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# Willow Glen *Times*

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Times **Feature**

## Trestle

*Continued from page 1*

The new bridge slated for the replacement project has been sitting in storage for five years, Davis noted, a fact that rubs some of the trestle supporters the wrong way. They say that shows city leaders intended to demolish the beloved Willow Glen Trestle before going through a public process or settling the legal challenge.

"We have known for years that the city purchased a replacement bridge long before the project was underway and is still trying to justify the expense," wrote Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commissioner April Halberstadt in an email to San José Spotlight.

Davis' predecessor, Pierluigi Oliverio, shares the councilmember's views.

If it weren't for the litigation, he says, the area residents could already be enjoying the connected trail.

When it comes to a compromise involving placing the new bridge over the existing trestle — an idea Ames said came from

a city official — Oliverio said that's simply not feasible.

"Putting that over the creosote timbers would be fuel for a fire," he said, adding that the beams are already charred due to fires he claims were set by nearby homeless people.

Friends of the trestle say they aren't disputing connecting the trails, but would prefer to see the bridge renovated rather than destroyed.

Willow Glen resident Severn Edmonds can see the old trestle from his backyard.

He moved to his current home in 1986 and remembers riding the train over the trestle and befriending the engineer — before the train stopped running in the early 2000s. Now, Edmonds can see the city's bulldozers out in the area and senses the end of an era.

"They're hell bent on tearing it out," Edmonds said. "I have a real bad taste in my mouth about it."

Contact Carina Woudenberg at [carinaew86@gmail.com](mailto:carinaew86@gmail.com) or follow @carinaew on Twitter.

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Toy Story 4

By Joshua Kim

When news of Toy Story 4 was first announced, I was skeptical to say the least. Did we really need another Toy Story movie?

Story Toy 3, which still makes me tear up every time I see it, had seemed to close the franchise almost 10 years ago with such heart and finality that there seemed to be no more stories left to tell with our favorite gang of talking toys.

As I sat in the theatre, however, and the beautifully animated opening montage started to play with Randy Newman's iconic "You've Got a Friend in Me," I instantly knew that Pixar had taken the care to make a movie that would introduce Toy Story to a new generation of audiences in a way that respects the first three films. I can happily report that Toy Story 4 is a welcome, but also a necessary addition to the franchise, filled with heart, maturity, and quite a bit of humor. Also, yes, this movie will make you cry at multiple points during the movie.

Toy Story 4 picks up where Toy Story 3 left off, with Woody (Tom Hanks), and Buzz (Tim Allen) and the rest of the toy gang we have come to know and love such as Jessie, Rex, Hamm, and Slinky, passed off from Andy, who goes off to college, to the kindergarten-aged Bonnie. We are introduced to a new "toy" created by Bonnie named Forkie (Tony Hale), who is made during her kindergarten orientation with popsicle stick feet and pipe cleaners arms. We learn, however, that Forkie feels he is "trash" rather than a toy and constantly tries to run away. When Forkie runs away on Bonnie's family road trip and gets lost, the toy gang must do all they can to rescue Bonnie's new favorite toy.

The film also introduces new, welcome members to the Toy Story cast including



Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele who play Ducky and Bunnie and Keanu Reeves who plays a Canadian Daredevil toy. These new additions add a consistently humorous side to the film that balances out the surprisingly mature themes and trademark Pixar heart pulling moments, of which there are many. Also reintroduced with a significant makeover in this movie is a character that adds a lot to the sense of nostalgia this film brings. (If you have seen any of the marketing you'll know which character I'm talking about).

The only criticism that I have of the film is its underuse of the other toys such as Jessie, Rex, Hamm, or Slinky. While this is done to focus on telling the story of the main protagonists Woody, Forkie, and Buzz, it was disappointing to see the other characters return after ten years and have so little screen time.

Never doubt Pixar in its ability to make a heartfelt and beautifully animated movie, with Toy Story 4 being no exception. Skeptics of this new addition to the beloved franchise should be skeptics no longer, as Pixar has succeeded in making a fourth movie that respects the original trilogy and takes the franchise in a fresh and interesting direction. If you are a fan of the Toy Story franchise, Toy Story 4 is a necessary watch.

Score: 8.5/10

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## New Lyft ebikes are introduced in San Jose

The new electric assist bikes are part of the Ford GoBike — the Bay Area bike sharing system run by Motivate, which was acquired by Lyft last year was unveiled recently in downtown San Jose.

The company, Bay Wheels, released the new ebike model which riders can rent through the Lyft app, come with pedal assist for hills. The bikes are fitted with a lock that will let cyclists park outside of a docking station. The electric bikes have black wheels with a splash of Lyft's signature pink hue.

