City Council candidates differ on public policy, SVLG survey finds SEE PAGE 4



Police seek help

Police ask for assistance identifying male suspect responsible for molestation SEE PAGE 12

Wellness Center at Pioneer High a much needed and welcome addition SEE PAGE 14



NOV. 1-NOV. 14, 2019 ■ VOL. 32, NO. 23



Almaden Times

New poll: San Jose Councilmember **Johnny Khamis leads Senate race**

new poll shows San Jose Councilmember District 10 **A**Johnny Khamis is gaining percentage points in the senate race

District 15 to replace Jim Beall next year.

The poll, which was funded by Khamis' campaign, shows him garnering support from 22 percent of likely voters who were surveyed. Six months ago, a similar poll funded by his opponent Supervisor Dave Cortese, put Khamis in second place.

"I am proud that our message of working to solve our problems instead of working for political parties is resonating, Khamis said. "We have been collecting money for mental health, highway repairs and schools without seeing many results. We must do more to house our mentally ill homeless, fund our schools and pave our roads with the money we already collect."

The new poll surveyed 400 likely 2020 California Senate District 15 primary election voters. It found Cortese and former Assemblywoman Nora Campos tied for second place, each earning 15 percent support. However, a large number of voters, 36 percent, say they "don't know" who they will support.

The process in which the poll

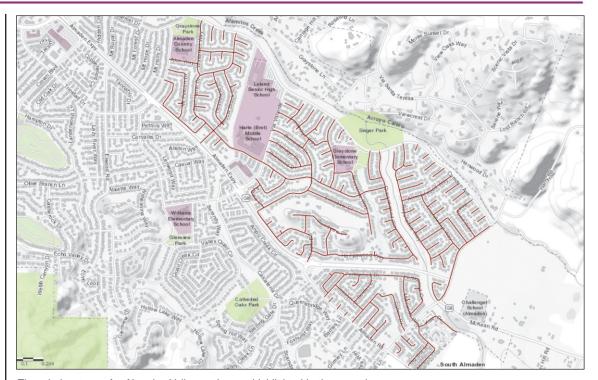
was conducted had the pollster read "short positive biographies" of all the candidates. Following the reading of the statements, Khamis'



A new poll shows San Jose Councilmember District 10 Johnny Khamis is gaining percentage points in the senate race District 15.

lead reportedly spiked to 25 per-

Khamis is running as a "no party preference" candidate, which according to the poll, appears to fare well with likely 2020 voters. According to the poll, 49 percent of voters favored a "centrist nonpartisan candidate who will work with those with differing viewpoints" while 43 percent said they'll support a "Democrat."



The priority streets for Almaden Valley paving are highlighted in the map above.

THE FUTURE OF BAY AREA TRANSPORTATION

New pavement program lauded at AVCA meeting

By Lorraine Gabbert

Senior Staff Writer

ohn Ristow, Director of the Department of Transportation (DOT), enthused about paving and the reimagined Diridon Station at a recent Almaden Valley Community Association meeting.

"I'm proudest of our new pavement program. It has been a long time coming that we've been able to maintain the streets of our city," Ristow says.

Due to a recently flush budget, the DOT has planned an ambitious paving maintenance program spanning nine years and reaching every street in the city. In 2019, about 280 miles of San Jose streets, mostly in residential neighborhoods, will be revitalized. This is the first time since 2012 that many neighborhood streets have received this kind of attention due to budget shortfalls. In addition, about 250 miles of streets will be paved each vear through 2027.

"Back in 2013, this city of a mil-

lion people was paving 29 miles of streets. We have almost 2,500 miles of streets," he says. "We were scraping together nickels and dimes to get 29 miles of paving done."

Corrective maintenance, such as pothole repairs and stamp patching, will continue on streets which won't soon be resurfaced. The DOT repairs more than 11,000 potholes each year, most within 48 hours of receiving requests. Residents may call the DOT at: (408) 794-1900 or use the My San Jose app to report a pothole.

Although the DOT acknowledges that street maintenance is crucial for public safety, the city's pavement condition is currently rated "fair" rather than "good," as an investment of more than \$102 million per year for ten years would be needed to raise it. However, with recent voter-approved taxes and bond measures, about \$87 million for paving has been budgeted for nine years, bringing the DOT nearer to closing this gap.

"We'd love to do even more every year," says Ristow, "but it's a matter of resources: there are only so many contractors available. We have 12 right now and that's the limit of what we can handle."

In prioritizing paving zones, the DOT considers the condition of the pavement, geographic equity, over-See PAVING, page 18































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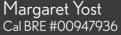




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David Yost Cal BRE #01450671

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo comments on Facebook's \$1B investment to combat the housing crisis

In response to Facebook's announcement that they'll make a \$1 billion dollar investment to combat the housing crisis, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo - the Mayor of the Bay Area's largest city — has released the following statement:

"I applaud Facebook for stepping up to make this extraordinary \$1 billion commitment toward our collective work to combat this housing crisis. As a company that serves billions of customers with thousands of employees throughout the world, it's uplifting to see Facebook recognize the need in their own back yard."

San Jose Water Co. open house Nov. 7

The San Jose Water Company will hold an open house Nov. 7, 6-8 p.m., at the Almaden Community Center. 6445 Camden Ave. They'll hold a question-and-answer session on recent rate changes, and they'll serve refresh-

Office of Emergency Services launches nation's first statewide **Earthquake Early Warning System**

On the 30th anniversary of the deadly Loma Prieta earthquake, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), UC Berkeley, United States Geological Survey (USGS), and others announced the launch of the nation's first statewide Earthquake Early Warning System.

The California Earthquake Early Warning System will marry a new smartphone application with traditional alert and warning delivery methods such as Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA).

The system uses ground motion sensors from across the state to detect earthquakes before humans can feel them and will notify Californians so that they can "Drop, cover and hold on" in advance of an earthquake.

Almaden Times

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Valley Currents

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

San Jose City Council candidates differ on public policy, SVLG survey finds

By Arianna Ramirez

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight ith the California primary election just five months away, a new survey sponsored by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group highlighted the stark differences between local candidates vying for a seat on the San Jose City Council.

SVLG, a trade association comprised of the region's leading businesses and tech companies, surveyed nearly 30 candidates running for local, county and statewide races in 2020. The questions ranged from funding for transportation to Google's massive tech campus and public charter schools.

The surveys, which contain the candidates original, unedited answers, asked 14 questions in total. San José Spotlight reviewed responses from a dozen San Jose City Council candidates, including four incumbents, to provide a closer look at four questions that reflect significant policy perspectives that divide the political hopefuls.

Moving the mayoral term and limiting campaign contributions

One of the biggest issues facing San Jose voters next year is a potential ballot measure that would prohibit campaign contributions in local

One of the biggest issues fac-

ing San Jose voters next year

paign contributions in local

developers and other special

interests, in addition to mov-

ing the mayoral election to

presidential years to boost

that would prohibit cam-

elections from landlords,

elections from landlords, developers and other special interests, in addition to moving the mayoral election to presidential years to is a potential ballot measure boost voter turnout.

