San Jose Woman's Club celebrates 125 years of empowering women, families SEE PAGE 4



### No to sideshows

Councilmember claims crackdown on local street racing, sideshows SEE PAGE 17

Almaden homes make cold nights merry and bright for the holidays SEE PAGE 12



DEC. 27, 2019 – JAN. 9, 2020 ■ VOL. 33, NO. 1



# Almaden Times

## **Candidate** Forum to be held at AVCA meeting on **January 13**

he Almaden Valley Community Association meeting on Monday, Jan. 13 will feature a State Senate District 15 Candidate Forum starting at 7 p.m.

Candidates vying for the Senate office currently being served by soon to be termed out Democratic Senator Jim Beall are: Anthony Macias (Republican), California Republican Party Delegate and candidate for the same office in 2016; Nora Campos (Democratic), former state assemblywoman for California's 23rd State Assembly district (2010-2012) and California's 27th State Assembly district (2012-2016) and candidate for California's 15th State Senate district in 2016; Dave Cortese (Democratic), Santa Clara County supervisor; Tim Gildersleeve (no party preference), candidate for U.S. Senate in 2016 and 2018; Johnny Khamis (no party preference), San Jose City Councilmember; and Ann Ravel (Democratic), former chair of Federal Election Commission.

The Candidate Forum will take place at WestGate Church - South Hills Campus, 6601 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA, 95120.

Almaden Valley



Community Association

## Superheroes and bears spread holiday cheer

By Lorraine Gabbert Senior Staff Writer

tudents at Toyon and Anderson Elementary Schools received an early Christmas present this year: a surprise appearance by superheroes carrying Santa-sized bags of teddy bears.

"Seeing their expressions is awesome," says Dave Watkins, who dons Batman's cape and cowl to spread good tidings and joy. "The smiles on the children's faces makes it all worthwhile."

Watkins is also aware of the solace the bears provide children when they're feeling lonely or have been victims of bullying. "They always have that one teddy bear," he says, "that's soft, that's used as a pillow ... as comfort."

The idea of delivering teddy bears and good  $cheer\,began\,a\,few\,years\,ago\,when\,Raley's/Nob$ Hill, where Watkins is a cashier, held a fundraiser for Second Harvest Food Bank and Raley's Food for Families programs, offering Buster Cozy teddy bears in exchange for donations. As many customers contributed without taking bears, manager Nai Baker thought it would be nice to gift them to a local hospital. Watkins was inspired to give back to Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara, where he previously See HEROES, page 16



Students at Anderson Elementary School received a special visit and heartfelt best wishes from Dave Watkins as Batman and Steve Lam (above) as Superman.

## **Almaden families on the lookout for Santa!**

NORAD Tracks Santa

lmaden families are on the lookout for Santa! Yes, we know, it's hard to believe that Christmas Day is almost here!

Perhaps you have some lastminute shopping left to do tonight and some meal preparation, but after that... woo-hoo!

As Santa gets ready to visit Almaden Valley, how do you keep the kids calm and reassured that Santa's on his way on Christmas Eve? Go online to make sure St. Nick and the reindeer are on schedule.

Here are a few places you and the little ones can visit together. NORAD hosts the "official" tracker, noradsanta.org and its



interactive site also features a video arcade, a library of fun facts and a playlist of Santa's favorite holiday classics.

Google is also in the tracking game, santatracker.google.com. and its activities include a Santa selfie, a dance class and snowflake coding.

#### Alexa

If your household has become dependent on Alexa for everything, just say, "Alexa, open Santa Tracker," and you'll be updated with Santa's progress.

And for the on-the-go family, OnStar subscribers can receive updates as you're driving to grandma and grandpa's house.

Happy tracking! And don't forget the milk and cookies!



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# Wishing you and yours a season that is merry and bright

Happy - Chicky - Chic

All the best, from us to you - Margaret and David

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Margaret Yost Cal BRE #00947936



David Yost Cal BRE #01450671

#### **LETTERS**

## Reader's response to **Thunberg** answered

When I saw this in Louise Cate's "An open letter to 16-year-old Greta Thunberg..." in the Almaden Times, I had to read it three times to be sure I wasn't missing something: "Did you know that people like you warned in 1989 that cities would be flooded by 2000 if CO2 wasn't controlled? Can you report any cities that have been flooded?"

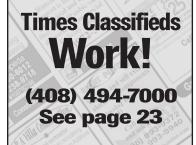
Yes! Recently, just in the U.S., I thought of: New Orleans (Katrina), NYC (Sandy), Miami (almost routinely), Houston (twice). Just for historical perspective, see Wikipedia's list of floods: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ List of floods

Notice that the number of floods per year constantly increases, with this year being the worst.

