



Dear «Preferred_Name»,

In July, my husband and I traveled to Helsinki, Finland, Vilnius, Lithuania, Tallinn, Estonia, then took a river cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg visiting several small towns along the river. In this issue, I am highlighting Helsinki and subsequent issues will feature each of the other cities we visited.

Not only was the trip great fun but it proved to be profitable for our City at no expense to the City or taxpayers. Why? When we visited Tallinn we met with the Deputy Mayor and several corporate leaders. One of them is interested in bringing his company to San Jose. We already have Skype, a Tallinn company purchased by eBay. The Prime Minister and Deputy Mayor visited San Jose last year so a return visit seemed in order.

Leading Finnish technology companies F-Secure and Codenomicon already have their U.S. headquarters in San Jose. For more information about San Jose's economic partnership with Finland, [click here](#).

Finland has a population of about 5,000,000 and is the size of Montana whose population is 967,000. Helsinki, the capital and largest city, is in the southern part of Finland on the shore of the Gulf of Finland, an arm of the Baltic Sea. Helsinki's population, as of June 2009 was 580,000, making it the most populous municipality in Finland by a wide margin.

Helsinki is a very clean, pretty and modern city with excellent architecture, services, transit and amenities. As you would expect, it is Finland's capital for business, education, research, culture and government. It has eight Universities and six "Technology Parks". About 70% of foreign companies operating in Finland have settled in the Helsinki area. Immigration from the countryside makes Helsinki one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in Europe. Its most iconic national firm is Nokia. Street signs are in Finnish and Swedish.

Helsinki was founded by Swedish King Gustav I in 1550 as a rival to the Hanseatic City of Tallinn and was named Helsingfors. It was an unimportant coastal town to the Swedish and was overshadowed by the more thriving Hanseatic cities. For more information about Helsinki's history, [click here](#).

The only downside of a visit to Helsinki is the 'burn rate' of Euros. A Big Mac costs about \$12.00 and everything else is priced similarly. We found some tasty, well prepared food in Stockman's, the main department store with the slogan, "If you can't find it at Stockman's it probably doesn't exist anywhere!" The next day at a sidewalk cafe,



August 2009 City wide update print version is [available here](#)

Pictures from Councilmember Pyle's Trip to Helsinki

(Click on photos to enlarge)



Map of the Baltic Sea region

however, our bill for two hamburgers, fries and iced teas was €49 Euros or about \$US73.

Helsinki is a wonderful place to visit in the summer with moderate temperatures in the high 60 degrees F and occasional rain. In the winter the temperature highs are around 20 degrees F and snow may be on the ground for up to 120 days a year. I hope you will one day get a chance to visit Helsinki as well.

State Budget

You can imagine my great disappointment to return home from a three week trip only to discover that Sacramento was still in a disastrous state. The “Finalized” budget will cost San Jose \$20 million more in cuts plus \$75 million from Redevelopment funds which could be used to complete projects and provide jobs. I will provide a more detailed summary of the impact to San Jose in my next newsletter.

Stay tuned and stay well,



Nancy Pyle
Councilmember, District Ten

Three Suspects Apprehended in Almaden Burglary Spree —

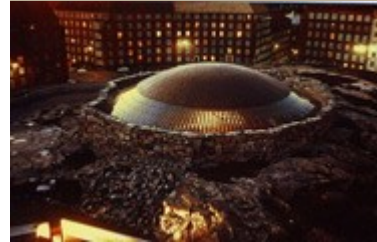
SJPD has taken three suspects into custody who are believed to be responsible for 15 burglaries in Almaden Valley. Police believe two of the suspects entered victims’ rear yards via their side gates while the third suspect served as a lookout and get-away driver. Money, jewelry, laptop computers and other items of value were stolen. The suspects have also been linked to a number of auto burglaries in the area.

Residents can drastically reduce the chances that their home will be burglarized by taking simple steps such as locking all windows, doors and side gate entrances to their homes. San Jose offers a free, two hour Neighborhood Watch course to teach residents how to reduce their chances of being victimized. Residents interested in organizing a neighborhood watch in their community should contact SJPD’s crime prevention office (408) 277-4133 to arrange a meeting. Meetings are held weeknights from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm for groups of 10 households or larger at a location that is convenient for residents.

National Night Out a success! —

Kudos to Hoffman Via Monte Neighborhood Action Committee and Sunrise Valley Neighborhood Association for organizing successful National Night Out events this year! National Night Out has been a 26-year-running “going away party” for crime. Each year, neighborhoods across the country come together on the first Tuesday in August to host block parties and community gatherings to get to know one another and take a stand against crime. The SJPD Mounted Unit was a big hit with the young people and I am extremely grateful that the Council was able to preserve funding for the unit again this year. On horseback, the officers are very approachable and they are able to strengthen the relationship between residents and the police department.

Hoffman Via Monte residents, property owners, Almaden Hills United Methodist Church, Cornerstone Community Church, South Hills Church and Journey Christian Church have invested thousands of hours to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood over the past few years.



Night View of the Church in the Rock in central Helsinki



View of the South harbor



Farmer's Market in Helsinki



Helsinki Public Art

As a result, the crime rate has dropped significantly and young people from the community are thriving. The City has played a major role in the transformation of this community and other low income communities across the City through programs such as the Safe Summer Initiative, community policing and youth employment training.

The Almaden Community Center is hosting a Golf Tournament to provide recreation program scholarships for low income youth in the Hoffman Via Monte area. Please support this worthy cause by playing in the tournament! Check out www.almadencc.golfreg.com for more information.

