

March Newsletter

Dear «Preferred_Name»,

Communicating with residents regarding upcoming policy decisions, community events and issues of importance in our neighborhoods is an essential role of elected representatives. As your representative on the Council, I strive to provide you with relevant and timely information through my e-newsletter.

Many of you have written my office and said that while you value the newsletter, it is quite long. Beginning this month, I will divide my newsletter into two segments; the first segment will be delivered mid-month and will provide a citywide update on upcoming council meetings, budget discussions and initiatives. I will also send a newsletter at the beginning of the month featuring happenings in Council District 10. I look forward to your feedback on this new format.

Sincerely,



Nancy Pyle
Councilmember, District Ten



In this issue

- Nancy's Welcome Message
- Citywide Update

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

Citywide Update

March City Council Meeting Schedule —

April 7th, 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm

April 14th, 1:30 pm

April 21st, 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm

April 28th, 1:30 pm

Agendas are available online at www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/agenda.asp
Residents are able to view Council meetings live online or on Comcast Cable Channel 26. Archive videos are also available online.

March VEP meeting to be held at VEP Community Room — The March meeting of the VEP Community Association will be held in the VEP community room located at 475 Hyde Park Drive rather than the Gunderson High School auditorium as announced in the last newsletter. We apologize for sending out the incorrect location and hope no one was inconvenienced.

Order your 72 hour disaster kit before March 31st! — Emergencies will happen, disaster will strike — whether you are ready or not. In the event of a fire, earthquake, loss of job, or other emergency or disaster, will you be ready – or not? It's essential that individuals, households, and the community be ready. When preparing for a possible disaster, each person will need a kit to help them survive for 72 hours (3 days) until help can arrive.

Contact Us

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Take advantage of the opportunity to purchase 72-Hour Emergency Kits for you and your family. These kits contain the basic needs for one person for three days. They are being sold at wholesale prices; no individual or sponsor associated with the DEP Conference is making any profit. These kits often sell for \$40 or more; you may purchase them for \$19.50 each (tax included) if you order them by March 31st. There is no shipping or delivery cost, as they will be assembled by volunteers and picked up by you at the DEP Conference. All kits must be ordered before March 31st. Visit the SJDEPC website www.sjdep.org to place your order.

Families needed to host San Jose Giants — San Jose is proud to be home to the Giants minor league baseball team — a training ground for future major league players. Players come from across the country to play on the minor league team and hone their skills in preparation for the majors. These players earn a small stipend for their work and live with host families in the city. Over the 22-year history of the San Jose Giants, the Host Family Program has been a vital part of the San Jose Giants success both on and off the field. Having the players become part of a local family helps these young men stay grounded in an unfamiliar new city. Many of the players are more than just a guest — they actually become part of the family.

“Being a host family has truly been a rewarding experience for our entire family,” said Julie McDonald, San Jose Giants Host Mom. “The players that have lived with us have been inspirational role models for our teenage children, with their endless hard work ethics and determination. It has been wonderful to be a small part of their lives as they work towards their dream of playing Major League baseball. It is amazing how easily they have all become part of our family, building life-long friendships. Each year we look forward to bringing a new player into our home while continuing to stay in contact with our past players as they move up in the farm system.” If you are interested in participating, please call (408) 297-1435 or visit www.sjgiants.com.

Esteban Colbert Soars Mightily Over San Jose — City Hall’s Newest Peregrine Falcon Named for Comedy Central Star
Article courtesy of Mayor Chuck Reed

Comedy Central star Stephen Colbert has been awarded a top honor from San Jose, the Capital of Silicon Valley — a treasured namesake. Falcon fans have dubbed the newest male peregrine falcon living atop San Jose City Hall “Esteban Colbert” after the star of “The Colbert Report.”

Opening up their rooftop nesting box to worldwide viewers of the FalconCam, the San Jose City Hall Peregrine Falcons have become reality show superstars over the past two years. Now beginning her third season, falcon mother, Clara, has another new man in her life and, based on field reports, has made him a father.

As it became apparent that last year’s tiercel (male falcon) Carlos was not returning for a second season, falcon fans have been watching the FalconCam to see if a new beau would attempt to woo Clara.

“I’m delighted that Esteban Colbert appeared at City Hall this week, and that he and Clara are hitting it off,” said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, who press reports have noted is an avid fan of “The Colbert Report.” “Like the City Hall falcons, the original Colbert has proven that with primitive instincts and sharp talons, anyone can survive in modern society.”