The labor-backed measure has split San Jose City Council candidates down ideological lines.

When asked whether they favor "a ballot measure that will prohibit campaign contributions from advocates for development and tie the voter turnout. San Jose Mayoral term to

the Presidential Election Cycle," District 2 Councilmember Sergio Jimenez said he supports it and expects the measure to boost voter turnout. while his opponent Jonathan Fleming oppos-

In District 4, Councilmember Lan Diep responded that "there is no reason to support

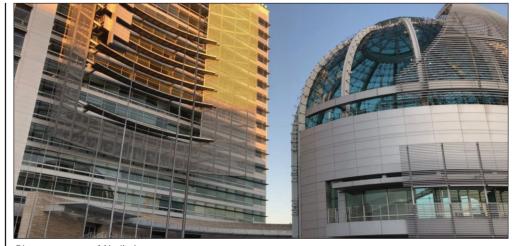


Photo courtesy of Nadia Lopez

this." Meanwhile, candidate David Cohen supports it, though he expressed concern that "regulating lobbyists" may impede on "free speech." Candidate Huy Tran also supports it, saying that a stronger democracy requires greater voter participation.

District 6 Councilmember Dev Davis opposes the measure, arguing that it would lead to a clash of local and national issues in conversations with voters. Meanwhile, candidate Andrew Boone supports changing the "outdated election rules" that "keep political elites and corporate interests in power." Candidate Jake Tonkel also supports the measure, saying it would help "remove the influence of money in politics.'

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas, who represents District 8, opposes the measure as it is written because she believes that prohibiting certain campaign contributions discourages participation in the democratic process. Her $lone\,opponent\,Jim\,Zito\,had\,not\,yet\,entered\,the$

race when the surveys were conducted.

In the open District 10 race, Jenny Higgins Bradanini signaled support, saying changing the mayoral election cycle increases voter engagement, but believes that limiting contributions to campaigns should not be under the same measure. On the other hand, candidate Matt Mahan opposes the measure in its entirety, saying there should be the "same

rules for everyone who participates in elections" and investing in "voter engagement and education" should be prioritized instead. Candidate Helen Wang also opposes it, calling the measure "expensive" and "unnecessary."

High-speed rail and FASTER Bay Area A pair of questions on the survey focused on transportation and asked candidates about two different efforts: One is funding to complete a valley to valley connection through high-speed rail and the other related to a measure dedicated to creating an integrated transit system to better serve Bay Area residents.

The measure, called FASTER Bay Area, promises to create an integrated transit system through a one cent sales tax. It is supported by SVLG.

When asked whether the candidates "support funding to complete a valley to valley connection through high-speed rail," Jimenez in District 2 said he supports "sustainable, long-term funding" of a high-speed rail given the amount of money already spent for its development. However, Fleming opposes such funding because "almost all California transit and transportation projects are extremely over budget" and this specific project does not warrant any difference in expense.

Diep supports funding high-speed rail because he believes it will help pinpoint where San Jose is located on the map within Silicon Valley. Similarly, Cohen also supports the highspeed rail funding, as "it provides an alternative to gas-powered vehicles and provides an economic boost." Tran, also a supporter, says high-speed rail would be an "environmentally friendly and safe mode of transportation."

All three District 6 candidates opposed funding the high-speed rail connection.

Davis opposes it because she said there isn't sufficient demand for a valley-to-valley connection, while Tonkel said California is "decades behind" on its development and Boone said the expensive project should not be a priority because it "will only serve California's relatively wealthier residents."

Arenas in District 8 supports the high-speed rail connection for the sake of unity within different communities and for the residents that are "currently living in the Central Valley and driving endless commutes to support their families.

See PUBLIC POLICY, page 6

LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters to editorial@timesmediainc.com or mail to: Almaden Times, Silicon Valley Business Center, 1900 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95124

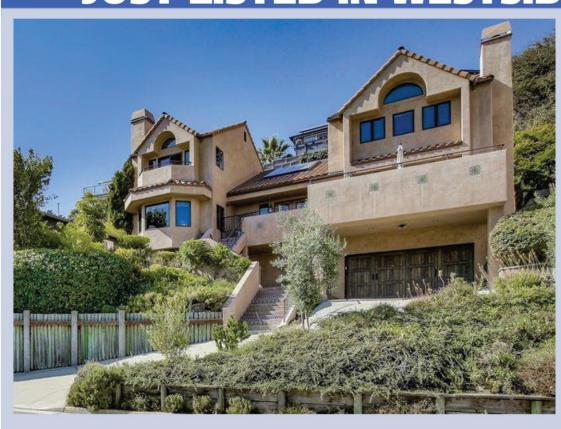


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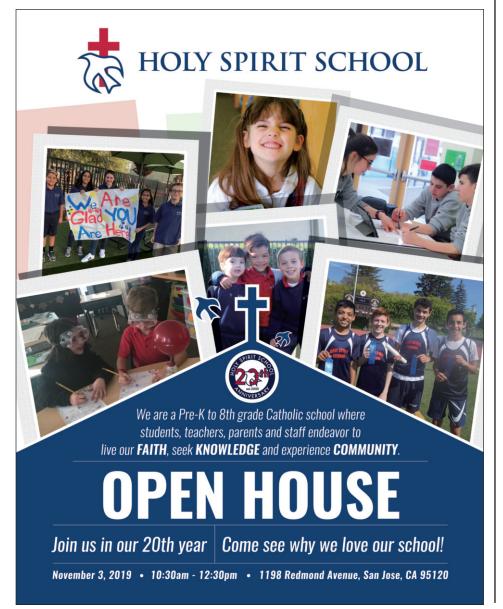
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Financial Advisor Questions?

- Does your current financial advisor work with you on your retirement plan? Forecasting cash flows against your retirement goals? And regularly updating assumptions?
 If "NO", why not?
- Has your financial advisor scheduled a year-end meeting with you yet? To discuss tax returns, charitable donations, IRA funding, 529s, etc... If "NO", why not?





Times Features

Public Policy

Continued from page 4

In District 10, Higgins Bradanini supports the project, saying it provides a solution to "cutting down on carbon emissions and the dangerous traffic congestion" within the Central Valley. Mahan also signaled support, adding that it will boost the state's economy by linking "Central Valley's residents with the jobs-rich and housing-poor Bay Area." Wang opposed it, saying high-speed rail will be counter-productive and wasteful for the Bay Area.

A new one-cent sales tax for transit

Candidates were also asked whether they would "support a measure dedicated to build and operate a world class, seamless integrated transit system to better serve Bay Area residents, funded through a one cent sales tax, to better serve the transit dependent and those of us still in our cars."

