



Councilmember Rose Herrera  
District 8

## June 2013 Newsletter Message

Dear Neighbor,

After years of anticipation, the design for our new library in Evergreen has been unveiled! Libraries have become community life-long learning centers, so the design of the new library must reflect and meet a variety of community needs.

Our current library is heavily utilized by all ages, from preschoolers learning to read, to seniors using a computer, to unemployed persons looking for a job, to students working on their homework assignments, and by the community for public meetings.

I am very pleased with the elegance of the design and the functionality of the building that will serve our community for many years to come. Back in November of 2000 San José voters approved a Library Bond Measure which allotted \$212 million over 10 years for construction of 6 new and 14 expanded branch libraries in San José – the Southeast Branch Library in Evergreen being the last of the 6 new branches to be constructed. The operational costs to open the library are projected in the budget for 2016.

Responding to community input to find the most conveniently located site for our new branch library, we worked with the community, the library department, and public works and identified Evergreen Village Square as the site that best met the site selection criteria of:

- easy pedestrian, bike, and public transportation access as well as adequate parking
- within walking distance or biking distance to schools
- located with or near other services or destinations (retail, service amenities)
- a visible location that residents will notice as they travel through the area

The New Branch library will be a 16,000 square foot facility located within Evergreen Village square, at the corner of Classico and Evergreen Village Square. We have achieved multiple benefits by selecting the square as the site of our new library. The library is already perceived as a future anchor tenant by potential tenants thinking about locating to the Square. The library will bring an estimated additional 1,000 new users per day to the square. Libraries are hubs of community activity. In the Berryessa area, the very successful Wine and Arts Festival has a strong connection to the local library. The environment will benefit by lowering the number of car trips necessary to complete both retail and educational errands.

The exterior design of the building is stunning. The entrance is dominated by a gorgeous rotunda, along with varying elevations and trellising along the expansive widows around the building. The interior will provide extensive children's and adult collections, a storytelling area, a teen room, two group study rooms, a quiet room, a tech center area with 12-14 computers, a living room area with a fireplace, and views to the nearby hills.

During multiple meetings with residents, I found out that having a public meeting space was important to our community. In response to that, we provided input to the architects and they created a 1,600 square foot community room, which seats over 100 people, and it opens to a large patio area by a



large foldable glass doors which together will create a total of over 3,000 square foot of community space. The facility will also receive the automated processing machines for book check-in, visible processing from the exterior through the windows on the building front.

Our new library is being designed by Tetra-IBI Group Architecture Planning office in Los Angeles in a joint venture with the BFGC-IBI Group office in San José. Tetra-IBI Group is a well known firm, with extensive work in library projects in southern California, and the well known Joyce Ellington Branch Library in our City of San José, near downtown, built 5 years ago. The project will be designed to meet the LEED (Leadership for Environmental and Energy Design) Silver certification level for sustainable design through the U.S. Green Building Council.

The building is being designed to maximize the use of passive solar approaches that maximizes daylight in the building while also minimizing heat gain. It will also incorporate the use of low-E glass, efficient and appropriately sized energy efficient mechanical equipments, and an Energy Star rated cool roof. The project will be using green materials, many of them from recycled contents such as the steel structure and the flooring materials. And the building will be ready to receive future PV (Photo Voltaic) solar panels.

We know from the circulation numbers at the Evergreen Branch Library (it's the highest circulating branch in the city, moving approximately one million materials a year) that libraries are important to Evergreen neighborhoods. That's why the opening of the Southeast Branch Library will be such a huge addition to our community. We expect the project will go out for bid in spring of 2014, with construction due to start in early summer of 2014, then approximately 16 to 18 months of construction time with a grand opening thereafter. I look forward to celebrating the opening of our new library with you!

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

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rose Herrera". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councilmember Rose Herrera