

May - June 2007

## Letter From One of the Vice Presidents

"There is more than one?" you ask? Why, yes! Since no one wanted to be president last year, we now have two vice presidents and a board of directors. Needless to say, we are actively recruiting for a new president and anyone who would like to try his or her hand at being a board member. Traditionally, we have our elections at the June membership meeting. The only requirements we have is that the president must live within the boundaries of the Buena Vista Neighborhood and be a member who is in good standing. I have always been surprised that the philosophy that "one person can make a difference" is quite true. This may be your chance to make a difference in your neighborhood.

Keep your eyes open for things happening in the next few months. As I am writing this we are all waiting for PG&E to turn on the new street lights on Scott Street. The Buena Vista Home Tour is coming again, with a few changes, and the Jamboree will make its appearance in June (but not on the same day as the Home Tour). We will celebrate National Night Out again at the Luther Burbank School and celebrate the completion of the Scott Street/Auzerais Improvement Plan. If that's not enough, there is new development building all over the area. There is a whole lot to keep your eye on and we hope to help you do that.

*Robert M. Solis*  
Vice President #2 BVNA

## The Big Picture

**If you have not heard...**

**Ken Yeager**, our former council member, is our new District 4 Supervisor. Now that he is working on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, he hopes that relations between the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County will be improved.

"I am happy to serve the residents of Buena Vista in my new role as your county supervisor. County government provides the programs required by the state and federal governments, such as social services, criminal justice, and health care, as

well as other services in unincorporated areas. Please feel free to contact me any time by calling me at 299-5040 or sending me an e-mail at [Ken.Yeager@ bos.sccgov.org](mailto:Ken.Yeager@bos.sccgov.org). You may write to me at 70 W. Hedding St., 10th Floor, San Jose, CA 95110."

*Supervisor Ken Yeager*

Our new council member for the City of San Jose District 6 is **Pierluigi Oliverio**.

Pierluigi is already hard at work going to community meetings and

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## BVNA

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Vice Presidents

*Joe Carpenter*  
*Robert M. Solis*

#### Secretary

*Dolores Rodriguz*

#### Treasurer

*Mikala Caune*

#### Directors at Large

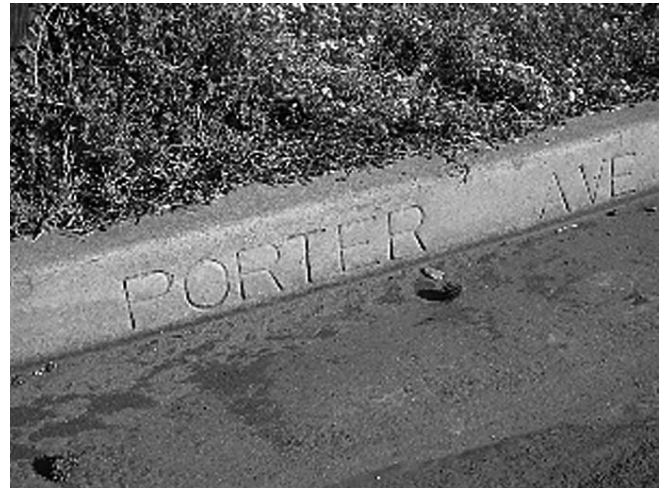
*Lisa & Brent Jenson*  
*Steven Rogers*  
*Brian Ward*

# Did You Know Leigh Avenue Was Once Named Porter?

True! The photo is of the curb at the southeast corner of Leigh and Scott street. Porter Avenue? What's up with that?

Leigh Avenue was called Porter Avenue from the early 1900s until Highway 280 was created in the early 1970s. Also, Porter Avenue was only the two blocks between San Carlos and Moorpark – it did NOT go any further south. If you wanted to visit friends in Los Gatos, you had to drive south on Bascom, which was called Los Gatos-San Jose Road until the 1960s.

Our neighborhood played an important role in the history of San Jose. Read more about it at [www.bvnasj.org](http://www.bvnasj.org) and click on the “History” and “Old Maps” links.



## The White House Garage Fell Down (with some help)

I felt like I was John Henry as I walked the block to the White family's house with my ten pound sledge hammer over my shoulder and my crow bar firmly set in my work-gloved left hand. I was on my way to help the family pull down their garage as part of a home expansion project.

