

SAN TOMAS WEST

Neighborhood Association



Neighbor to Neighbor Newsletter

Volume I, Issue V

DECEMBER, 2007

Annual Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 9, 2007, 7:00pm-8:30pm

3750 Gleason Avenue – Payne Elementary Multi-Purpose Room

This is our annual meeting in which we will work to establish our goals for the new year and elect STWNA officers. Additionally, we will be voting on a proposed amendment to our bylaws.

This is an important meeting you will not want to miss!

7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

- ◆ **Welcome & Introductions**
- ◆ **Approval of the Agenda**
- ◆ **Guest Speakers: Representatives from the San Jose & Campbell Police Departments**

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

- ◆ **Approval of the November 7 Meeting Minutes (*please visit the website to review the draft*)**
- ◆ **Board Reports**
 - Heather Sutton, President / Leadership Update
 - Lisa Riggs, First Vice Pres. / Block Captains, Volunteer Recognition
 - Jeannie Grigsby, Second Vice Pres. / Marketing
 - Cindy Cooper, Treasurer / Financial Report
 - Pauline Berns, Secretary / Membership Report
- ◆ **Committee Reports**
 - Holiday Event (*recap report*)
 - Emergency Preparedness Info Night
 - CBAC (*Moreland School District Community Board Advisory Committee*)
- ◆ **Unfinished Business**
 - STWNA Proposed Bylaws Amendments
 - STWNA Elections
 - 2008 Goal & Priority Setting
- ◆ **New Business**
 - Open Discussion & Future Agenda Items
 - Community Announcements

NEXT MEETING MARCH 12, 2008

PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY HEATHER SUTTON

Happy New Year STWNA friends and neighbors! We hope that everyone had a warm and wonderful holiday season. As the STWNA celebrated our first year anniversary at our last meeting in November, we reflected on and cheered our many accomplishments in one short year.

What a year it has been! We hosted our first information night on Gang Awareness, our first Block Party, our first Dumpster Day, our first Holiday Event, and our first and second Garage Sale days! Additionally, we conducted over six general meetings and had amazing guest speakers such as Councilmember Pete Constant, Mayor Dan Furtado, Campbell city leader Al Bito, The San Jose Police Department, The Campbell Police Department, Mark Robson, the developer for the proposed Riverside Plaza redevelopment project, Glen Ishiwata, Superintendent of Moreland Schools, Rosamaria Hernandez from the Strong Neighborhoods department, and much more! We established goals and priorities ~ and we've worked at as a united community to achieve many of them including regular community newsletters. We've been recognized as leaders in our community.. and we're just getting started!

Most importantly, we've accomplished all of this together! With over 50 community volunteer block captains, dozens and dozens of event volunteers,

over 400 community members involved in the STWNA, and well over 100 paid members in 2007, our main goal of uniting our community is well under way.

As we prepare for our annual meeting in January, there are a few things I would like to make you aware of...

Bylaws: First, a proposal to amend our bylaws was presented to our community at our September meeting and at the last meeting in November was placed on the agenda for a VOTE. Unfortunately, we did not meet our voting requirements of 2/3^{rds} of our members in good standing in attendance at that time; therefore, the bylaws will be again presented at our annual meeting for a vote.

Please attend this important meeting ~ As we've said before, we not only need you there, we want you there to ensure this important foundation of our association truly reflects who we are and what we want as a community.

Elections: Second, this annual meeting will also contain our first official election! The offices on this ballot are those of the First Vice President and Secretary. I am pleased to share that

we do have candidates already, but if you are interested in running for either of these offices on the STWNA board, we encourage you to visit our website for more information and welcome you to complete a nomination form and submit it to the STWNA board online or via mail.

STWNA Priorities and goals: Lastly, also at the November meeting, we presented an update to our 2007 goals and priorities to our community. Furthermore, we asked that all community members review the update and consider their personal thoughts on the STWNA goals and priorities for discussion at our annual meeting. Online, you can find the documents that were presented in preparation for establishing our association's 2008 goals

and priorities.

It's been a fantastic 2007 for the STWNA and we're very excited about what 2008 has to offer! We look forward to seeing you all at our January 9th annual meeting to kick off the New Year.

Warm Regards,
Heather Sutton
STWNA President



Heather Sutton
STWNA President

STWNA OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER—PAULINE BERNIS

We'd like to congratulate Pauline Bernis for being this month's STWNA Outstanding Volunteer.

As Pauline finishes her term of office as the STWNA Secretary, we should reflect on the tremendous contributions she has made to our neighborhood association.

Pauline is one of the founders of STWNA. The idea of a neighborhood association had been tossed around for some years. In 2006, when Pauline was approached about actually starting one, she whole-heartedly agreed to do what was necessary to get STWNA off the ground. Many hours and meetings were had as well as countless miles walked distributing flyers to get the word out to our community about that very first meeting over a year ago.

In addition to all this, Pauline undertook the role of Secretary for STWNA. But, Pauline has not been any ordinary Secretary! She has taken on a tremendous role in managing the member-

Pauline Bernis
Outstanding Volunteer



ship database, making PDF files of everything, and communicating with the community. She sends the email blasts, does the meeting sign-ins, records the notes, and brings us sustenance for the general meetings!

Above and beyond being Secretary, Pauline contributes in all realms of STWNA. You've probably seen her at the Block Party, Dumpster Day or walking the neighborhoods distributing flyers as a block captain fill-in.

Pauline's dedication to STWNA and to enriching and making our community a better place has been greatly appreciated. She has done a phenomenal job as Secretary and will be missed in this position.