Before cruising around the block on one of the new bikes with San Jose Mayor Liccardo, Councilmember Johnny Khamis said, "The new Lyft electric assist bikes are fun and fast. I also like that you don't need to download another app."

The Bay Wheels ebike cost is \$2 for 30 minutes of travel time. Monthly and annual memberships are available through the Lyft app.

Liccardo said the new ebikes would help making cycling more accessible for people who might struggle since the bikes are electric assist. "They are an environmentally friendly way for commuters to get around," said Liccardo.

# Valley Currents

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



**Molly Cuevas** finishing her triumphant run entering Montauk, New York with some of her teammates from Adelphi University along with CAF co-founder Bob Babbitt. *Photos by Jess Rapfogel*

## Molly completes her remarkable 3,000 mile cross-country fund raising run

### *Running through 13 states coast to coast*

By William Bellou  
*Publisher*

**M**olly Cuevas of Almaden Valley said she was proud of her accomplishment of running coast to coast to raise awareness for Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF).

Surrounded by family, friends, CAF leadership, and supporters, everyone cheered as Molly Cuevas completed her 3,000 mile cross-country fund raising run on Saturday, June 29 at 10 a.m. in Montauk, New York.

"I was so excited to see my family, friends, supporters and local residents turn out for my final leg of my run in New York," Molly said. "I was so very proud and excited to see everyone there. It was overwhelming in a good way!"

Bob Babbitt, a co-founder for CAF ran with Molly on the final six-mile leg along with some of Molly's teammates from Adelphi University,



Upon completion and cool down of her run, **Cuevas** took a walk to the Atlantic Ocean to complete her journey, which she started April 1 at the Pacific Ocean.

ty, from Goldberg's deli on the Napeague stretch to downtown Montauk with a police escort. Babbitt said in 26 years CAF has raised \$112 million and had awarded 26,000 prosthetic grants for challenged athletes.

Reflecting on her incredible journey through 13 states, Molly took a walk on a nearby beach, putting her foot in the Atlantic Ocean 90 days after putting her foot in the Pacific Ocean prior to the start of her cross-country run from Santa Monica, CA on April 1.

Molly, who graduated from Leland High School in 2012, set a goal last year to run across America to raise awareness for CAF. "Challenged Athletes Foundation is definitely a good cause and the run was something I really wanted to do. I was fortunate to meet a lot of great people along the way who contribute to CAF or who are receiving funds from the organization," Molly said.

Molly ran through 13 states: California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. Molly's coach, Bree Lambert Sanders, helped Molly build up her

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Times **Community**



At a home coming party at San Pedro Square, **Molly Cuevas** (left) is joined by **Susan Butler** (center), CAF's development Director in Northern California, and **Ella Rodriguez**, a recipient of CAF services. *Photo by William Bellou*

strength and stamina for a year before the start of her run.

"What Molly has done is truly remarkable," said Molly's dad, Manny Cuevas. "Just imagine running a 35-40 mile marathon every day for 90 days!"

"I'm proud of what I have accomplished, but the journey was not about me, but rather it was about raising funds and awareness for CAF," Molly said.

The first month was the hardest for Molly. Heat was an issue in Arizona and she was in severe pain from injuring her Achilles. She consulted a Chiropractor to determine if she should continue with the run, but Molly checked out ok and was able to control the pain with a daily regimen of soaking her feet in cold water after her daily run. There was also a weather related scare in Missouri where two tornados touched down just two miles from where Molly was running. "It was scary seeing vehicles overturned on the highway and residential roofs ripped to shreds," she said.

Molly's best friend Whitney Kanavel ran more than 400 miles with Molly on the first and third month to provide emotional support along the way. Kanavel also documented the trip by taking more than a

hundred photos.

There was one person supporting Molly the entire 3,000 miles, her mom Jillian Cuevas. She was driving an RV which had Miles by Molly and CAF logos on the back. "It has been a lot of fun spending time with Molly," said Jillian. "We've really bonded during the 3,000 mile trip. We stayed at RV parks each night, though sometimes we had to drive 30 minutes away to find one."

"My mom is amazing...whatever I needed she was always there for me; she never complained," Molly said. "Mom did everything possible to make sure my journey was a success, arranging meals, recovery and accommodations throughout the trip. Her encouragement helped make my journey possible!"

Also on the trip across America was Molly's dog, a goldendoodle named Mayor. "It was very comforting and therapeutic having my dog Mayor with me on the journey," Molly said. "He would watch me leave in the morning and was there to greet me following my run every day."

"I want to thank everyone who supported me and donated to CAF during my run, and especially my sponsors," Molly said. "I'm very tired and will be resting now and

*See MOLLY, page 7*



The Cuevas family joined Molly at the beach to watch her more than 3,000 mile journey come full circle as she started at the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica, Calif. and ended in Montauk, New York at the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday, June 29.

