

ALMADEN VALLEY'S UNICORN THRIFT SHOP INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS – P4



SACRED HEART COMMUNITY SERVICE TO DISTRIBUTE BACKPACKS – P10



VOLUNTEERISM: TRY IT, AND YOU MIGHT JUST FIND THAT YOU LIKE IT – P14



Almaden Times

AUGUST 10–AUGUST 23, 2018 ■ VOL. 31, NO. 17

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No lyin' – a lion

CANDID CAMERA — “A mountain lion was photographed twice in the last 24 hours,” said Scott Jensen of Almaden. His home surveillance camera located on Scenic Vista Dr. captured three images of a Mt. Lion, twice on August 4, and again at 5:22 a.m. on Sunday morning, August 5.

Almaden Lake's 3rd Annual Graffiti Night Sept 7

Free admission

Enjoy your Friday evening at Almaden Lake's 3rd Annual Graffiti Night: Classic Car Show-N-Shine on Friday, September 7th from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

The family friendly event features music and food trucks while having a great time at the lake with more than 60 classic and custom cars from all models and makes! Enjoy classic car beauties from the 50's, 60's, 70's and beyond.

Receive a Graffiti Night giveaway as well as entry to raffle drawings throughout the event. Register now to reserve a space to display your classic car!

To display your classic car, pre-registration is \$15 before Aug 31. After the preregistration date the price changes to \$20. Space is limited and is offered on a first-

See *GRAFFITI NIGHT*, page 16

San Jose national leader in urban trails

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

San Jose is striving to become the national leader in urban trail development. With plans to connect 100 miles of trails across 40 trail systems, it's well on its way.

There are currently about 60 miles of connected trails in San Jose, as well as more than 200 miles of on-street bikeways used for commuting and recreation. “We’re a great bike city,” says Trail Network Program Manager Yves Zsuttu. “We have more paved, class-one trails than Portland.”

Used for commuting, exercise and recreation, trails are essential to San Jose residents. They’re also greatly enjoyed. In fact, in 2015, 70 percent of survey respondents cited “fun” as their reason for using them.

“Once the trail network is fully developed,

“Nature surrounds us, from parks and backyards to streets and alleyways. Next time you go out for a walk, tread gently and remember that we are both inhabitants and stewards of nature in our neighborhoods.” —David Suzuki



A 600-foot undercrossing at Coleman Road allows residents to walk all the way around Almaden Lake.

we will have trails in every neighborhood,” says Zsuttu. “They’re popular and well used. It’s a great investment and they’re great assets for a community.”

Zsuttu, who’s worked with the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) Trail Program for 16 years, says that

it’s been rewarding to see projects completed and enlightening to see others that he’s been involved with since day one still under development. “They take time and they’re expensive and challenging,” he says.

In San Jose’s trail network are core trails
See *TRAILS*, page 18



Almaden Art and Wine Festival, the yearly fan favorite event in San Jose.

Annual Art and Wine Festival coming soon

Community Raffle added to Art and Wine Festival attractions for 2018

By Beth Swartz
Special to the Times

In just a little over a month the Almaden community will welcome back the 42nd Annual Almaden Art and Wine Festival.

This year the festival will take place on Sunday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at Almaden Lake Park.

The festival is extremely popular in the area drawing more than 20,000 people who enjoy a variety of local wines, local food from area restaurants and food trucks, handmade crafts and jewelry from area artists, a silent auction, and a great day of family entertainment.

Community raffle

Each year the Almaden Valley Women’s

Club works hard to present an exciting and interesting festival. “We always try to add in something new,” says Festival Chair, Patty Barbaccia. “This year we have a Community Raffle. This isn’t your average raffle since the prizes are pretty exciting.” Among the raffle prizes is a “Hot” dinner which will be produced by local area firefighters. “The dinner will be cooked and served by our local firefighters” says Barbaccia. “It could be a fun girls night out!” Raffle prizes also include a 4-day stay in a beautiful condo in Portland, Oregon; a pampering package that includes a facial, spa day, and more; and a Wine and Cheese Tasting Party at Testarossa Winery among many other packages.

Raffle tickets will be on sale at the Festival
See *FESTIVAL*, page 10

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

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All current pending sales in Almaden Valley


Address	List Price	Sale Date	Days on Market	Address	List Price	Sale Date	Days on Market
20280 Via Santa Teresa	\$2,398,000	08/01/18	8	6154 Calle Esperanza	\$1,480,000	08/02/18	24
1220 Wooded Hills Drive	\$2,300,000	07/28/18	7	6208 Balderstone Drive	\$1,475,000	06/29/18	16
20540 Almaden Road	\$2,275,500	07/11/18	4	6028 Via Madero Drive	\$1,438,000	08/02/18	7
1165 Eagle Cliff Court	\$2,275,000	07/21/18	7	6254 Firefly Drive	\$1,375,000	07/03/18	14
6641 Mount Wellington Drive	\$1,750,000	07/27/18	9	1138 Zinfandel Way	\$1,300,000	07/24/18	6
21420 Shillingsburg Ave	\$1,650,000	07/30/18	41	6385 Tamalpais Ave	\$1,275,000	07/09/18	11
1385 Kinsport Lane	\$1,599,000	07/21/18	23	7126 Almaden Place	\$1,168,000	07/17/18	8
6155 Moss Oak Way	\$1,599,000	07/19/18	33	990 Kiser Drive	\$1,125,000	07/22/18	12
1255 Echo Valley Drive	\$1,550,000	06/05/18	14	1121 Holly Oak Circle	\$1,088,000	07/22/18	26
1490 Montalban Drive	\$1,549,000	07/25/18	20	1219 Polk Spring Court	\$1,079,000	07/09/18	20
1139 Carla Drive	\$1,499,000	07/12/18	13	7222 Sleepy Creek Drive	\$1,049,000	07/27/18	2
				21733 Bertram Road	\$798,000	08/03/18	59



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homes than
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Margaret Yost
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This Week:

ARTS

Battle of the Big Bands
August 25 - Glen Miller
VS Harry James: **PAGE 8**

COMMUNITY

Santa Clara County
addresses the
problem of homeless-
ness: PAGE 16

SPORTS

San Jose girls soccer
team wins prestigious
national championship:
PAGE 11



SPIRIT

Sacred Heart
Community Service
volunteers prepare
for backpack
distribution: PAGE 10

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AlmadenTimes

Times Media, Inc. / (408) 494-7000

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Valley Currents

cur | rent (adj.) Present, topical, timely, newsworthy. (n.) Movement in a definite direction, a flow.

