



408 Almaden Boulevard | San Jose, California 95110 | [www.sanjose.org](http://www.sanjose.org)

**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Jeanne Sullivan, 650-215-8156, [jsullivan@sanjose.org](mailto:jsullivan@sanjose.org)  
Yvette Roman, 408-792-4120, [yroman@sanjose.org](mailto:yroman@sanjose.org)

## **WHAT'S NEW IN SAN JOSE: *Visitor Industry Fully Operational After Earthquake***

**SAN JOSE, CA** (Nov. 1, 2007) — After an earthquake Tuesday, Team San Jose – which operates the San Jose McEnery Convention Center and cultural facilities – completed successful safety inspections and reported they were open for business. No events were affected by the quake, and Team San Jose is gearing up to host fourteen events this weekend and next week, expected to bring an estimated 50,000 visitors – such as 12th Annual Bay Area Ski and Snowboard Show and KMWorld and Internets Conference and Exhibition/Streaming Media West 2007 Conference. Speaking of “moving and shaking,” Team San Jose recently reported their best year ever for conventions in fiscal year 2006-2007, attracting 1.25 million visitors, increasing events 5 percent and generating \$129 million in economic impact. The visitor destination is also shaking things up for the better, announcing the following developments:

### **HOTEL HAPPENINGS**

#### ***RENOVATIONS/OPENINGS/ENHANCEMENTS***

The **Clarion Hotel** is scheduled to complete their sleeping room renovation in December, replacing furnishings and soft goods. Décor will be in the Mediterranean style to match the hotel architecture and tropical landscaping. For more information visit [www.clarionsj.com](http://www.clarionsj.com).

In September, the **Crowne Plaza** wrapped up a \$9 million renovation, replacing guest room furniture as well as hard and soft goods. Visitors can now enjoy state-of-the-art showerheads, bedding, the Sleep Advantage System, and 32" LCD HD televisions in each of the guest rooms. A total of eight parlor (two bedroom) suites were added, each with a 42" LCD HD television. The lobby, public space, and meeting space were all completely remodeled as well. The final phase of this renovation was the assembly of a contemporary restaurant and bar. Although a name has not yet been determined, the hotel plans to allow their guests to vote on the name at a product launch party scheduled for December 13. The overall look of this most recent addition reflects Silicon Valley's contemporary style. For more information visit [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com).

**Dolce Hayes Mansion** is beginning a \$500,000 renovation aimed at replacing all guest beds and bedding by December 2007. In late 2008, a \$7 million renovation is planned, including a complete restoration of the guest rooms as well as some changes to the public areas. For more information visit <http://hayesmansion.dolce.com>.

The **Doubletree Hotel San Jose** has launched **Exotic Escapes**, a new brand-wide cocktail experience featuring fresh tastes from around the world. These handcrafted cocktails are a delectable celebration of the hotel's bar chefs, the art of cocktail making, and the flavors of various international destinations. Many of the trend-setting cocktail recipes were specially designed for Doubletree by celebrity mixologist Tony Abou-Ganim. Guests are also invited to stop by Spencer's for steaks and chops or the Lobby

Lounge to enjoy adventurous drinks such as *The Barcelona*, a *São Paulo Samba*, or *The Road to Hana*. For more information visit [www.sanjose.doubletree.com](http://www.sanjose.doubletree.com).

The **Fairmont San Jose** recently installed four large plasma television screens in the lobby lounge, for guests to enjoy as they sip award-winning "wireless cocktails." If individuals desire to be more active, the hotel now offers complimentary ballroom dancing lessons each Friday. The hotel eagerly anticipates the grand unveiling of the luxurious new **Tova Day Spa**, which is expected to open by late November. This extravagant facility will offer a complete array of soothing body treatments, European deep-pore facials, hot-stone massages, bridal packages, and express lunch services. The hotel is also gearing up for its celebrated annual winter traditions such as **their 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony** at 10 a.m. on Dec. 1, featuring a spectacular holiday show. The hotel will also unveil their **San Jose Winter Wonderland** that day, including an enormous 15ft x 8 ft Gingerbread House that is adorned with "incredible edibles." The fairytale escape will also feature children's furniture that has been expertly crafted by the hotel's engineers. Fairmont San Jose will also host a traveling exhibit of electric trains speeding through scenic landscapes and unique attractions of nine global villages, designed by the Fairmont Dallas's engineering department. The train exhibit took 5,000 hours to construct and will be on view at The Fairmont San Jose from Dec. 1-26. For more information visit [www.fairmont.com](http://www.fairmont.com).