Jimenez supports the potential tax measure for transportation "in theory" but explains that he doesn't want San Jose to "continue to rely on sales tax increases" to fund such expensive projects. Fleming, on the other hand, opposes it and said "taxpayer dollars will be washed into a general fund" that leads to prioritizing different projects.

Diep, in District 4, supports it and said San Jose "needs a sustainable funding mechanism," while Tran opposed, saying he doesn't want San Joseans to face another sales tax increase that makes it harder for people to survive in the costly region. Cohen said he supports FASTER Bay Area to "increase ridership, reduce travel time, reduce traffic congestion and minimize pollution."

Davis believes that an integrated transit system will help people "travel more quickly and with less stress across our region," ultimately supporting the measure. However, her opponent Boone strongly opposed FASTER Bay Area, calling it "the most damaging and ill-conceived of any transportation tax ever proposed for the region." Tonkel also does not support a "regressive tax... without understanding the allocation of funds to lower income communities and environmental improvements."

Arenas supports the regional measure as it provides more access to the Evergreen and East Side communities, while also "delivering better access to jobs, entertainment and regional travel."

Higgins Bradanini supports the proposed tax measure if it is "developed in a fair and equitable way." While Mahan expressed concern about a sales tax increase on low-income residents, he supports an integrated transit system because it's necessary "to support our quality of life and our regional economy." Wang opposed the tax because she believes it's unaffordable.

Proposition 13

When candidates were asked whether they "support or oppose a proposed amendment to Proposition 13," Jimenez supports it because it's "crucial to bring about equitable contributions to our state's tax base" while Fleming opposed, saying businesses and jobs would leave California.

Diep opposed, advocating for a more "comprehensive solution" that includes both commercial and residential properties. On the

other hand, his opponents, Tran and Cohen expressed support for proposed amendments.

In District 6, Davis opposed changes, saying the measure "completely eliminates the property tax increase cap for businesses," yet her opponent Boone supports reforming Prop. 13 so that corporations no longer benefit "excessively from this tax loophole." Tonkel also supported amendments, saying that Prop. 13 reforms are needed to "provide other relief opportunities to small businesses that may be struggling" in San Jose.

Arenas opposes such changes, worrying about the effect on small businesses and the high costs of administering it.

Higgins Bradanini believes that Prop 13. needs to be updated and supports the measure because it "has been a major loophole to skirt financial responsibilities," which prevents the city from benefiting from different public services. Mahan, however, opposes amending Prop. 13 because it can "hurt economic competitiveness." Wang also opposes the reforms, saying they might be used against small businesses.

To read the full SVLG surveys from all Silicon Valley candidates, visit: svlg.org/2020-candidates-questionnaire

Contact San José Spotlight intern Arianna Ramirez at ramirez.arianna20@gmail.com or follow @ariaram98 on Twitter.



Rehearsals are underway for Bellarmine's performances of Coram Boy.

Bellarmine Theatre Arts presents Coram Boy

Bellarmine College Prep Theatre Arts presents Coram Boy.

Adapted by Helen Edmundson from the novel by Jamila Gavin, Coram Boy is described as a Dickensian tale of human trafficking, and the salvation of music and faith.

In 18th-century England, a slave-trader takes advantage of impoverished parents and young mothers facing unwanted pregnancies. Meanwhile, orphan children—at the Coram Hospital for Foundling Children—and upper-class choirboys alike struggle for the freedom to pursue their dreams, from finding families to following in the footsteps of composer George Frideric Handel. This "play with music" incorporates portions of Handel's Messiah as well as four original songs.

Performances are November 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 7:30 p.m. and November 10 at 2 p.m. All performances take place in the Main Stage Theatre of the Sobrato Center for Humanities and the Arts on the Bellarmine campus, 960 West Hedding Street, San Jose. Tickets available online at: www.bcp.org.





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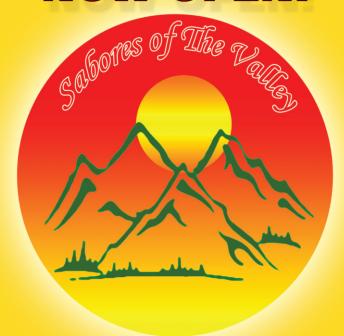
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Times Feature

Which is scarier: Halloween or investing in the Stock Market?

By Sean Hathaway

Special to the Times

That's scarier? Sitting in

hat's scarier? Sitting in cash or investing in the Stock Market?

These days they can both be pretty spooky. Sit in Cash and miss out on a big market run-up, like the 20% we've seen year-to-date, or Invest in the Stock Market and risk watching 20% of your hard earned cash disappear, like last year from October 3 - Dec 24 2018.

Cash vs Stock, always resurfaces when the US Stock market is experiencing a long rally, like the 10 years going now. Many believe it's time for a pullback, so better to wait and invest in the dip. The problem is that nobody can predict the highs, lows, dips, peaks, bear or bull markets.

Nevertheless, downturns and corrections will occur. So perhaps with crystal ball in hand you Sit in Cash determined to "Buy low" when the market turns. But here is where it gets spooky:

1. What if the big dip never comes? What if stocks continue to slowly rise for years? When will you give up and jump in? Or, more likely, when the dip comes, how do you know when to buy in? Missing even a day of big gains can have monumental effects on the size of your portfolio years down the road. Take the example above where the recent dip was Christmas Eve 2018. The market jumped 5% the day after Christmas, 15%over the following month and has been steadily rising since. Could you really have timed that?

2. You should expect to double your money every 7-10 years, on average and over time. To do this you need to attain 7-10% annual returns, which are very reachable over the long term. However, sitting in cash and missing the 5% up days (see previous bullet) will erode your long-term strategy and returns.

The alternative is Investing in the Stock Market, which admit-

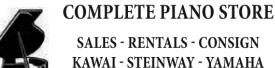
tedly can also be scary because you can lose a lot of money fast. Just ask anyone who lived the most recent crash from Oct 2007 to March 2009, an 18-month period where the market fell over 50%. But, and more important, is to keep in mind that it has since rallied over 340%, said another way \$100 invested at the low in March 2009 is worth \$440 today. The stock market ALWAYS bounces back.

So what is one to do? If you are working, with every paycheck you should be adding to your retirement savings in a diversified tax efficient portfolio of stocks and bonds

The more difficult question if you've been sitting on the sidelines, is how to move your cash to the stock market. Assuming you agree with premises (a) you can't time the markets and (b) the markets will trend up over time, then you should invest now. If you want to assuage the potential psychological pain, you could adopt a strategy to move your cash to a diversified portfolio incrementally over the next 12 months. If the stock market turns up quickly, you'll be happy you jumped back in and if the stock market declines over those 12 months, you'll be happy that you caught some of the low points.

Questions relating to this column can be directed to Sean Hathaway, Financial Planning and Investment Advisor; (971) 409-4180; or visit: www.HathawayFinancial.com.