Almaden Unicorn Thrift Shop installs new officers

A store with beautiful items sold for a good cause at a fraction of the price

Unicorn Thrift Shop held its Annual Installation luncheon to honor its outgoing Executive Board and welcome the incoming 2018-2019 Board.

The "Flowered" themed luncheon was held at Joint Venture Church in Almaden and was attended by officers from Uplift Family Services, Unicorn volunteers and spouses. The volunteers were dressed in colorful blooming attire.

Unicorn Thrift Shop located at the corner of Almaden Expressway and Redmond Avenue has been in existence for 25 years. The store is staffed entirely by dedicated volunteers, and sells gently used clothing, shoes, books, housewares, linens, and electronic goods etc., donated by the community.

This store is unique since they receive many brand name items and also new items with tags still on them. It is not rare to find a collectable, Lladro statue, Waterford crystal at a fraction of the cost. One of the volunteers, Mimi Shellman says "beautiful and unique items are tastefully displayed."

Proceeds are donated to help children

The proceeds from the sales go to support Uplift Family Services, a nonprofit agency dedicated to helping children and adolescents with complex behavioral challenges rebuild their lives. Formerly known as EMQ, the agency focuses on families by providing the largest and most comprehensive network of mental and behavioral health treatment programs in California.

The guests at the luncheon were Darren DeMonisi, Associate Director and Laura Champion Clinician for Uplift Family Services. Laura Champion said "Uplift Family Services deal with 1500 – 2000 children every week, and there are 35 programs to help families in need. If at all possible



Officers, board members and volunteers all gathered at Joint Venture Church to celebrate the installation of new officers. Below: Unicorn Treasurer **Becky Mason** presented a check for 35,000 dollars to **Darren DeMonisi**, Associate Director of Uplift Family Services.



the children are not removed from their families," they take services out to the family homes. She also mentioned that they have a program "Family Finding Service" to make sure children can be placed with blood relatives. "This gives the children a sense of belonging," Laura added.

Unicorn Treasurer Becky Mason presented a check for 35,000 dollars to Uplift. Becky mentioned that the total donation this year was \$145,000 to date. In the last 24+ years Unicorn has donated over 3 million dollars. Darren Demonsi thanked the volunteers for the hard work they put in to running the shop. He is often heard saying to the volunteers, "You are saving lives!" Compliments like this gives reassurance to the volunteers and encourages them to share more of their time. Volunteer Mary Anne Salmon who has been with the shop for 10 years says "I have lots of fun volunteering here and meeting nice people"

President Mary Anne Salmon presented 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25-year pins to volunteers. This year the Unicorn will be celebrating 25 years of giving to our community. Four of our volunteers got a special gift and a 25-year pin for their untiring and devoted service to the Unicorn and our community.

Joyce Rood social chairwoman for the



Unicorn put together a special summer themed lunch with fresh salads and sandwiches. She and her team of volunteers decorated the room with a festive look featuring special placemats made by a long-time volunteer Sam Carte and fresh potted plants were the lovely centerpiece of every table.

New volunteers are always welcomed

Unicorn is actively looking for new volunteers who can spend some time helping the cause. The minimum time requirement is only seven hours or two shifts per month. If you or someone you know can give some time please stop by the store and ask for an application. You will be glad you did. There are many areas you can help and you can choose your favorite area to work in. Come by the store and check out their deals the shop has frequent sales so get on our mailing list to receive sale information. You are sure to find something special to buy and also feel that you are helping a great cause.

Unicorn Thrift Shop, 1181 Redmond Ave. San Jose 95120. 408-997-918 8; Store hours: Mon, Tues, Wed and Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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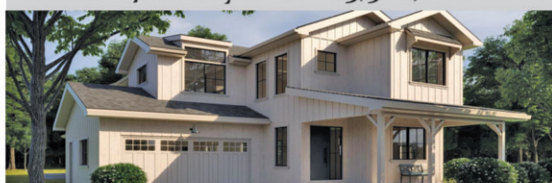


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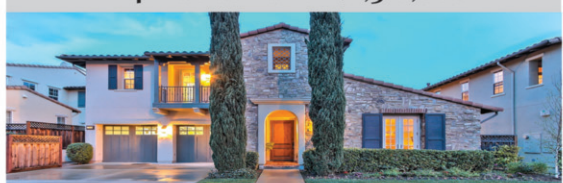
6793 Elwood Road - \$2,700,000



875 Plaza Drive - \$2,500,000



1124 Macias Lane - \$2,310,000



6871 Elwood Road - \$1,933,000



6958 Grandwood Way - \$1,875,000



646 Pomeroy Ave - \$1,625,000



1685 Cottle Ave - \$1,600,000



21445 Almaden Road - \$1,500,000



229 Rio Del Mar Blvd. - \$1,380,000



1136 Lincoln Court - \$1,365,000



1487 Carrington Circle - \$1,130,000



420 Branham Lane East - \$800,000



1098 Cedar Gables - \$620,000



1330 Elwood Drive - \$1,850,000



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The Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival is supported, in part, by a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose

AlmadenWomen.org



[AlmadenValleyArtandWineFestival](https://www.facebook.com/AlmadenValleyArtandWineFestival)



Join the Event: The 42nd Annual Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival!



[AlmadenWine](https://twitter.com/AlmadenWine)



[#AlmadenArtWine18](https://www.instagram.com/AlmadenArtWine18)

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Battle of the Big Bands August 25

Glen Miller vs. Harry James

Experience an incredible afternoon of live 1940s music.

An exciting musical tribute to the 1940s Big Bands will be performed live at the California Theatre in San Jose on August 25.

The “Battle of the Bands” features two popular bands, Glen Miller vs. Harry James. Also featured are the The Satin Dollz, as they entertain audiences with their big band sound, tight vocal harmonies, and show-stopping tap dancing.

