



# development news



june 2005

- Small Business Ambassador Program
- New City Hall
- GIS Awards & Updates
- STI Program Extension
- Cost Savings
- San José Grand Prix
- Dateline
- Counter Hours
- We're Moving!

## small business ambassador program

On May 10, 2005, San José Mayor Ron Gonzales announced a new program to help small businesses navigate the City's development review and permitting process. The Small Business Ambassador Program is the result of feedback from business owners who have requested that the City simplify its process and reduce the time needed for planning review and permits. The mayor noted that ongoing feedback from the business community has already led to improvements that have made a difference for businesses.

In August 2003 and 2004, Mayor Gonzales invited a wide range of business representatives and community stakeholders to a series of City Council study sessions aimed at helping the city develop effective strategies to create jobs, attract and retain businesses, and restore economic opportunity for residents and businesses in the face of the prolonged Silicon Valley recession.

Among the high priority concerns that businesses have identified is the City's review and permit process for development planning and construction. This has especially been an issue for small businesses that typically do not have the expertise to easily navigate the City's processes.

The Small Business Ambassador will act as the single point of contact for the small business owner throughout their project. The Ambassador will advise them on significant issues that are specific to their type of business and their site, to



clarify plan review issues, and facilitate coordination between the various review agencies to present a streamlined process. In addition, the ambassadors will provide information about the many financial and educational programs available from public and private agencies.

The San José Building Division will manage the program with help from a cross-trained team from the City's many departments dealing with building, economic development, environmental, finance, fire, planning, public works, and redevelopment agency services. For additional information about the Small Business Ambassador Program, please visit the Building Division website at [www.sanjoseca.gov/building/](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/building/) or call Kathryn Sedwick at (408) 277-8165.

[www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/)





The first employees have moved into the new San José City Hall and the move continues over the next ten weeks. Check this link to get more information about the move, watch construction progress from our web cam and find out more about the project.

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/newcityhall/>

## gis awards & updates

**Kudos to our Development Services partners in the Public Works Department** on their receipt of the Oracle Spatial Integrated Enterprise Award at the Geospatial Information & Technology Association Conference in Denver last month. That was followed by an award from Intergraph Corporation for Geospatial Achievement. These awards are given annually to organizations that have developed innovative, technologically advanced mapping and geospatial solutions to better serve their communities.

Have you noticed how good our Geospatial Information System (GIS) maps and data have gotten lately? That's because the first phase of the mapping project, dealing with street centerlines, has been redirected to the Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. While early roll-out of CAD garnered some unwelcome headlines, our GIS staff responded to each challenge and developed impressive methods for supporting this new technology.

Statistics kept by Police and Fire dispatch crews indicate that they are getting the right information from our GIS maps and data 99.8 percent of the time.

During the last week in April, nearly 30 GIS professionals had an opportunity to tour the dispatch center. These GIS pros were here from the Middle East, Europe, Brazil, Mexico, Canada and the state of Virginia to view the City's CAD map system. They were impressed with our new data model and the quality of our maps. The data model explains how data is used in various enterprise applications, like CAD, On-line Permits and the Sanitary Sewer model and simplifies the data maintenance process.

GIS staff are working with PBCE staff to complete work on their data by the end of July. All of this effort will help update the maps used by the On-Line Permit system. This parcel data will also be included in the County's new regional map expected out by the end of July. The new map will be available to all public and private entities doing business in the County and will greatly simplify data sharing efforts. For more information please contact Kevin Briggs at (408) 277-2972.

## sti program

On Tuesday, May 17, 2005 the San José City Council approved a second extension to the **Special Tenant Improvement Program (STI)** for an additional 18 months to October 31, 2006.

Since its inception in April 2002, the STI program has provided financial incentives for industrial and research and development uses in San José and for office uses in the Downtown Core Area. Financial incentives for qualifying projects include suspension of building and structural construction taxes, expedited plan check reviews, and deferral of plan check fees until permit issuance.

The STI program was designed to expedite tenant improvements to vacant buildings to make the space ready earlier for more cost effective occupancy. The success of the program indicates that businesses are responding to the incentives and that it makes a difference in choosing San José as a place to do business. For additional information please visit our website at [www.sanjoseca.gov/building/](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/building/) or contact Allen Lang at (408) 277-8175.

## cost savings

One of the major changes in the latest publication of the **California Electrical Code** was a change in allowed uses of non-metallic sheathed cable (NM cable, sometimes referred to by the brand name "Romex"). Previously, NM cable was allowed in structures not exceeding three floors above grade. Effective August 1, 2005, NM cable will be allowed in any type III, IV, or V type building, which are allowed by the Building Code to be four and sometimes five stories, usually wood frame construction.

In practical terms, this will apply mostly to multi-family apartment and condo buildings, and could save developers an estimated 25%-30% for electrical labor and material. For more information please contact Joe Doody at (408) 277-4582.

## grand prix comes to San José

This summer on July 29th, 30th and 31st San Jose will host the inaugural San José Grand Prix. This extraordinary event will feature cars racing at upwards of 200 miles an hour over a 1.6 mile track in the heart of our downtown. Surrounded by an urban festival with crowds totaling more than 100,000 during the weekend, the race will be the largest sporting event ever held in our City. The event will be broadcast in nearly 200 countries around the world, and the race's economic impact will approach \$20 million. It will be a time of great pride for many of us that have worked to raise San José's profile as a major metropolitan area.