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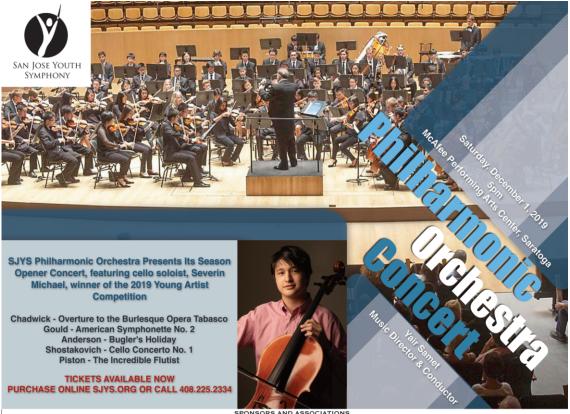


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AMY'S TIP OF THE WEEK

There are many local charitable organizations that welcome your gently used household donations. However, some unwanted items require special consideration when disposing. In this week's blog, I've created a guide to help identify

local charities or waste sites and what each organization will accept.

Find more information at my blog: amccafferty.com/blog



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Friday, November 1st, 2019 at 7:30 pm Admission: \$12.50 advance / \$15.00 door South Bay Philharmonic starts off their season with a visit to Italy, highlighting Italian composers.



VOICES OF THE VALLEY

Saturday, November 9th at 7:30 pm Admission: \$12.50 advance / \$15.00 door VoV's repertoire includes a vast selection of choral works from different genres, cultures and musical periods, specializing in staged choral works and modern music.



WOLFGANG ROETHIG Piano Recital

Saturday, December 7th, 2019 at 7:00 pm Admission: \$10.00 advance / \$15.00 door Twice finalist in the Paris "Concours de Piano des Grandes Ecoles", Wolfgang now lives in San Jose, CA, and balances family life and work in the high tech industry with his passion for music.

For more information or tickets are visit us online at www.fcpcsanjose/fccs



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Times Community News

Megan Beaulieu of Almaden Valley wins award at Rensselaer **Polytechnic for women's swimming**

he Liberty League announced its women's swimming & diving weekly award winners and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) student-athlete Megan Beaulieu of Almaden Valley has been recog-

In four events in a dual meet at RIT, Beaulieu had two wins and two second place finishes earning Swimmer of the Week.

She captured the 200 backstroke in 2:12.84, which was nearly three seconds ahead of the runner-up (2:15.29), and won the 200 individual medley in 2:15.29. She was second in the 200 free by .01 (2:00.79-2:00.80) and swam on the second place 200 medley relay team (1:56.52) for the Engineers, who were defeated by the Tigers, 162-138.

A sophomore. Beaulieu swam at nationals as a freshman, earning All-America Honorable Mention in both the 100 back (13th) and 200 back (16th). During the regular season, she compiled 322.00 points, including 207.00 as an individual when she had four wins, a team-high 13 second place finishes and six thirds. The aeronautical engineering major set school records in the 200 back (2:02.53) and 400 medley relay (1:44.62).

Founded in 1824, Rensselaer Polytechnic



Megan Beaulieu of Almaden Valley has been recognized for two wins and two second place finishes, earning Swimmer of the Week

Institute is America's oldest technological research university. For nearly two centuries, the Institute has been a driving force behind breakthroughs in engineering and science in virtually every arena-from transportation and infrastructure to business, medicine, outer space, and cyberspace.

AROUND TOWN



Above, top: Sabores of the Valley celebrated their official ribbon cutting last week, while the Almaden Bike Club (above) stopped by to say "hi!



The Johnny Khamis for Senate campaign met at Amatos Pizzeria last week. Women for Khamis proclaimed "he's our choice!"

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BRIAN LAURA HANNAH MARIA

Times Local News

Police ask for assistance identifying adult male responsible for molestation

The San Jose Police Department is asking for the public's assistance identifying and locating an adult male suspect responsible for molesting a 13 year-old girl.

Between August and September

2019, the unknown suspect approached the victim on approximately five occasions while she walked her dog on the Los Alamitos Trail between Harry Road and Camden Avenue in San Jose. The incidents occurred during the

morning and early evening hours. Each time, the suspect approached the victim and engaged in conversation about her dog. The last three incidents resulted in the suspect inappropriately touching the victim

Suspect Description: Adult male, 60-70 years old, 5'6" to 5'10", balding with white hair, approximately 175-200 lbs., yellow crooked teeth and spoke with an accent.

Anyone with information about this case or other cases involving the suspect is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Sean Pierce of the San Jose Police Department's Sexual Assaults Investigations Unit at (408) 537-1397.

Persons wishing to remain anonymous may either call the Crime Stoppers Tip Line, (408) 947-STOP (7867), or click the "Submit a Tip" link below. Persons providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect may



be eligible for a cash reward from the Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers.

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Power outage hits Almaden Valley again

PSafety Power Shutoff affecting portions of Almaden Valley on Saturday, Oct. 26, just weeks after the utility company shut off power to certain neighborhoods.

Residents were more prepared this time around with many of them purchasing generators to keep their lights on, refrigerators cold and mobile devices charged.

Autumn is always a transitional season, with a shift in the patterns of air that flow across the surface of our landscape, say meteorologists. These changes were particularly acute on the weekend with wind gusts as high as more than 90 mph in higher elevations.

More than 850,000 customers across 36 counties were affected

including more than 98,000 residents and 1,900 businesses in Santa Clara County.

Power began to be restored on Sunday night and PG&E issued an "all clear" just after 7 a.m. Monday morning.

The City of San Jose has focused especially on customers who are medically dependent and situated in vulnerable neighborhoods. Residents were urged to be "compassion in action" when helping families and neighbors.

Resource centers were opened on Sunday Oct. 27 through Monday Oct. 28, from noon to 7:00 p.m. The centers provided safety and fire hazard information, water, light snacks, charging stations and air conditioning at each location.

While city staff worked around the clock to deal with the outages, Mayor Sam Liccardo said his administration will continue conversations about how to avoid these issues with PG&E service. "Obviously, this can't be the new normal," Liccardo said. "We need to find better solutions."



US Army soloist to perform on Veterans Day Nov. 11

he Villages Music Society and Veterans Club's 33rd annual celebration of Veterans Day will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Veteran's Day, Monday; November 11, 2019 at the LDS Church gymnasium; 4977 San Felipe Road, San Jose.

All veterans will be recognized and presented with a rose. Platform participants include the Village Voices; the Villages Concert Band; the Villages Handbell Ensemble, guest instrumentalists and a military speaker.

KC Armstrong, this year's special musical guest has just retired from the US Army Chorus in Washington



Sgt. KC Armstrong

DC. He will be joined by the Village Voices in singing "God Bless the USA." He sang this stirring solo last July 4th with the US Army Band on the Washington DC Mall as the Blue Angels flew overhead.

