



Councilmember
NANCY PYLE 10
District

December 2011 Newsletter

Dear Community Member,

Starting January 1, 2012 all grocery and retail stores in San Jose will no longer provide single-use carryout bags at checkout. Customers will instead have the option to bring or purchase their own reusable bags or purchase recycled content paper bags at checkout.

Plastic bags are one of the most common litter items found in creek cleanups. Paper bags are just as problematic, taking 14 million trees each year in the United States to produce a year's supply for retail use. Shopping with reusable bags is a great way to take part in reducing litter and conserving natural resources. A high-quality reusable bag has the potential to replace over 600 single-use plastic bags over its lifetime!

Consider the following to help you avoid the bag charge:

- Start shopping with a reusable bag now
- Keep reusable bags by the door, in your car, or near your car keys
- Keep foldable bags in pockets, backpacks, or your purse
- Give your friends and family a reusable bag, and encourage them to start shopping with them today

For additional resources and updates, visit www.sjrecycles.org/bags. If you have any questions, please email Bring-ur-Bag@sanjoseca.gov or call (408) 534-2962.

All the best,

Nancy Pyle
District 10 Councilmember



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print version is
[available here](#)



Crime Fighting Cell Phone App

Citizens in San Jose can now use their iPhones® and Android™ based smart phones to send anonymous crime tips to the San Jose Police Department. For the first time, iPhone® and Android™ phone users can

provide anonymous Crime Stoppers crime fighting tips, including smart phone photographs and video, to the San Jose Police Department. The service, called TipSoft, allows citizens to send anonymous tips online using a custom "App" from a mobile phone.

The widespread use of smart phones makes it easy for the public to help law enforcement agencies fight crime. And with the TipSoft apps, they can know that it's safe for them to do the right thing without ever disclosing their identity. TipSoft allows agencies and members of the public to have a two-way dialog that is completely secure and anonymous. The service specifically allows smart phone users to remain anonymous by encrypting the messages, assigning them a unique alias and ID, and routing them through secure servers, protecting the personal details of the information provider.

The TipSoft application is available in the Apple App Store and Android Market and allows you to submit images and video, use unlimited text messaging length, and have fully anonymous two-way dialogue including virtual chat mode when both parties are online.

For more information, visit www.sjpd.org/ReportingCrime/CrimeTips.html.

Anti-Graffiti Program

To report graffiti within the City of San Jose (signs, fences, walls, businesses, sidewalks, utility boxes, light poles, billboards, etc) please contact the Anti-Graffiti Program at 1-866-249-0543 or antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov with pictures, if available. For graffiti on vacant businesses or homes, please call Code Enforcement at 408-535-7770. To report graffiti outside of the jurisdiction of the City of San Jose, please contact:

- CalTrans (State highways, sound walls) at 408-366-3100
- CalTrain (railroad commuter trains from Sacramento to San Jose) at 1-800-660-4287
- County of Santa Clara (Expressways) at 408-494-1307, Parks Concern Line (parks or community centers) at 408-793-5510 or parks.concerns@sanjoseca.gov
- Union Pacific (railroad over highway 101) at 1-888-877-7267
- VTA (bus stops, light rail) at 408-321-5800

Simply call or email the Anti-Graffiti Program at 1-866-249-0543 or antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov if you're not sure who to contact. For questions regarding the program, call Anti-Graffiti staff at 408-277-3208.

Check Before You Burn

Wood smoke is the largest source of wintertime air pollution in the Bay Area. Certain weather conditions cause the air to remain still, trapping harmful particles close to the ground where we breathe. In an effort to protect public health, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) created the Winter Spare the Air program.

For the fourth year in a row, Bay Area residents are being asked to "check before they burn." Between now and February 29, BAAQMD will declare a Winter Spare the Air Alert when air pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. During such an alert, the use of wood-burning devices, including fireplaces, pellet stoves, wood stoves and outdoor fire pits, is forbidden, so

City of San José's Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance Effective January 1, 2012

Important Information About the New Ordinance

- Prohibit single use carryout plastic bags provided at check out by all retail businesses.
- Retailers may sell paper bags made of at least 40 percent post-consumer recycled content for a minimum weight of 30 cents after the recycling. The ordinance goes into effect on January 1, 2012 after the year-end on December 31, 2011. All retailers have the right to reclose paper bags in reusing the same.
- Allow "reusable" plastic or paper bags, without handles, for items such as bread, fresh produce, prepackaged and prepackaged vegetables.
- Customers purchasing food items "WIC" and "CalFresh" food stamps" can be provided a 10 percent post-consumer recycled content paper bag at no cost at check-out (December 31, 2011).