My mind wandered as I thought about what it was to be neighbors as this country was developing. Back then, your neighbors were a few acres or even miles away rather than just a few feet. It was not unusual for neighbors to get



The White family & demolition crew

together to raise a barn. Of course, before they raised one, they might have had to pull down the old one. I knew that it was in this spirit that people had gathered to help.

When I arrived, (only one-and-a-half hours late) I knew I was in good company when I noticed that everyone had brought a similar set of sledge hammers and crowbars.

The smart people, however, had brought power tools. People were on the roof with skill

saws and saws removing shingles and plywood, while others were bashing away the siding from the frame.

As I had only brought bashing tools, I joined the siding team. An orderly chaos of bashing and sawing continued for the next hour (with no discernible leader as far as I could see) with lumber removed from the structure being gathered and placed in the dumpster by youngsters or those who did not wish to enter the heart of the demolition zone.

At last, we had removed all the siding, roof, and all of the cross-bracing. Many people thought that the remaining structure could be simply pulled down. A few good yanks on the rope (and, yes, some grunting) and the whole structure fell into a pile. In another hour we had reduced the garage to neatly stacked lumber in the dumpster. I have to admit at the end there I had to take an “old person's break.” I was by no means the oldest there, but I don't often get to swing my sledge hammer around at home.

Soon the job was done and I shouldered my hammer again to leave. Ruth White stopped me and insisted that all the crew pose for a picture. As I gave my cheesiest grin for the photo, I heard rumors that pizza was on its way. In hindsight, I should have stayed there and had some with the crew but I had a mountain of gardening to do at home and was eager to do it. No rest for John Henry.

It's been a few days since the demolition and I have learned a few things. It's a great thing to help your neighbor and it may be fun to swing a hammer, but always bring your power tools.

*Robert M.*

# The History of the 1920s Meets the Future of the 1950s at the 2007 BVNA Home & Garden Tour

It's here again – the annual Buena Vista home tour. Every year we go out into the community and ask neighbors if they would consider letting the public tour their houses as a promotion for preservation of our historic homes. This year we are pleased to have houses from three different neighborhoods participating, with eight houses in all. The tour will be a bit different this year as we do not have any repeats from previous years. Also, this will be the first year that we have expanded the tour to include Eichler houses.



“Modern” Eichler

Never heard about Eichlers?

In the late 1940s, real estate developer Joseph Eichler began to build a new kind of home, one that brought part of the outside inside. Although not an architect himself, his company, Eichler Homes, was responsible for the creation of the “California Modern” style of architecture. These modernist houses feature sloping flat roofs, post and beam construction and floor to ceiling windows. Even today, the houses continue to look futuristic. Inside they often had fully-paneled walls and radiant-heated floors. We have three of these modern homes on the home tour. Never seen them? That's because they are on the other side of the freeway on streets with familiar names like Richmond and Menker Avenues. You might think that these streets were once connected and the building of Highway 280 severed them, but that is not true. Prior to the development of 280, there were extensive orchards between Scott and Moorpark. Perhaps the streets were named the same in the hope that someday they would be connected.

If modern is not your thing, the tour will also be populated by five Arts & Crafts houses, three here in Buena Vista and two more to the east in the Delmas Park area.



Classic Arts & Crafts

If you are interested, the home tour is:

**Saturday June 2, 2007 • 11:00 am–4:00 pm**

Tickets are \$15 each and \$25 for couples

Tickets may be purchased the day of the event at

**347 Menker Avenue, San Jose, 95128**

Advanced tickets will be available at Antiques

Colony: 1881 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose,

or online at [www.bvnasj.org](http://www.bvnasj.org).

