

From the office of

Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen

AUG / SEP 2011

COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 37



A Message from Madison

Dear Residents:

It was great to see you all at National Night Out. We had a great showing with hundreds of families making it out. Our community has its fair share of challenges, but it is events like National Night Out that give me great hope about our ability to make our community stronger.

I hope you all enjoyed your summer. Just as schools are about to open, Council is back in session. The next couple of months will be very busy with important events, meetings, and policy decisions. The most pressing is the budget. We will be working hard to fix our looming pension and retirement obligation crisis. In the next couple months, the Council will reach a decision on how to reign in these costs while still ensuring that our workers are rewarded for the great work that they do. We must make changes in order to protect pension accounts in the long term, protect city services, and protect our City's path towards financial sustainability.

We will also be finalizing the number of medical marijuana collectives throughout the City. I know this has been a long process, but I'm encouraged that we are near a solution that will greatly reduce the proliferation while still ensuring that we provide for responsible medical access.

I invite you to attend the Mid-Autumn Festival and Resource Fair hosted by my office on September 10th at Emma Prusch Park. The event will be free of charge. I hope you will come enjoy live music, great food, and celebrate with your fellow residents.

As the school year starts back up again, I want to take a moment to encourage District 7 students out there to join the Youth Advisory Council. It's a great way to get involved in the community and learn about public service.

Also, as the school year begins I want to call your attention to a new program by Comcast. It is

called "Internet Essentials" and it provides low-cost internet access and low-cost computers for those in

I want to thank everyone who came out to this year's National Night Out 2011! Together, we can make our community stronger!

need. As we move into a digital-dependent world, I encourage you to consider this program. We have many things happening this fall. I hope you will all stay tuned-in, keep me informed of your thoughts, and stay safe!

Sincerely,

FMCI Women's Initiative Graduation

The Franklin McKinley Children's Initiative (FMCI), located in the heart of the Santee and Fair Neighborhoods seeks to provide a comprehensive community development approach to cutting poverty for families in the area. On June 30th, in partnership with Step Up Silicon Valley, FMCI celebrated the graduation of 18 women who completed the Women's Initiative for Self Employment business training. This was a 20-session intensive program that helped women start or expand their business to overcome economic and social barriers and achieve self-sufficiency. Congratulations to all the Women's Initiative graduates! For more information or to participate contact: 408-283-6173.



Low-cost internet, for all.



Comcast Essentials provides low-cost internet for all those in need.

Comcast Internet Essentials

The world has gone digital. No one uses the classifieds section of a newspaper anymore -- job openings are posted on the internet. Your child's homework requires the internet. The latest news is posted on the internet. The world has gone digital and it's important that no one is left behind. Our district is home to a large number of households that still lack high-speed internet. The reason for that is simple: Internet is expensive. Or at least it used to be.

That's no more, though. Thanks to the philanthropy of internet-giant, Comcast, high-speed internet is now available to all those in need. Comcast's "Internet Essentials" program provides low-cost internet access and affordable computers to low-income households. Eligibility is simple: If your children receive or are eligible to receive free lunches under the National School Lunch Program -- you qualify.

Having access to high-speed internet will allow children to do schoolwork, adults to find jobs to grow our local economy, and help ensure that everyone has access to governmental news updates, and usher in an era of online civic engagement to strengthen our local democracy. Internet costs \$10 dollars a month. There are no price increases, no activation fees, and no equipment rental fees. For those of you who do not own a computer, you can receive a low-cost computer for just \$150 dollars. With the increasing ability of technology to transform our communities, I encourage all of you in a position to do so to make an investment in the move to a more digital world. For more information contact Comcast at: 1-800-266-2278.





Fiscal Reforms and the Budget

We've been taking aggressive measures to solve our ongoing budget crisis.

On June 14th, the Council adopted the final budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, closing the \$115 million dollar budget gap through a variety of one-time revenues, employee concessions, and new service delivery models. Altogether, 450 positions were eliminated, including a number of public safety positions. Fortunately, the City was able to achieve a 10% reduction in total compensation for employees, saving \$39 million and avoiding additional layoffs.

This month, though, the City Council will work to make some difficult choices regarding our ever-growing public pension and retirement obligations. These obligations represent the most critical element in solving our ongoing deficit crisis. It is my hope that by creating a real solution here, we can avoid future layoffs and restore City services to previously healthy levels. I want to be clear that our proposal does not reduce the retirement benefits that current employees and retirees have already earned. By modifying our benefits structure for the future we are preventing further

layoffs, preventing bankruptcy courts from slashing benefits aggressively, and preventing further cuts to vital City services. More so, this is about putting this issue on the ballot for you, the voters and residents, to decide.

Mid-Autumn Festival and Resource Fair

On September 10th, 2011 our office will be hosting the Mid-Autumn Festival and Resource Fair. The festival is a free, multi-cultural, city-wide event open to everyone. This great event will provide live entertainment, food, and community resources. The event will take place at Emma Prusch Park. I hope to see all of you there!



1,000 Hearts, 1,000 Minds

I want to bring your attention to an education effort taking place in San Jose. For only one hour a week, you can change the life of a student forever. The 1,000 Hearts for 1,000 Minds initiative connects caring adults with young students to inspire academic improvement. This effort partners with nonprofits to provide effective tutoring and mentoring programs in elementary and middle schools from underserved communities in Santa Clara County. Within four years, the program strives to help 1,000 students improve their

academic performance. I hope that you'll support this effort with your time. For more information please visit www.hearts4minds.org.



Nisich Park Grand Opening

In case you haven't heard, Nisich Park is open! I had the privilege of attending its grand opening on June 18th. It is a great park with tennis courts, bocci ball, a great playground, and more! It came just in time for summer and I know that all the neighborhood kids love it. Don't take my word for it though -- pack a lunch and take your family out for a great day at the park!



Contacts

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City-wide Contacts:

Call Center: 535-3500

Non-Emergency: 311 or
277-8900

Graffiti: 277-2758

Child Abuse Reporting: 299-2071

Code Enforcement: 277-4528

Crime Prevention: 277-4133

Crime Stoppers: 947-7867

Domestic Violence Center:
277-3700

Dept. of Transportation: 535-3850

Gang Hotline: 277-4264

Garbage & Recycling: 535-3515

Neighborhood Develop:
723-4114

Parking Enforcement: 534-2900

Senior Programs: 277-4561

Sewer Problems: 277-4373

Sidewalks: 794-1901

Street Lights: 277-5517

Street Maintenance: 277-4373

Street Sweeping: 277-2571

Housing: 975-4480

2011 National Night Out

I want to thank everyone who came out to National Night Out on August 2nd. National Night Out was formed to heighten gang and drug awareness, promote police and community partnerships, and put criminals on notice through neighborhood organizing. With over 1,000 residents in attendance, I want to thank all of the neighborhood associations for getting so many residents involved and for their year-round efforts to keep our streets safe from crime.



Join the District 7 Youth Advisory Council

The school year is about to start up again, and I want to take a moment to ask our youth to consider joining District 7's youth advisory council. The YAC is a tremendous opportunity for students to get engaged in issues affecting their community and their peers. From gang violence, to drugs, to education -- you choose what's important to your generation and you make a difference. This is a great way to



generate community service hours for your high school and college applications, too. To join, you must be between the ages of 13 and 21, live in the District, or attend any of the following schools: Fair Middle / Bridges, Sylvandale Middle, Yerba Buena High, and Andrew Hill High School. If you'd like more information please email D7youthcommission@gmail.com. Democracy belongs to those who show up!

