

SAN TOMAS WEST

Neighborhood Association



Neighbor to Neighbor Newsletter

Volume IV, Issue IV

August/September, 2010

STWNA MEETING

**Wednesday,
September 8
6:30pm - 8:30pm**

Payne Elementary
Multi-Use Room
3750 Gleason Ave.

Everyone Welcome!

Log on to the STWNA
website for the
complete agenda
www.SanTomasWest.com

Inside this issue:

Board of Directors Message	P2
Block Party	P2
Calendar of Events	P3
Creek Cleanup	P3
Back to School Safety	P3
Outstanding Volunteer	P4

**PLEASE
SUPPORT OUR
SPONSORS** P4

September Keynote: Theresa Molinelli Principal, Payne Elementary

Theresa Molinelli, Principal of Payne Elementary School, will be the keynote speaker on Wednesday, September 8 at the STWNA general meeting. Joining Mrs. Molinelli will be Assistant Principal, Tracy Dwyer. Molinelli and Dwyer believe that a strong community partnership between STWNA and Payne Elementary School will play a significant role in our continued student achievement and benefit the efforts of the STWNA. Our hope is to build a bridge between STWNA and Payne School, so that each organization will continue to thrive.

Molinelli plans to present a snapshot of the exciting things happening at our neighborhood school, including:



Tracy Dwyer, Payne Elementary School Vice Principal & Theresa Molinelli, Principal

- ◆ Review the innovative instructional programs that have attributed to their academic success
- ◆ Highlight a number of the extracurricular activities that are offered to our students that help make Payne a caring place

- ◆ Discuss Payne's big events planned for the 2010-11 school year including their upcoming Harvest Moon Dance, Family Education Nights and the annual walk-a-thon

Payne Elementary School, serving kindergarten through fifth grade students in San Jose and Campbell, is located within the STWNA boundaries, at 3750 Gleason Ave., San Jose, CA 95130.

For more information on these events, school hours, classroom supply lists or general information, log on to the Payne School website at <http://payne-moreland-ca.schoolloop.com>.

Diana Wickman~ STWNA Outstanding Volunteer

At the first STWNA Meeting back in 2007, Diana Wickman stepped up to the plate and volunteered to become a Block Captain for her neighborhood, and her volunteerism did not stop there. Diana is currently our Second Vice President whose primary job is to work with our local businesses for funding and sponsorship to underwrite the STWNA Newsletter and special neighborhood events.

Diana loves working with the Board and her favorite event is the Block Party because, in her words "it is a great, fun atmosphere where



you can really get to know your neighbors. This is a great area to live" she says, "and the STWNA has the potential to make it even better".

As a sales and marketing representative for a local telecommunications company, Diana brings her wealth of experience to her job on the board. In her spare time she enjoys yoga, making jewelry and watching her friends race sprint cars. Her quick wit and

upbeat personality add a spark to the membership and board meetings and we are proud to present to her the STWNA Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Board of Directors Message

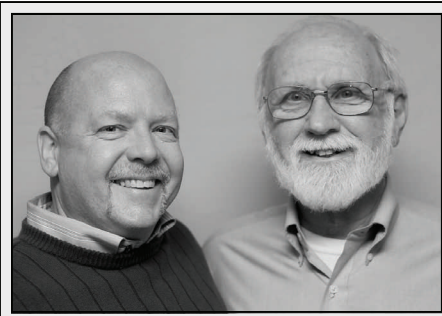
What is the purpose of our Neighborhood Association? Between the General meetings and the Newsletters, there are several. The speakers at the General meetings inform us of developments going on in the neighborhood including recent updates on:

- ◆ The new Safeway Store Project
- ◆ The Riverside Plaza Development
- ◆ A summary of the police action with reports by San Jose and Campbell police
- ◆ Updates on school progress with Superintendent Glen Ishiwata and Payne Principal Theresa Molinelli
- ◆ The condition of the San Jose budget by Councilman Pete Constant

The bimonthly newsletter, which reaches 2200 residences in San Jose and Campbell, informs everyone of the upcoming events of the Association (block party, river cleanup, dumpster day, e-waste collection, etc.), as well as a summary of the next speaker's presentation. There are also advertisements by local businesses which promote their business, and the ad revenue helps pay for the printing of the newsletter.