## Broadway San Jose Presents The Book of Mormon



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Back by popular demand. The Book of Mormon played for a sold-out crowd during a two-week engagement in San Jose, CA in 2015.

The Book of Mormon is a Tony winning musical comedy by Parker & Stone. They are best known for creating the animated comedy South Park.

The Book of Mormon follows two Mormon missionaries as they attempt to preach the Mormon religion to the inhabitants of a remote Ugandan Village.

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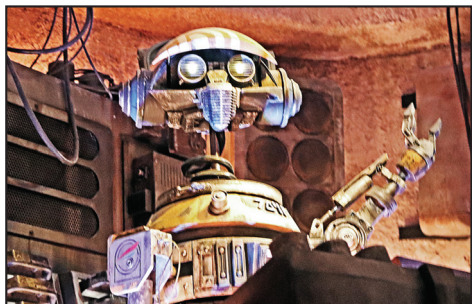
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Times **Travel**

Rey from the Resistance spies on two First Order Troopers in *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge* at Disneyland. Right: The *Millennium Falcon* waits to take guests on a hyperspace run through the galaxy.

Below left: DJ-R3X plays stellar tunes at Oga's Cantina; below right: a Tauntaun trophy is mounted in a den of antiquities. Photos by Jeff Baham



## IN A GALAXY NOT SO FAR AWAY

## 'Galaxy's Edge' opens at Disneyland

By Jeff Baham

Special to the Times

There I stood in the summer of '77, with the warm breeze tussling my hair, even though the calendar on my iPhone said it was June of 2019.

But that couldn't be right — because the primary icon of my youth, that pancake-shaped star freighter that I'd held in my hand as a toy was standing right in front of me, life-sized, bellowing steam with winking, blinking lights, loading ramp ready as if she were goading me to join her for a 12 parsec spin around the galaxy.

*Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge* has opened at Disneyland Park in Anaheim, with an identical "land" set to open at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida at the end of August. *Galaxy's Edge*, the ninth "land" to be added to Disneyland since it opened in 1955, is an overwhelming 14-acre recreation of a battle-scarred outpost at the rim of the *Star Wars* galaxy situated far, far away from our own Milky Way. The backstory to the land sounds complex, but is surprisingly easy to decipher once you've visited the place. Set in a period of time between Episodes VIII and IX of the *Star Wars* saga, the ruthless First Order (think "Empire") has come to the planet Batuu to restore an iron-fisted "peace" under the guidance of the evil Kylo Ren. However, the Resistance (think "Rebellion") has also landed on Batuu to form a secret base and spy on the ongoing tactics of the First Order, under the guidance of newly-minted Jedi Rey and the mighty Wookie Chewbacca. While exploring the land, you're apt to run into any of those characters — and you better not be up to mischief, because First Order Stormtroopers are also patrolling the land, and they are not shy about questioning any unfamiliar travelers they catch roaming through Black Spire Outpost.

Backstory notwithstanding, no *Star Wars* knowledge is necessary to marvel at the immersive new land, in which every loose wire, abandoned droid and blaster hole in the wall looks as ancient and timeless as you'd expect in a battle-weary village. The striking appearance of the planet's ancient-yet-futuristic tech is pure *Star Wars*, and even the panels of flashing lights that open each sliding door replicate the architectural technology found throughout the *Star Wars* films.

*Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge* also invites park guests (or "travelers," in the lingo of Black Spire Outpost) to interact with itself in ways no Disney-themed land ever has before. If guests have downloaded the free Disney Play app to their smartphones ("datapads"), they can take part in a myriad of activities that make the immersive land even more mysterious. Players can do reconnaissance for the Resistance, or work in tandem with local smugglers. There are QR codes all

over the land to be scanned, crates to be inspected, and locked doorways to be hacked. Lovers of role playing adventures can dive even deeper into the *Star Wars* rabbit hole, while other travelers can enjoy the land unaware that such an opportunity for game play even exists.

Everyone knows that Disneyland has rides, and so does this new *Star Wars*-themed land. *Millennium Falcon: Smuggler's Run*, the newest Disneyland attraction, allows you to actually pilot the iconic *Millennium Falcon* starship. The fewer secrets revealed about this experience the better, but note that smugglers with sensitive stomachs might choose to sit in the back seats and act as the ship's engineers, an opportunity afforded by the ride that allows for a less stomach-churning whiz-bang. But take it from this 1977 time-traveler: try to get an opportunity to pilot the ship in the right-hand front seat; the chance to "punch it" and throw the ship into hyperspace is pure astral magic.