I do appreciate Louise Cate's reference to the geological record as evidence of past climate changes. There are many people who are so caught up in religious hocus pocus that they ignore science completely. On the other hand, what causes of the current climate change are occurring other than our overloading the atmosphere with pollutants?

Will Turner

Almaden-Cambrian



## 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 Woman's Club celebrates 125 years of empowering women and families

he San Jose Woman's Club celebrated their 125 years of empowering women and families and enriching the fabric of our community on December 8 at their historic landmark clubhouse in downtown San Jose.

During the Progressive Era from the 1890s-1920s Woman's Clubs across the nation flourished starting out as social and literary gatherings, eventually becoming a source of reform for various issues in the U.S.

Woman's Clubs addressed important issues including ending child labor, iuvenile court system. kindergartens, Indian Welfare Act, Pure Food and Drugs Act, environmental protection, free library creation, family planning and the women's right to vote.

On December 1, 1894, The San Jose Woman's Club was founded when nine women gathered in downtown San Jose, with a population of only 19,000, at Fannie Estabrook's studio to organize their efforts behind temperance and suffrage.

achieve far more than one person alone, The San Jose Woman's Club motto became "One for All and All for One." Together they set off on what has become a notable history of accomplishment in cultural, civic, educational and charitable betterment.

Today, the San Jose Woman's club is no longer a same-sex organization, but it continues to focus on supporting women and the community by maintaining an active calendar of events, providing leadership and mentoring for women, scholarships for local students, funding local and women's charitable organizations, preserving its historic Clubhouse and performing charitable work.



Realizing that a group could | Suffragettes from Portraits of the Past. |



Hilleguus Faber, Gayle Frank and Barbara Morrey from Portraits of the Past dress in 1890s attire to commemorate the founding of the Women's Club in 1894. Photo by Jim Watkins

### **Breakfast with** Santa delights families in Almaden

he Annual Breakfast with Santa event at the Almaden Community Center was held on Saturday, Dec. 14.

The morning began with a tasty breakfast consisting of pancakes, sausage and eggs.

Children created seasonal arts and crafts to take home with them.

Santa arrived to the delight of families attending the event as many got to have their picture taken with Ol' St. Nick.

The Almaden Seniors' Handwork presented their Holiday Boutique during the Breakfast with Santa event in the lobby. The boutique featured beautiful knit scarves, clothing items, and accessories perfect for the holiday season.

Volunteering this year at the annual Breakfast with Santa event at the Almaden Community Center were the Kiwanis Club of Almaden Valley and Key club members from Leland High, Pioneer, Sabrato and Archbishop Mitty.



Above: Volunteers gather for a photo at this year's Breakfast with Santa event. Below: Breakfast with Santa began with a tasty breakfast of pancakes, sausage and eggs



### **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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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS





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Webpage: www.thechiavettas.com

## VTA's All New Service Valley Transportation



Starting December 28, 2019

#### VTA Light Rail Changes

Light Rail will now have three distinct lines, which will be color-coded, and the new Orange Line will connect Downtown Mountain View to the Milpitas Transit Center. During weekday peak hours, service will be every 15 minutes and weekend peak hours will be every 20 minutes.

#### Orange Line – Alum Rock to Mountain View

- Transfer at Baypointe for the Blue Line
- Transfer at Champion, Lick Mill, Great America or Old Ironsides for the Green Line

#### Blue Line - Santa Teresa to Baypointe

#### Green Line - Winchester to Old Ironsides

#### Other Changes to Light Rail

- The light rail segment from Ohlone/Chynoweth to Oakridge will be discontinued and will now be served by Route 64a.
- I-880/Milpitas station renamed to Alder Station
- Montague Station renamed to Milpitas Station
- New Route 60 will serve SJC, Valley Fair/Santana Row, Downtown Campbell and Milpitas Transit Center.
- Only passengers boarding from SJC will board Route 60 for free.

#### **The Frequent Bus Network**

will operate every 15 minutes or better on weekdays between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and every 15 to 30 minutes on weekends.