We want to share with you opportunities to participate in the Grand Prix, and to help making the Grand Prix a phenomenal success. There are a number of ways that companies of all sizes can participate in the San José Grand Prix:

- ❖ **Attend the event as a fan.** Tickets are available by calling (408) 998-tixs, (510) 625-tixs, (415) 421-tixs.
- ❖ **Purchase 20 tickets for a group outing and receive a 20% discount.** The race offers a great opportunity for an outing of employees, family, and friends, as well as a chance to spend time with important business clients and colleagues. Special reserved grandstand seats for groups can be purchased by calling (408) 277-9470.
- ❖ **Book a Grand Prix hospitality suite.** Strategically placed on the race track, Grand Prix suites offer great sight lines, food, and beverages and an extraordinarily enjoyable environment for spending time with friends, clients, or business associates. Information on requesting your suite is available by calling (408) 277-9470.
- ❖ **Host a corporate function at The Tech Museum.** The Tech Museum offers grandstand seating for up to 300 people, fine food, unlimited access to the museum's newest exhibits, and one-of-a-kind view of the track from The Tech's spacious private balcony. Contact Wes Wenhardt (wes@thetech.org) or visit [www.thetech.org/racepackage](http://www.thetech.org/racepackage). The Children's Discovery Museum will offer a host of special activities for race-going families ([www.cdm.org](http://www.cdm.org)).
- ❖ **Local hotel packages.** Stay for a few days in or near the Grand Prix Festival area. Local hotels are offering attractive hotel and corporate hospitality packages. Contact the San José Convention and Visitors Bureau (Todd Dibs at (408) 792-4152).
- ❖ **Volunteer opportunities.** The Grand Prix will need 500+ volunteers during the race and in the days leading up to the race. To register as a volunteer, go to [www.sanjosegrandprix.com](http://www.sanjosegrandprix.com) and scroll down to "volunteers."
- ❖ **Corporate sponsorship opportunities are still available.** Visit the Race website at [www.sanjosegrandprix.com](http://www.sanjosegrandprix.com) or call Kevin Bartram at (415) 883-8777 for information.

Thanks in advance for considering being part of the San José Grand Prix. As always, we appreciate your support of San José. For more information please visit the Grand Prix website at [www.sanjosegrandprix.com](http://www.sanjosegrandprix.com).



## dateline

### **Coyote Valley Environmental Impact Public Scoping Meeting**

*June 21, 2005*

*3:00 pm*

*151 W. Mission Street  
Room 202A*

*June 22, 2005*

*7:00 pm*

*Coyote Creek Golf Club*

### **Coyote Valley Community Meeting**

*July 21, 2005*

*7:00 pm*

*Coyote Creek Golf Club*

### **Developers Roundtable**

*July 22, 2005*

*8:00 am*

*New City Hall*

### **Developers' Industry Meeting**

*August 4, 2005*

*7:30 am*

*New City Hall*

### **Development Services Move to new City Hall**

*August 12 - 22, 2005*

### **Summer General Plan Hearings Planning Commission**

*September 14, 2005*

*6:00 pm*

*Council Chambers*

### **City Council**

*October 18, 2005*

*Council Chambers*

**ONE-START**

## development news

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## contact us

### BUILDING

*Automated Inspection  
Requests* 277-3300  
*Building Code Information* 277-2470  
*Building Permits* 277-4541

### CODE ENFORCEMENT

*Abandoned Vehicle Hotline* 277-5305  
*Information & Complaints* 277-4528

### FIRE

*Architectural Permits* 277-5477  
*System Permits* 277-4656

### PLANNING

*Information* 277-4576  
*Appointments* 277-PLAN  
*Fax Back Information* 293-5097

### PUBLIC WORKS

*Easements, Encroachments,  
Grading & Utility Permits* 277-5161

## counter hours

### Development Services Room 200

Mon 7:30 am to 5:00 pm  
Tue 7:30 am to 5:00 pm  
Wed 7:30 am to 5:00 pm  
Thu 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Fri 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Tue 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm\*

\*Single Family  
Residential Projects by  
Appointment Only

[www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/)

# We're Moving!

to the new **San José** City Hall



Development Services staff will move into the new City Hall downtown in August 2005, as outlined below. The address for the new City Hall is: **200 East Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113.**

To better serve you, all telephone inquiries will be handled by our new Development Services Call Center at **(408) 535 - 3555 phone, (408) 292 - 6055 fax.** In the meantime, you can still reach us at the numbers listed above. Parking at the new City Hall is accessible on 6th Street. Validation will be provided for City business.

Department Name	First Day in the New City Hall	New Phone Number
Building	August 15, 2005	(408) 535 - 3555
Bureau of Fire Prevention	August 15, 2005	(408) 535 - 3555
Planning	August 22, 2005	(408) 535 - 3555
Public Works	August 22, 2005	(408) 535 - 3555

For more information and a complete move schedule, please visit our website at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/newcityhall/>.