Get ready to be entertained by vocalists Ned Rifkin, known as the “Ambassador of Swing”. Joining Ned on stage is Candace Delbo. She has a passion for singing and it shows in her per-

formances.

This show features 30 musicians performing non-stop for 2 hours plus a 15 minute intermission.

The audience will vote at the end of the evening for their favorite Big Band for the show’s return in the future with a new Show featuring the audience selection plus a different Big Band from the 1940s.

The “Battle” takes place on Saturday, August 25 at 2 p.m. California Theatre. Tickets available at: www.battleofthebigbands.com.



Top: The Satin Dollz; Above, L-R: Candace Delbo and Ned Rifkin.



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Times **Feature**



Press day: August 22, 2018
Deadline: August 19, 2018

Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com

We'd love to hear from you!

Almaden Times



More than 3,000 students are signed up to receive new backpacks from the campaign.

Sacred Heart Community Service volunteers prepare for student backpack distribution

Distribution Day for Sacred Heart Community Service's annual Pack a Back Education Campaign is Friday, August 10th.

More than 3,000 students are signed up to receive new backpacks and school supplies and more than a hundred volunteers prepared in advance for this big event, where they counted, sorted and organized the school supplies to transform the agency's Learning Center into a backpack "store."

For families living in San Jose, the rising cost of rent makes it even more challenging to pay for school supplies suggested by school districts.

For the 2017/2018 school year – according to the Backpack Index – parents were expected to pay per child: \$662 for elementary school students, \$1,001 for middle school students and \$1,489 for high school students.

In "Out of Reach" a study released last month by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a family would need to hold down 3.6 minimum wage jobs to afford a two bedroom apartment in San Jose. Sacred Heart's Pack a Back campaign is designed to offset the cost of these supplies for our families, where a bulk of their paycheck goes to rent.

All backpack appointment slots for August 10th have been filled but the agency is still collecting new backpacks and school supplies and is currently low on scientific calculators, backpacks and \$20 gift cards for shoes.

Donations can be dropped off at the Donation station located at 1381 S. First Street in San Jose or donations can be made online at: sacredheartcs.org/pab. The Donation Station is open Monday – Saturday.

Festival

Continued from page 1

(and before the event through Almaden Valley Women's Club members) and the drawing will take place during the Festival. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Winners need not be present to win.

All proceeds of the festival (including from this raffle) are donated to non-profit organizations and schools in the community and also support merit-based scholarships to deserving students. The event is produced entirely by volunteers. For more information on the raffle please contact the club at info@almaden-women.org.

Each year, wine and beer at the Festival is served in a commemorative souvenir glass featuring logo artwork

created by Almaden Valley students. Glasses are \$8 at the Festival, but can be pre-purchased for \$6 at local area businesses. Glasses go on sale in mid-August and will be available until a week before the Festival.

The following Almaden area businesses will be selling the glasses: Almaden Barbers, Almaden Cleaners, Amato's Pizza, Almaden Valley Nursery, Ana's Bakery, AVA Rejuvenation, Bevy Produce, Bloomsters, Blvd Coffee, Bogey's Pizza, Charlie's Cheesecake Works, Country Inn, Happy Nails Salon, Kalinka Deli, Legends Pizzeria, Posh Bagel, Round Table Pizza, and Tulip Kids Academy.

For additional information on the Almaden Art and Wine Festival, please visit the Women's Club website at almadenwomen.org

Thunder Valley Casino



Tuesday August 14, 2018

Arrive: 7:30
Depart: 8:00
Return: 6:30 approximately
Cost: \$35.00 includes \$5.00 food, \$15.00 slot play or table match play with players card.

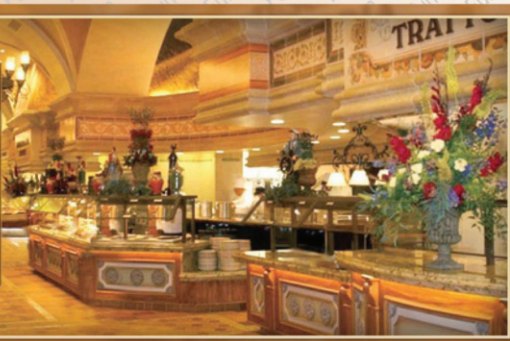
Sign up at Almaden Community Center M, T, W, 9:30 am-11:30 am.

For questions call:

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Enjoy all-you-can-eat favorites from around the world alongside special menus throughout the week.





San Jose girls soccer team wins prestigious national championship

The Vision Academy 02 team from San Jose won the US Club Soccer U-16 Girls Super Group National Cup XVII Championship. Vision Academy 02 defeated New England FC BB2 02 NS Elite in a very exciting game with the final score: 5-4.

The championship game was held in Aurora, Colorado and culminated after five days of action on July 24.

One of the most prestigious soccer championships in the country, the National Cup XVII Championship featured more than 5,000 players from 250 teams across 30 states.

The National Cup XVII Championship is the culminating event of a club-based competition among nationwide qualifiers.

Leland High School's Sofia Scola made some spectacular plays as Vison Team goalie.

Vision Academy 02 Girls, San Jose, California

Jersey #	Name	Position	High School	Hometown
1	Arancio, Alexa	Defender	Archbishop Mitty	San Jose, CA
2	Nedom, Emily	Forward	Los Gatos	Los Gatos, CA
3	Blaise, Skylar	Forward	Saint Francis	San Jose, CA
4	Engles, Lainey	Defender	Los Gatos	Los Gatos, CA
6	Martin, Sofia	Forward	Presentation	San Jose, CA
7	Vane, Emma	Midfielder	Archbishop Mitty	San Jose, CA
8	Reynolds, Blythe	Defender	Los Gatos	Los Gatos, CA
9	Ward, Ashleigh	Midfielder	Livermore	Livermore, CA
10	Martinez, Courtney	Defender	Branham	San Jose, CA
12	Scola, Sofia	Goalie	Leland	San Jose, CA
13	Eastus, Maddie	Forward	Gilroy	Gilroy, CA
14	Sorbello, Rosa	Defender	Prospect	San Jose, CA
16	Garcia, Teresa	Forward	Archbishop Mitty	San Jose, CA
17	Roskowski, Anika	Goalie	Westmont	San Jose, CA
20	Perez-Martinez, Rachel	Defender	Watsonville	Watsonville, CA
21	Prentice, Georgia	Midfielder	Archbishop Mitty	San Jose, CA
22	Constantine, Kristina	Defender	Saint Francis	Saratoga, CA
48	Buerk, Ellie	Forward	Willow Glen	San Jose, CA
77	Scott, Isabella	Midfielder	Los Gatos	Los Gatos, CA