It has been mentioned before that the San Tomas West Neighborhood Association is run by volunteers. There are always opportunities to help out. Volunteers are needed to check in members at our meetings, to be on committees for our various functions, or to act as a Block Captain and deliver newsletters, to name just a few.

One volunteer opportunity that can have an impact on how the



STWNA President Warren Campbell (l) & Vice Pres. Peter Rushbrook (r)

organization is run is to become a member of the Board of Directors. It may seem a long way off, but it is not too soon to express an interest in one of the positions that will be open for re-election in January 2011. They are President, Second Vice President and Treasurer.

Some of the duties of the President are to preside at the General meetings and the Board Meetings, be responsible for getting speakers for the General meetings, and direct the activities of the other Board Members. The main functions of the Second Vice President are to solicit advertising for the newsletter and develop ongoing relationships with businesses within our boundaries. The Treasurer monitors the spending of Association Funds, presents financial reports at the General Meetings and is responsible (with the help of other Board Members) for writing the annual CAP (Community Action and Pride) Grant to the City of San Jose.

Due to other commitments, the First Vice President position will become vacant in January as well. The primary responsibility of this position is to oversee the Block Captains and the distribution of the newsletter. This position will be filled by appointment of the Board Of Directors and the term will expire in December 2011

If anyone has an interest in getting their name on the January ballot, or in the position of First Vice President, send an email to the Association and mention the position name in the title. Each of these positions require only a few hours of your time each month. Mainly, you will find being on the Board a rewarding experience and you will have the knowledge that you are part of one of the most successful Neighborhood Associations in all of San Jose and Campbell.

Third Annual Block Party ~ An Event to Remember

Nearly 300 neighbors joined the festivities for our Third Annual STWNA Block Party on Saturday, June 26. On hand to greet the revelers and helping to make the event a success by generously donating their time was the "Shark" fire truck and San Jose Fire Department Station 14 as well as San Jose & Campbell Police, the Silicon Valley Ambulance crew and the SJ Mounted Equestrian Unit.

The day started early for the Block Party Committee. The barbeque was set up, the jumper arrived, tables and chairs were put under the shade trees and pop up tents went up along with the temperature. Guests arrived early and stayed late, several helping with the cleanup. The children thoroughly enjoyed the face painter and balloon twister in between time in the jump



house. Even a handful of adults took their turn in the jumper. The water balloon toss was fun for all ages and very refreshing after the day in the sun.

Guests feasted on delicious desserts and

a variety of side dishes served with the hamburgers, hot dogs, and polish dogs. A big "THANK YOU" goes to **Sonic Wall** for donating the use of their gi-normous (gigantically-enormous) barbeque. Our neighbor, **Oakmont Produce**, located at the corner of Darryl & Hamilton, generously donated sweet and juicy watermelon along with the tomatoes, onions and lettuce for the burgers and dogs.

The Block Party Committee is grateful to our friends and neighbors who brought a yummy side-dish to share, to all those who volunteered to help with the event and to everyone who attended the 2010 STWNA Block Party. You all made this a great community social event and showed that the old fashioned definition of Neighborhood is not gone.

Si usted quisiera recibir una copia del boletín de noticias en español, por favor email nosotros en santomaswest@yahoo.com.

CLIP AND SAVE

STWNA 2010 Calendar

- 9/8 STWNA General Meeting
 - 9/21 Restaurant Night
 - 9/25 River Clean-Up
 - 10/16 Dumpster Day / E-Waste
 - 11/10 STWNA General Meeting
 - 12/14 Caring and Sharing
 - 1/12/11 STWNA Annual Meeting
- All general meetings and information nights will be held in Payne School's MU room unless otherwise noted

**San Tomas Creek-way Cleanup
Saturday, September 25**

In 2009 the STWNA officially "adopted" the San Tomas Creek-way between Hamilton Avenue and Campbell Avenue. Volunteering at our September 25 cleanup event helps to keep these natural parts of our county beautiful for everyone to enjoy. Cleanup efforts are from 9:00am until around noon and approximately a dozen volunteers are needed. The event gives participants an opportunity to meet new people, to get outside, and to volunteer in a stress-relieving, natural setting.

Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants, sturdy shoes, gloves and sun-screen and bring their own pick-up sticks. If you have allergies or are sensitive to dust, wear a dust-mask. We will provide trash bags, extra gloves, first aid kits, water and refreshments.

Individuals, clubs, and classes are welcome and encouraged to come out and participate in our cleanup events. Cleanup days are also a great way to fulfill your community service requirements. The event is co-sponsored by the Creek Connections Action Group which was formed in San José in the fall of 1995 by several local agency coordinators, to collaborate their creek cleanup efforts in Santa Clara County. Since the group's inception, thousands of volunteers have participated in hundreds of cleanups, removing tens of thousands of pounds of trash from creeks, rivers, and lakes in Santa Clara County.

If you are interested in participating in this year's event, email Warren Campbell at SanTomasWest@Yahoo.com or meet us at the Campbell Ave/San Tomas Expressway gateway to the river. All volunteers will need to provide a signed waiver of liability which can be found and printed at www.cleanacreek.org. There will also be waivers available on site. Minors who are dropped off at a cleanup site without a signed waiver will not be allowed to participate.



Back to School Safety Guide for Parents and Kids

When parents talk about school safety these days, they're usually referring to the surge in violence at schools. But research shows that school-age children are actually nine times more likely to sustain an unintentional injury -- whether on the playground or in school -- than to be the victim of violence while at school. In fact, an estimated 2.2 million children ages 14 and under are injured in school-related accidents each year, according to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

Accidents can be prevented if parents are on the lookout for potential hazards. To help you keep your kids free from harm, here are some safety tips.

- ◆ Be sure that your child knows his or her home phone number and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult and how to call 911 for emergencies.
- ◆ If your child bikes to school, make sure he wears a helmet that meets one of the safety standards.
- ◆ When driving kids, deliver and pick them up as close to the school as possible and don't leave until they are in the schoolyard or building.
- ◆ Be sure your child walks to and from school with a sibling, friend, or neighbor. Walk the route with your child before-

hand. Tell him or her to stay away from parks, vacant lots, fields and other places where there aren't many people around.

- ◆ Pick out a family meeting spot that can be used in case of an emergency. Parents with kids in middle school and high school should make sure they do not forget this. When there is a crisis, things get confusing.
- ◆ Drawstrings may look trendy, but they can get caught on lots of stuff, including elevators, playground equipment, and cribs. Remove drawstrings on hoods or around the neck of clothing.
- ◆ Kids shouldn't carry more than 10 to 15 percent of their weight over their shoulders and on their backs. Textbooks, notebooks, lunch, toys... how much weight is your child toting back and forth each day? Take the load off your child or use a roller pack.
- ◆ Teach your child never to talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your children don't know well or don't trust.
- ◆ Teach your kids to obey all traffic signals, signs and traffic or safety officers.

Are you or do you know our local business owners? The STWNA is developing a business partners program for local companies. Contact the STWNA today to explore the possibilities and assist in the development of our unique program.

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Dumpster Day ~ FREE Waste Deposit for Members

STWNA will sponsor a "Dumpster & E-Waste Day" on Saturday, October 16, 2010 starting at 8:00 am and continue until the dumpsters are full. We will have two dumpster sites, one on Phoenix Drive, and one on Mendenhall Drive. In the past, the bins have generally filled up by noon so get there early.

STWNA residents can dump items for FREE. This is our official kick-off to our 2011 membership drive. If you are not currently a member, you may join STWNA on site for \$15.00 and your membership will be valid thru the end of 2011!

Look for additional information, which will provide the exact location of the dumpsters and a list of acceptable items for disposal. Mark your calendars and use this opportunity to clear out any old and unwanted items!

Printers
ad space

Restaurant Night September 21 Chapala Mexican Bistro

STWNA's next Restaurant night is September 21st at Chapala Mexican Bistro. Fundraiser hours are 5:00 – 9:00 pm. Chapala will donate 10% of all orders by STWNA Neighbors to our association.

Joe F wrote on Yelp "My taste buds stood up and danced a traditional Aztec worship dance to the burrito gods. It was OFF-The-HOOK!"

Chapala is located at 819 W. Hamilton Avenue at Darryl Drive (Behind Payless Shoe Source) and can be reached at 408-374-6226. Check out the flyer or log on to the STWNA website for more information.