Rapid 500 San Jose Diridon Station to Downtown San Jose

Rapid 522 Palo Alto Transit Center to Eastridge Transit Center

Rapid 523 Lockheed Martin Transit Ctr to Berryessa Transit Ctr

Route 22 Palo Alto Transit Center to Eastridge Transit Center

Route 23 De Anza College to Alum Rock Transit Center

Route 25 De Anza College to Alum Rock Transit Center

Route 26 West Valley College to Eastridge Transit Center

Route 57 Old Ironsides Station to West Valley College

Route 60 Milpitas Transit Center to Winchester Transit Center

Route 61 Good Samaritan Hospital to Sierra & Piedmont (via

King/Mabury)

Route 64 Almaden & Crown to McKee & White

Route 66 Kaiser San Jose to Milpitas/Dixon Landing Road

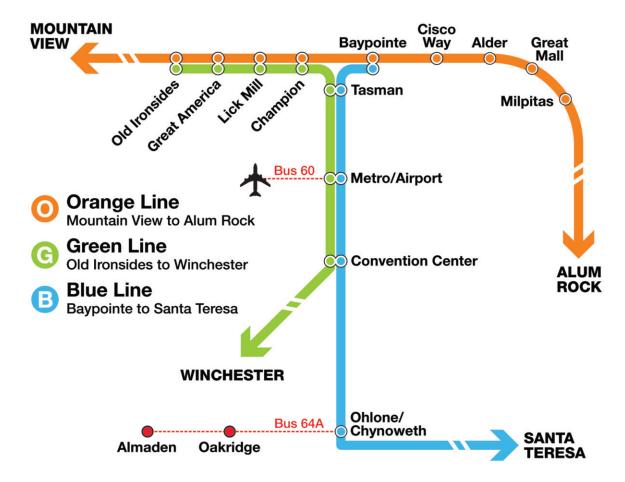
Route 68 Gilroy Transit Center to San Jose Diridon Station

Route 70 Eastridge Transit Center to Milpitas Transit Center

Route 72 Senter & Monterey to Downtown San Jose

Route 73 Monterey & Branham to Downtown San Jose

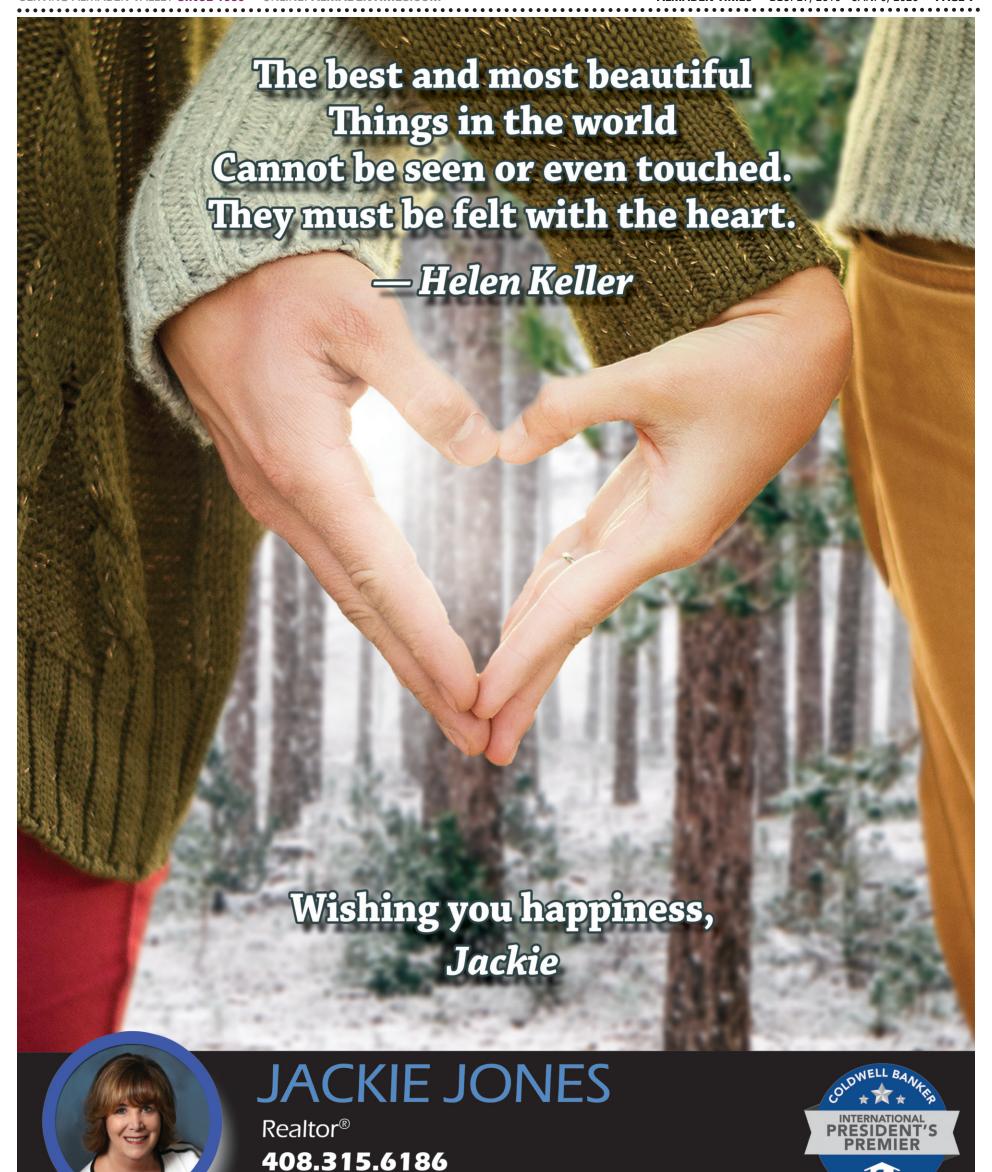
Route 77 Eastridge Transit Center to Milpitas Transit Center