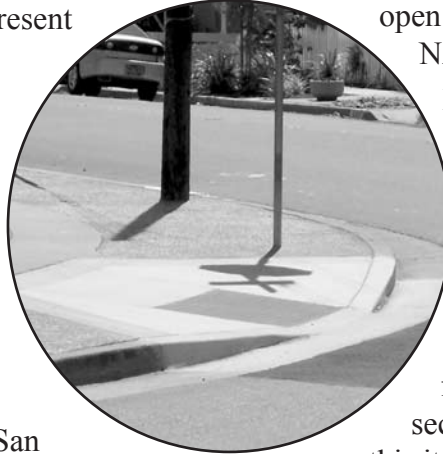
Info: 408-821-8594, 408-646-1937

**Lots to see at  
[www.bvnasj.org](http://www.bvnasj.org)**

Have you visited our web site lately? If you are a resident of this area, you ought to go and have a look. Looking for the contact numbers for the local schools or a restaurant? You can find them there. Take a photo tour and see things you may have missed. Not only is there information about the Buena Vista Area there, but also a good amount of history of San Jose in general. There are copies of some old maps showing the development of this area, decade by decade. The “San Jose Then and Now” section is particularly interesting as it shows old 1975 photos of downtown and what it looks like today. Our thanks to Loui Tucker for web mastering the site for us as well as producing nearly all the content.

# NAC Projects Become More Obvious in Buena Vista.

NAC? What the heck does this acronym stand for? (In years past I would have asked, “what the heck is an acronym?”) Could these three letters represent Notable American Caterpillars? Or maybe Nasty Anemic Chickens? In actuality, it stands for Neighborhood Advisory Committee. As part of the City’s Strong Neighborhood Initiative (“SNI”), eleven areas of blight were identified and designated as SNI areas. The Burbank/Del Monte area is one of them. Each of these SNI areas has a volunteer board that works with the Redevelopment Agency and the City of San Jose on area-wide projects. Once a month, this group of dedicated volunteers meets at the Sherman Oaks Community Center to work on projects that



affect the Burbank/Del Monte area. Some five years now after having a City Council approved plan, the results of this group’s involvement is becoming evident.

The Scott Street/Auzerais Improvement Project is complete. Sidewalks have been repaired and wheelchair ramps added. The greatest of the improvements is the addition of street lights between Willard and Clifton Avenues. Special antique style street lights were installed to reflect the historic character of the area. Later this year, there will be a celebration in honor of the project completion.

The NAC is currently involved in obtaining a second park for the Buena Vista area as well as working on master

plans for Cahill Park and the soon-to-be-planned Del Monte Park. The NAC continues to identify new open space and parkland opportunities. Each NAC has a top-ten list of projects. These projects are created by priorities designated by the community within the SNI area. This next October the Burbank/Del Monte NAC will be revisiting the list of projects. Some of the projects have been completed:

- Buena Vista Park has been complete for some time now. Completion of the second park in Buena Vista will complete this item.
- The NAC has done a Needs Assessment Study of the Area and has submitted it to the city.
- The Scott/Auzerais Improvement project is complete.
- An initial feasibility study of the 280 freeway park is complete and the NAC is awaiting promised funds for a more detailed study.

More than a few things remain on our list including: Develop a new public neighborhood park along Los Gatos Creek at Auzerais Avenue and strengthen code enforcement and housing programs to help ensure that residential units are improved and well maintained.

The BVNA has two members, Ken Henning and Robert Solis, are on the NAC’s Board of directors.

## New Work2Future Center Offers Free Employment Services

Need to work on your resume? Need to work on your interviewing skills? Searching for a new job or need to improve some basic work skills? These are all things you can do for free at the new Work2Future facility that recently opened at 1290 Parkmoor Avenue directly across the street from the new Race Street Light Rail Station. Work2Future has free classes for resume writing, introduction to computers, and English as a second language. It’s a good resource for people who are between jobs or looking to improve their career. If you want to find out more, you can visit the facility or call 408-283-3600.



# Events!

Saturday, May 26-  
Saturday, Sept. 29

The **Farmers Market on The Alameda** reopens for another season every Saturday morning from 8:30 am -12:30 pm. Even more, the market will host these festivals:  
5/26 History on The Alameda • 6/30 Fiesta on The Alameda  
7/28 Drums on The Alameda • 8/25 Guitars on The Alameda  
9/29 Dance on The Alameda

Saturday, June 2

The **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Buena Vista Historic Home & Garden Tour**.  
For info go to page 3.