To view the ordinance language, visit www.sjrecycles.org/bags.

Shopping with Reusable Bags is the Best Choice

A high quality reusable bag has the potential to replace over 100 single-use plastic bags over its lifetime. Significantly reducing plastic bag use. Plastic bags are one of the most common litter items found in our community. Paper bags are just as problematic, taking 14 million years each one in the United States to produce a bag's weight in wood pulp. Shopping with reusable bags is a great way to take part in reducing litter and conserving natural resources.

Reusable Bag Tips

- Bring reusable bags to the store to use on the next visit and reuse.
- Keep reusable bags in pockets, backpacks, or your car.
- Keep bags clean by washing cloth bags or erasing paper bags with a sponge and mild soap.
- Give your friends and family a reusable bag, and encourage them to start shopping with reusable bags.

For additional information, visit www.sjrecycles.org/bags. If you have questions, call (408) 535-6100 or e-mail Bring-Your-Own-Bag@sjrecycles.gov.

www.sjrecycles.org/bags

[Click here to enlarge](#)



The District 10 team created this tree for Christmas in the Park!

residents should “check-in” with BAAQMD before they do any winter burning.

To find out if a Winter Spare the Air Alert is in effect

- Call 1-877-4NO-BURN (1-877-466-2876)
- Visit www.sparetheair.org
- Sign up for automatic phone alerts by calling 1-800-430-1515
- Sign up for email AirAlerts at <http://baaqmdsparetheair.enviroflash.info/>
- Follow @SpareTheAir on [Twitter](#) and become a fan of “Spare the Air, Bay Area” on [Facebook](#)

VTA partners with Global Winter Wonderland to make your season bright!

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is pleased to be a partner in the U.S. premier of Global Winter Wonderland, a magnificent collection of Chinese Silk Lanterns, which have never been seen before in the Bay Area. These fanciful structures in the shape of famous landmarks, including the Taj Mahal, Eiffel Tower, Chichen Itza, and Golden Gate Bridge, some as high as 50 feet tall, are lit from within and will delight visitors of all ages. In addition to the light display, visitors will enjoy music, food, arcades, and gifts that reflect holiday traditions from around the world. You won't want to miss this fantastic display at Great America, in Santa Clara, which runs from now through January 2, as it is sure to become a favorite family holiday tradition.

Begin your adventure with a carefree ride on the VTA light rail, or bus to the Great America amusement park. Oh what fun it will be to beat the traffic and parking hassles, as well as to get free admission on “VTA Days.”

Ride VTA to Save! On every Saturday during the month of December (excluding December 24), between the hours of 4-7pm, VTA customers will receive free admission tickets to the Global Winter Wonderland! To be eligible for this free admission, you must ride either VTA Light Rail (exit Great America Light Rail Station) or VTA Bus (exit at bus stop in front of Great America – VTA Bus Lines 57 or 60) to the event, during these specific days and hours, and present valid proof of transit fare as you exit the bus and light rail vehicles.

For more information about the Global Winter Wonderland, visit www.globalwonderland.org. For VTA route and schedule information contact VTA Customer Service at (408) 321-2300.

All aboard VTA's Historic Trolley!

Kick off the holiday season with a festive yuletide outing on VTA's Historic Trolley, the “Candyland Express”! This special holiday trolley comes out of the barn just once a year, so don't miss out! Spirits will surely be bright as



Christmas in the Park is open daily between 9am and Midnight at the Plaza de Cesar Chavez in Downtown San Jose. [Click here](#) for more information



Open daily through January 29, 2012 [Click here](#) for more information



VTA's Historic Trolley the Candyland Express!

the trolley winds its way through downtown San Jose, every weekend (except Christmas weekend) through January 1.