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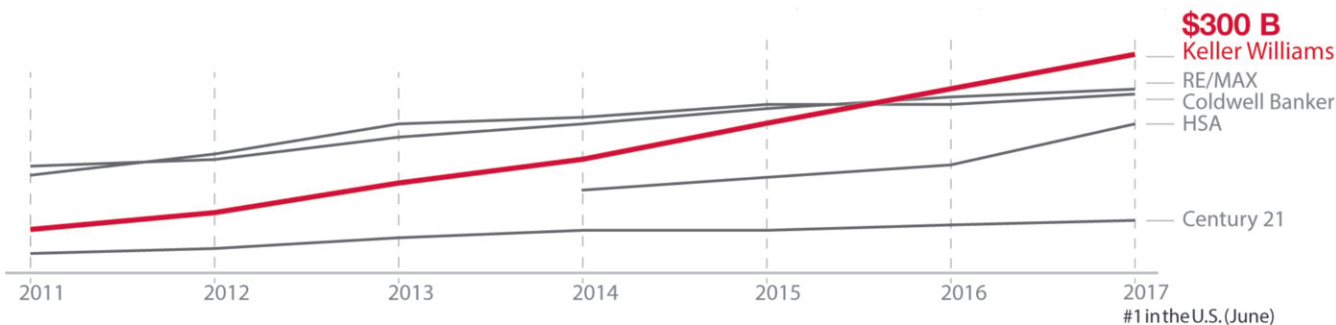
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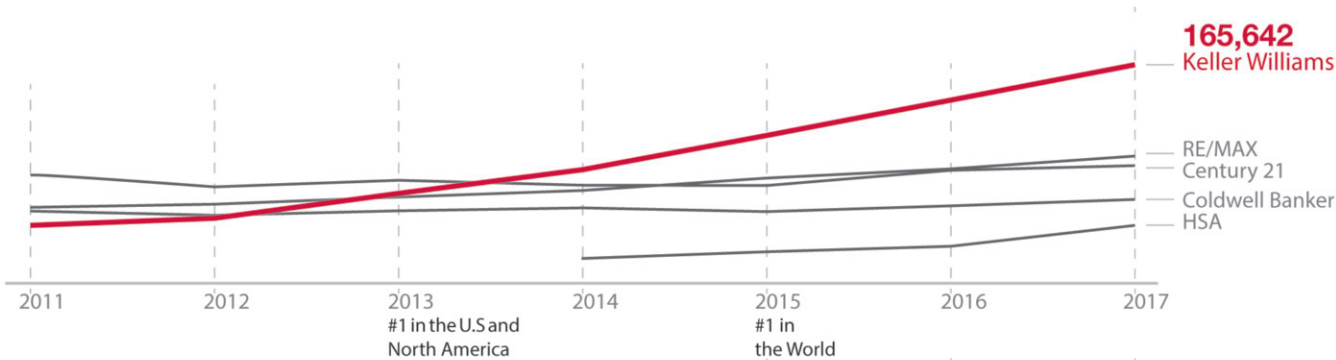
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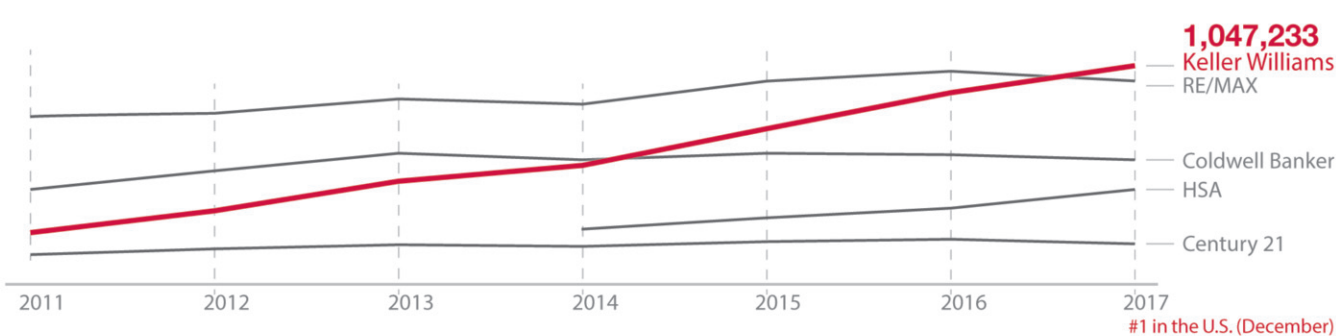
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Gloria Ashdown, CalBRE #00935499
408.398.1516



Almaden Valley

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Brian Kiernan, CalBRE #01487861
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408.896.6794



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408.838.5993



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\$15.00 ADVANCE / \$17.50 DOOR

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Times OpEd



CHECK IT OUT

Volunteer for a Day: Try it; you'll like it!

By Edith Sutterlin
Special to the Times

Many know me as a librarian—but today I am writing this article sharing my experience as a San Jose Public Library's Volunteer Away Your Fines (VAYF) program volunteer. This is not an official library narrative or commentary, but a summary of my personal perspective.

On Saturday, July 14, I volunteered for a public library Early Education outreach program. It was the Gerald and Piggie Hoedown at the Farm - Dance Party at Emma Prusch Farm Park. I didn't go as a paid staff, but went as a first time VAYF volunteer to help promote SJPL's 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

Almost every week, San Jose Public Library has at least one location offering the opportunity to eliminate fines by volunteering. Fines will be cleared from your account at a rate of \$20 per hour. I volunteered for four hours. Fortunately, I did not have \$80 worth of fines to clear, only \$13.50! How could someone who works at the library five days a week ever have a late book? Well, as we all know, life happens. How to explain how a book I carefully set on a table intending to take back gets overlooked? Is it a piece of my shared humanity that makes me fall victim to the same trick played on others-- forgetting to take the last audiobook disc out of the car when I finish? I always double check the case, but one time I realized when I was ready to turn it in, OOPS! So I decided time to take advantage of SJPL's Volunteer Away Your Fines.