A regular duty Marine Color Guard will present the colors and we will also be joined by San Jose Councilmember Sylvia Arenas and County Supervisor, David Cortese.

This is the second largest event in San Jose on Veterans Day and the entire community is invited.

Times Community News

San Jose 2019 Veterans Day Parade in downtown San Jose Nov. 11

he San Jose 2019 Veterans Day Parade will be presented on Nov. 11 in downtown San Jose starting at noon.

There will be a host of Civic and Military dignitaries participating in this year's parade, including San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, California State Senators and various Assembly Members, Santa Clara County Supervisors and San Jose City Councilmembers.

The Grand Marshall for the parade is Major General Gregory Jones Commander of the California Air National Guard. The military flyover for the event will be provided by California National Guard helicopters immediately after the singing of the National Anthem.

Santa Clara County will be well represented by numerous High School Marching bands, Law Enforcement Agencies, County Municipalities, and several Veteran organizations.

US military personnel will march in recognition of the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam wars, and Iraqi & Afghanistan conflicts.

New this year, the entire parade will be filmed live for Comcast with Mike Hennessy and Tony Karis as TV hosts providing real-time commentary of the event.

There are expected to be more than 50 corvettes, dozens of Ford T birds, classic and various vintage vehicles.

"Bring the entire family to this fun event and let's show our veterans how much they are appreciated," Hennessy said.

San Jose set to receive up to \$14 million for electric vehicle charging infrastructure

an Jose is increasing the number of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the city with a new \$14 million investment.

Over the next two to four years, the California Energy Commission will be funding \$10 million and San Jose Clean Energy, a branch of the city



of San Jose that deals with supplying electric power, will provide the other \$4 million, city officials said Tuesday.

The money will fund 100 new "supercharging" stations and 1,400 new "Level 2" chargers that can power up to 20-40 miles of charge per hour. The superchargers can power an 80 percent charge to a vehicle in 20-30 minutes, according to city officials.

"We're grateful to the California Energy Commission for their partnership, as we invest with them to double the number of electric car chargers available to San Jose residents," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "It's important to recognize, though, that we won't win our battle against climate change by merely building a city for Tesla's; that's why we're simultaneously exploring how we can use rebates, car-sharing platforms, and other tools to make electric cars

accessible to our least affluent families, so that everyone in San Jose can benefit from cleaner air."

Making charging stations abundant helps spur further EV adoption. Since transportation is the leading source of emissions in Silicon Valley, encouraging electric vehicles can go a long way in supporting California's climate goals.

Incentive funding would cover most of the charging station installation costs as well as the electrical infrastructure upgrades needed to install the charging stations.

"Because of these funds, residents can look forward to increased availability of EV charging," said Lori Mitchell, Director of San Jose Clean Energy. "Adding charging options in convenient locations will make EVs accessible for those unable to charge at home. This in turn will support a continued increase in EV adoption, improving local air quality for everyone, especially those living along busy roads and freeways."

San Jose's allocation is part of a larger regional investment from the CEC's California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP) that could see up to \$60 million invested in new EV charging infrastructure in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. SJCE worked collaboratively with four local government energy agencies – Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Peninsula Clean Energy, Silicon Valley Power (City of Santa Clara), and City of Palo Alto Utilities – to apply for the CEC funding.

The incentive project would launch in spring 2020, and funds would be available for two to four years. Businesses, non-profits, and public agencies would apply for the funding, install the charging station(s), and then receive a rebate for a portion of the costs according to project guidelines. The CEC selected the non-profit Center for Sustainable Energy to administer and promote the project.

Sharks select Gifts for Teens at Raffle Night

By Jan Giroux

Special to the Times

he San Jose Sharks have selected Gifts for Teens to share in the 50/50 raffle at the Shark game on December 14. Come out and cheer for our Sharks while supporting Gifts for Teens in the raffle.

Gifts for Teens will receive half of all the sales of raffle tickets from that night.

These monies will go a long way in purchasing much needed warm hoodie sweatshirts that are in each of the 1,200 gift bags.

Sharks and the Sharks Foundation continue to be an active participant in the community and supporting local nonprofits. Go Sharks!

Volunteers are still needed to fill our holiday gift bags for homeless and needy South Bay teens December 4-16. Volunteer shifts are 9 a.m. -12 noon and 1-4 p.m. Interested volunteers can contact kathy@gifts4teens. org.

Editor's note: The assembly location for the holiday gift bags has not been determined at this time.

The assembly site is being finalized. Check out Gifts for Teens website: www.gifts4teens. org for final work site confirmation.

33rd Annual Celebration HONOR AMERICA'S VETERANS

Monday, November 11, 2019



Special Musical Guest - Sgt K C Armstrong
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(EVENT IS NON-SECTARIAN)



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Times Community News

Wellness Center at Pioneer High School a much needed and welcome addition

By Jane Johnson

Special to The Times

Organic and grassroots change is afoot at Pioneer High School.

What started as a meeting in the Leadership class last year with members of the general student body grew into a practical, relevant and very real place for positive change.

Approximately 275 students were interviewed about several components of the school and themselves. Leadership teacher Amy Hernandez had her class drill down on the results flushing out 60 percent of the students citing some sort of mental health deficit either for themselves or a close loved one.

That sparked an aha moment for them all. Leadership teaches to step forward and be the change, to propose solutions to existing problems and to put ideas for positive change into action. Senior Luiza Albuquerque took this to heart and proposed an idea that fellow classmates Taujvyonne Daniels and Kyle Kitagawa, also seniors, quickly got behind. Their idea? A Wellness Center to serve the Pioneer High School community.

At the same time, and unbeknownst to them, Special Education teacher Jenny Kim also concluded a change on campus towards wellness was needed. She had formed her own idea of a wellness-type center, and approached Principal Herb Espiritu with it.

Mr Espiritu realized great grassroots work when he heard it. Always one to keep tabs on his community, he brought both Mrs. Hernandez and Ms. Kim together allowing them to collaborate. However, with budgets tight and already allocated, his first hurdle: funding.

That didn't deter them. Ms. Kim immediately started researching grant opportunities. Once identified, she and Mrs. Hernandez teamed with the students and applied for the grant both in writing and in person. The students were able to share their own stories, as well as their vision, with the grant committee. Each were asked poignant questions. Clearly the committee saw the genuine motivation and drive this group had to create a successful outreach for their school. Pioneer was awarded a grant in the full amount of their request, one of the very few schools to receive full grant funding.

It was such a long-shot, as without the funding the idea couldn't have moved forward. Upon hearing the grant was awarded, more than a few tears of joy were shed.

Next hurdle: space. Pioneer is bursting at the seams with unlikely space mates making do in various classroom configurations to make programs happen. Finding someplace to create a Wellness Center seemed difficult. However Mr. Espiritu was already thinking of making changes to Administrative position locations to better serve his community. He proposed two possible areas that the Wellness Center could squeeze into. But that was all he would have.

