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Mayfair Strong Neighborhoods to Celebrate New Center Opening

Project is Top Priority for Community

SAN JOSE, CALIF. – East San José neighborhoods will celebrate the opening of the new Mayfair Community Center at 2039 Kammerer Avenue with an event on **Saturday, 10 a.m., January 31.**

The celebration also marks the completion of other improvements made to the 8.5-acre Mayfair Park including the construction of a new swimming pool, skatepark, water spray park, and public art.

“The Mayfair Community Center will be a valuable resource for the neighborhood, providing opportunities for learning and recreation for residents of all ages,” said Mayor Chuck Reed. “Thanks to the residents of San Jose and City and Redevelopment Agency staff, this new community center is an exceptional facility.”

The new 22,000-square-foot center was a partnership between the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, City of San José and the Mayfair Neighborhood Action Coalition (NAC), which identified the center as the number one priority in the 2002 Neighborhood Improvement Plan.

“Today is a momentous day for the residents of the Mayfair community,” said Councilmember Nora Campos. “This center will forever be a monument to the success that can be achieved when a vision and a community come together.”

The center features classroom and activity rooms where the community can take vocational, literacy, and health and wellness classes. Other facility features include a banquet hall and commercial kitchen, a computer lab, conference room and reading area.

“The community center represents a wish we have had for a long time,” said Guadalupe Gonzales, chair of the Mayfair Neighborhood Action Coalition. “There are going to be a lot of resources and a lot of services.”

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The San Jose Redevelopment Agency contributed \$3.2 million for the construction of the community center and has invested more than \$4.2 million to improve the Mayfair neighborhood. Other funds for the \$20.5 million center and park project were provided by the Parks and Recreation Bond Projects Fund, the Subdivision Park Trust Fund and the District 5 Construction and Conveyance Tax Fund.

“The Strong Neighborhoods program has had a very positive impact on our community,” said Harry Mavrogenes, Executive Director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency. “The community center is the end result of a successful collaboration between a public organization and the community.”

Mayfair, formerly known as “Sal Si Puedes” (Get Out If You Can), was historically home to migrant workers and the childhood home of civil rights activist Cesar Chavez. The neighborhoods, in partnership with the San Jose Redevelopment Agency and City of San José, now have the community spirit that reflects Chavez’s call of “Si Se Puede” (Yes We Can).

San Jose Redevelopment Agency

The Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San Jose. Governed by the City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency Board, the Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize and strengthen quality of life and competitiveness for San Jose’s downtown, neighborhoods and industrial areas. For more information, visit www.sjredevelopment.org.

About the Strong Neighborhood Initiative (SNI)

The Strong Neighborhoods Initiative is a partnership of the community, City of San José, and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency to build clean, safe, and attractive neighborhoods with independent and capable neighborhood organizations. The San Jose Redevelopment Agency Board/City Council adopted the Redevelopment Plan in 2002. www.strongneighborhoods.org.

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