### **Improved Bus Routes**

- Route 20 Sunnyvale Caltrain Station to Milpitas Transit Center; 15-minute frequency during commute periods and 30-minute frequency in midday.
- Route 21 Stanford Shopping Center to Santa Clara Caltrain station; a merger of Routes 32 and 35 into a single route.
- Route 51 Moffett Field to West Valley College; hourly service on weekdays.
- Route 56 Lockheed Martin Transit Center to Tamien Station; 30-minute service on weekdays and weekends.
- Route 59 Old Ironsides Station to Valley Fair Transit Center; 30-minute frequency on weekdays and hourly on week-

Bus Routes that have been discontinued or changed: Bus Routes that have been discontinued or changed: Routes 17, 34, 45, 58, 88; Limited Routes 304, 321, 328 and 330; Express Bus 120, 140, and 180 will be discontinued. Express Bus 181 will continue to operate until BART service opens. Contact VTA for other options.



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#### Happy Holidays from Hathaway Financial!

Question: How long does it take to double your money with

annual returns of 28%? Answer: 3 years

We can't expect high returns like we've seen this year to persist. But on average and over time the US Stock market has returned 10% per year, a rate that doubles your investment every 7 yrs.

#### Happy Holidays! Be safe!

Don't forget to visit important finance issues prior to year end: tax returns, charitable donations, IRA funding, 529s, RMD's, employer provided 401k and healthcare, etc..

#### Financial Planning - Investment Management - Advice sean@hathawayfinancial.com





## **Almaden Law Group provides** estate planning and probate services.

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#### Times Local News



Shooting survivor Barbara Aguirre is presented with a newly refurbished Hyundai Sonata. Aguirre will use the car to take care of her grandchildren.

## Gilroy shooting survivor receives car donation

our months after the Gilroy Garlic Festival shooting, the local community continues to rally and support sur-

On Giving Tuesday, earlier this month, one of the survivors, Barbara Aguirre was presented with keys to a newly refurbished car from Caliber Collision and GEICO to help ease her family's transportation needs.

The car donation is part of a national program to repair and donate cars to individuals in need of reliable transportation. GEICO donated a 2015 Hyundai Sonata which was refurbished by technicians at Caliber Collision who volunteered their personal time to refurbish the vehicle with parts and services donated by other local businesses.

Aguirre's six-year-old grandson was one of three people who died in the shooting. Aguirre and her daughter, Elberta Aguirre, Stephen's mother, also suffered gunshot injuries

The car donation provides Aguirre who helps take care of her grandchildren, with safe and reliable transportation. She was nominated for the car donation by the Gilroy

Over the past seven years, Caliber Collision and its industry partners have donat-

ed nearly 350 vehicles valued at over \$4.5 million to military service members, veterans and others in need of reliable transportation.

## **D10 Leadership Coalition** semi-monthly meeting: Jan 11

An update on the Almaden Lake Improvement Project will be discussed at the D10 Leadership Coalition semimonthly meeting, 9 a.m. – 12 noon on Saturday, Jan. 11.

Speaking at the meeting will be San Jose Police Department Southern Division Captain Gina Tibaldi.

The meetings are held at the Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120.