Of course, there's a bigger, badder ride coming later this summer, and there are seemingly infinite nooks and crannies to explore all throughout the outpost — but two more experiences deserve mention. There's a "Droid Depot" in the outskirts of the marketplace which allows travelers to scavenge parts to build their own (Bluetooth-enabled, remote-controlled) R2 and BB 1:3 scale droids, and right around the corner from the depot is a subtly-marked scrapyard named "Savi's Workshop" which doesn't appear to have much happening worth mentioning — at least at first glance. But to travelers in the know (who have pre-paid their 200 credits via Disneyland.com, starting at 7:00 a.m. the day of entry, so be quick!), this hidden scrapyard is actually the home base for a mysterious group who call themselves "The Gatherers," scouring the landscapes of abandoned temples, lairs and wrecked starships looking for elements which, once properly combined, create elegant weapons for a more civilized age. The half-hour experience leaves you with a souvenir that will be long remembered, and an encounter with the most powerful presence on Batuu to boot.

There's also the strangely familiar *Oga's Cantina* (try the "Fuzzy Tauntaun" for an out-of-this-world, mouth-numbing experience), a Docking Bay which has been turned into a mess hall, and the marketplace selling all sorts of clothing, handmade toys and critters ... but this completes the secrets I plan to spill. Take your own tour to *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge* this summer and discover the hidden secrets from that galaxy far, far away for yourself.

Jeff Baham is a co-host of the *Mousetalgia Podcast*, which is all about Disneyland and everything else Disney. Find it wherever podcasts are found, or visit [Mousetalgia.com](http://Mousetalgia.com).

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Times **Feature**

## Molly

*Continued from page 5*

reflecting on everything that has happened during these past three months. I will stay connected with the CAF foundation for the rest of my life."

### Welcome home party

A welcome home party was held on July 6 at San Pedro Square Market which was attended by nearly 100 people. Molly was joined by Susan Butler, CAF's development Director in Northern California, and Ella Rodriguez, a recipient of CAF services.

Our mission to support individuals with physical challenges by providing access to sports depends on the efforts and generosity of extraordinary supporters like Molly," said Butler. "We are so very proud and grateful for Molly's efforts!"

Molly raised \$62,000 dollars in support of CAF, exceeding her \$50,000 goal. Additional money will continue to be raised as the word spreads on Molly's incredible cross-country feat.

### About Molly Cuevas

Molly graduated from Leland High School in 2012 where she lettered in Tennis, Soccer, Track and Field Hockey. Molly received a scholarship from Adelphi University where she majored in Sports Management, and minored in Marketing graduating Magna Cum Laude. Cuevas was a three-time All-American, a four-time Academic All-American, captain and broke nearly every modern-era record the field hockey program had, while also setting some new ones of her own while attending Adelphi University. She also received a minor in Communications from Murdoch University while studying abroad in Perth Australia. As a student athlete Molly was Northeast Conference Rookie of the Year. She holds virtually all AU offensive records, numerous conference records and is currently the all-time NCAA DII Assist per game leader. After holding internships with the Major League Soccer and the San Francisco 49ers, Molly went on to manage the social media platform for Rocktape. She currently serves as Rocktape's Marketing and Communication Coordinator. Rocktape is a kinesiology tape which helps treat sports and non-sports pain and injuries.



Molly raised \$62,000 dollars in support of CAF, exceeding her \$50,000 goal. Additional money will continue to be raised as the word spreads on Molly's incredible cross-country feat.



From left to right - Challenged Athletes Co-Founder **Bob Babbitt**, **Molly Cuevas**, a CAF grantee, and CAF Community Engagement Manager **Heidi Wiggins**.



**Molly Cuevas** places a custom medal around her mom, **Jillian**, as she also completed the more than 3,000 mile journey, driving the RV cross country and arranging meals, recovery and accommodations throughout the trip. *Photos by Jess Rapfogel*

# Top takeaways from Santa Clara County's new \$8.1B budget

By **Nadia Lopez**

*Article courtesy of San José Spotlight*

After a week of budget hearings, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to approve the hefty \$8.1 billion budget, funding projects that prioritize strengthening existing programs and services as the county prepares for an economic downturn.

The budget from County Executive Jeff Smith, approved by the Board of Supervisors, focused on completing critical initiatives for the new fiscal year which began on July 1. The spending plan touches more than 1.9 million residents in Santa Clara County, which is considered the fifth largest county in California. The budget supports at least 70 governmental agencies and departments, and includes nearly 22,000 employees.

Apart from the county executive's recommendations, the spending plan includes proposals from supervisors — one-time payments aimed at improving the quality of life for the county's most vulnerable residents by supporting nonprofit and community organizations.

"This is an investment in creating a loving and supportive environment for critically

ill children and their family members," Supervisor Cindy Chavez said about her proposal to include \$45,000 in funding for a "Pediatric Palliative Care Program" that supports children who are critically ill.