Enjoy the ride on your way to dinner, a show, or to the park to skate with your kids. The Candyland Express, which runs hourly between San Jose Civic Center and Diridon light rail stations, will be a sweet treat for the whole family to enjoy! Children of all ages will enjoy the festive trolley decorations, listening to carolers, and looking for candy displays on the station platforms. So, bundle up the kids, grab your sweetheart, and enjoy the magic of the season.

As a special treat, VTA will be offering free tickets to “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” (while supplies last) to those who stop by to see or ride the Candyland Express on December 3, at Paseo de San Antonio and Santa Clara stations between 4pm and 7pm, as well as free tickets to the San Jose Rep’s production of “A Christmas Carol”(while supplies last) at these same stations/same hours, on December 17.

Best of all, rides on the Candyland Express are free and just one more way VTA shows appreciation for its riders. Historic Trolley service will run Friday nights, plus Saturdays and Sundays, for four consecutive weekends in December. Catch the fun from 6:30pm until 10:00pm on Friday evenings; and from 1:30pm to 9:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays, weather permitting. There will be no Trolley service on Friday, December 23 through Sunday, December 25 in observance of Christmas.

For the history buffs out there, VTA’s historic trolley was built in 1928 in Milan, Italy where it originally operated until the mid-1980s when it was donated by the Italian government to the San Jose Trolley Corporation. We are very proud of this beautiful train and hope you will come out to enjoy this holiday tradition!

For more details visit VTA’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/scvta and celebrate the season with VTA! Learn more about the Historic Trolley by visiting the VTA website: www.vta.org/services/trolleys/trolley_2001.html.

Let the Holidays Bring out the “Green” In You

Be green when spending time with family and friends during the holidays! The following are some tips to help you have a very merry green holiday:

Cooking?


From the Pan to the Can—Your holiday meal is enjoyed by all except your kitchen sink. Pouring fats, oils, and grease down the drain or in your garbage disposal clogs pipes, potentially causing backups into your home and an expensive visit by the plumber. Avoid a visit from the plumber by scraping oil and grease into a non-breakable container, such as an old can, and placing it in the trash can.

Giving gifts?

Out with the OLD, in with the NEW—When gifting portable electronics such as cell phones, pagers, laptops, digital cameras or MP3 players get rid of the old ones by scheduling a free drop-off appointment. Call (408) 299-7300 or visit www.hhw.org. Electronics contain harmful metals such as lead and mercury that cannot be placed in your garbage or recycling cart.

This season give the gift of an experience—Save a trip to the store and reduce waste by treating your loved ones to a memorable experience, such as an evening at [Downtown Ice](#), a visit to [Happy Hollow Park & Zoo](#), or a movie night.

For more information on how to recycle unwanted items that do not belong in your garbage or recycling carts, call the Recycling Hotline at (800) 533-8414 or visit www.recyclestuff.org.



The City of San José Seeks Input from Residents & Business Owners on Newly Proposed Tobacco Law

The San José City Council is considering a new policy to decrease exposure to second-hand smoke in outdoor areas of the City of San José.

The following outdoor areas are under consideration:

- Outdoor seating areas of restaurants
- Public Service Lines/Trails (examples: movie theaters, ATMs)
- Unenclosed common areas of multi-unit residences

The City of San José has scheduled the following meeting to provide residents & business owners with further information on proposed amendments to the ordinance and to solicit public comment:

Thursday, December 8, 2011
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
San Jose City Council Chambers
200 San Antonio Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128
Parking validation available

The San José City Council will consider the proposed ordinance in early 2012.

A copy of the proposed Ordinance will be available for review prior to the public meeting at www.sanjose.org

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death in the United States. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also indicates that nonsmokers who are exposed to second-hand smoke at home or work increase their risk of heart disease by 25-30% and their risk of lung cancer by 20-30%.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact: Hollis McLeod at (408) 533-7785 or via e-mail at hollis.mcleod@sanjoseca.gov

Property Owner / Manager: Please Post at Location

[Click here to Enlarge](#)

Arts Calendar –
fun things to do around town!