With investments totaling more than \$10 million the **Hilton San Jose** is scheduled to complete a major property improvement involving guest rooms, public space, and all meeting space. A total re-concept of the food and beverage offerings is in the works. No specific timeline has been set; however, the Hilton expects the project to be completed by summer of 2008. The Hilton San Jose is located in downtown San Jose, conveniently connected to the McEnery Convention Center with 354 guestrooms, and provides direct access to over 200,000 square feet of exhibit and function space. For more information visit [www.sanjosehilton.com](http://www.sanjosehilton.com).

### **PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS**

The **Doubletree Hotel San Jose** invites guests to ring in 2008 in style by attending the Doubletree's **New Year's Eve "Hitmen" or "Nu Day" parties**. Guests can enjoy deluxe overnight accommodations, in-room sparkling wine, and a choice of tickets to either the "Hitmen" or "Nu Day" parties. Each gala includes a sparkling wine toast, balloon drop, and party favors. For more information call (408) 453-4000 or visit [www.sanjose.doubletree.com](http://www.sanjose.doubletree.com).

**Hotel Valencia**, located at the heart of San Jose's chic urban area, Santana Row, offers overnight packages that turn the holidays into mini-vacations. The **Holiday Getaway** package rewards guests who stay two nights with a third free, available Nov. 18-26 and Dec. 16-29, and includes: stylish guest room for two, complimentary cocktails at Vbar lounge, and deluxe breakfast buffet at Citrus restaurant. This package starts at \$179 per room, per night, double occupancy, exclusive of tax. Book on [www.hotelvalencia.com](http://www.hotelvalencia.com) and enter the promotional rate code PROHOL or call toll free (866) 842-0100. The hotel is also hosting two lively packages to ring in 2008, each featuring a New Year's Eve band in the Valencia Ballroom, DJ in Vbar, midnight champagne toast, late-night dessert buffet, and party favors. The **Overnight Party Package** includes an overnight stay for two, entrance to Vbar lounge, Valencia Ballroom for entertainment, a bottle of champagne with keepsake Valencia logo flutes, a box of Valencia chocolates, New Year's Day grand buffet breakfast, and late check out on New Year's Day. Package prices start from \$375 per room, per night, double occupancy. Guests must be 21 years old. For reservations call (866) 842-0100. The hotel also offers the **Citrus Dinner & Dance Package**: The celebration begins at Citrus, the elegant steakhouse, and continues through the evening with full access to the hotel's entertainment. The package includes: 5-course, prix fixe New Year's Eve dinner along with entry into Vbar and Valencia Ballroom for a New Year's Eve party. The package costs \$100 per person exclusive of tax and gratuity. Guests must be at least 21 years of age. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (408) 423-5405. The hotel's New Year's Eve packages require pre-payment and

are non-refundable after Dec. 26, 2007. For more information call (408) 551-0010 or visit [www.hotelvalencia.com](http://www.hotelvalencia.com).

## SHOPPING SPECIALS

On Nov. 8, **Westfield Valley Fair** will introduce Artizia, a new luxury fashion boutique. The women's apparel retailer has set trends worldwide and San Jose is its first ever U.S. location. This modern clothing company offers a stylish fusion of the latest designer labels. An exhilarating grand opening weekend is planned for Nov. 9-11, when the store will host a variety of in-store DJs. For more information visit [www.aritzia.com/sanjose](http://www.aritzia.com/sanjose).

