

# NEWS FROM THE GARDENS...



## GRP Construction on Schedule

**I**F YOU want to catch a glimpse of the scope of the flood protection work along the Guadalupe River this summer, just drive by the river at Park Avenue, San Fernando Street, or Santa Clara Street and you'll be amazed at what you can see over the construction fences. You can also visit the construction web site at [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org) for the latest information and photographs.

Major construction is currently underway at several points along the Guadalupe River Park. At the south end of the park, near Woz Way, an inlet structure and overlook plaza are nearly complete. An outlet structure has been constructed just north of Park Avenue, with retaining walls and concrete terraces (see photo) going in between Santa Clara and San Fernando Streets. Between Santa Clara Street and St. John, work has begun on additional inlet structures, and from Santa Clara north to the railroad tracks, a massive underground double box culvert is being constructed to carry overflow floodwaters to the flood plain north of Coleman Avenue.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers will award the contract for the next phase of construction, from the railroad tracks to Coleman Avenue, shortly. Completion of the flood protection project is still anticipated by December 2004 with park amenities and trails in place by Spring 2005.

## Village Harvest Volunteers

### *Partners in Feeding the Hungry*

"What do you do with the fruit from your orchard?" That's a question we hear often from visitors to Guadalupe Gardens who see the four-acre Historic Orchard.

The Historic Orchard was planted in 1994 with a sampling of the varieties of fruit trees that once grew so abundantly in the Santa Clara Valley. The trees are now at a point where they are bearing enough fruit to make harvesting worthwhile.

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens decided several years ago to offer the fruit, when it became available, to Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara County for distribution to the needy in our community. For the past year we have been fortunate to partner with Village Harvest, a nonprofit organization that organizes volunteers to harvest fruit from private orchards and backyard fruit trees for distribution to Second Harvest and other service agencies. The elderly & children in our communities who receive the fruit are so very appreciative, as fruit is not only delicious but nutritious too.

The volunteers of Village Harvest perform a valuable community service. Since January 2003 alone they have harvested over 45,000 pounds of usable fruit for distribution throughout the county. They are planning to have crews work in our Historic Orchard later this summer.

If you are interested in helping to harvest the Historic Orchard at Guadalupe Gardens and other orchards and backyards for the hungry. Visit [www.villageharvest.org](http://www.villageharvest.org) or call 650-740-7725 to learn about volunteer opportunities, drop off sites and how to support Village Harvest.

## Dahlia Maintenance Workshop

You're in luck! Due to winter rains, the dahlia beds in the Courtyard Garden were planted late in the season. The maintenance class, originally planned for late June, has subsequently been rescheduled for **Saturday, August 9 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM**. Join Master Gardener and John E. Stowell Dahlia Society member, Sue Evanicky, for a hands-on workshop in the Dahlia Demonstration Garden to learn the right techniques to take care of your dahlias once they are out of the ground. The cost to attend is \$8.00 for members and \$12.00 for non-members. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by sending a check to *Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens*, 50 West San Fernando Street, Suite 1100, San Jose, CA 95113. Visa and MasterCard are also accepted via phone or mail. For more information please contact the Education Coordinator via email at [education@grpg.org](mailto:education@grpg.org) or call (408) 298-7657.



## Window on the River Park

**T**HE THIRD annual *Window on the River Park* was held on Wednesday, May 14, in the beautiful lobby of the RiverPark Tower office building, located on the Guadalupe River at San Carlos Street. Over 200 people, many drawn from the downtown business community, attended the event and heard Mayor Ron Gonzales and Councilmember Ken Yeager speak to the progress being made on construction of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens and the wonderful addition it will be to the City of San Jose upon completion.

Thanks to many generous corporate sponsors and attendees, the event raised over \$80,000 that will be used to support the educational programs of the Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens in the coming year. *Window on the River Park* also provides an opportunity for our guests to gain a better understanding of what the park will look like when completed and how flood protection will be achieved for downtown San Jose as part of the project.

Our thanks to all who helped make this event such a great success!

**Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste**; and to **Starbucks** for donating the coffee.

The free Composting Class in May was as popular as ever. Thanks to **Ken Kelly** from the **Santa Clara County Home Composting Program** for teaching the class.

Three wonderful new garden docents were trained this Winter and Spring and have been seen practicing and providing great tours of the gardens. Congratulations and thank you to **Mary Collins, Betty Danielsen** and **Carol Olson**. Thanks also to the seasoned docents **Mel Hulse, John Rizzi, Marianne Sugg** and **Gordon Briggs** for helping with the training.

Our **Water Wizard Festival** for local third-grade students could not have happened without the tremendous leadership of our organizing committee members: **Carlos Duenas, Jennifer Durkin, Linda Herschbach, Kathy Machado, Michele Young** and **Diane Zarate**. Many other awesome volunteers helped make the day a great success. Thank you everyone!

Now that summer is here, the **Heritage Rose Garden** is in need of many volunteers for deadheading and weeding. Lots of wonderful new volunteers have joined us over the past few months. Welcome and thanks to all of them.

Call Lucy Perez, 408-298-7657, for information about any of our volunteer opportunities.

## THANK YOU FROM THE RIVER PARK & GARDENS

### *Thank You Volunteers*

Thanks to all the volunteers who made *Spring in Guadalupe Gardens* such a great success. Special thanks to members of the organizing committee: Stan Bellow, Jerry Brown, Joan Corsiglia, Marty Gothberg, Leslee Hamilton, Mel Hulse, Kelly Kline, Trish Newfarmer, Alicia Recktenwald and Michele Young.

**National River Clean-Up Day** on May 17 was a great effort, thanks to Annie Duang, Alphonse Grunenwald, Alex Guiang and his sons Chris and Jerome, Greg Hernandez, Eva Klinger, Tram Nguyen and Tien Pham.

During the past months we had great groups who helped us in the Heritage Rose Garden, the Historic Orchard and the Courtyard Garden. Thanks to volunteers from **Community Impact, Intel Corporation, Saratoga High School, Piedmont Hills High School, Silver Creek Interact Club, and Lynbrook High School Key Club**. Special thanks to a group from **AARP** for their help in the garden and a generous donation for garden tools.

Thanks again to **Tim Abney** for helping us inventory our library books.

A great big thanks to the **Crossroads School** students and their teacher **John Eknoian** for coming out and helping with the Guadalupe River water testing.

**Bernice Jackson** is now our official water wizard hat expert – thanks Bernice!

Our March IPM workshop was a great success! Thank you to **Bracey Tiede** and **Nancy Garrison** for the great information; Co-sponsors—**Watershed Watch, UC Cooperative Extension, United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County** and