What were my choices? Ongoing community volunteers make a regular commitment of six months or more helping in ongoing duties. These vary by branch, such as reshelving materials; facilitating book clubs or ESL conversation groups; Reading to Children; tutoring adults or students; serving as a tech mentor providing computer help; supporting a branch's Friends group; or leading or monitoring homework clubs or classes. Teen volunteers help in different ways at each branch. Ongoing volunteers get any needed training from library staff. Jason Pell and Robert Miranda, in Volunteer Services, provide additional support to branch staff who coordinate volunteer engagement or who mentor teensReach volun-

teers. I knew these two had initiated several ways to help both volunteers and the public regain access to blocked accounts, or, like mine, before fines got too high. This time, though, instead of crediting library volunteers' accounts, I was in the position of a borrower with late fees to settle.

Like the public, I could sign up for a volunteer option listed at sjpl.org/vayf. One-time volunteers usually assist with book sales, special branch programs, overall library events and outreach or with maintaining a welcoming environment in library facilities, including detailed cleaning projects. Any needed instructions are provided by a library staff, so it isn't hard. Branch buddy shifts usually are scheduled during hours when I am working. Otherwise, I could have cleaned keyboards, monitors, windows, or books like these volunteers shown on the library's Flickr page (pictured above).

But somehow, for me, a couple of hours with a spray bottle or cleaning toys didn't sound like as much fun as it was for our young volunteers.



Since I'm not a celebrity like **Andrew Tarbell**, an Earthquakes player pictured above with **Carmen**, I couldn't offer a high profile to bring a large fan base into the library, even if I do love doing storytimes!

Since I work for the library, I couldn't do my Volunteer Away Your Fines at the branch where I work, like our ongoing regular volunteers can, I admit, it would be fun to make a cool custom volunteer shirt like Evergreen Branch's Reading to Children volunteer, **Martha Kell**, has, but that would have set me back more



Times **OpEd**

than my late fees owed.

When the invitation was posted for volunteers to help with a dance party, I knew that would be perfect! I remembered about the Early Education Services summer Dance Parties, like the previous Pete the Cat dance party at Village Square Branch. (See photo below, bottom of page.)

I wondered if that might be an opportunity for me. If they were on days when I was already working, then that wouldn't work out, but if, like today, I were off work, that would be ideal!

Sure enough, the call for volunteers was posted for a Dance Party with Elephant and Piggie at Emma Prusch Farm Park on Saturday, July 14. I signed up and had so much fun. When you are a volunteer, you usually have to arrive a little early to help set up. As I arrived, a rooster let me know I was early enough with his greeting, "Cockadoodle doo!" Maybe I should have asked him if he'd come inside to be my partner for the Chicken dance.

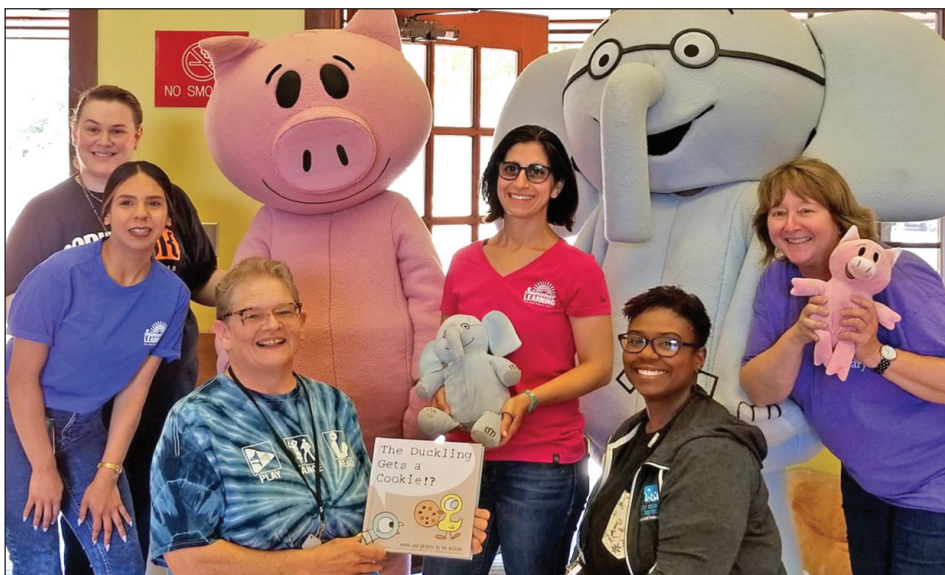
An Info table was already set up. My first job was to hand out bags and to sign up people for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, an SJPL program encouraging parents of infants and preschoolers to read to and share books with their children, promoting a lifelong love of reading. I got 38 people to sign up, but we ran out of printed booklets. We gave out our limited pile of Potter the Otter Gets Ready for Kindergarten, from the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Later I got to dance, to help read, and to help manage lines of people waiting for photos with the characters! Other volunteers managed arts and crafts. Children decorated fans with washable markers, got faces painted, or did other art. There was a quiet reading table for children who either felt overwhelmed

with the loud music or wanted a quiet break. Drawing with markers, especially on a fan for a hot day, is always a favorite art activity for toddlers and preschoolers. With over 500 people attending throughout the morning, it got pretty crowded, but for those who stayed till the end, the line finally got shorter for face painting.

Volunteering can be a lot of fun. I also volunteer for Furry Friends, at my church, and for CROP Walk San Jose. Volunteering gives me a chance to connect with others, to contribute to organizations or causes that I support, and to make a difference in my community. Volunteers help extend the ability of professionals to offer their services and programs to more people and to spread the word about a variety of causes—on this occasion, the importance and fun of early education in promoting literacy and a lifelong love of learning. Thanks for providing this community connection!

The picture below is of the Dance Party staff and volunteer team: **Araceli Delgado-Ortiz, Erika Garcia, Edith Sutterlin, Nari Ferderer, Shalek Chappill, and Lisa Giannotti** are the visible volunteers and library staff who worked together. Some volunteers remain anonymous, known to their adoring audiences only as "Gerald" and "Piggie," the famous characters from Mo Willems' books, found at your local public library.