Saturday, June 23

Have you ever seen a bed race? We know where you can see one:  
**The Burbank Neighborhood Jamboree community Fair**. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. West San Carlos Street and Shasta Avenue, Free admission. The West San Carlos Neighborhood Business Association organizes this yearly event for the surrounding community. They will have live music, food, children's area, rock climbing wall, bounce houses, vendors, crafts, jewelry, antiques, and the famous bed races are back. The bed races will be held on Shasta Avenue to Dana Avenue. Community groups can decorate a twin bed on wheels and race to the finish, prizes given. For more information about the Jamboree, rules on the bed races, and how to be a sponsor or buy a vendor space, call Jose Vargas WSC business mgr. at 947-8711. [www.sancarlosstreet.com](http://www.sancarlosstreet.com).

Tuesday, August 7

Where can you get dinner and a movie free for the whole family? For the **National Night Out Celebration**, your local neighborhoods and business associations will be working together to bring you another evening of food and fun. So bring your family, your lawn chairs and your appetite to the Luther Burbank School at about 6:30 pm and enjoy a community dinner and then stay for an outdoor movie!

Saturday, Sept. 30



## **Annual Northside Home Tour**

**Times:** Tickets will be sold from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and houses may be viewed in any order from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

**Where:** Begin at the registration booth in Backesto Park at the corner of North 15th & East Empire Streets.

**Tickets:** \$15 in advance, \$20 the day of the event. Order Online using paypal: <http://www.northside-sj.org>. Proceeds from the 2007 Northside Home Tour will go towards acquiring a mosaic art piece depicting and honoring the late Joyce Ellington for the foyer of the local Northside library branch which bears her name when the library re-opens in 2008.

# The Big Picture

*Continued from page 1*

settling in to his new offices. He and his new staff can be reached at 408-535-4906.

## **New Development Comes to the Area.**

New developments are springing up throughout our area. The Del Monte Cannery site will become condos and town homes (they already have models you can view on Auzerais Avenue near Orchard Supply). The area around Race, Parkmoor and Lincoln will become a rental community and the Lou's Village site will become more town homes. By 2010 the population in the area will double. There is much concern from neighborhood organizations that these developments, taken in their entirety, will be a strain on the area's already inadequate infrastructure. The traffic on San Carlos Street and Meridian Avenue will no doubt increase to a level yet unseen.

On the positive side, most of the new developments are directly adjacent to the Race Street Light Rail Station putting people close to public transportation. Another positive is the "park in lieu of fees" produced by the development will fund a new two-plus acre park across the street from the Del Monte development. The surrounding neighborhood organizations hope to grow this park into something as big as or bigger than eight acres serving the entire area.

## **District Six Leadership Group Elects Chair and Vice Chair.**

A few years ago some of the District Six neighborhood leaders got together to organize a meeting of all the District Six Leaders. The idea caught on that this might be a good clearing house for dealing with a district-wide issues. "Since many of the neighborhoods were dealing with similar problems having to do with traffic, development and open space," said Michael LaRocca, one of the organizers of the group, "we thought that we could deal with these issues as a larger group rather than tackle them neighborhood by neighborhood."

At the most recent meeting there was a visioning exercise to decide which of the top issues to deal with as well as an election of the groups chair and vice chair. The officers' responsibility will be to help organize and moderate the quarterly meetings. The group elected Clark Williams, who recently ran for the District Six council seat, as Chair, and Randi Kinman, a former Burbank Del/Monte NAC President, as Vice Chair. Unlike many groups, the officers will not speak for the group unless the group specifically comes to a decision.

Note: The BVNA has members that attend the quarterly District Six meetings.

## **What Do I Do With My Used...**

### **GOT USED MOTOR OIL?**

Please DON'T leave it with your garbage. Garbage service will NOT dispose of it. Take it to the Kragen's store on San Carlos near Leigh. They will take it and dispose of it for you – no questions asked and at no cost to you.

Visit [www.bvnasj.org](http://www.bvnasj.org) for more information about disposing of unwanted items.

### **TIENE ACEITE USADO?**

Por favor, no dejalo con la basura. El servicio de basura no lo tomará. Lo puede llevar a la tienda Kragens en la Calle San Carlos, cerca de la esquina con Leigh. Ellos reciben su aceite usado sin preguntas y sin costo.