Peregrine Falcons, regarded as the fastest animal in the world with a recorded speed of up to 240 mph, had only two mating pairs remaining in the California wild in 1970. Today, due in large part to extraordinary conservation work by the UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group, there are more than 250 nesting pairs, including those at San Jose City Hall. Carlos and Clara had three chicks in 2008, while the previous year Clara and her first mate Jose Fernando had three as well.

Stephen Colbert is a writer and comedian who began his career in

Policy Analyst

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Council Assistant

Laura Cowan
Council Assistant



Don't forget to order your
72 hour disaster kit!
www.sjdep.org

City Wide Phone List

Call Center-
535-3500

Police Non-Emergency
311

Anti-Graffiti/Litter-
277-3208

Animal Care-
578-729

City Arborist-
277-276

Crime Prevention-
277-4133

Crime Stoppers-
947-STOP

Drug Hotline -
971-DRUG

DOT -
277-4373

Environmental Services-
535-8550

Hazardous Materials-
277-4659

Housing -
535-3860

Neighborhood Dev. Ctr-
723-4114

Parking Enforcement-
534-2900

Vehicle Abatement-
277-5305

Gang Hotline -
293-4264



Chicago Improvisational Comedy. A correspondent on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" from 1997, Colbert became host of "The Colbert Report" in 2005. Colbert has received a series of top honors, including being named one of the most influential people by both New York and Time magazines. The FalconCam can be viewed online on the City of San Jose website at www.sanjoseca.gov.

The Airport conducted a full-scale Emergency Response Exercise

— On March 4, the Airport held its triennial full-scale disaster exercise in front of the new North Concourse. San Jose Police, Fire, medical and mutual aid units worked with Airport staff, carriers, the Volunteer Center and the Red Cross to test coordination, communication, and collaboration for executing Airport and City emergency response plans. Evaluators from other agencies who are experts in mass casualty emergency management gave the Airport's exercise very high marks for conducting an effective drill that strengthens the City's overall ability to handle a high risk incident.

Prescription Discount Card Program — The Housing Department has partnered with the National League of Cities and CVS Caremark to offer a new prescription discount program to help uninsured residents cope with the high cost of prescriptions. The Prescription Discount Card Program will offer savings on prescription drugs to residents who live without health insurance, a traditional benefits plan, or have prescriptions that are not covered by their insurance. The discount card is free, and users will save an average of 20% off the regular retail price at most major participating pharmacies. The program is tentatively set to begin in May 2009. Discount cards will be available through community centers, libraries, San Jose City Hall, local nonprofit service providers and other appropriate distributors.

Proposals sought for Solar Power Projects at City Sites — The City of San Jose is seeking qualified firms to operate and maintain two solar photovoltaic (PV) power systems to be located at the Central and Mabury Service Yards. The selected vendor would finance, develop, design, construct, and own the two facilities. All electric power generated by the systems will be sold to the City under a long term Power Purchase Agreement which will enable the City to achieve energy cost savings without making a capital investment. The proposed solar systems, with a peak capacity of 1–2 megawatts, will provide approximately 50% of the energy needed at these two sites.

Financial Scams abound in Fickle Economy — Unfortunately, one of the few industries that is growing during the current economic climate is the financial scam industry.

The City of San Jose has received a report of a potential Elder Financial Abuse Scam in the area. Individuals identifying themselves as representing City of San Jose Senior Centers are contacting local seniors, asking them about their financial assets and offering to come to their homes to discuss their financial resources. City staff would never request this information. If any resident has been contacted or knows of someone who has been contacted by these individuals they are urged to call San Jose Police Department's 311 immediately to report the incident. For information on Elder Financial Abuse please contact San Jose Police Department, (408) 277 – 5339.

There are also reports across the Country of individuals posing as government officials and offering citizens economic stimulus money for home repairs and other projects. For more information, please see the following article from NPR.org www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=101608657.

Give your input on San Jose's Sign Policy — The City of San Jose is updating its sign ordinance which regulates the kinds of signs that businesses and residents can have. These outreach meetings will focus on the key signage issues, including electronic signs, billboards, freeway signs, advertising on news racks and more. Stakeholder groups and community members will learn about existing sign regulations and the process the City is implementing to identify what types and amounts of



San Jose Giants Baseball players sign autographs



Esteban Colbert



Southwest Plane at San Jose International Airport



Solar Panels mounted on roof



signage would best support community goals for urban design and economic development.

Please attend the meeting on March 25, 2009 at the Pearl Library Community Room (4270 Pearl Avenue, San Jose) at 700 p.m.

Happy Spring!

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You may update your contact information [here](#).