Other proposals included \$90,000 for a program intended to house homeless youth, a \$5 million investment in the preservation of agricultural land and \$75,000 for the YMCA to fund anti-bullying and anti-violence programs in more than 70 schools.

"I'm pleased to see a balanced budget focusing on completing crucial initiatives, strengthening existing services and funding nonprofit programs that benefit our community," Smith said. "Funding threats are expected from the state and federal governments. And the demand for services is expected to increase as the cost of services is expected to continue growing in the years ahead. Maintaining existing services and prudent spending are expected priorities for the future."

Here are the biggest takeaways from the newly-approved budget:

Growing the county workforce: Staffing increases have significantly grown county-  
*See BUDGET, page 12*



*The newly approved budget for Santa Clara County funds projects that prioritize strengthening existing programs and services as the county prepares for an economic downturn.*



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### Times Community

## Let's get the word out about parcel tax exemptions for seniors, people with disabilities

By Supervisor Dave Cortese

*Special to the Times*

**T**housands of seniors and people with disabilities who own property may be paying taxes they don't have to pay, and they don't know it. Or if they do know it, they find the exemption application process challenging and over burdensome.

At the last Board meeting, I called for administrators to develop an outreach plan so that eligible homeowners know about the exemption and can get help in applying for it. I also asked for an analysis of how many homeowners in the County might be eligible and locations where we could provide information to them. The Board unanimously approved the proposal by me and Supervisor Cindy Chavez, and administrators will bring an outreach plan to the Board on September 10.

This parcel tax is paid by homeowners who live in school districts that have voter-approved measures that assess a portion of their property taxes to provide funding for schools, usually for a special initiative or to expand services. Homeowners are eligible to opt out of paying this tax if they are age 65 or older, receive Supplemental Security Income for disability at any age, or receive Social Security Disability Insurance benefits at any age and meet the income requirements.

Supervisor Chavez and I heard from residents and representatives from

school districts at a special meeting on May 22 of the Children, Seniors and Families Committee. We called this meeting in response to a Civil Grand Jury Report that identified flaws in notifying residents about the exemption and in the application processes among some of the 24 school districts that collect a voter-approved parcel tax. Thank you to those of you who spoke to us at the meeting in May, and thanks to San Jose resident Don Eberhard who pushed us to see how the County can help.

Some suggestions we heard at that meeting included the County helping school districts receive information when property changes ownership,

inserting a letter into property tax bills, and enlisting the Registrar of Voters, the Department on Aging or the Social Services Agency to help with reaching under-represented segments of the County's older residents and residents with disabilities.

Our Finance Agency has already created a webpage with helpful information. Visit [sccgov.org](http://sccgov.org) and type in Parcel Tax Exemption. Click on the first item in search results and it will take you to the Special Assessment – Parcel Tax page. Under Exemptions, you'll find a list of the tax measures, the school districts and links school district websites.

You can also call my office at 408-299-5030 or email me at [dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org).



### County Report

By Dave Cortese  
Supervisor

## Speed cameras may be on table again for San Jose

The Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force is possibly discussing a proposal to test automated speed cameras in San Jose and San Francisco.

The proposal to use speed cameras is being considered due to an increase in pedestrian, bicycling and auto fatalities.

Speed cameras would snap a photo of offending vehicles whose owners would get a ticket in the mail.

The Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force will consider a variety of ways to slow drivers and that includes the testing of automated cameras on city streets in Santa Clara County may be back on the table.

Two years ago a proposal to conduct a five-year pilot automated camera project to catch speeders failed when needed legislation was not approved in Sacramento.

The Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that fixed speed cameras reduce injury crashes by 20 to 25 percent, and mobile speed cameras reduced injury collisions by 21 percent to 51 percent.

More than 140 cities across the United States have automated speed enforcement programs, but it is not legal in California and a change to state law is required to use speed cameras.

## California DMV offices to shut down for a half a day: July 24

California's Department of Motor Vehicles has announced it will close all of its offices for half a day on July 24.

The shutdown allows DMV workers to be trained on the federally mandated Real ID program. Offices will open at 1 p.m. after the training session.

The training -- dubbed "Operation Excellence" -- is intended to reinforce training on "providing excellent customer service" while simultaneously giving employees the tools needed to handle the volume of REAL ID applications.

Government Operations Agency Secretary Marybel Batjer, said the closure was "extraordinary" but said it was necessary to ensure workers get consistent information so they accurately process requests.

"It is a complicated transaction and we want customers to be well prepared in order to receive their Real ID efficiently," Batjer said in a statement.

DMV field offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (except holidays).



Times **Community**

# Technology centered mega developments lead Silicon Valley's economic boom

*Assessment roll tops half a \$trillion; longest period of growth in decades*

Following the Great Recession of 2008-2010, Silicon Valley continues to experience an unprecedented economic boom as reflected in the assessment roll data released by Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone.

