

Happy Holidays to all of our friends,

This year has been busy and we thank everyone who has been a part of our lives, especially those who are working to make our neighborhood a better place.

We continue our quest to get the Bascom Community Center and Library open. It has been amazing working with Teresa Faz, Marlene Bird and Susan Price-Jang. After attending the Willow Glen Wine Walk with Laura Winters and friends, we Strolled The Alameda with Angella Tai, Joy Engstrom, and Larry Clark along with members of SHPNA, Jon Schuppert, Marc Morris and Dan Chapman.

Steve completed his term as President of the Burbank Del Monte NAC where he led the effort to improve our neighborhood and city with fellow members, John Leyba, Deborah Arant and Michael LaRocca. We joined Richard Zappelli, Dave Dearborn, Eloy Wouters and Pete Kolstad attending meetings for the Envision 2040 General Plan, the Diridon Good Neighbor Committee, High Speed Rail planning sessions and other planning and land use issues.

Steve was mentioned in the San Jose Inside Blog for his stand against the City's discounted land give-away for the baseball stadium. He noted that the price to be received by the City was completely under market value, with no guarantees to the city taxpayers. If San Jose is going to subsidize a business, there must be a clear and tangible benefit for the assistance.

In addition, Steve, along with Helen Chapman, Randi Kinman and other concerned neighbors is leading the charge to alert San Jose residents of the impact on City services caused by the San Jose Redevelopment Agency. While many have been quick to blame employees for the budget fiasco, a major culprit is bad decisions and lost revenue from the general fund to pay RDA debts. Watch for this to become a hot topic in 2012.

Layne is enjoying his life event ministry, conducting weddings, memorials and baptisms. He finds great satisfaction and peace in providing nondenominational families with his services. When not serving in a ministerial capacity, he keeps busy with his burgeoning, 35-year real estate career, working the San Jose and South Bay markets.

We have much to do this year. We will end this year by supporting the Second Harvest Food bank and hope you can help as well.

Thanks again for your continued friendship and for all you do in our community.

Steve and Layne

