



September 2013 Newsletter Message

Dear Neighbor,

Summer usually dictates a bit slower pace, but the activity in Evergreen has been bustling and productive. We've worked hard this past spring during the budget season to direct funding and support to the stated priorities from community members. These priorities from the community were heard in emails and phone calls to my office as well as public meetings held in our community. They included things such as increased public safety measures, completion of the Highway 101 interchanges, and adding Saturday library hours to our Evergreen Branch Library. You've spoken and we've responded.

I heard from many of you about the success of our focus on these priorities during the nine National Night Out (NNO) events I visited last month. Congratulations to the neighborhoods of Evergreen – we were leaders in the City for the number of NNO events in one district! For some neighborhoods, this year marked many years of a tradition of gathering together on the block and celebrating with BBQ's, outdoor movies, and potlucks and for some it was their first year of a new tradition. Some gatherings were small and intimate in a neighbor's driveway, others were larger events with multiple blocks of homes. They all accomplished the purpose of National Night Out – to promote crime prevention and neighborhood camaraderie.

Many neighbors related their excitement at the first summer in over 7 years that they were able to use the Overfelt High School pool for public open swim and organized swim lessons. I worked with Mark Delgado (a fellow Overfelt alum and Athletic Director for Overfelt) to rebirth the High School's summer swim program to provide summer recreation opportunities to keep kids off the street and engaged in positive activities. This was one step in moving forward with public safety measures during the summer months along with programming through the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force. A second step in that movement took place when the TABS (Truancy Abatement Burglary Suppression) program, which I supported, came online again in conjunction with the start of school. The TABS program actively identifies students who are truant during school hours and works with their families to redirect them back to school while diverting them from becoming involved in criminal activities.

Neighbors district wide have been praising the results of the Highway 101 projects and the lessening of freeway congestion. Thank you for your patience as Caltrans and VTA works to complete this project as adjustments to the signal lights are made and new lanes are introduced. The Capitol Expressway off-ramp allows drivers to head eastbound or westbound on Capitol Expressway through a new signalized intersection. A new dedicated exit ramp from southbound U.S. 101 to Yerba Buena is constructed as part of this project. Exiting to Yerba Buena Road will now be able to do so without going through the Capitol Expressway Interchange ramp, and this part of the project is almost six weeks earlier than originally expected! The entire project is scheduled to be completed by early 2014.

After rallying support for Evergreen Saturday library hours with my colleagues on the council during the budget process and winning their support, we can celebrate the first Saturday hours on Saturday, September 7th at the Evergreen Branch Library. Happy reading!

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 written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Councilmember Rose Herrera