**Santana Row**, San Jose's European-inspired neighborhood that is home to a dynamic blend of upscale shopping, dining, and entertainment, welcomes three new retailers this fall. **Product**, a cosmetics retailer, recently set up shop next to Brooks Brothers. On Oct. 25, international fashion retailer **H&M** opened the doors to its first location in the South Bay. The 7,860 square foot store carries ladies fashions and a selection of H&M's hottest shoe styles. On Nov. 2, men's retailer **St. Croix** debuted, offering the largest collection of St. Croix's sweaters, knits and jackets, and Italian shirts and trousers on the West Coast. This November marks Santana Row's fifth year as one of the South Bay's premier destinations for shopping and recreation. The anniversary celebration culminates with **Light Up the Row**, an annual Holiday Festival taking place Nov. 15-19. In addition to its annual **Tree Lighting Ceremony**, which occurs Nov. 15 from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Santana Row will be filled with holiday activities all winter long, including horse-drawn carriage rides every Wednesday from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information call the Concierge Center at (408) 551-4611 or visit [www.SantanaRow.com](http://www.SantanaRow.com).

**Gilroy Premium Outlets** tempts consumers to shop till they drop at the 3rd Annual Midnight Madness/After Thanksgiving Weekend Sale. At 12 a.m. on Nov. 23, over 110 stores will open their doors and offer additional savings on top of the everyday savings of 25-65 percent. Shoppers can take advantage of special Midnight Madness savings from participating stores such as Ann Taylor, Banana Republic Factory Store, Bose, Coach, Gap Outlet, KB Toy Outlet, Nike Factory Store, Polo Ralph Lauren, Sketchers, Timberland, Quiksilver and many more. Shoppers should also be sure to check out the newly remodeled Hugo Boss store that reveals the company's newest concept. A free Shopper Shuttle will be available to transport individuals from one building to another during this special sales event. Beginning at 7 a.m., the entire center opens with early bird specials. While on this retail excursion, those who need a meal break can dine at the new Jody Maroni's Sausage Kingdom restaurant located in Building A, which features gourmet sausages, hot dogs, and more that would satisfy any hungry shopper after a day of exploring the stores. For more information visit [www.premiumoutlets.com](http://www.premiumoutlets.com).

## CULTURAL CORNUCOPIA

**Ballet San Jose**, the second largest ballet company in California and the eighth largest in the nation, recently added 7 new dancers and announces its new season. The first show takes place Nov. 15-18 at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts with Dennis Nahat's incredible staging of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, featuring 44 dancers, full orchestra, the 100-voice Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale, a 30-voice youth choir, and 3 principal singers. Tickets cost \$25-\$80. *The Nutcracker* will take the stage on Dec. 13-23, including special one-hour versions of the show for young children on Dec. 9 and Dec. 21. Tickets for the full-length production are \$30-\$80 and reduced prices of \$17-\$47 are offered for the kid's matinees. Each of these holiday performances allow guests free admission to lobby events and entertainment including choirs, a holiday boutique, and costumed characters from the show posing for photos with kids and family members. Ballet San Jose recently added an additional large studio and plans are underway for a downtown box office to be added on the first floor. For more information call (408) 288-2800 or visit [www.balletsanjose.org](http://www.balletsanjose.org).

HP Pavilion in San Jose ([www.hppsj.com](http://www.hppsj.com)) is selling tickets for the following concerts this winter:

- Nov. 4 - Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus, 4 p.m. \$26-\$66
- Nov. 6 - Maroon 5 and The Hives, 7:30 p.m. \$39.50-50.50
- Nov. 8 - American Metal & Iron Fight Night at the Tank, 7:30 p.m. \$25-\$95
- Nov. 16 - Strikeforce, 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$215
- Nov. 21- Trans Siberian Orchestra-West, 8 p.m. \$37.50-\$49.50
- Nov. 23 - Vicente Fernandez y Paquita Del Barrio Concert, 8 p.m. \$45.50-\$155.50
- Nov. 25 - So You Think You Can Dance, 7:30 p.m. \$37.50-\$54.50
- Dec. 2 - Andrea Bocelli, 7:30 p.m. \$45-\$350
- Dec. 4 - Spice Girls, 7:30 p.m. \$69.50-\$119.50
- Dec. 5 - Dane Cook: Rough Around the Edges Tour, 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$110
- Dec. 14 - Larry the Cable Guy Tour, 8 p.m. \$44.75
- Dec. 16 - Van Halen, 7:30 p.m. \$59.50-\$149.50
- Dec. 26-Jan.2 - Walking with the Dinosaurs, Time varies \$35-\$70
- Jan. 18-19 - Harlem Globetrotters, Time varies \$17-\$155
- Jan. 20 - Blue Man Group, 7:30 p.m. \$49-85