San Jose Welcomes Ericsson! —

On Tuesday, August 11th Ericsson officially opened their new, four-building Research and Development center and Office Campus in San Jose. It is the newest addition to San Jose's Innovation Triangle on North 1st Street. Ericsson is the world's leading provider of technology and services to telecom operators. The company's portfolio includes mobile and fixed network infrastructure, telecom services, software and multimedia solutions for operators, enterprises and the media industry.

Neighborhood Development Center —

The Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) continues to have the following resources available for neighborhood associations and individual residents that are interested in or are currently working on improving their neighborhood:

- High-Speed Gestetner copy machine (Free use –just bring the paper! Great for copying flyers and newsletters)
- Library with resource books on grants, organizing, volunteers, etc.
- Meeting rooms at Kirk Community Center

Please be aware that NDC staff is frequently in the field. If you need services provided by the NDC, please call to ensure that someone will be



Hoffman Via Monte National Night Out Celebration



Hoffman Via Monte Youth Group member and National Night organizer Oscar Perez with Councilmember Pyle



Kaiser Permanente Community and Governmental Relations manager Darcie Green, Councilmember Pyle and Kaiser volunteer Ethan Ruskin



Ericsson Grand Opening

available at the office to assist you. Please contact NDC staff at (408) 723-4114 for more information or to make an appointment for the use of these resources.

Another 1st for San Jose! —

San Jose was ranked the “#1 Big City for Families” in the US! Forbes studied the 40 most populated metropolitan areas to determine which were the most and least affordable for families. The result –San Jose is the most affordable for families! For more information on the study and the rankings of all 40 big cities check out www.forbes.com/2009/06/29/cities-family-affordable-lifestyle-real-estate-cities-family.html.

Board and Commission Openings —

Applications are being accepted for the City of San Jose Boards and Commissions. You can make a difference in your community on a number of issues being considered by the: Advisory Commission on Rents (1 seat), Disability Advisory Commission (2 seats), Early Care and Education Commission (3 seats), Historic Landmarks Commission (1 seat), Human Rights Commission (2 seats), Senior Citizens Commission (4 seats). To take advantage of this unique opportunity, please call the Office of the City Clerk at (408) 535-1272. Applications will be accepted through 5:00pm, Friday, August 28, 2009. Log onto www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/Vacancy.asp for more details.

Office on Aging Changes —

Due to budget cuts, the Senior Resource center and telephone helpline have been closed. Seniors should now call the Office on Aging Older Adult Resource Program at (408) 979-7904 for over the phone assistance.

Alaska Airlines new flight to Austin! —

Alaska Airlines announces it will inaugurate daily service to Austin beginning on September 2nd and tickets will be available for purchase at www.alaskaair.com. The flight will depart San Jose at 8:55am and arrive at Austin-Bergstorm International Airport at 2:15pm. The return flight will depart Austin at 3:00pm and arrive in San Jose at 4:40pm. Alaska Airlines' announcement followed earlier news from American Airlines that it would end its twice-daily San Jose/Austin “Nerd Bird” route in August, 2009.

Number of Homeless in San Jose —

In 2009 the point-in-time homeless count identified a total of 4,193 homeless persons in the City of San Jose, which is a slight decrease (3%) since 2007. Based on a formula that takes into account the point-in-time count, as well as the phenomenon that people will cycle in and out of homelessness, an estimated 8,941 individuals in San Jose will be homeless at some point during the year, a 21% decrease from the 11,264 individuals estimated in 2007.

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**New Terminal at San Jose
International Airport**

Kudos to Almaden Seniors! —

The Almaden Senior Association has reached its goal of 1500 members! The Almaden Senior Association offers a variety of classes, groups, and services to people 50 years and older. One such service is the very successful Senior Net program where seniors learn how to use computers and the Internet. Registration for classes between August and October has already occurred, but there are still some seats available. For remaining availability check: www.snicsj.org/almaden/course_openings.html.

Prescription Assistance —

California's biotechnology companies donate almost \$1 billion in products to patients and agencies throughout the U.S. each year. Nearly every California biotech company with a product on the market has a patient assistance program and participates in the national "Partnership for Prescription Assistance" (PPA) program. The PPA brings together America's biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, health care providers, patient advocacy and community organizations to help patients gain access to more than 2,500 brand-name and generic prescription medicines through over 475 patient assistance programs. Patients should contact the PPA at www.pparx.com or 1-800-4PPA-NOW to find out if they qualify for patient assistance.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Wednesday, August 19th; 6:00pm

6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose
D10 Youth Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 19th, 7:00pm

4270 Pearl Avenue, San Jose
Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association Meeting

Thursday, August 20th, 7:00pm

TBD
Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association Meeting

Wednesday, September 2nd, 9:45am

6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose
Almaden Senior Association Meeting

Wednesday, September 2nd, 6:00pm

6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose
D10 Youth Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 16th, 6:00pm

6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose
D10 Youth Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday September 16th, 6:00pm

4270 Pearl Avenue, San Jose
Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association Meeting

Thursday, September 17th, 7:00pm

TBD
Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association Meeting

Friday, September 25th, 1:00 pm

Santa Teresa Golf Course
The Charger Invitational Golf Tournament
Presented by Leland Booster Club
For more information, email jimlizmarino@sbcglobal.net



Interior of New Terminal
at San Jose Airport



Senate Square with the
statue
of Czar Alexander II



Councilmember Pyle on the
steps of the Lutheran
Cathedral in Helsinki

Upcoming Council Meetings

Tuesday, August 18th; 1:30 pm

Tuesday, August 25th; 1:30pm

Tuesday, September 1st; 1:30pm

Tuesday, September 8th; NO COUNCIL MEETING

“The difference between school and life? In school, you’re taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you’re given a test that teaches you a lesson.”

~By Tom Bodett

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