Carols in the California
Symphony Silicon Valley
December 10

[Click here for details](#)



It's a Wonderful Life
Tabbard Theatre
Now – December 18
[Click here for details](#)

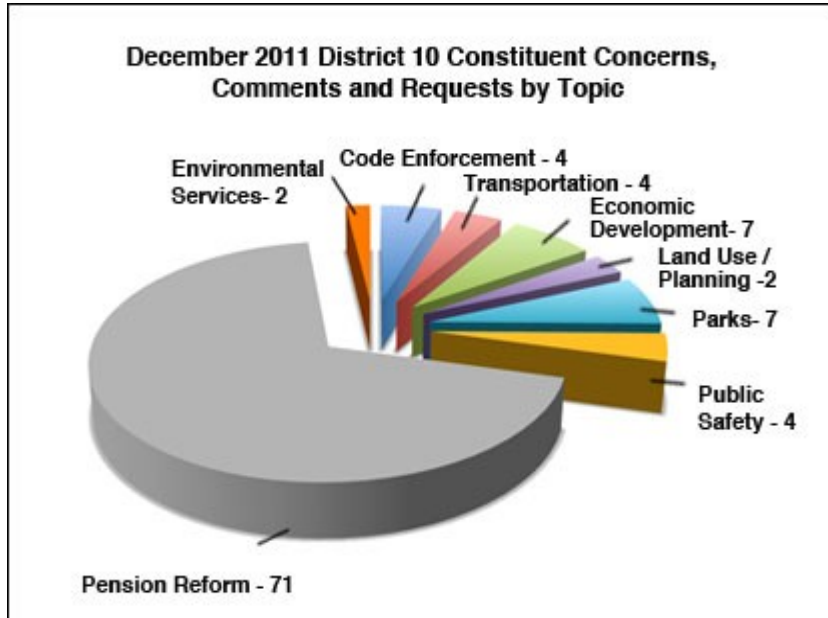


Every Christmas Story
Ever Told

Recycle Your Holiday Tree at Curbside

When the holiday season is over, set your tree out at the curb between December 26, 2011 through February 3, 2012 for free recycling. Natural and flocked trees are accepted. Simply remove the stand, tinsel, and decorations, and cut the trees into 5-foot pieces or shorter. Visit www.sjrecycles.org/residents/special_stuff.asp#tree for more information.

Constituent Concern Chart:



City Council Meetings:

Tuesday, December 6; 1:30pm
Tuesday, December 13; 1:30pm and 7:00pm
Tuesday, December 20—no meeting
Tuesday, December 27—no meeting
City Hall, 200 E Santa Clara Street, City Council Chambers
www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/agenda.asp

Community Calendar:

South First Friday

Friday, December 2; 7:00pm
South First Street between San Carlos and E. Reed streets
www.southfirstfridays.com/

Almaden Senior Association Meeting

Wednesday, December 7; 9:45am
Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Avenue
www.almadenseniors.org/

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Wednesday, December 7; 5:00pm
San Jose City Hall, 200 E Santa Clara Street, Room W120
www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/sjcommissions/parks/default.asp

The Tech Museum After Hours

Wednesday, December 7; 6pm-11pm
www.thetech.org/plan_visit/afterhours/

Meeting on Proposed Tobacco Ordinance

Thursday, December 8; 6pm-8pm
San Jose City Hall, 200 E Santa Clara Street, Council Chambers

Almaden Valley Community Association Meeting

Monday, December 12; 7:00pm

San Jose Stage
Now – December 18

[Click here for details](#)



The Nutcracker
Ballet San Jose
Now – December 23
[Click here for details](#)



Tower of Power and War in Concert
San Jose Civic
December 30
[Click here for details](#)

Contact Us

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Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Avenue

www.avca-sj.org

Hoffman Via Monte Holiday Celebration

Wednesday, December 21; 6:30pm

Hoffman Via Monte Neighborhood Center, 1180 Blossom Hill Road

Holiday Schedule for City Hall

City Hall will be closed from December 23, 2011 through January 2, 2012 and City Hall will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 to resume normal business hours. If you need immediate help during the Holiday break, please contact the City's Call Center at (408) 535-3500. Have a great Holiday season and New Years!

Quote

“All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make our world.”

–Buddha

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