Tickets to all HP Pavilion at San Jose events are available at the HP Pavilion Ticket Office, Ticketmaster Ticket Centers, online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), or charge by phone at (408) 998-TIXS, (415) 421-TIXS, or (510) 625-TIXS.

**Opera San Jose** continues its 2007–2008 season with a lush, romantic French opera entitled *Werther* by Jules Massenet. Eight performances are scheduled Nov. 17 – Dec. 2 at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose. This opera spotlights the dashed hopes of the quintessential romantic poet whose ardent passion for Charlotte is obstructed when he discovers that she is betrothed to another man. The story is based on a semiautobiographical short novel by Goethe that was written more than a century ago. *Werther* is recognized among the most powerfully emotional and heartfelt of all operas. For more information about tickets for this exquisite performance call the Opera San Jose Box Office at (408) 437-4450 or visit [www.operasj.org](http://www.operasj.org).

**San Jose Repertory Theatre** celebrates the holiday season with *This Wonderful Life*, a visually stunning stage adaptation of the perennially popular holiday film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, running Nov. 24 – Dec. 23. The upcoming season includes two regional premieres: Robert Clyman's chilling psychological thriller, *Tranced*, and the Broadway hit, *Souvenir* by Stephen Temperley. Also featured is the world premiere adaptation of Jeffrey Hatcher's intriguing Victorian tale of split personality, *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*. The season closes with the Reduced Shakespeare Company's *All the Great Books (abridged)*. For more information call (408) 367-7255 or visit [www.SJRep.com](http://www.SJRep.com).

**Symphony Silicon Valley** welcomes the holiday season with its **December Concert**. Brazilian conductor Guillermo Figueroa will lead the orchestra in Mussorgsky's *Picture At An Exhibition*, Saint-Saens' *Cello Concerto No. 1 in A Minor*, and Faure's *Elegy* and Sierra's *Fandango*. This enchanting concert takes place Dec. 8-9 at the California Theatre. Admission is \$36-\$72. For more information call (408) 286-2600 ext. 23 or visit [www.symphonysiliconvalley.org](http://www.symphonysiliconvalley.org).

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

On Oct. 25, the City of San Jose elatedly unveiled "**Who's on 1st/What's on 2nd,**" a splendid series of multi-media artworks crafted by Bay Area artists. The city organized a partnership with the San Jose Redevelopment Agency in an effort to successfully display these masterpieces, which will debut throughout the next 18 months along First and Second Streets from St. James Park to Paseo de San Antonio in Downtown San Jose. The creations of the eight featured artists were inspired by the eclectic blend of people and activities that make Downtown San Jose unique. Participating artists include: JD Beltran, Jon Brumit, Hector Dio Mendoza, Chris Eckert, Bill Fontana, Jordan Geiger, Helena Keefe, and the

team of Chip Lord and Bruce Tomb. The first three projects to debut are JD Beltran's Video Mirrors, Hector Dio Mendoza's Citizen Tree and, coming in mid-November, Bill Fontana's The Bells of Trinity. For more information visit [www.w1w2.org](http://www.w1w2.org).

