



# Baker West Neighborhood Association

Serving 363 residences and 40 businesses

Making something good... Great!

## Meetings, Meetings, and more Meetings by Kurt Schumacher

Building relationships through events, communication via Yahoo groups, and solidarity around specific issues are the best indicators of a successful neighborhood association. Unfortunately, we originally thought that meetings would be the main focus and attendance at them the best indicator. Currently our Bylaws require members from 10 separate addresses, excluding the leadership team, to hold a business meeting. The attendance has declined over the past year and we are finding it difficult to meet our quorum. Yet, we have some basic and essential items to discuss and vote on like officers and budgets. The primary reason neighbors do not attend the meetings is that they are not interested in the business aspects of the association and trust the people attending the meetings to make sound decisions. Since our Bylaws already require advanced notice of agendas, we are confident that residents will be able plan their schedule to allow them to attend a meeting where they feel it is essential that they voice their opinion and vote on certain matters. In order to allow for the association to function, we would like to amend our Bylaws to modify the definition of a quorum. In order to do this we need 50% of our members to attend our next meeting.

Please free up your schedule so that you can attend.

**OUR CITY FOREST**  
planting our future

Our City Forest is a local non-profit dedicated to involving the community in the planting and care of trees. They have free 15-gallon shade trees available for neighborhoods, parks, schools and individuals of San Jose.

**YAHOO!**  
Groups  
Join Now!

Get reminders for events, take part in forum discussions, and get information to people quickly. Go to [www.bakerwest.org](http://www.bakerwest.org) to sign up.

## ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 4th, 2009

7:00 pm

at

Moreland-West Community Center

1850 Fallbrook Ave.

San Jose, CA

## AGENDA

Our City Forest

Bylaw Amendments (see back)

Annual Meeting

Cpt. Maynard Gamez (New W. San Jose Police Captain)

Committee/Task Force Updates

District 1 Update

## Mark Your Calendar...

### March

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> Events Planning Meeting (see back)

### April

5<sup>th</sup> Spring Fling (see back)

### May

17<sup>th</sup> Ladies' Tea (see back)

### June

4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting



Baker West donated 578 lbs. of food to 2nd Harvest and 55 toys to Toys for Tots. Thanks for your donations!



## Upcoming Events:

### Events Planning Meeting-Sunday, March 8th



Please join us to help plan for our upcoming events.

Time: 2:00-3:00pm

Location: Starbucks on Campbell Ave. & Fulton (across from the ARCO Station)

Agenda: 4th of July Block Party, Spring Fling and Ladies' Tea

### Spring Fling-Sunday, April 5th



Time: 1:00-3:00pm

Location: San Tomas Park

(Watch for special flyer with more details!)

### Ladies' Tea-Sunday, May 17th



Location: Lisa's Tea Treasures

(Watch for special flyer with more details!)

## Neighborhood Watch Trainings

By Carol Carter

If you could do just one thing to protect your home and loved ones, and make your neighbors safer as well, what would it be? What if it were free? The answer - attend a Neighborhood Watch 2-hour training in your own immediate neighborhood. Recently your neighbors on Elmgrove Lane did just that!

In a fun and interactive class led by Amarjeet Rai of the SJPD, neighbors learned the ins and outs of keeping intruders from getting in and out. They learned when to call 911, 311, and how to summon help if using a cell phone instead of a land line. They were taught how to become more accurate witnesses, what not to keep in their cars, where not to hide valuables, and the latest ways to make their homes "hardened targets" rather than easy marks for criminals. They learned how to help the police keep our neighborhood safe, even in an era of diminished resources. Their specific questions were answered. They re-connected with neighbors, got Neighborhood Watch signs to put in their windows, and had a great time!

Special thanks go to Ron and Charlene Marfil for organizing and hosting this first and very successful Neighborhood Watch training. If YOU would like to attend one, let us know. If you would like to host one (for 15-20 people), let us help you make it happen. Events are currently being booked for the month of May. To schedule one contact Carol Carter (379-6272 or carol@bakerwest.org) or Lupe Dhanani (871-0275 or lupe@bakerwest.org).



## Time to Vote

### Bylaw Amendments

#### Proposed by Board of Directors

1. Combine two types of quorum into one less restrictive quorum
2. Remove member in good standing requirement to attend 1 meeting in last 6 months

#### Proposed by Member

3. Establish reserve funds for 2 special meetings
4. Modify standard quorum to include minimum ratio of non-board to board members and minimum number of officers
5. Require roll call vote upon request from 10% of members at meeting
6. Require secret ballot vote of confidence for all officers running unopposed
7. Require annual membership roster update
8. Issue and use voting flags (one per residential address) at each general meeting

Full text is available at:

<http://www.bakerwest.org/html/governance.html>

### Officer Nominations

- President - Kurt Schumacher
- Vice President - Pirouz Maghsoudnia
- Secretary - Lupe Dhanani
- Communications Secretary - Julie Schumacher
- Treasurer - Ron Marfil

### THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