Edith Sutterlin is a librarian at the East San José Carnegie Branch who wanted to share her personal Volunteer Away Your Fines experience. This article is her opinion, and is not presented as any official SJPL comment. Unless noted that they are from SJPL's Flickr page, photos were taken by me or on my camera by another volunteer.



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TEETH IN ONE DAY



Times **Community News**

Addressing homelessness

By Supervisor Mike Wasserman
Special to the Times

The seemingly intractable issue of homelessness is a frustration for those watching it, and a sad, often desperate reality for those experiencing it.

Homelessness can happen to anyone: sudden loss of a job, a medical emergency, divorce or domestic violence, missing a rent payment or other unexpected life experiences. And there is only one way to really solve it- housing. Homelessness doesn't end when an encampment is cleared out or with handing out blankets. Homelessness ends when people have a home.

In Santa Clara County, 7,500 people are without a home on any given night. Of those, 2,500 are considered chronically homeless. What we need is permanent, sustainable housing for all, and resources built to last for the long term. Along with my colleagues on the County Board of Supervisors, the nonprofit Destination: Home and our community partners, we are moving forward with a "Community Plan to End Homelessness."

A recent study showed that for 100 homeless residents who were housed through the Housing 1000 program, the estimated average annual pre-housing public cost was \$62,473. The estimated average post-housing cost was \$19,767, a reduction of \$42,706 annually. Not only

is housing the right thing to do, it also saves taxpayer money.

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors works closely with numerous partners including the City of San Jose. In fact, the first housing development dedicated exclusively to taking vulnerable residents off the streets in being built now. Santa Clara County contributed \$7.2 million to the project, San Jose- \$3.4 million. The rest came from low-income housing tax credits. The project is being built by the nonprofit PATH and affordable housing developer Affirmed Housing. By October 2019, this new development – Villas on the Park – will house 83 homeless residents. This is just one of many projects that will ultimately provide 5,100 affordable housing units for vulnerable populations.

The County portion of these projects is funded by Measure A – the \$950 million November 2016 affordable housing bond that was approved by 67% of Santa Clara County voters. The housing bond enables the County to partner with cities, residents, and the affordable and supportive housing community to significantly address the housing needs of the community's poorest and most vulnerable residents.

Q: How do we solve homelessness?

A: Housing.

Contact Mike Wasserman, Santa Clara County Supervisor, District 1 at www.supervisorwasserman.com.



County Report

Mike Wasserman,
County Supervisor



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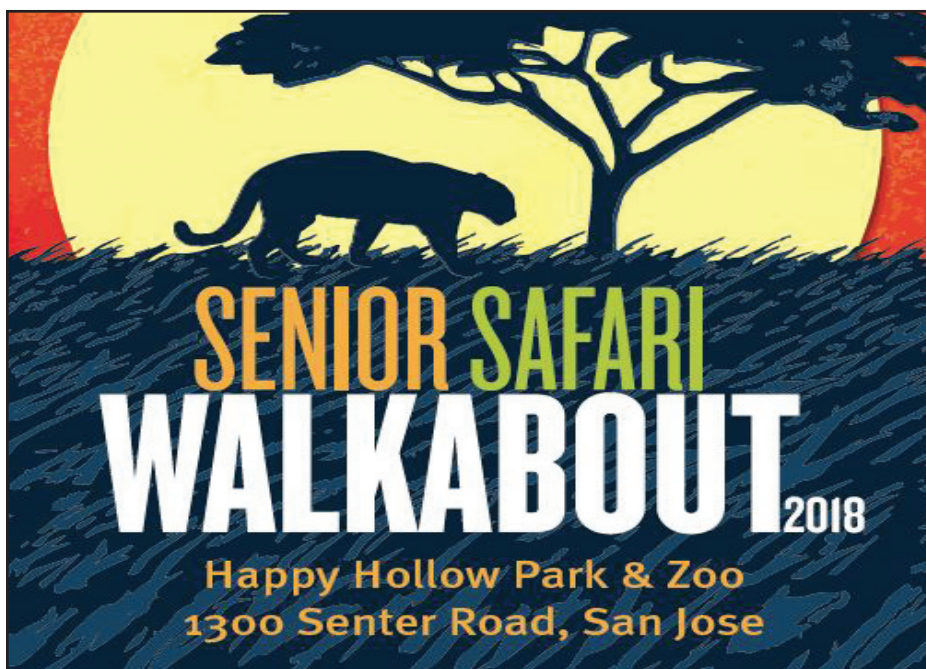
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Graffiti Night

Continued from page 1
come, first-serve basis.

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space. Car spaces are first come - first serve.

For more information, please contact Yazmin Rios at yazmin.rios@sanjoseca.gov or call Almaden Lake Park at (408) 927-0868.

Times **Feature**

Breakthrough piano method launching its 19th year

Finding a way to bring fun and excitement back into piano learning

The ultimate vocational change happened for Bernadette Ashby at the age of 37.

She became a career piano teacher. How is this possible when she didn't even know how to play the piano? That is, until she discovered a remarkable piano method that would change her life. She's been teaching ever since. "I never thought in my lifetime that I would be able to play the piano, let alone teach it. I gave that dream up a long time ago. Then I found Simply Music, an Australian breakthrough piano method that has students playing pop, accompaniment, blues, and classical pieces immediately from their very first lessons.

Everything changed for me," she happily exclaims. Recognized as the 2016 Best Small Business in San Jose by the Best Businesses in San Jose Award Program, her 19 years of teaching includes hundreds of satisfied and musically expressed students. They are elementary age children to high school, doctors, retirees, other piano teachers, adults who've dreamt of playing all their lives and adults who've always wanted to play without having to read music at first. She's taught online, children with autism and special needs, but one of her most joyful experiences was teaching a young blind and deaf girl how to play. That is one of the pinnacle times in her career because she dared to do the possible.

How does Simply Music work? "Simply Music temporarily delays

music reading and immerses students in the actual experience of playing," she says. "It begins by distilling entire pieces into shapes, patterns, and concepts that students can clearly see and easily play on the keyboard.

