

SAN TOMAS WEST

Neighborhood Association



Join today so that you can vote on our 2009 Plan, Budget, Officers, Calendar, and more at our Annual Meeting on: January 14th!

This is your... STWNA 2009 Membership Invitation!

You are invited to join the San Tomas West Neighborhood Association! Membership is open to all residents within the streets of Payne Avenue, Campbell Avenue, San Tomas Aquino Road, and San Tomas Expressway. Joining today will ensure the continuation and success of the STWNA, guarantee that you are a part of it all, and allow you to start reaping the rewards today!

What is the STWNA?

Many community members residing within our boundaries may still be wondering what the STWNA is... so here's a little bit about what we are and what we are not.

What we are: The STWNA is a Neighborhood Association. Neighborhood Associations are public organizations run by volunteers. The Association elects its own officers, determines its own priorities, and decides for themselves how they will meet their agreed upon goals. Typical NA activities may include monitoring and expressing neighborhood views on city issues, establishing neighborhood programs such as Neighborhood Watch, and organizing social functions such as picnics or pot-lucks, clean-ups, beautification, traffic safety projects, etc. NAs provide a means for reviewing issues directly affecting their neighborhood and the community as a whole. They serve as a voice for neighborhood interests and concerns. They improve communication between the city and its residents. They promote neighborhood identity. The city supports neighborhood associations, which are recognized by the City Council, and are looked to for advice and recommendations regarding neighborhood issues, particularly safety and quality of life concerns.

"We are simply a group of concerned community members working to organize and unite our neighborhood with the desire to be active participants in shaping a stronger neighborhood."

What we are NOT: We are NOT a Homeowners Association (HOA). HOAs are private entities most often created by the real estate developer when a residential subdivision is first developed or sold. HOAs are considered private corporations and as a condition of purchasing a home in the subdivision with an HOA, buyers are required to become members. HOAs assess monthly or annual dues or fees which can be hundreds of dollars, and require the homeowners to abide by the HOA's covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&R's). Some CC&R's are very simple and meant to protect a neighborhood from damage, i.e. cutting down trees. Others are more extensive and dictate what a homeowner can and cannot do with their property, i.e. paint color, number of cars, etc. When a CC&R violation occurs, a homeowner may face a sometimes hefty fine.

Key Differences Between the Two:

1. Membership in an HOA is tied to the purchase of a home, while membership in a Neighborhood Association, such as ours, is voluntary.
2. HOAs can dictate what its members can and cannot do, Neighborhood Associations, such as ours, CANNOT.
3. HOAs focus is generally on property value and appearances, while a Neighborhood Association, such as ours, is that of social exchanges and quality of life concerns.

Why should I join?

All residents, property owners, and business owners within the STWNA boundaries are considered members however, being a paid member has many additional benefits. First, and most importantly, your minimal contribution will help to ensure that the STWNA will continue to grow and be able to offer a wide variety of events and opportunities within our community.

Participation in the STWNA offers you:

- The opportunity to be a part of a strong and united voice in our cities and make a difference.
- Access to leaders in our community, i.e. Police, Fire, City, School District, County, etc.
- Bi-monthly newsletters including important information about pertaining to our immediate area.
- The opportunity to get to know your neighbors at large and as such help foster a high quality, safe, and friendly living environment.
- Access to many neighborhood specific learning opportunities

Being a paid member additionally offers you:

- The ability to VOTE at STWNA meetings on neighborhood shaping proposals.
- A Free STWNA t-shirt!
- The ability to participate in STWNA events and activities FOR FREE when fees apply.

Take a look at what we plan to do this year!

STWNA Calendar of Events ~ 2009

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 1/14/09: | STWNA Annual Meeting |
| 1/31/09: | E-Waste Day |
| Feb.TBD: | Restaurant Night |
| 3/11/09: | STWNA Meeting |
| 3/25/09: | Gang Awareness Info. Night |
| April TBD: | Garage Sale Weekend |
| 5/13/09: | STWNA Meeting |
| 5/16/09: | Creekway Cleanup |
| 5/30/09: | Block Party |
| JulyTBD: | Restaurant Night |
| 7/8/09: | STWNA Meeting |
| 8/4/09: | National Night Out |
| Sept.TBD: | STWNA Meeting |
| 9/19/09: | Creekway Cleanup |
| 10/14/09: | Going Green Info. Night |
| 10/17/09: | Dumpster Day |
| 11/11/09: | STWNA Meeting |
| 12/09/09: | Holiday Event |
| 1/13/10: | STWNA Annual Meeting |

"We are uniting as a community and working to enhance and strengthen our neighborhood!"

Membership and / or participation in a neighborhood association and or the association's activities, events, etc. is purely voluntary... however, above are some of the great reasons you may want to join and/or participate!