STWNA NEWSLETTER

Editor, Jackie Wyckoff ~ Email, SanTomasWest@yahoo.com

THANK YOU STWNA BLOCK CAPTAINS -BY LISA RIGGS

Many of you reading this may not know how the STWNA newsletter appears, like clockwork, on your doorstep every other month. So, I wanted to tell you the story behind it and acknowledge the tremendous efforts of an even more tremendous group of people we have in our community.

STWNA currently has 41 Block Captains, with 3 new Block Captains starting this month. The Block Captains are one of the primary reasons behind STWNA's overwhelming success in its' first year. They are our liaison with the community. Each Block Captain has taken responsibility for a street or group of streets. By distributing newsletters and flyers, they are the ones that help STWNA communicate door to door with each member of our community. It is through their efforts that we have an average of 80 – 100 people at every general meeting, and each meeting half of these people have been new attendees. Their efforts have spread the word and helped STWNA generate over 125 members in our first year of exis-

tence.

Some Block Captains have extended their role to include neighborhood Safety and have established the Neighborhood Watch Program on their streets.

When other neighborhood associations hear of STWNA's success, they always want to know about the Block Captain program. They want to know how we got all of these volunteers to help on a regular basis. The answer is always the same; it has nothing to do with us and everything to do with the Block Captains. They have selflessly volunteered their time, efforts, and walking shoes to helping to create a community within our neighborhoods. I work personally with the Block Captains and can tell you that each and every one of them is a truly phenomenal person and I feel so lucky to work with them in enriching our community and to

know that these people are my neighbors.

So a HUGE Thank You from STWNA to our Block Captains for their many volunteer efforts. Thank You to: Janice, Julie, Romie,

Tyler, Pearl, Kelly, Cathy, Pat, Angela, Patti, Eric, Darla, Charisse, Christine, Lori, Jennifer, Cindy, Maria, Narendra, Olin, Ann, Kim, Tammy, Barbara, Jim, Karen, Chuck, Chris, Bruce, Tami,

Jack, Elaine, Meena, Erika, Lydia, Peter, Orretta, Therese, Rodger, Chuck, JoAnn, Heather, Diana, Jackie, Kristine, Liz, Jay and Terri.

If you'd like to join in the fun and become a Block Captain, please email us at santomaswest@yahoo.com or visit our website at www.santomaswest.com.

When other neighborhood associations hear of STWNA's success, they always want to know about the Block Captain program.

FEBRUARY 5, 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

The California Presidential Primary will be held on February 5, 2008. Don't miss your opportunity to participate in the democratic process. Remind your friends and family to vote, too. In fact, you may even want to round up the eligible voters you know and take them to the polls with you on Election Day. But most importantly, **VOTE!**

If you are not already registered to vote, now is a good time to do so. The last day to register will be January 22, 2008. Registration postcards are available at all public libraries and US Post Offices as well as the Registrar of Voters office and City & County offices including all Motor Vehicle offices.

As required by law, the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters provides voting materials in the following languages: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Tagalog.

To reach the registrar's bilingual staff for assistance, please call: Spanish: (408) 282-3095 / Vietnamese: (408) 282-3097 / Chinese: (408) 282-3086 / Tagalog: (408) 535-3916 / Or call: (408) 299-VOTE [8683] or, toll free: (866) 430-VOTE [8683].

For More Information Please Contact:

Voter Registration Division
1555 Berger Drive, Building 2
P.O. Box 1147
San Jose, CA 95108
Phone: 408.299.VOTE

Or, log on to www.sccvote.org for forms and information.



CARING, SHARING & GIVING HOLIDAY EVENT A SUCCESS

The STWNA hosted its first Holiday Event on Saturday December 8th. The event was one of "Caring, Sharing and Giving", and included Breakfast with Santa!

We had a very nice turnout, and were pleased to have the San Jose Fire Department, Station 14, the San Jose and Campbell Police Departments, and P G & E (Electric and Gas Divisions) in attendance to hand out information and discuss safety during this very busy time of year. Additionally, the American Red Cross was there to sign up blood donors and provide education about their programs.

Also invited were several charity organizations which were the recipients of many donated items by the STWNA community. Over 100 coats, jackets and sweaters were collected for Operation One Warm Coat, which were given to InnVision, a local San Jose shelter that provides meals, clothing and assistance to the homeless. About 80 pairs of shoes were donated and will be sent to Soles4Souls who will provide them to men, women and children in the U.S. and other countries. The Humane Society of Silicon Valley collected about 10 large bags of blankets, towels and pet food. We filled one and a half barrels with food for Second Harvest Food Bank, and the U.S. Marines were on hand to collect Toys for Tots...they left with a Santa-sized sack full!

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out, and to the STWNA community for their very generous donations!

STWNA 2008 Meeting Schedule

STWNA Meetings are great ways to get to know your neighbors, hear from guest speakers and have an impact on your community. Per our bylaws, STWNA general meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every other month, with exception to holidays and school site conflicts. Meetings will be held at Payne Elementary School when scheduling allows. Following is the tentative meeting schedule for 2008:

January 9, 2008*	March 12, 2008
May 14, 2008	July 9, 2008
September – TBD	November 12, 2008



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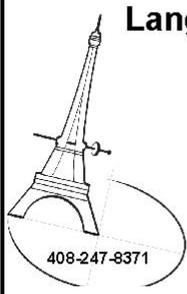
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**Don't Forget to Join or Renew your
STWNA Membership before the
January meeting. Preserve your
"member in good standing" and
voting rights. For a membership or
renewal application log on to
www.santomaswest.com or call
408.315.0107. Applications will also
be available at the January meeting.**

2007 STWNA Goals

- To improve our Community's **Communication** and awareness
- To improve our Community's **Safety** and empowerment
- To improve our Community's cleanliness and **Beauty**
- To improve our Community's **Climate** – Events
- To increase our Community's **Resources** – Available Funding

What's next? You decide.

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