Stone announced last week that the annual assessment roll hit \$516 billion, a 6.79 percent increase over the prior year. The assessment roll reflects the total net assessed value of all real and business property in Santa Clara County as of January 1, 2019.

During the past eight years, the assessment roll has grown 53 percent, more than any time since the hyperinflation period in the early 1980's. Assessment Roll Total Value and Growth for every City and School District in Santa Clara County will be posted on-line at [www.sccassessor.org](http://www.sccassessor.org).

The major beneficiaries of property tax revenue are public schools, community colleges, cities and the County. Fifty percent of local property tax revenue generated in Santa Clara County goes to fund public education.

The growth in the assessment roll is due to mega office and commercial property developments and major property acquisitions by iconic tech companies, including Apple, Google, LinkedIn, Adobe and Nvidia.

Two technology companies, Apple and Google, accounted for 3 percent of the total increase. The assessed value of all Apple properties increased by \$271 million. In addition, the total assessed value of all Google properties increased by \$759 million.

In addition to new construction and changes in ownership, the assessed values of business property, i.e. machinery, equipment, computers, and fixtures grew by virtually the same amount as the prior year 3.3 percent, another indication that our local economy is beginning to cool. The final component of assessment roll growth is the two percent increase in the assessed value of all properties mandated by Proposition 13.

The growth in assessed value is the direct result of several economic factors. For the first time in history, the Bay Area has four million jobs, fed by the technology sector. In San Jose, the median household income increased 21.8 percent in the last three years to \$122,000, the 10th highest in the U.S.

The unemployment rate in Santa Clara County is 2.1 percent, lower than the state at 4.3 percent and the nation at 3.6 percent. That is equivalent of "full" employment. "We are adding jobs, in spite of record home prices, traffic jams, fears of trade wars and labor force constraints. If the Bay Area was a country, it would be the 18th largest economy in the world", said Stone.

"Extremely low unemployment rates in Silicon Valley have driven the cost of tech talent to an all-time high, creating a serious high-tech labor shortage. Employers, particularly technology companies, are having problems hiring skilled employees due to sky-rocketing housing costs. The lack of affordable worker housing is making it impossible for employers to fill existing jobs", said Stone.

"The Silicon Valley office market closed on another record year, a much longer period of expansion than the "dot-com boom", 19 years ago. Office vacancy in Silicon Valley has declined from 25 percent in 2009, to 7.4 percent at the end of the first quarter. In Silicon Valley, 7.7 million square feet of office space was under construction in the first quarter of 2019, the most since 2000. Seventy-five percent of the 7.7 million square feet was pre-leased before completion of construction. Google has 20 million square feet of office space under lease in Silicon Valley, most of it in Santa Clara County. Vacancy countywide is 1.7 percent for warehouse, and 2.7 percent for industrial at the end of the first quarter, an 18-year low. Apartment rents have increased 52 percent since 2010, with vacancy below five percent", said Stone.

Assessor Stone cautioned that "there are early indicators that the economy may be in transition if for no other reason than we are due for a recession. Nationally, job growth in 2019 has slowed dramatically. We are seeing a marked increase in "for rent/lease" signs outside of major apartment complexes in addition to concessions such as free rent and reduced deposits to attract tenants, a clear signal that the peak of the apartment market has passed.

The same is true in the commercial sector. The unsustainable and frenzied leasing activity of 2015 and 2016 has slowed, in part, as a result of the significant increase in the supply of new office space." These changes will likely slow the assessment roll growth in future years. Consumer confidence recently dropped to the lowest level since September 2017.

The Santa Clara County assessment roll closed on time by the statutory deadline of July 1, 2019. For the 17th consecutive year, the Assessor operated below budget, returning \$1.3 million unspent back to the County's general fund.

## Assessor Annual Notification of Assessed Value

On June 28, the Assessor's Office mailed annual assessment notices to 492,423 property owners reporting each property's 2019-2020 assessed value. The notice serves as the basis for the property tax bill mailed in the fall. Santa Clara County is one of only nine other counties in California providing early notice to all property owners. "Most property owners in California learn of their assessed value for the first time when they receive their property tax bill in October," said Stone. The

See *BOOM*, page 11



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Times **Feature****Boom***Continued from page 9*

County Finance Agency has created a tool to help property owners learn exactly how much of their property tax dollars go to their neighborhood public schools, community colleges and government agencies, including the 15 cities and county government.

Property owners who disagree with the assessed value printed on their notice are encouraged to take advantage of the Assessor's "online tool," available 24/7, enabling property owners to review the sale of comparable properties the Assessor used to determine their assessment. An interactive service modeled after online banking, the Opt-In Tool, allows taxpayers to securely receive assessment notices, in addition to interacting with the Assessor's Office electronically rather than by mail, telephone, or in person. To access the data, a property owner must have a username and password created last year, or the PIN listed on the annual assessment notice.