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WSJ / Real Trends List 2018 & 2019



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1487 MONTALBAN DRIVE, ALMADEN
Offered at \$2,200,000 | 1487Montalban.com



1091 FRANQUETTE AVENUE, WILLOW GLEN Offered at \$1,898,000 | 1091Franquette.com



7121 ECHO LOOP, ALMADEN
Offered at \$2,798,000 | 7121EchoLoop.com

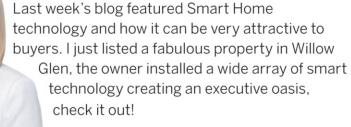


20425 HUNTERS HILL ROAD, ALMADEN
Offered at \$1,750,000 | 20425HuntersHillRd.com



301 WESTHILL DRIVE, LOS GATOS
Offered at \$2,250,000 | 301Westhill.com

#### AMY'S TIP OF THE WEEK



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



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Questions? Please email us at info@almadenll.org



P.O. Box 20803, San Jose, Ca. 95160 www.sjd10leadership.org

#### General Meeting - Open to the Public

Saturday, January 11, 2020 en Community Center, Room 3 (upstairs) 6445 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120

#### **Presentations & Discussions**

**Seating Begins** 

8:55 **Meeting Introduction** David Heindel, D10LC Chairman

**City Hall Report** 9:00 Johnny Khamis, D10 Council Member

9:30 **SCVWD Almaden Lake Improvement Project** 

Rochelle Blank, Assistant Officer & Michael Martin, Associate Water Specialist

- When will the project begin and end and what will the lake look like when done?
- What is the Environmental Impact Report results, issues and concerns? Will you be able to eat fish caught in the lake in the future?
- Will you be able to swim in the lake in the future?
  Will the park's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration be able to continue during project construction?
- Will the egret roost be protected?

**D10LC General Business** 

David Heindel, D10LC Chairman

12:00 **Meeting Ends** 

Ask questions, obtain answers, formulate your viewpoint and influence the future.

Coffee, tea and breakfast pastries provide until supplies run out.

#### **D10LC Is Accepting 2020 Grant Applications**

D10 Leadership Coalition has received a 2019-2020 San Jose Beautify Grant and is accepting applications from neighborhood groups and individuals who would like financial help staging neighborhood events such as Block Parties, National Night Out (Tu. Aug 4th), etc.

For More information, send an email to: D10LeadershipCoalition@gmail.com

**Times Community News** 

### San Jose City Council candidate involved in collision that killed a 66-year-old man

By William Bellou

Publisher

an Jose City Council District 10 candidate Jenny Higgins Bradanini was involved in a traffic accident that took the life of a 66-year-old man.

"Monday morning in Los Gatos, I was involved in a tragic car accident that resulted in a fatality of a man," Higgins Bradanini wrote in an email sent to her supporters. "I am heartbroken and deeply saddened by this tragic death. Words cannot adequately express my sorrow, and I ask for your support in sending your thoughts and condolences to the devastated family."

Higgins Bradanini was reportedly returning from a meeting at San Jose City Hall when the collision occurred on Monday, Dec. 16 at 11:40 a.m. on Blossom Hill Rd. She was driving her vehicle alone and was not arrested.

Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police said the

pedestrian, who was identified as Timothy Starkey, 66, of Santa Cruz, was pronounced dead at the scene.

"My heart goes out to the man's family and loved one's as they are suffering this tragic loss," Higgins Bradanini said in the email, adding that she will be "taking time to recover from this accident and grieve the loss of life."

It's unclear if Higgins Bradanini will continue her race for San Jose City Council to replace Councilmember Johnny Khamis who has termed out and is running for State Senate District 15. She faces tech leader Matt Mahan and businesswoman Helen

"Right now Jenny is taking time to focus on her emotional well-being and recover physically," campaign consultant Eric Stroker said. "She requests privacy for the family impacted and for her as she processes her next steps."



#### **HOUSE OF GINGER**

Children demonstrate their decorating creative skill building their very own gingerbread dream houses at the Kiwanis Club of Almaden Gingerbread Decorating Party on Dec. 17. An assortment of candies and all the supplies were provided for each house to enjoy for the holidays! Light refreshments were served along with a visit from Santa!



## COMPASS



## THE BONAFEDE TEAM JOINS COMPASS!

"With the exciting addition of The Bonafede Team, we will continue to enhance our presence in the South Bay region and ensure that network grows quickly," said Libby Leffler, president of Compass' Northern California operations.

"We are eager to join Compass because of its demonstrated success providing an agent-centric experience," Brian Bonafede said.

"The real estate industry is undergoing a transition to modernize. We're thrilled to join Compass and dive into the technology and customer service-driven future with programs like Compass Concierge, Coming Soon, and the new Bridge Loan Services initiative," said Steve Bonafede, CEO of the previously CSR brokerage.