## TRANSPORTATION TIDBITS – AIRPORT UPDATE

**Mineta San Jose International Airport** recently announced many exciting developments, including new flights. **Horizon Air** will inaugurate a new flight between Palm Springs (PSP) and San Jose (SJC) with daily non-stop service starting Nov. 4, 2007 - April 6, 2008. Horizon's new flight will be operated with 70-seat CRJ-700 regional jets, and can be booked online at [www.horizonair.com](http://www.horizonair.com) or by calling (800) 547-9308. **Frontier Airlines** will add new flights between Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (PVR) and SJC with non-stop service three days a week starting Dec. 15, featuring special introductory fares on the new routes. For details on the promotion, go to [www.frontierairlines.com](http://www.frontierairlines.com). **Southwest** has added two more daily flights to Las Vegas and a new flight each to Chicago/Midway and Burbank. **JetBlue** has added a second daily flight to New York/JFK. **United Airlines** has added a one-stop flight to Raleigh-Durham. **Delta** has added a daily flight to Atlanta and four new daily flights to Los Angeles through its Delta Connection in an effort to enhance its international service connections to Latin America.

The airport received the **National Natural Gas Vehicle Achievement Award** in recognition of its successful efforts that have significantly improved air quality and reduced fuel costs of its ground transportation operations. Since 2003, the airport has been able to eliminate the use of more than 1.1 million gallons of diesel fuel through the conversion of its shuttle bus fleet to compressed natural gas. This has resulted in a fuel cost savings of over \$2.6 million and reduced vehicle exhaust emissions by over 70 tons annually.

On Aug. 10, the final steel beam was hoisted into place to complete the steel frame of the **new \$324 million North Concourse**, the first major component of the airport's overall terminal area improvement program that is replacing and rebuilding existing terminal facilities over the next three years. The North Concourse will include nine commercial aircraft gates and hold rooms, new passenger amenities, and retail, food and beverage concessions that will enhance the passenger experience. In addition, it will have an automated state-of-the-art baggage sortation and explosive detection system that will replace the temporary facilities where screening now occurs. When completed, the new airport will provide better service and greater convenience for the benefit of travelers and businesses in the South Bay. Construction on the North Concourse is scheduled to be completed next year and open for passenger operations in 2009. In October, the San Jose City Council gave the go ahead to commence construction on an expanded consolidated rental car garage that will be built right across the street from the new Terminal B. The new 3350-space garage also will include public parking and it will provide unmatched convenience to travelers at SJC when it is completed.

## SPORTS SHORTS

In March, the 2007 ArenaBowl champion **San Jose SaberCats** begin their 14th season in the Arena Football League. The 2008 season runs through July with all eight regular season home games played at the HP Pavilion in San Jose. Group tickets for the exciting action of Arena Football and the three-time champion SaberCats are now available. For more information visit [www.sanjosesebercats.com](http://www.sanjosesebercats.com).

## UPCOMING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

### **Body Worlds 2 & The Three Pound Gem**

Sept. 27, 2007 – Jan. 26, 2008 (Excluding Christmas Day)

The Tech Museum of Innovation

*Experience the complexity and beauty of the human body, preserved through Plastination, a groundbreaking method of preservation invented by anatomist Dr. Gunther von Hagens. More than 200*

*authentic human specimens offer visitors profound insights into the form and function of the human body, wellness and disease, and the mysterious world of the brain. From infancy to adolescence, and adulthood to old age, the brain chisels, refines, matures, and transforms itself. Body Worlds 2 and the Three Pound Gem includes a special debut feature on the brain inspired by the latest findings in neuroscience. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time through The Tech Museum, but the exhibit will be held at the nearby Parkside Hall. Purchase tickets online by visiting [www.thetech.org](http://www.thetech.org) or by calling (408) 294-TECH (8324).*

### **Harvest Festival Original Art & Craft Show**

Nov. 23-25, 2007

San José McEnery Convention Center

*Meet over 300 artisans with more unique handmade arts and crafts than ever before. Register at the show for the Grand Prize drawing – a trip for two to South Pacific Australia for six nights, including hotel and roundtrip airfare from San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles, San Diego, or Las Vegas airports sponsored by Trendwest. For more information call (415) 447-3205 or visit [www.harvestfestival.com](http://www.harvestfestival.com).*

