

San Tomas West Neighborhood Association
General Meeting Minutes of 5/12/10

Peter Rushbrook, STWNA Vice President

6:35PM calls the meeting to order and asks everyone to introduce themselves to someone new

Update from Captain Charlie Adams of the Campbell Police Department

- * With the states deficit being what it is, every city and county is trying to cut back within their own departments
- * The city of Campbell is trying to avoid layoffs by offering early retirement plans
- * Campbell Police Department has an opening for two positions that won't be filled until the fiscal situation is settled
- * Campbell Police Department is currently short staffed with three members out due to injury
- * Some positions have been reduce to hourly instead of salary to help prevent layoffs
- * Good news is the response time to calls has not slowed down; low priority calls may take a little longer, but in general the response time has not increased

In the last three months:

- * six reports of battery where the suspect and victim were known to each other
- * five auto burglaries
- * one commercial burglary of the Skillet restaurant on Campbell Avenue
- * two residential burglaries and two attempted burglaries – two male suspects, middle to high school age (picture circulated)
- * three stolen vehicles and three recoveries
- * one scratched vehicle reported as vandalism
- * report of gunshots on Gayle (4/22/10) and Ratcliff (4/26/10) and one firing into a dwelling (4/19/10)
- * 33 stops in which tickets were issued and seven accidents
- * one theft incident at Fry's electronics on Hamilton Avenue caused an auto accident and a bit of a police chase – the suspect was high on a controlled substance

Eric Andrew, new Superintendent in Campbell Elementary School District

- * Lived in Ranch Cucamonga, Southern California
- * Enjoys the true community feeling of the Campbell School District and its surrounding areas
- * Working with the district to face the budget crisis and overall funding for the district
- * API testing results will be release on Friday (5/14/10) – anxious to see how the schools are doing overall
- * There's a hugely positive impact on kids having a community that looks after each other
- * Please call if there's anything I can help you with

Megan from Pete Constant's office

- * San Jose budge is horrific

- * Labor unions are saying no to pay cuts, leaving the only option of layoffs
- * Pete created a new website: www.sossj.com – you can email the labor unions, the Mayor, and/or city council and tell them how you feel about the budget
- * Each district will have only one community center
- * five engine companies and one truck will be cut

Question: Was hazardous waste cut?

Answer: Hazardous waste is a county program, I honestly didn't look

Comment: No one answers the phone at Hazardous waste.

Response: I'll give you my card. Email me and I'll give you a direct phone number for a contact

Jessie Denver of City of San Jose Solar Program

two flyers passed out

In response to the Hazardous Waste questions, the main phone number for household hazardous waste program is 408 535 8550

- * Everything regarding the financing program is for both San Jose and Campbell cities
- * Programs are being developed to help remove the upfront cost of installing solar equipment
- * New financing for homeowners to cover the cost of energy efficiencies in which payback is processed through your property taxes over 20 years
- * If you sell the house, the new owner takes responsibility for the balance of the loan
- * Energy efficiency is the first step of the program which includes solar hot water, insulation, double paned windows, and cool rooms
- * Maximum amount of the loan is 10% of the value of the house, with a total cap of \$75,000
- * Each household needs to evaluate what will be best for them
- * State rebates only apply to active (not passive) solar
- * Federal credits are also available
- * Sign up for updates on the program at www.californiafirst.org

San Jose has more solar installed than any city in the state for residential and commercial (approximately 5½ megawatts). If you only count residential solar, San Diego is #1 and San Jose is #2.

Natalie from Safeway

new drawings handed out

- * Safeway has a long term lease on the former Mervyn's site to build a state of the art grocery store comparable to the Safeway at Hamilton and Meridian Avenues, including a pharmacy
- * The Westgate Safeway store will closed when the new store opens, hopefully before the holidays of this year
- * Safeway will use the frame of the Mervyn's store when construction starts this summer
- * Safeway will be open 24 hours

- * Deliveries will be restricted during 12 Midnight to 6 AM
- * Retail pad will be open until midnight if there's a restaurant or 11 PM if it's retail
- * The gas station attached to Safeway will receive two deliveries per day. One delivery during the day and one during the night depending on the traffic study

Thought from the audience: Safeway gas deliveries should be able to do whatever the USAA station does with regards to the deliveries

Warren Campbell, STWNA President

- * Adjustment of positions of the board members will make the board more efficient
- * Peter Rushbrook is officially Vice President
- * Jackie Wyckoff is now Secretary
- * The board is working well as a group, but still would like to fill the position of event planner
- * www.sossj.com website is designed to help everyone understand the budget process
- * San Jose city's population grew 12% in the last decade

Peter Rushbrook, STWNA Vice President

- * Nothing happening at the former House of Orient restaurant
- * Clean up of the dry cleaning chemicals at Riverside Plaza is the responsibility of the present owner
- * Demolition and/or construction of the remodeled plaza will not start until the first half of 2011 at the earliest
- * The gas station pumps at Hamilton and San Tomas Aquino are closed, but the store is still open
- * Meeting minutes approved as written and posted on the website

Diane Wickman, STWNA Second Vice President

- * Neighborhood garage sale is Saturday, May 22
- * Email your name and address to Diane to be added to the garage sale map
- * Next restaurant night will be in July
- * We need to find a restaurant in our neighborhood
- * Pizza night was our largest money maker of the restaurant nights

Chuck Buettner, STWNA Safety Director

- * Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will provide an article in the next newsletter
- * For the block party, I have the fire trucks line up and I'm working on the Shark truck
- * First aid kits available for sale @ \$20 each – nothing says "I love you" like the feeling of being safe

Erin McLaughlin, Community Board Advisory Committee

- * The board is considering floating another bond for facility uses
- * Discovery Charter School is owned by the county, but Moreland District is responsible for providing facilities
- * The district is talking about moving the school somewhere, but where
- * The budget needs a reduction of \$2.5M
- * Notices were sent to teachers in preparation for layoffs

Warren Campbell, STWNA President

- * Let's use the block party as a way to attract new members – bring a neighbor
- * Volunteer signups: River clean up and block party

Skip Frenzel, Community Announcements

- * Village concept of a virtual community
- * There are fewer than 100 in the country, concierge type service, quality vendors
- * Allows seniors to age in place (stay in their homes), instead of going to retirement homes
- * \$600 to \$1,200 a year gives access to all services and vendor discounts
- * Home maintenance, house work, transportation, etc
- * Volunteer opportunities are always available