Joining Compass was naturally the perfect fit because we both prioritize the same thing: OUR CLIENTS! Thank you for your support, we can't wait to begin this exciting new chapter. Please reach out to learn more about how we can serve YOU!



## The Bonafede Team

408.656.8429

Bonafede@CSRTeam.com 5330 Camden Ave. San Jose, 95124 DRE#70010038













STEVE

DINA

BRIAN LAURA HANNAH MARIA





## **Christmas greetings from Almaden**

Homeowners and residents of Almaden share the holiday spirit with homes that radiate in the cold winter's night









## May your days be merry and bright!







## Report: Top 10 metro areas where porch pirates strike most

Porch pirates strike more than 26 million Americans each year.

SafeWise, took a closer look into where these thieves are striking in order to offer recommendations on ways to combat this threat over the holidays.

By comparing FBI Crime Data to Google Trends searches for "missing package" and "stolen package" SafeWise compared metro area package theft rates for the entire year and compare those rates to holiday-specific rates of theft.

Most of the top 10 metros for package theft during the entire year also found their way into the top 10 for the holiday season.

These are the top 10 metros where porch pirates strike most:

- 1. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, California
- 2. Salt Lake City, Utah
- 3. Portland, Oregon
- 4. Baltimore, Maryland
- 5. Seattle-Tacoma, Washington
- 6. Chicago, Illinois
- 7. Austin, Texas
- 8. Denver, Colorado
- 9. Los Angeles, California
- 10. Sacramento-Stockton, CA.

Public hearing notice

Notice of Availability of Almaden Lake Improvement Project Environmental Impact Report



**Topic:** Almaden Lake Improvement Project

**Who:** Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)

**What:** Public meeting to solicit comments on topics addressed

in the draft Environmental Impact Report

**When:** Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Santa Clara Valley Water District, HQ Board Room 5700 Almaden Expressway, San José, CA 95118

Valley Water has released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the Almaden Lake Improvement Project for a 45-day public review from Dec. 13, 2019 through Jan. 27, 2020. The Almaden Lake Improvement Project will restore the Alamitos Creek within Almaden Lake Park and eliminate the current condition where the creek flows through the lake.

The project goals and objectives are to:

- Separate Alamitos Creek from Almaden Lake
- Reduce production of methylmercury and mercury in fish in Almaden Lake to meet applicable water quality objectives
- Remove potential lake entrainment and impacts from predatory fish to cold-water fish
- Improve temperature conditions for native fish.
- Minimize impacts to existing recreational features.

The draft EIR identified potentially significant environmental impacts from/to air quality, nesting birds and bats, tree protection, native fish relocation, tribal cultural resources, energy use, water quality, local flood risk during construction and noise. These impacts were determined to be less than significant with the adoption and implementation of mitigation measures identified in the draft EIR. The project site does not contain sites enumerated in Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The impact of construction to the visual character of public views in the project area was determined to be significant and unavoidable.

The Draft EIR may be viewed at <a href="https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/public-review-documents">https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/public-review-documents</a>. The documents are also available for in-person review at:

- Valley Water, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San José, CA 95118
- Almaden Branch Library, 6445 Camden Avenue, San José, CA 95120
- Vineland Branch Library, 1450 Blossom Hill Road, San José, CA 95118
- Pearl Avenue Branch Library, 4270 Pearl Avenue, San José, CA 95136
- Edenvale Branch Library, 101 Branham Lane East, San José, CA 95111
- Cambrian Branch Library, 1780 Hillsdale Avenue, San José, CA 95124
   Santa Teresa Branch Library, 290 International Circle, San José,

CA 95119

Written comments on the environmental document should be received by close of business day on Jan. 27, 2020. and sent to: **Michael Martin** 

at **MichaelMartin@valleywater.org.** For additional information or a CD copy of the document, please contact Mr. Martin at **(408) 630-3095.** 

valleywater.org | Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection 11/2019 JA



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Mon-Sat: 9am-7pm Sunday: 10am-6pm

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**Times Local News** 

## **San Jose City Council District 10 candidate Vinh Do fails to qualify for 2020 ballot**

By William Bellou

Publisher

Financial advisor Vinh Do who planned to run for San Jose City Council District 10, representing Almaden Valley, has failed to qualify for the 2020 ballot.

Do submitted his paperwork to the City Clerk on Nov. 27, nine days before the nominations deadline and with 11 qualifying signatures more than the requirement in order

to be included on the March 2020 ballot.