With no attention on music reading, students are free to relate directly to the piano and develop a natural connection to the instrument. My students are building a repertoire of 20-30 songs in their first year of lessons with me. Eventually, when I begin to teach them to read, they are thrilled and excited to learn."

As a master teacher in this playing-based method, her desire is to help families and individuals experience the same joy that she received over the years. Cindy Vierhus remarks, "I appreciate the many years of experience Bernie brings to each student. We are delighted to be reaching our goals in musicianship, freedom, and joy.

Bernie is an inspiring coach and mentor." She continues to propagate her message in her visionary book, *A World Where Everyone Plays*, a collection of inspiring stories from teachers and students around the world. This mission is her personal lifetime commitment. Boldly, her studio, *For the Luv of Piano*, is proud to celebrate their 19th year of bringing about a more musical world.

For more information about Bernadette Ashby or her studio, visit her website, www.fortheluvofpiano.com, or call (408) 712-5040.

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Times Cover Story

Trails

Continued from page 1

like Guadalupe River, Los Gatos Creek, Coyote Creek and connecting hiking trails. “We have trails within three miles of all residents,” says Zsutty, “and are adding more and more access over time.”

With the assistance of the City’s Park Trust Fund and grants from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, construction of a 600-foot undercrossing at Coleman Road allows residents to walk all the way around Almaden Lake and enjoy better connectivity to the Guadalupe Creek and Guadalupe River Trails. “After allocating grants, the Water District said they had \$37,000 left, so we grabbed that grant, added \$8,000 more and got this project done,” says Zsutty. “It was a good way to leverage funds and associate the Water District with our good works.”

The Vision

A five-mile project is planned for the Guadalupe River Trail, connecting Virginia Street downtown all the way south to Chynoweth Avenue. The trail, which is part of the Guadalupe River Master Plan, has been championed by

Councilmember Khamis since he first took office.

In addition to some of its park trust, the city plans to finance the trail through Measure B for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. “The Masterplan defines what a \$49 million project looks like,” says Zsutty. “We’re looking at public art, bridge structures that will bring neighborhoods to the trail, common signage, gateway architecture and everything you’d see downtown carried over.”

The planned five bridge connections will use about half of that budget: financing has already been set aside for designing a pedestrian bridge at Chynoweth. Although Zsutty has identified this project as one of the 10 highest priority projects for the entire Bay Area, he says that construction will follow the flood control project timeline set by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As the trail is already heavily used, Zsutty considers the addition worthwhile. “Approximately 35 to 55 percent of people surveyed reported commuting regularly on it,” he says, “so it’s a nice addition to this system.” (Continued next page)



“We’re a great bike city,” says Trail Network Program Manager Yves Zsutty. “We have more paved, class-one trails than Portland.”

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Times **Cover Story**

In fact, a recent city survey showed an impressive 422 percent increase in the Guadalupe River Trail usage during the past decade. “We used to get 250 users a day,” he says. “Now, we’re at about 1,100 and that’s both recreational and commuting uses.”

Future plans include extending the 87 Freeway bikeway along Curtner Avenue with a connection at Communication Hill.

At full development, the Guadalupe Creek Trail would be a class one paved trail. It would continue westward from Coleman Avenue, past the percolation ponds, with an undercrossing at Meridian Avenue, and continue along the creek all the way to Guadalupe Mines Road.

Today, residents can bike along the Los Alamitos Creek Trail to Harry Road one way and Blossom Hill Road the other. One day, according to the Trails Master Plan, this trail will continue past Blossom Hill Road all the way to downtown.

Following the discovery of a juvenile mammoth fossil, affectionately named Lupe, in the Guadalupe River, the city commissioned an 11-foot tall metal mammoth sculpture along the Guadalupe River Trail near West Trimble Road where she was found. Lupe is just one of the surprises awaiting hikers on the trails.

In Willow Glen, Three Creeks Trail, which has an entrance at Willow Street, features a new paved trail with landscaping, gateway features and interpretive elements highlighting the area’s historic cannery district. A Del Monte water tower beckons residents to explore the area’s rich history as they wander along the trail.

Sunday in the Park

In addition to trails, PRNS is responsible for more than a hundred regional and neighborhood parks in San Jose.

This can prove challenging for Park Maintenance Supervisor Dan Greeley who, along with his 16-member staff, is responsible for the maintenance of 65 local parks.

“They work their tails off and things always grow,” says Greeley. “We never get caught up. Many parks in Almaden are 35 years old. It’s a struggle to make sure 25-year-old irrigation systems are working properly.”

PRNS scores parks on a one to five basis. A park rated five is one that was recently built or renovated, but most are budgeted at a 3.2.

Greeley and his team are in the midst of a multi-year park standardization pilot program. Their mission is to determine a standard of costs for the work they do, but first they have to take careful measurements of everything from how much turf edging they do in a week to how long it takes to clean picnic tables (it takes four minutes each to do a thorough cleaning of the 170 picnic tables in Almaden Lake Park).

Making this assignment more difficult are the fluctuations. “Some days, it’s raining and cold so, it goes slower,” he says. “Some days, no one asks my staff a question so, they can get it done quickly. Other days, a mom asks lots of questions so, it goes slower. It’s hard to get a number because there are so many variables and every park is different, but we’re getting closer.”

Greeley says a fun part of his job is working with neighborhood volunteers. He identifies people’s passions and the way they want their parks to be.

“My team and I don’t have all the solutions, but we have the tools and the know-how and we’re always looking for help,” he says. “Luckily, I work with many community volunteers who are super passionate about their parks and able to supplement the work,” he says, “and we’ve been able to be really creative.”

For example, the City entered into a Right of Entry agreement with the Martin-Fontana Park Association, allowing them to hire an outside contractor to do small projects to beautify their park.

“Working together, we can come up with interesting solutions,” says Greeley. “People want to give back to their community and we’re finding ways to empower them. Erikson Park has issues, but you can’t tell because volunteers are working so hard watering trees and painting murals. We’re working together to make a difference.”

Greeley says that last year, Khamis’ office dedicated \$200,000 to hire a contractor for weed abatement at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park. “We want to educate multi-generational volunteers to care for and take ownership of the park,” says Greeley, “and make sure the invasive weeds don’t grow back.”

