thank you to everyone who wrote in and/or came to the city council to speak in support of my proposal. As many residents pointed out, working families often cannot get to the library during the week making Saturday hours critical. Your voices were heard! Last week, the 2013-14 Budget was approved by city council and the Saturday library hours at the Evergreen Branch Library were approved. District 8, with a population of 100,000, residents is the only district in the city with one branch library. Four newly constructed libraries were opened across the city this year and our second Evergreen library will be finished and opened in a couple of years. The first Saturday hours at the Evergreen branch library will be on Saturday, September 7th.

Evergreen Summer Swim Programs

For relatively little funding, we were able to restore another summer activity that provides a fun, healthy activity for our youth keeping them engaged in positive activity. Some of my fondest memories of summer are of walking to the Overfelt High School swimming pool and learning to swim with my friends. Not only was it fun, healthy exercise, it was a very important life skill to learn. Over the past few years, summer swim programs have suffered from budget cuts that have either completely shut them down or severely limited their efforts to reach many kids. I'm a strong supporter of summer programs that give kids a health alternative to hanging out on the streets, teach them new skills either by teaching them how to master a new skill or by giving them the credentials to turn around and teach the skill, and especially one that could one day save their life.

For many years now, I've advocated for funding the West Coast Aquatics summer program at Silver Creek High School and now, for the first time, we have the opportunity to support a grassroots summer swim program at Overfelt High School managed by the Athletic Director of the school, Mark Delgado a passionate supporter of Overfelt's swim program. This program not only allows for open swim and lessons, it also supported training 6 young people as lifeguards, earning them a certification through the Red Cross. It's been over seven years since Overfelt High School has had a summer swim program or open swim hours and we are excited to be a part of reviving this program and offering the local community a fun way to stay cool this summer! Classes are now open for low cost swim lessons and

open swim times (\$1 entry fee). For more information, please call the swimming pool office at (408) 347-6157 Monday – Friday from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Music and Movie Nights in the Village Square

As I hosted the first movie night of the summer on Friday, June 14th, I reflected on why we started movie night back in 2007 and how far we have come. In 2007, the Village Square was in trouble. Some were predicting its demise – a potential victim of the recession. The community swung into action by organizing Involved Evergreen. We started Movie Nights and other cultural activities in the square to keep the village alive. Six years later, we have a new grocery store, a soon-to-be constructed library, and a belief that the square will continue to thrive.

Our perfect San José evening weather that Friday brought out the largest crowd we've seen on a first-of-the-season summer Music and Movie Night so far! The Ron E. Beck Soul Review Band eased us into a summer attitude of relaxing with friends and neighbors with a little bit of dancing around the square's fountain and the *Neverending Story* movie satisfied the kids and kids at heart crowd of outdoor movie fans. There are many more Music and Movie Nights happening throughout the summer in the Evergreen Village Square. The next movie, *Despicable Me*, will be hosted by Evergreen Coffee Company and take place on Friday, June 28th. The Road Dogs will be starting off the music at 6:30 p.m. with the movie beginning around 8:30 p.m. (or dusk). There will also be a Wine Stroll featuring Napa Valley wineries for those 21 and over. For more details and future Music and Movie Night dates go to: www.evergreenvillagesquare.com/events.html.

On a personal note, as host of this first movie of the summer, I wanted to honor the contributions of community volunteer Maria Henderson by playing her favorite family movie. Her husband, Phil Henderson, has been an ever-faithful volunteer at movie nights helping fellow Involved Evergreen volunteers set up the outdoor screen and projection throughout the past few years and Friday night he continued his valued contributions to setup. Thanks to all the volunteers who help make Music and Movie Nights in the Square possible! And thanks to Steve and Mary Natale from Shapell for their creativity in bringing the bands and additional summer treats to the events like the recent Art Walk and upcoming Wine Stroll. Thanks also to District 8 resident and art student, Amanda Bukur, and local artist, Andre Hart, for organizing the artists to display their art at last week's Art Walk during Music and Movie Night!

As always, if you have any questions or any other concerns feel free to contact my office by email at district8@sanjoseca.gov or call (408) 535-4908.

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