The City Clerk reportedly reached out to the Registrar of Voters, responsible for verifying the signatures without getting a response.

On the final day to file, Do heard the bad news: He'd fallen two signatures short of qualifying.

Do told *The Fly* he may consider starting a write-in campaign.



Lara St. John. Photo by James Farley

## Symphony Silicon Valley presents 'The Red Violin', Jan. 24 – 26

Film to be presented with orchestra, full score

ymphony Silicon Valley presents The Red Violin (Film with Full Score, Live On Stage) January 24 – 26, 2020 at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San Jose.

"What do you do when the thing you most wanted, so perfect, just comes?"

From Schirmer Theatrical and Rhombus Media, experience Academy Award®¬winning director François Girard's 1998 film, screened live as Symphony Silicon Valley performs John Corigliano's timeless, Oscarwinning score.

The Symphony will play John Corigliano's musical score conducted by Shih-Hung Young to accompany the eventful bio-pic of a legendary violin, following it from 17th century Italy to the present day. Violinist Lara St. John will perform the solo passages 'in what amounts to a virtuosic concerto.

Starring Jason Fleming, Greta Scacchi, Don McKellar, Sylvia Chang and Samuel L. Jackson, The Red Violin follows the intricate history of a mysterious antique violin from its creation by a legendary luthier in 1681 Cre-

mona, Italy, to an auction house in modernday Montreal where it draws the eye of an expert appraiser. Follow the violin's journey as it travels through five different countries over the course of four centuries, mysteriously impacting all who play it. The performance version of the film score was meticulously reconstructed with the assistance and approval of composer John Corigliano himself.

"There is a kind of ideal beauty that reduces us all to yearning for perfection. The Red Violin is about that yearning." — Roger Ebert

Performances are scheduled for Friday, January 24 at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, January 25 at 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, January 26 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$50 - \$98; Box Office (408) 286.2600 or www.symphonysiliconvalley.org. or visit the Box Office between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 325 South First Street in downtown San Jose, between San Carlos and San Salvador Streets just one-half block from the California Theatre. Easy, inexpensive parking is just one block away at San Jose City Garage on San Carlos Street with entrances on 2nd and 3rd Streets.

## **Sacred Heart Community Service distributes 3,500 holiday food boxes this holiday season**

acred Heart Community Service has distributed holiday food boxes to 3,300 families as part of its annual Holiday Program.

Since 1964, Sacred Heart has continued their annual tradition that unites the community during the holiday season.

Families come to the organization to pick up a holiday food box filled with items like fresh fruits, vegetables, grains, cooking oil, eggs, bread and other items needed to enjoy their holiday meal. Families will also select either a turkey, ham, or chicken to include in their box.

This year, Sacred Heart's goal has been to distribute 7,900 holiday food boxes to families in the community. To meet this goal, the organization distributed 4,400 food boxes during the week of Thanksgiving.

The holiday food boxes, a key part of their program, help make the holidays more affordable for families living in the Bay Area. Each holiday food box contains approximately \$100 worth of groceries. This is important for many members at Sacred Heart who spend approximately 80 percent of their



income on rent, leaving very little left for food, clothing, utility expenses, and more.

Sacred Heart also distributes toys as part of their Holiday Program. Each year on December 23rd and 24th, the organization distributes 18,600 toys to 6,200 children in the community.

To learn about Sacred Heart's Holiday Program or to make a financial donation please visit their website at www.sacredheartcs.org/holidays.



#### **BIKE DONATION**

Blach Construction delivered 100 bikes to Sacred Heart Community Service for their 2019 Holiday Program on Dec. 20. Blach Construction employees have organized this bike drive each year since 2008. Pictured are: **Jay Pecot**, Community Relations Manager at Sacred Heart Community Service, and **Erika Frederic**, Senior Project Engineer, Blach Construction.



Free Rides on VTA Bus & Light Rail Dec 28-Dec 31

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Superheroes bring teddy bears and TLC to children at Kaiser Hospital. Photo courtesy of Sindi Sheth

#### **Heroes**

Continued from page 1 had a cancerous tumor removed, and recruited some friends to join him in visiting the pediatric emer-

gency wing.

Rounding out the Justice League's caped crusaders are: Steve Lam as Superman, and Dan Nitschke as Captain America. This year, they were joined by Sindi Evitt Sheth as Supergirl, and Watkin's daughter Gracie as Batgirl.

"It's about bringing joy to the kids," says Lam. "While we can't do much to bring [kids in the hospital] home for Christmas, we can bring a little Christmas joy to them."