Property owners who can demonstrate that their assessed value is higher than the market value of their property are encouraged to request an informal review of their assessment. The Assessor's property appraisal staff will complete as many informal reviews as possible prior to August 1, the deadline for making changes that will be reflected on the property tax bill mailed in the fall. More information is available at [www.sccassessor.org](http://www.sccassessor.org).

**Assessment Appeals**

The annual notice also describes the process for filing a formal assessment appeal by the September 16, 2019 deadline. Residential property owners who decide to file a formal assessment appeal, are encouraged to request their appeal be adjudicated by an independent residential Value Hearing Officer (VHO), rather than the more formal three-member Assessment Appeals Board. VHO hearings are scheduled frequently, allowing for a more rapid resolution.

"Property owners who disagree with the assessed value should not wait for the tax bill before filing an appeal, as the tax bill is mailed by the Tax Collector after the assessment appeal filing deadline", said Stone. More information is available from the Clerk of the Board by calling (408) 299-5088, or going to their website (<http://www.sccgov.org/assessmentappeals>).

*Editor's note: Additional information, such as a detailed city-by-city breakdown of the assessment roll, is available in the Assessor's Annual Report published in August. Property owners who wish to receive the Annual Report can send an email to [annualreport@asr.sccgov.org](mailto:annualreport@asr.sccgov.org).*

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### Times Feature

## Budget

*Continued from page 7*

wide with the addition of 205 new full time and exempt positions. These include positions added throughout the last year, adding up to a whopping 21,080 jobs. The county workforce alone will include more than 1,800 new positions.

Health is a leading priority: Investments in health care remains a top priority, following the county's decision to acquire O'Connor Hospital, Saint Louise Regional Hospital and the DePaul Health Center — a \$235 million acquisition. The county has set aside almost \$20 million to prepare for the costs and debts of that integration process. Additionally, the county has included funds to prepare for a cut in federal funding to vital healthcare programs such as Medicaid. The Valley Medical Center is also getting a \$2.1 million renovation, with an expanded emergency room and updated facilities.

A win for the Vietnamese community: The county has also invested \$37 million toward the construction of a Vietnamese American service center, intended to provide critical health and social services to a community often facing barriers to these services.

A new jail on the horizon: The construction of a new central jail is also on the list. The new jail, located at 885 North San Pedro Street, replaces an outdated facility and will include inmate programs in education, substance abuse, job placement and life skills to help inmates overcome personal challenges. The programs will be designed to "address an increased need" for mental health, according to the county website.

The county is also allocating a total of \$13 million in funds toward jail reform, following two lawsuits in 2018 alleging that inmates were kept in inhumane conditions and the jails lacked medical and mental health services.

Investment in a new voting system:

County supervisors voted to allocate a massive \$7 million in funding for election changes to the 2020 voting process — spurred by the Voter's Choice Act. The county is expected to move from its current voting system to one where precinct polling places are replaced with 125 "vote centers" that would be open for up to 11 days before Election Day.

A focus on mental health: Plans for a new juvenile and adult psychiatric inpatient center are underway. The county is investing \$1 million to build the new center, helping to reduce the number of minors admitted to hospitals outside of the county, and will include a comprehensive continuum of care with emergency and urgent psychiatric services.

The county provides mental health services such as mobile crisis teams, crisis residential facilities, crisis stabilization units and the Mental Health Urgent Care Center, but has worked to expand its mental health services following Board President Joe Simitian's call for better health care during the State of the County address in February. The budget will include staffing increases to support the need for more psychiatrists, therapists and health care professionals within the county's system.

County supervisors also established a "General Fund Contingency Reserve" at more than \$1.6 million and approved the \$6.6 million Inventory of Budget Proposals — where supervisors submit grant requests to fund projects for nonprofits and community organizations.

"We're fortunate to be living in relatively prosperous times, but there are still so many folks who need our help," Simitian said. "Even in good times, there's always more we wish we could do; so our budget becomes more than just an accounting document, it's the place where we identify our priorities, make hard choices and express our values."

Contact Nadia Lopez at [nadia@sanjos-espottlight.com](mailto:nadia@sanjos-espottlight.com) or follow @n\_lopez on Twitter.

## National Night Out: Tuesday, August 6

Hundreds of Almaden residents will join more than 38 million people across the country that will be participating in National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6.

National Night Out strengthens partnerships between neighbors and local law enforcement agencies.

The annual crime prevention event and community-building campaign is sponsored nationally by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the San Jose Police Department.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships
- Heighten crime prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local crime prevention efforts

Registration is now open and available online by visiting [www.sjpd.org](http://www.sjpd.org), online registration with the San Jose Police Department will close on Wednesday, July 24, 2019.