Guadalupe Oak Grove Park has a special place in Greeley’s heart. “It’s not really developed,” he says. “If you walked the park, I think you’d really enjoy the wildlife there.”

He says that in most parks, if a tree fell down, they’d remove it, but they wouldn’t necessarily do so there. “Fallen trees are a habitat for insects and birds,” says Greeley, “so, we’re trying to do a good job of not always removing that habitat. It’s a delicate balance of leaving some fallen material and not others and having a holistic way of removing brush and weeds systematically. We want it to feel like nature and to support the wildlife. It’s an interesting park to maintain. We try to be sensitive to that park. It’s a gem.”

In fact, he wrote a grant to teach children the importance of acorns at the park as it features Blue Oak trees that aren’t usually found on the valley floor. “We want to make sure those Blue Oaks will be there forever,” he says. Pests and funding are both issues PRNS has to deal with. Ground squirrels and gophers are issues at most local parks. “At Almaden

Continued, page 21



“Working together, we can come up with interesting solutions,” says Park Maintenance Supervisor **Dan Greeley**.



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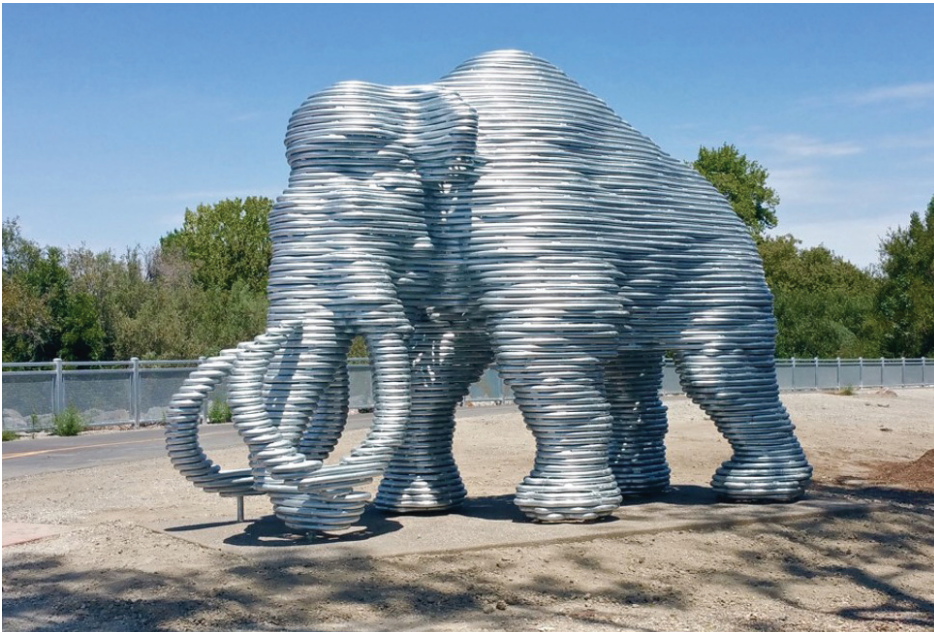
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Times **Cover Story**

Discovery of mammoth fossil by man walking his dog spurs the installation of 11 foot mammoth sculpture at Guadalupe River.

Continued from page 19

Meadows Park, my irrigation system looks like a colander," he says. "We're losing the battle with rodents." Another problem at the park is upsetting neighbors: the noise of late night partying by teenagers who leave their trash behind. To deter their loitering, signs will be put up reminding them that parks close at sunset. Greeley also suggests residents call 3-1-1 to lodge complaints. "Even if nobody comes," he says, "it creates a data point, so the police know it's an ongoing issue."

Greeley says that at the top of his wish list is funding to create a new playground at Almaden Lake Park. "We may put a pop-up inflatable park in there for a short-term solution," he says. "But we have a \$200 million backlog on maintenance. It's hard to get funding for Almaden Lake Park's playground when others are falling apart."

"There are definite challenges," he says, "but we all love our parks and I'm lucky to be in this community with people who keep them going."



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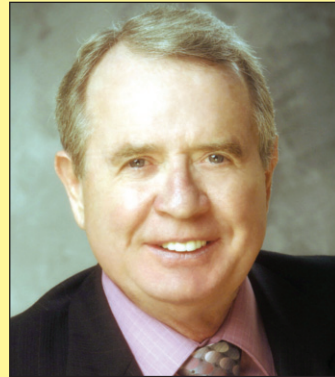
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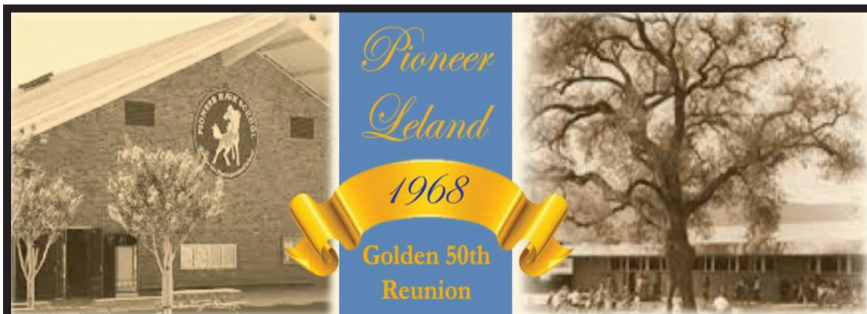
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Singles

Almaden Valley Singles:
The organization that brings together single residents of Almaden Valley (95120) over age 55 to enjoy a social life close to home and participate in community service. Monthly breakfast meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, 9 a.m. Cup and Saucer, Princeton Plaza Mall, 1375 Blossom Hill Road.

Class of '68 50 Year Golden Reunion



Are you ready for
TOO MUCH FUN?

www.willowglenclassof68.myevent.com

SAVE THE DATES!

September 28, 2018 - Mixer
September 29, 2018 - Reunion

Check out the class website for further information on:

- Event details, RSVP, Tickets, Lodging
- Alumni Jam Band
- Photos of the 40th Reunion (this was an amazing heart & soul event!)
- Update your online bio
- Help us find missing classmates



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Swan has been Almaden Valley's #1 Agent each year since 2009. Swan has been recognized by Wall Street Journal/RealTrends as Top 250 Individual Agents in Nation by Dollar Volume. She is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the Bay Area.



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