The team ruled out one as it was not private enough and made do with the other. Grateful to the other staff members who were impacted by the move, the team sought to create a space that students, and staff, would feel embodied wellness. Teaming their creative ideas, they envisioned and brought to life a space that is

warm, welcoming, calming, supportive and nurturing. Most of this work was done on their own time over the summer, including students volunteering countless hours to make it happen. As Mr. Espiritu underscored "it was a complete team effort to making sure we can pilot this program this year."

Mrs. Hernandez transitioned over the summer from Leadership teacher to the center's Coordinator. She insures students are greeted and supports are proposed as soon as the student enters the room. Ms. Kim, although a full-time Special Education teacher, continues to volunteer countless hours behind the scenes to help insure the Wellness Center's success.

Mrs. Hernandez is quick to point out they do not provide therapy or counseling of any kind.

Instead, they focus on helping students identify what's going on for them, provide immediate choices of coping strategies, and additional ideas students can take with them after their capped 20 minute stay in the Wellness Center. Pioneer High School did, however, seek input from licensed psychologists as they created and developed those strategy choices.

Ms. Kim and Mrs. Hernandez hope that students learn they can have positive control over what's happening for them, can know when to step away from life's challenges, decide what strategies work for them to bring that sense of relief and control, and that they can reengage into life with a better understanding of themselves and what works to quell their mental health challenge.

Mrs. Hernandez and Ms. Kim also acknowledge that some of what comes through that door is above and beyond the scope of the Wellness Center. However, the center is the perfect starting point to get students in crisis to very needed professional services including counseling and other modalities when applicable. Those can include services like The Bill Wilson Center for homelessness, CPS for safety concerns, Uplift for suicide, and professional counseling for a myriad of concerns. It's important to know ongoing counseling, after the center identifies the need, takes place with parent consent.

"It's ok to not be ok"

Realizing the very real stigma mental health concerns have carried in the past, the Wellness Center's slogan is "it's ok to not be ok." Their hope is that everyone comes to realize that we all, regardless of how it looks on the outside or on our social media posts, go through tough and challenging times. Those times affect our mental health and wellness.

It seems the frequency of mental health breakdowns are barraging us at an increasingly rapid pace. Often teens, pre-adolescents or young adults are involved. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, "one in five adolescents have had a serious mental health disorder at some point in their life." They go on to note 50 percent of those start by age 14.

Those involved with the Wellness Center want to provide support when those challenges arise.

Support includes providing choice of coping skills, teaching those ideas, and helping teens connect what they can do to help themselves.

How the Wellness Center works

 $Ms.\ Kim\ walked\ through\ the\ steps\ at\ the\ Well-$



Bringing the Pioneer High School to life (left to right): Ms. Jenny Kim, Kyle Kitagawa, Luiza Albuquerque, Taujvyonne Daniels and Mrs. Amy Hernandez.

ness Center. Each student who enters fills in an intake form about who they are and what's going on for them. Based on their self-assessment, the Coordinator provides choices of applicable tools, and the student chooses the one they think is most appealing to help. After 20 minutes, they are assessed again as to how they now feel, and given things to do outside of the Center on their own to continue learning coping strategies. They may visit during Flex, lunch or brunch - or they can request a pass from their teachers during another time of the day. Some staff were initially concerned the Wellness Center would turn into an excuse for students to leave class. But Mrs. Hernandez and Ms. Kim point out students quickly learn that although supportive and re-centering, the Center has its own work to be done, and attendance is closely monitored so students who need more support are referred on to appropriate services. It's quickly proving to be the supportive resource it was meant to be and not abused as some had feared.

The data shows this Wellness Center is off to an amazing start - well ahead of where they expected to be. Originally slated to open the second week of school, they were presented with so many crises the first day (crises can include death of a loved one, jailed loved ones, health issues, homelessness or suicide, to name a few) they decided to open a full week early to serve the needs. Already they have had 245 check-ins prior to fall break, and are credited with 90 percent of the qualified referrals to the onsite mental health counselor. In contrast, "in the past only approximately 20 would have gone to the Administration team of staff," said Mr. Espiritu. This isn't to say the Pioneer staff is uncaring or unable, it's that with 30 students or more per class and students unsure who to turn to in times of crisis, staff have not often had the opportunity to engage students in this way. But the Wellness Center exists for the sole purpose of helping to increase health and wellness of the student body as well as the Pioneer High School community as a whole, and students are embracing this.

"The people who have chosen to use the Center so far have been (pleasantly) not who you'd necessarily expect," shared Taujvyonne. Because he's been open and sharing with his own story, Taujvyonne has been approached by other students from all walks of life at school, from multiple different social circles, who've told him what a benefit the Wellness Center has been for them. Kyle shared hearing from his hairstylist that she's heard from her other clients what a huge positive impact the Center has already had, and its a buzz from both students and parents.

Some in the community may be skeptical feeling Pioneer never needed a Wellness Center.

That would play partially into the old stig-

ma that mental health is not like any other health problem - which it is. As real as diabetes or a broken leg may be to someone's health detriment, mental health poses similar detrimental health impacts. But new to the occasion are the very real modern challenges that most of us never had: kids today can't unplug. When they return home after a long day at school and/or work, they are still socially interacting around homework and well into the night over multiple social media apps or just plain texting.

They rarely, if ever, unplug. Mrs. Hernandez acknowledges the suspicions they have in the Center about some of the causes of the range of wellness challenges they're encountering.

Chief amongst them are students' use of social media, constantly plugged in, lacking sleep at detrimental levels (1-4 hours of sleep in a night), pressure whether external or inside themselves to attain certain college acceptance status, family dynamics, food choices, etc.

This is seen daily in all classrooms. Where students previously could watch 20 minutes of video on a topic and then discuss it, now that same video needs to be paused three times with discussion in between to keep students engaged.

According to a new study referenced in a September 26th Washington Post article, per the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, "youths in 'high achieving schools' are (being added) to their list of 'atrisk' groups, along with kids living in poverty and foster care, recent immigrants and those with incarcerated parents" due to increasing external and internal pressures for these kids.

All of this leads to real mental health challenges that are the genesis of the Wellness Center.

Already they can see the lessons and strategies they're teaching are making huge positive inroads in the fabric of the community. Students who've used the Center are feeling more in control of their mental and emotional health, equipped with strategies to combat negative thinking and feelings as they come up. It's early on, but the Center hopes to take more wellness initiatives out into the high school community including Talking Circles where soft mental health topics can be shared like trouble with friends and low-level anxiety, or Yoga.

Eventually having a counselor provide support groups for things like eating disorders and severe anxiety is a desire.

"My hope (for the center) is already happening...to know all those kids now have a place to go to and have someone to talk to about any issues that are happening for them, and from there we are able to allocate resources and support, that was my hope...that we'd better support our students not only academically but also mentally and emotionally...and that's already happening," reflected Mr. Espiritu.

