

New & Improved Ryland Pool to Reopen June 23

A regular update on the
13th St. Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI):

by Tina Morrill

Perhaps you remember learning to swim in Ryland Pool, or know someone else who learned to swim there. Many, many generations of community members did. One of California's only oval pools, it's been around a long time. And starting Monday, June 23 and all season long and in summers to come, you can swim there again!

On Saturday, June 21, Friends of Ryland Pool are co-hosting a celebration of the re-opening of the renovated pool, featuring free ice cream and other refreshments, speeches from elected officials, and of course swimming. We hope Northsiders will join us!

A bit of history about Ryland Pool: Built in 1926-27 as a wading pool for Ryland Park (named for Caius Tacitus Ryland and dedicated in 1911), Ryland Pool and its changing house was a partnership between San Jose and its Rotary Club. The pool has been a crown jewel in Ryland Park since it was built and many residents and non-residents have benefited from the generosity of this original public private partnership.

Over the years Ryland Pool underwent minor as well as major changes and upgrades. In November 2007 the city parks and recreation dept. proposed a new master "aquatics" plan which, if implemented, likely would have resulted in the demolition of Ryland Pool, which had already been closed for two years except for five days in 2005. There was sufficient public outcry so that the City reconsidered and instead allocated monies to have it brought up to code and reopened. City council-member Sam Liccardo deserves a hearty round of applause for listening to the people and funding the renovation of the pool.

Yet, our work continued. The parks dept. formed a Capital Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) which continues to meet today. A considerable amount of time was initially spent convincing the City to not only renovate the pool but to preserve its historic integrity. The pool is now undergoing rehabilitation and being brought up to code. The City has agreed to put forth \$10,000 toward the historic preservation effort, specifically for an architectural conservator to assess the cost and best



Left: early 20th century California Arts & Crafts tiles, made by noted LA tile firm Batchelder, adorn the outer perimeter of historic Ryland Pool. 13th St. NAC, via Friends of Ryland Pool, is restoring the tiles with donated funds.

approach to rehab the historic California art tiles. The tiles are a famous brand, Batchelder, design #78, which were created for its Los Angeles chocolate shop commission. Batchelder tiles were also used in fireplaces and are not uncommon in early 20th century San Jose homes. Ryland Pool sports the only public display of such tiles in San Jose.

The community, through Friends of Ryland Pool, must raise funds to preserve the tiles and commission of a commemorative plaque, which would briefly describe the history of Ryland Pool and acknowledge the role played by the Rotary Club in both its creation and historic preservation. It would also give credit to the many neighborhoods, including Northside, that have worked hard to get the pool up and running. You can help Ryland Pool by using it and telling your friends and neighbors to use it too!

Tina Morrill is president of the Vendome Neighborhood Assn., where Ryland Pool is situated, and has led the community effort to save and re-open the pool, including the Ryland Pool CPAC. To make an online tax deductible donation to Friends of Ryland Pool and its tile restoration effort, visit www.13thStNAC.org, and click on the Friends of Ryland Pool button.

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13th St. NAC meets 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 pm, typically at Watson Annex, 550 N. 22nd St. **Free dinner served from 6 pm.** For more info., contact 13th St. community coordinator Debbie Bybee at debbie.bybee@sanjoseca.gov or 297-3301. **Please consider an online tax deductible donation to 13th St. NAC to support neighborhood programs. Log on to www.13thStNAC.org.**

Northside The Northside
Neighborhood Newsletter

Northside is published quarterly by the Northside Neighborhood Association, San Jose's oldest. NNA's mission is to improve and beautify the Northside neighborhood, inform members, encourage participation in activities which benefit the Northside and encourage identification with the neighborhood through social functions.

The Northside neighborhood encompasses the area bounded by Julian, Hedding, Sixth Street and Coyote Creek. All residents are automatically members of the association. There are no dues. Northside's Board of Directors: Frank Barnard (president); Chris Bogosian (vice president), Ed Berger (treasurer); Leo Bevilacqua; Don Gagliardi; Chuck Hagenmaier; Ken Keating; Cathy Novello; Joe Rodriguez; Bonnie Ross, and Gus Vargas.

The Northside Neighborhood Association of San Jose. P.O. Box 2317, San Jose, CA 95109-2317. Telephone: (408) 291-2752. www.northside-sj.org.

**DONATE TO NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.
ONLINE AT WWW.13THSTNAC.ORG**

Ryland Pool Opens June 23 ...

But we still need **your** commitment to save Ryland Pool.

Help by using the pool -- The more our kids use the pool, the better the chances that the pool will stay open longer, and that the park will be used and appreciated.

Help to rehabilitate the pool -- After the 2008 Aquatics season, the historical features of the pool will be restored, and a commemorative plaque will explain the pool's history. Also, we will work to get it "City Landmark" status.

Please donate to help this effort
Mail a check, payable to "13th Street NAC," to:
P.O. Box 90398, San Jose, CA 95109
Please write "Friends of Ryland Pool" on the memo line.
Or online, go to www.northside-sj.org/13thstnac
and choose "Donate to Friends of Ryland Pool." Thank you!
Your donation may be tax-deductible, but check with your tax advisor.




... yet our work continues