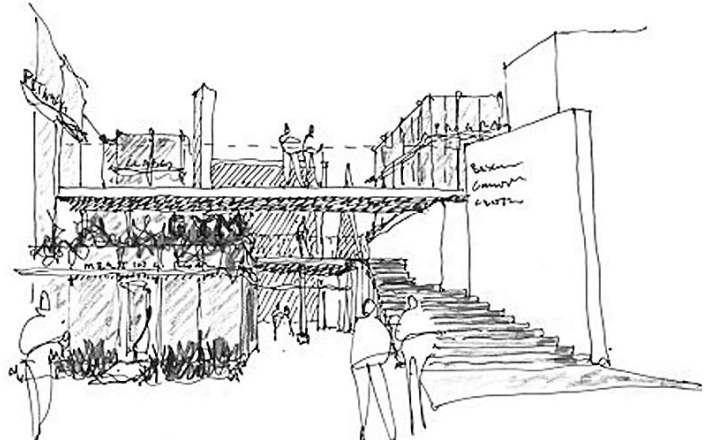
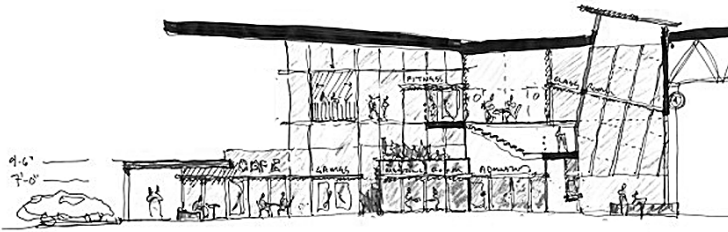
Visite [www.bvnasj.org](http://www.bvnasj.org) para más información sobre el disponer de artículos indeseados.



# Swiss Army Knife of a Community Center on Bascom

The new upcoming Bascom Community Center/Library will offer more variety than a Swiss army knife. There will be a gym, fitness room, café, several meeting rooms, a multi-purpose room with kitchen, tech center (computer lab), and a library with areas for children, teens, and adults. The heart of the project will be the outdoor plaza which can be the home for all sorts of activities from movies to festivals to BBQs.

Although the building will be designed for solar panels, they are not currently in the budget. The Burbank/Del Monte NAC has requested additional funding. There is still some work to do on the plans and we should see the project completed in the spring of 2010.



Concept Sketches of Plaza Area

## THE BUENA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD

W. SAN CARLOS ST.



## 2007 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enclose ( \$15.00 individual, \$20 family)  
Check payable to Buena Vista Neighborhood Association

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

2007 Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Mail Check & form to:

B V N A

P. O. Box 26953

San Jose, CA 95159-6953

Phone # (408) 380-3015

## Important Phone Numbers

<b>Emergency</b> .....	<b>.911</b>
Community Services Referral (United Way) .....	211
Non-Emergency Police .....	311
Underground Utilities (where not to dig) .....	811
San Jose Police Dept. (sex assault unit) .....	277-4102
Office of the Sheriff .....	808-4900
City Hall Call Center (24 Hours) .....	535-3500
San Jose Streets & Parks .....	277-4661
<b>Council member Pierluigi Oliverio</b> .....	<b>535-4906</b>
Code Enforcement .....	277-4528
Airport Noise Complaint Line .....	452-0707
Vehicle Abatement .....	277-5305
<b>Supervisor Ken Yeager</b> .....	<b>299-5040</b>
<b>Buena Vista Neighborhood Assn</b> .....	<b>380-3015</b>
Crime Stoppers .....	947-STOP
Auto Theft Unit .....	277-4051
Drug Hotline .....	971-DRUG
Gang Investigations Unit .....	277-3835
Graffiti Hotline .....	277-2758
Dead Animal Collection .....	578-7279

The BVNA is a volunteer organization dedicated to protecting, maintaining and enhancing the Buena Vista Neighborhood community.

The BVNA meets on the last Tuesday of each month at a home of a BVNA member. You do not need to be a member to attend or participate in a meeting. If you would like more information about the BVNA or you would like to attend one of the membership meetings, you can contact us at:

**(408) 380-3015 or E-mail: [presbvna@gmail.com](mailto:presbvna@gmail.com)**

Join our Yahoo group at

**<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bvna>**

and go to our website at

**[www.bvnasj.org](http://www.bvnasj.org)**



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