Neighborhoods will be hosting a variety

of events ranging from small potlucks and BBQ's to large block parties. Some additional event ideas include, but are not limited to, ice cream socials, games, contests, food or clothing donations, plan a clean-up day to beautify a common area, discuss neighborhood issues or set neighborhood goals, discuss or plan a Neighborhood Watch Program. It is an opportunity to be creative, have fun and celebrate your neighborhood!

Register your neighborhood for this year's event today! You do not have to be a current Neighborhood Watch group to participate. National Night Out is for everyone. Registration is free and gives police and other city representatives an opportunity to attend local events as time and circumstances permit. Register now and begin planning your event as soon as possible.

Please visit [www.sjpd.org](http://www.sjpd.org) for details about registration and other National Night Out event information.

For any further questions about National Night Out contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (408) 277-4133 and speak with any of our National Night Out Planning Team staff members.



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www.ccavucc.org.  
We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty. Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion  
2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.  
Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM.  
Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118  
408.265.5837  
www.bibleroad.org  
We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testa-

ment.  
Bible class at 9:30 AM  
Worship at 10:30 AM  
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

### EAST VALLEY CHURCH

We are a Multicultural Christian Community committed to making Christ known to our Neighbors, Community and World.  
Sunday Schedule: Coffee and Conversation 9:15am  
Worship 9:45am, Sunday School for all ages 11:15am  
Childcare is provided for all our Sunday Services. Our NEW Children's Building is Open!  
Uplifting music, Biblical teaching, ministries for Children, Youth, College & Career, Small Groups for all adults, Ministries to Men, Women, Seniors, Celebrate Recovery  
Please see website for details and meeting times  
www.eastvalleychurch.com  
Senior Pastor – Pastor Ron Johnson, Community-Life Pastor - Pastor Patrick Boyd, Children's Ministry Co-Directors – Alyssa Friend and Kristen Pearson  
We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail info@eastvalleychurch.com  
We are associated with Converge Worldwide  
www.convergeworldwide.org

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243 Web: www.eca-sj.org  
At the Episcopal Church in

Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

### EVERGREEN VALLEY CHURCH

Visit our Web Site at  
www.evcsj.com  
2750 Yerba Buena Rd. San Jose, CA 95121. Phone: 408-274-7422. Saturday worship is at 5 pm. Sunday worship services at 9 am and 11 am.. Excellent contemporary Christian music and Bible-based teaching. Nursery care and Children's Sunday School programs at 9 am and 11 am. Junior High students meet at 9am and High School students meet at 11am. Nuevo Comienzo: Servicio en espanol, Domingo 4pm.

### FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com  
Telephone: (408) 294-

7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!

### GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN

www.GraceChurchSJ.net  
See you on Facebook  
2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor  
Christian Worship every Sunday at 11.00 am  
Together let us build lives toward excellence!  
Music Institute (408)791 7772  
After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute  
PreSchool, Age 2-6 years. Caring for your child with God's love and affection  
(408) 791 7772

### HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise

to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 3sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.

### THE POINT CHURCH

3695 Rose Terrasse Cir  
San Jose, CA 95148



thepoint.church

(408) 270-7646  
English Service:  
Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM  
Spanish Service:  
11:00 AM  
Cambodian Service:  
11:00 AM  
Cantonese Service:  
11:00 AM  
Mandarin Service:  
11:00AM  
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade):  
Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

### SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road,

San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1+ (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

### SAN JOSE GURDWARA

3636 Gurdwara Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95148 The



God is One  
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ  
Rab Ik Hai

word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org

### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135

408-223-1562.  
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofassispreschool.org  
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star - Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:

St. Francis of Assisi Chapel  
Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass  
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall  
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM  
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road  
Sunday 9:30 AM  
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium)  
Sunday 8:15 AM  
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

**For Worship listing ads, call  
408.250.5242**

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- ◆ Formal living room with beautiful bay window and hardwood floors
- ◆ Updated kitchen with granite slab counters, natural wood cabinets, glass cooktop built-in microwave, stainless sink and hardwood floors
- ◆ Dining is adjacent to kitchen making the flow easy for family entertaining
- ◆ Step down family room features tile floors and a brick fireplace that extends the length of the room, while the glass sliding door leading to back patio promotes year-round alfresco dining
- ◆ Guest bath with tile floors, tile shower with custom accents and vanity with granite slab counter
- ◆ Master bedroom features hardwood floors and dual closets
- ◆ Ensuite with tile shower, granite slab counters and hardwood floors
- ◆ Guest rooms have built-in wardrobe closets with drawers
- ◆ Backyard features mature landscaping, multiple seating areas, dual storage sheds and planting beds just waiting to be planted
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