



District 1 Community Service Projects

Little Steps That Can Have a Big Impact

One of the first things I did after taking office in 2007 was create the District 1 Leadership Group. Although the Leadership Group is comprised mostly of the presidents and members of District 1's 28 active neighborhood associations, it is an open group and anyone is welcome to attend its meetings. The intent of this group is promote and maintain communication between the Council office and District 1 neighborhoods, as reflected in the Leadership Group's vision statement: "The purpose of the District 1 Leadership Group shall be to foster communication between the District 1 Councilmember, residents and community-based organizations while working to increase the quality of life in District 1."

I have invited and encouraged the Leadership Group and District 1 neighborhood associations to partner with me and co-sponsor regular community service projects in District 1. I would like to hold a different neighborhood improvement project on a Saturday, every other month (even months). I know that it may seem overwhelming at first to commit to this schedule, but if every neighborhood association committed just two people to each event, we would have over 50 people for every project! This would lessen individual sacrifices and make a huge difference in our neighborhoods. As they say, "many hands make light work."

Please look for our upcoming events at the Leadership Group's website, www.d1leadership.sjdistrict1.com or on my website, www.sjdistrict1.com. If you have any ideas for future projects, please feel free to email my office at district1@sanjoseca.gov.

Our first event for the year will be the 2nd Annual Illegal Sign Clean-Up on Saturday, February 27, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the West San José Community and Policing Center (3707 Williams Rd.). Last year, I sponsored the first Illegal Sign Clean-Up event where more than 80 volunteers teamed up and removed over 300 signs from around District 1 alone! This year we are kicking it up a notch by creating a friendly competition.

City of San José Code Enforcement officers will kick-off the event with a brief presentation educating participants on what is considered an illegal sign, what you, as a citizen, are allowed to remove, and how to properly report illegal signs that you are unable to remove. Residents will then be divided into teams that will go out into the district to take down as many signs as possible. The team that is able to remove the most signs will win a prize. We will all meet back at the West CPC to debrief, award the winning team and celebrate our accomplishments over a free pizza lunch.

This fun event will clean-up and improve our neighborhoods while supporting responsible businesses that comply with the City's sign regulations. I hope to see you there.

For more information on our 2nd Annual Illegal Sign Clean-Up, or if you're interested in distributing fliers, please contact my office at: (408) 535-4901 or district1@sanjoseca.gov or visit: www.sjdistrict1.com.

Another major event that will require as many volunteers as humanly possible is the 10th Annual Great American Litter Clean-up on Saturday, March 20. Each district will be hosting its own events, and our local city-wide effort is part of a larger national campaign. I have just recently learned that for the past few years there has been a competition between districts to see which district could enlist the greatest number of volunteers. Well the challenge is on! District 1 has a great track record of community support and we are not to be outdone. I'm calling on all neighborhood associations, community groups, and basically all residents to join me at the Great American Litter Clean-Up on March 20 to clean-up our neighborhoods and help me take the title. I will be sending out more information in the days to come, so please save the date.