### **Fantasy of Lights**

Nov. 23 – Dec. 31, 2007

Santa Clara County Parks

*Celebrate the season with a visit to the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department's 9th Annual Fantasy of Lights, one of the most popular family holiday traditions in the South Bay. Beginning Nov. 23, Vasona Lake County Park will once again be transformed into a fantasy of thousands of colorful twinkling lights and many animated displays. Visitors can enjoy the holiday spectacle from the comfort of their vehicle. Visitors are encouraged to check out the Fantasy Train, the Tunnel of Lights, the Pirate Ship with booming cannons and Dinosaur Den II featuring Tyrannosaurus Rex, Brontosaurus and NEW den mates Raptor, Parasaurolophus, mother triceratops and Pterodactyl. Holiday revelers on a budget can visit Fantasy of Lights Monday - Thursday, Nov. 26 - Dec. 13, 2007, and receive the 'Early Bird' admission price of only \$10 as well as two pairs of free 3-D glasses and a gift bag with valuable coupons from local vendors, while supplies last. While there will be no additional discount for bringing a canned food item benefiting Second Harvest Food Bank this year, visitors are encouraged to do so to help ensure a happy holiday season for all. For more information visit [www.parkhere.org/portal/site/parks](http://www.parkhere.org/portal/site/parks).*

### **Downtown Ice**

Nov. 16, 2007 – Jan. 13, 2008

Circle of Palms

*This outdoor escape returns for its fourth year to the downtown area, nestled between the San Jose Museum of Art and Fairmont Hotel. The event is considered to be a tradition of many families who make certain to visit downtown San Jose each holiday season. Last year, more than 40,000 skaters spun and twirled around Downtown Ice's one-of-a-kind circular skating rink. The rink itself is a sight to behold, especially after dark when lights twinkle off the 32 palms and stars shine from overhead. Weather permitting, Downtown Ice is open daily until 10 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends. Admission, which includes skate rental, is \$14 for adults and \$12 for youths 12-under. For more information call (408) 279-1775 ext. 44 or visit [www.sjdowntown.com](http://www.sjdowntown.com).*

### **Christmas in the Park**

Nov. 23, 2007 – Jan. 1, 2008

Caesar Chavez Park

*San Jose's best-known holiday tradition, Christmas in the Park, is now in its 27th year. Come stroll among 60 animated displays, hundreds of decorated trees and thousands of twinkling lights. There is also nightly entertainment by local schools and groups; check the North Pole information booth. Christmas in the Park draws more than 450,000 people to downtown San Jose during the four-week holiday season. This outdoor wonderland is open daily from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. and, as always, admission is free. For more information call (408) 995-NOEL (6635) or visit [www.christmasinthepark.com](http://www.christmasinthepark.com).*

**Holiday Lights Train**

Nov. 24 – Dec. 22, 2007 (Weekends only)

Roaring Camp Railroad

*Ride a beautifully lit holiday train through the streets of Santa Cruz as you sip hot-spiced cider, listen to carolers, and meet Santa Claus! Reservations recommended.* For more information call (831) 335-4484 or visit [www.roaringcamp.com/index.html](http://www.roaringcamp.com/index.html).

**About Team San Jose**

Team San Jose's mission is to ensure that San José's Convention Center and Cultural Facilities are effectively managed to reduce costs, improve the local economy, and add value for our customers, residents, workers, and businesses within the City of San Jose. Team San Jose's board includes local hoteliers, organized labor, the arts and the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

**About The San Jose Convention & Visitors Bureau (SJCVB)**

The San Jose Convention & Visitors Bureau (SJCVB) mission is to enhance the image and economic well being of San Jose by marketing San Jose as a globally recognized destination. The SJCVB offers meeting planners, tour operators, and individual visitors a wide range of services to ensure a successful event and fun visit to San Jose. To receive a copy of the Bureau's Meeting Planning Guide or Official Visitors Guide, please contact the SJCVB at 1.800.SAN.JOSE (1.800.726.5673) or visit <http://www.sanjose.org>.

# # #