See WELLNESS, page 19

Times Local News

Almaden Community Center offers Pickleball

By Gail Dance

Special to the Times

lmaden Community Center is now offering its residents the opportunity

A to play a new fun game called Pickleball.

It's the fastest growing sport in America and according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), Pickleball players numbered more than 3.1 million in 2018.

So, what is this funny named game that has generated so much enthusiasm so quickly?

Pickleball is a court game played mostly by seniors which is why

Almaden Community Center decided to offer it as part of its Active Adults 50+ Programs. The game is played on indoor courts in the center's gymnasium where they have three courts that can accommodate 12 players at one time. The City of San Jose's Department of Parks and Recreation has been making Pickleball available in many parks and community centers in recent years and, this year, made it available at Almaden.

Initial response has been outstanding and within a few days of posting a single Pickleball session held on Thursdays from 12:00 – 2:00 PM, all 24 slots were filled and there was a waiting list. That's because it's a good

way for seniors to get exercise without much risk of injury or having to be super athletic. And, it's social and fun at the same time.

The game itself isn't difficult to learn. It's a bit like playing ping pong or racket ball on a junior sized tennis court. The ball is slightly larger than a tennis ball, but hard plastic like a ping pong ball with holes in it (a whiffle ball). Most play is in a doubles format where



the winning team is the first team to score 11 points.

Almaden Pickleball group plays in a format called "open play" where players of all skill levels mix play and have fun. This means that when the match is over, the winning team stays on court, but they split up to take opposite sides of the net, thus allowing two new players to join in, creating two new teams. This constant rotation in and out keeps the play challenging and inclusive. And when four really good players cycle together on the court, the game becomes a fast paced and highly competitive match. The game itself is See PICKLEBALL, next page



The Almaden Senior Association members are a diverse group of enthusiastic, active, 50+ adults who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures.

Membership in the Almaden Senior Association offers discounts and opportunities to enjoy . . .

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs organized and run by members of the Association;
 - book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

Connected

We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com



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Ticket sales begin November 1st in the lobby of the
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M, W, F, 8:40 am-10:00 am

If you have questions call: 408-268-1133



Times Community

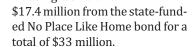
COUNTY UPDATE

Housing the vulnerable

By County Supervisor Mike Wasserman

Special to the Times
esidents understandably are
asking, "What is being done
to address homelessness?"

The answer is that we are housing people. On October 22, 2019, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved two new sites for affordable housing developments. The County's portion of the housing developments will be funded with \$15.6 million from the County's 2016 Measure A Affordable Housing bond and



The Gallup and Mesa Apartments – located on a .38-acre site near Blossom Hill Road and Almaden Expressway – is comprised of 45 affordable units, including 16 studios, 19 one-bedrooms, 5 two-bedrooms and 5 three bedrooms (plus 1 manager's unit). Twenty-three (23) of the units will be set aside as permanent supportive housing for homeless Transitional Age Youth. The residential amenities will include a 3,000 square foot common space in an indoor community room which

flows into an outdoor courtyard.

The second project is the 425 Auzerais Apartments, which is a 130-unit affordable family development near downtown San Jose. The development will consist of

128 affordable apartments, comprised of 82 studios, 24 onebedrooms and 22 two-bedrooms (plus two manager units). Sixty-Four of the units will be set aside as permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless households. Amenities will include community facilities and 15,000 square feet of private open space with planters for a community



Mike Wasserman serves on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 1. Visit his website at www.supervisorwasserman.org

units through Measure A by 2027.



County Report Mike Wasserman,

Pickleball

Continued from previous page unpredictable which adds to the fun and there's always something to learn, so you'll improve every time you play.

For the most part, though, players are there to have fun, get exercise and enjoy the social aspects of the game. It's great to win and everyone strives to play their best game, but competition takes a back seat and good sportsmanship prevails.

Until recently, most Pickleball was played in retirement commu-

nities with dedicated courts. But the ease and low cost of converting public courts to Pickleball courts has changed things dramatically. Simply by restriping existing courts, cities and counties have enabled tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts to do double duty for Pickleball. And that's good because Pickleball players have come out to play!

Interested? All are invited to drop by on Thursdays between noon and 2 p.m. at the Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Ave., SJ and see the game for yourselves.

Times Community News



A.J. Robinson Health Screening Unit sponsored by the Almaden Lions Club.

'Almaden Night Out' a roaring success

By Greg Goodman

Special to the Times he Almaden Lions hosted a "Night Out in Almaden" at the community center recently and it was a roaring success

Activities included dancing, great food, casino games and of course great auction items. Many guests felt it was a good date night and will come back next year. We always have it in October, so, look for it next year!

We raised more than \$13,000 from this event. Where does this money go?

Well last Saturday we had our health screening unit, called the A.J. Robinson

Registration

is Now Online!



Lion's Club

named after the gentleman who founded this program; at the San Jose Capitol Flea market.

The health unit screens for diabetes, vision and hearing. Last Saturday we screened more than 40 individuals at the flea market, and one individual had a blood sugar reading over 400! Armed with this knowledge provided by one of our Registered Nurses who specialize in diabetes; he promised to go that day to his

neighborhood health clinic which treats diabetics. Without us being there he may have never known about his health See LIONS, page 19

Registration open from:

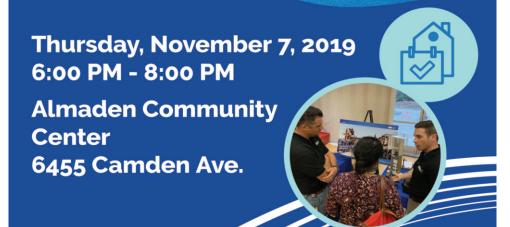
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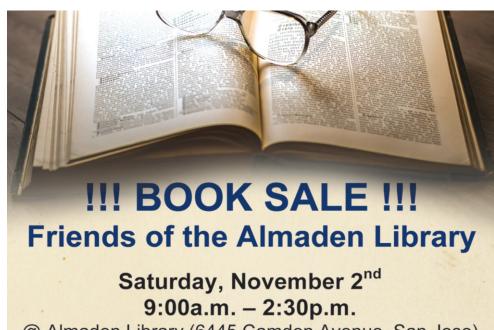
Open House

We warmly welcome our South San Jose customers to our last quarterly open house event of the year, beginning with a 6:00 PM presentation and Q&A on rate changes. Don't miss the chance to meet & greet with SJW staff, check out interactive exhibits, and enjoy refreshments and giveaways. See you there!





Questions? Please email us at info@almadenll.org



@ Almaden Library (6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose)

Come explore a huge selection of gently used books and media.

Most items are priced at \$2.00 or less! All proceeds from this sale support various programs and new

additions to the Almaden library collection that benefit the whole community.

