



The SCFSC Fireplug

www.SCCFireSafe.org

September 2007

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Celebrate Milpitas!

August 18th and 19th were nothing short of FUN! The City of Milpitas held its 20th annual Milpitas Art and Wine Festival (now called Celebrate Milpitas!) hosting over 100 artisans, local vendors, musicians and yes, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council.

With the goal of reaching out to the residents among the Milpitas Foothills, we talked to several homeowners and handed out information about our chipping program. The big hit however was none other than Smokey Bear. His stickers and coloring books drew in kids of all ages. We had the opportunity to teach kids

and their parents about Smokey Bear and provide valuable information to



Jerry Serpa, Allan Thompson & Kim Gardner

help both kids and parents work together in learning more about wildfire prevention. One lucky Smokey Bear fan won our drawing for the Smokey Bear basket complete with a mini Smokey and Smokey

t-shirts. The two day event went smoothly and a special thank you to all who participated including volunteers Allan and Judy Thompson and Chris Miller, Spring Valley Fire Captain Jerry Serpa, SCFSC Area Coordinator Kim Gardner, and SCFSC Executive Coordinator Jan Cokely and daughter, Hayley Durham.

SCFSC Executive Coordinator Jan Cokely



Need More Defensible Space Around Your Home?

Are you really prepared for fire season?

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council has received federal grants for Defensible Space Chipping Programs for eligible residents and a Special Needs Assistance Program for seniors and/or others

with physical and financial limitations which prevent them from preparing for chipping.

For 2007, the eligible Communities at Risk from wildfires are East Foothills, Gilroy, Lexington Hills, Morgan Hill, parts of San Jose, San Martin, and

adjacent fire prone Wildland Urban Interface areas. Funding for these programs is limited – please let us know if you are interested.

For more info, contact:
DSChip@SCCFireSafe.org
 or call (408) 975-9591

Achieving Success!



Chipping Program Facts:

To date, our 2007 Chipping Programs have helped protect over...

- 4,000 people
- 1,400 homes
- \$1,435M in property values

...from wildfires in Santa Clara County.

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is making great progress!

Our Defensible Space Chipping Programs targeting the East Foothills, Lexington Hills, Morgan Hill, Gilroy and San Martin are well underway.

We just completed our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) development grant and we have CWPPs for the East Foothills and the areas west of Morgan Hill.

We have a new Council Coordinator and two new Area Coordinators.

We have also been tentatively selected for funding for two federal grant applications in 2008 to continue our Defensible Space Chipping Programs.

So, with all of this growth and great news, what do we need now? Matching Funding for our new Federal Grants and General Donations!

Please help us raise the local funding we need to grow our programs and help us prevent wildfires in Santa Clara County by making a tax-deductible donation to the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council.

To make a donation, visit our website or contact:

Jenn Viane Riese
Council Coordinator
JennVR@SCCFireSafe.org
(408) 975-9591

Thank you to all of our corporate and individual donors including:

- Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- San Jose Water Company
- Santa Clara County Fire Department
- Aldercroft Heights County Water District
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- State Farm Insurance

Upcoming Events

We'd love to see you at one of our upcoming Community and Education Outreach events:

October 7th
Youth Science Institute's Wildlife Festival
at Alum Rock Park

October 21st
American Red Cross Partners in Preparedness
at Kelly Park in San Jose

Both events are bound to be a good time and great

opportunity for SCFSC to educate kids, teens and adults about wildfire prevention.

Volunteers always appreciated!

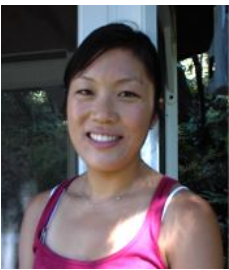
For more information on our upcoming events or to volunteer, contact:

Jenn Viane Riese
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"Only You Can Prevent Wildfires"

SCFSC Welcomes Jenn Viane Riese: Youth, Talent, Spot-On Experience



Our new Council Coordinator, Jenn Viane Riese, comes to us with an impressive wealth of experience unexpected

in a young person just seven years out of university. She has exactly the skills and bandwidth to take over for our much beloved and talented Jan Cokely who is moving off into the Placerville sunset with her husband, Tony. Jan will still do some work for us from there.

Jenn majored in English at Santa Clara University and she has honed other abilities while employed in various for-profit

businesses and non-profit organizations. Among her accomplishments, those that are most relevant to the Council are her experience with Marketing, PR and Communications. She has done graphic design, written grants, organized events, recruited volunteers and even been a "liaison to corporate donors."

Jenn has long been a volunteer herself (Jaycees, Toys for Tots, MDA, Guide Dogs of America) and, through her experience coordinating volunteers, has developed an effective philosophy for keeping them coming back by "appreciate(ing) their time and thank (ing) them tirelessly and feed(ing) them at the end...!"

Most of Jenn's professional experience has been in the real estate arena which she left behind in order to change her focus to bringing up baby Christian who

is 8 months old. Jenn, her husband Mike, Christian and Siberian huskies, Diesel (!) and Nikki live in the Naglee Park area of downtown San Jose. Mike works in real estate development.

When asked what impressed her first about SCFSC, Jenn didn't have to think long before she smiled wryly and exclaimed, "The acronyms! All the acronyms! WUI's! CWPP's! COE!" Then she added confidently, "But I think I've got them all down now."

Good for Jenn. Now the rest of us will just have to remember to keep our "Jans" and "Jenns" straight!

SCFSC Welcomes Shannon Dinis: Certified Arborist

Shannon Dinis, SCFSC's new part-time Area Coordinator for the "south end" of the county, knew from an early age that she wanted to work outdoors. She fell in love with camping, hiking and nature while camping with her family.

Shannon was reared in Morgan Hill, but commuted to San Jose to attend the respected Archbishop Mitty High School. After graduation, a love of science took her to U.C. Davis, where she graduated with a B.S. in Biological Sciences with an emphasis in Ecology in 2004.

An ISA Certified Arborist, Shannon has been employed by Western ECI, a company which contracts with Pacific Gas and Electric Company to maintain

vegetation around utility lines. In her job at Western ECI, Shannon investigates areas where trees might interfere with overhead power lines, discusses proposed remedies with homeowners, and coordinates any work that needs to be done.

These qualifications and experience make Shannon a "natural" for the role of Area Coordinator for Morgan Hill, Gilroy and the surrounding areas. Shannon's familiarity with these communities will help SCFSC gain momentum in our Community Outreach and Education efforts by distributing Defensible Space materials, coordinating SCFSC participation at appropriate local events, and helping to get some Defensible Space Chipping projects going in the area. Shannon has already made some good progress toward these goals.

Shannon will continue working for Western ECI part-time, while coordinating for SCFSC and working toward her Masters of Science in Conservation Biology at San Jose State University!

This busy young woman states that her dream job is to work for an organization that addresses environmental issues. In her spare time, Shannon enjoys camping, going to rock concerts and traveling.





The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is a non-profit organization composed of individuals, public and private agencies and companies that share a common, vested interest in preventing and reducing losses from wildfires.

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“Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires.”

Build and Maintain Defensible Space Around Your Home

Want to learn more about building and maintaining **Defensible Space** around your home?

Our improved 20-page guide for property owners and residents, *“Living With Fire in Santa Clara County”* will help you learn how to create Defensible Space around you home. It is available free online!



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