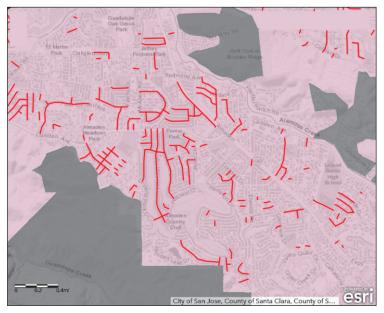
Don't forget to BYOB - Bring Your Own Bags! We'll see you there! Thank you for supporting your local library! ©

> ~ Friends of the Almaden Library www.almadenfriends.com





Times Community



Poor street conditions in Almaden Valley. The map shows local streets with a pavement condition index (PCI) of 49 or less, which is considered poor condition.

Paving

Continued from page 1

lapping projects, onsite evaluation, and community input. Depending upon the condition and maintenance history of the street, surface sealing or resurfacing will occur.

Primarily a preventive treatment, during surface sealing, failed areas of pavement are removed and replaced with new asphalt concrete before a new surface seal is applied to the entire street. Resurfacing consists of grinding down the old surface and applying a new layer of asphalt. Both projects include new roadway striping and markings as well as installing curb ramps where needed. A list of what roadways will be completed during the next three vears will be posted in December, See which streets are scheduled for maintenance this year at: www.sanjoseca.gov/transportation.

'We will see the city's street system transform into something we can maintain," says Ristow, "and become something we can be proud

The DOT is also aligned with Vision Zero San Jose in working towards zero traffic deaths and safer streets. "It is our priority to reduce traffic fatalities and severe accidents to zero," says Ristow. "It's a tough job, but a top priority for us to rethink how we're approaching safety."

Residents were eager to discuss their concerns following Ristow's presentation.

"I understand how some improvements to infrastructure make them safer," says a resident, "but drunks and teenagers racing Friday and Saturday nights in Almaden are bigger factors in fatalities and serious accidents than a crosswalk not being lit."

"We can only do so much to limit speeds," says Ristow. "Drivers' behavior is probably the biggest factor, whether distracted, impaired, or wanting to drive fast. That's where $our \, traffic \, enforcement \, of ficers \, come$

A resident noted that the community has been requesting a speed bump on Gravstone Lane for years where four kids were killed in a car accident.

"A speed bump is a tool in our tool kit, but not popular with every neighborhood," says Ristow. "It also slows emergency response time. There are other things we can do, like alter the layout of roads. The city council office helps prioritize expenditures. We need to hear from the community."

One resident complained that his street was full of large chunks of

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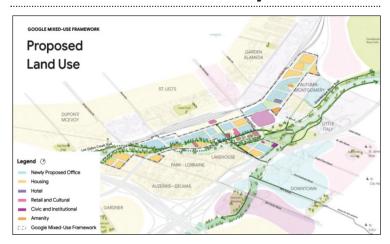




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Times Community



Google's proposed transit village

pavement in the middle of the street around manhole covers and sewer drains. "It's a high traffic area serving Country School, Bret Harte Middle School, and Leland High School," he says. "When that stuff's in the road, it's dangerous."

"It's all going to be fixed," says Ristow. "Residential roads that haven't seen a paving truck in 15 years will be resurfaced. There's a lot to do. If it's really, really, bad, we will go out ahead of the scheduled paving date to do a stamp patch."

Another neighbor expressed her appreciation. "We are one of the neighborhoods that got resurfacing and resealing," she says. "It looks much better. Watching that machine go down to do that grind and back was much better than watching TV."

However, she expressed concern with trees and streetlights. "Old yellow lights make it very dark, especially on cul de sacs," she says. "We would like an upgrade to that."

'Then this will be your Christmas present," says Ristow, as part of the Measure T budget will finance the conversion of all the yellow streetlights to LED white lights. "We have \$35,000 to do that," he says, "and will get them all done in six to nine months.

When she mentioned tree branches blocking a stop sign, Ristow advised her to call it in right away. "If it's a safety issue, we're not going to wait," he says. "We're going to go out and fix it."

With an eye towards the future of downtown, DOT says that once renovated, Diridon Central Station will be the largest transit hub west of the Mississippi River. It will encompass upgraded Caltrain service, BART Silicon Valley, High Speed Rail, Amtrak's Capital Corridor, ACE Rail, and local and regional bus service.

"It's being developed into higherdensity, doubling the size of downtown," says Ristow. "The number of passengers in the next 10 to 20 years will grow 10-fold, similar to SFO." Google submitted its "Downtown West" San Jose transit village proposal to the city in October, which includes offices, hotels, housing, restaurants, shopping, and public open spaces. Google plans to provide 5.5 million square feet of office space; 3,000 to 5,000 housing units; 500,000 square feet for retail, culture, education; and 15 acres of green space.

"We have our work cut out for us with how fast they want to work," savs Ristow

This, combined with paving the entire city of San Jose, will keep DOT rolling.

Wellness

Continued from page 14 Each of the students heavily involved in the Center hope for its continued future success.

Since they are all seniors, they all shared their hope that other underclassmen will step up to become as involved ongoing as they have been. After all their involvement you might think these three students plan to go into the mental health field directly. But they have an inspiring, and more holistic, outlook. Luiza plans to incorporate some with Social Work and Zoology/Veterinary Medicine that's calling her; Taujvyonne plans on pursuing Medicine and Dance; and Kyle looks towards Business as they all look to next year and beyond. Each hopes to take with them what they've learned about managing their own wellness and incorporate it into their own lives, and as Kyle says "be the beginning of wellness that just keeps growing from here on and on and on until wellness spreads everywhere."

If that's what the Wellness Center accomplishes, we can only hope its model spreads far and fast to other high schools.

Lions

Continued from page 17 problem until it was too late!

Blind Center Christmas Holiday Party

Coming up shortly Dec 7 we have the Blind Center Christmas Holiday Party put on at the San Jose Blind

Center. This is a festive event put on by the Lions club over the past 20 years. If you would like to volunteer at the event, please come to one of our Almaden Lions meetings. We meet each Wednesday 7 a.m. on Hillsdale and Almaden Expressway.

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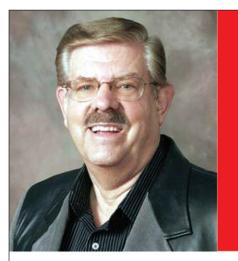
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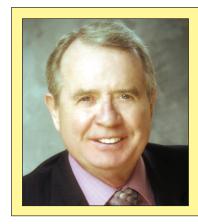
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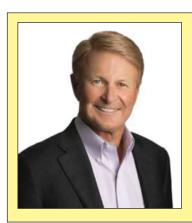
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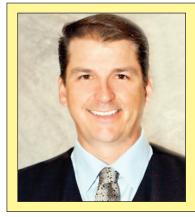
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Employment

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