"It's just an amazing and humbling feeling...to be able to bring joy to kids who are in a really rough situation," says Nitschke.

Watkins is delighted to add some girl power to his team and is touched his daughter wants to join them. "The garage door opened slowly as we made our way out, dressed up as superheroes," he describes, "fist-bumping each other on our way to help other kids."

"The holiday season is a time when service to others is at the forefront of our minds," says Sheth. "It made my heart swell to see the joy a simple gift of a teddy bear could bring to these children."

The superheroes spending time with students at schools populated by low-income families was an enriching experience for all.

Recess at Toyon Elementary School—where Watkin's mother worked for 30 years—was especially exciting when the caped crusaders paid the students a visit. Enthusiastic children squealed with joy at their arrival and couldn't wait to meet them.

Toyon Elementary School Principal Krista Castillou enjoyed watching the students and staff share in a moment of carefree fun. "It brings the child in all of us out," she says.

Children at Anderson Elementary School shared hugs, high-fives and fist bumps with Batman and Superman. "Batman, it's good to see you," says one little boy.

"That was great," says another. "I've always wanted to meet Batman!"

"He is really good with the kids," says Miss May, Anderson Elementary School's kindergarten teacher. "He makes them smile from ear-to-ear and feel really special today."

From watching them interact with the students, it's clear Watkins and Lam get as much out of it as the kids do. Their witty incharacter banter goes hand-inhand with sincere emotions and encouragement. "It's hard fighting crime," Lam tells the students, "and sometimes school's tough, too, but always do your best and listen to your teachers."

Anderson Elementary School Principal Sarah Kates-March was grateful her students were able to share in this experience. "It was amazing," she says. "Some of these kids are poverty stricken, and these teddy bears could be the only thing they get for Christmas, so it's very special. Our children

Continued, next page



Superheroes make the day special for students at Toyon Elementary School. Photo courtesy of David Watkins

Continued

need to know the community comes together to support each other and share happi-

"That's what it's all about," says Watkins. "Making a difference in someone's life."

"The teachers and staff are the real heroes," says Lam, "giving hope and love to these kids on a daily basis."

For more information or to make a donation, please contact David Watkins at: Dlwat7302@yahoo.com.



## Street racing, sideshows and speeding in complaints in District 10

By Johnny Khamis

San Jose City Councilmember v office has fielded numerous complaints about street racing, sideshows, and speeding on Almaden Expressway and other streets within District 10.

Earlier this year I partnered with Councilmember Esparza on a memo adopted by the City Council approving a Spectator Ordinance to curb sideshows going on throughout the City and to empower the SJPD to combat street rac-

While there seems to have been a recent increase in street racing and sideshow activity, the SJPD is making some progress against it. The police department recently added two more motor officers to the Traffic Enforcement Team and, little by little, we are increasing the police department's ability to address traffic law

Last month, traffic enforcement occurred on Almaden Expressway, Branham Lane, Meridian Avenue, Hillsdale Avenue, and Blossom Hill Road, where a total of 48 citations were issued. Also, according to posts on social media, some of the individuals who were participating in sideshows have become aware of our Spectator Ordinance and are taking their sideshows elsewhere.

Despite the police department's efforts and our new anti-sideshow ordinance, there are still individuals who will ignore our laws and disturb the peace of our neighborhoods. I met with Captain Tibaldi who is assigned to our area and she is requesting concentrated traffic enforcement in the areas where residents have been reporting that street racing and speeding is prevalent.

Please continue to call the SJPD or go online to report racing and speeding vehicles. Provide as much detail as possible - vehicle make, model, color, license plate number, and the time and place(s) where incidents are occurring - the more information the better! With all of us working together with the SJPD we can continue to make progress against those who would make our streets unsafe.



Deadline: January 4, 2020

Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com

## Almaden Times

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 eniov . . .

- · exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs organized and run by members of the Asso-



- · 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.

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





#### **Times Feature**



### **Merry money Christmas! Two** perfect 'finance' gifts for kids

By Sean Hathaway

Special to the Times

ne of the most memorable gifts I ever received for Christmas was a roll of toilet paper. I think I was probably 9 or 10 and in 4th grade.

We always had two celebrations: Christmas Eve with mom and dad and Christmas day with the extended fam, at Grandma and Grandpa's house in Tillamook, Oregon. Cousins, aunts, uncles, new boyfriends and girlfriends of the aforementioned, random strangers maybe, etc... And the whole crowd fueled by insane amounts of food, dessert, booze and nicotine. As a child it was an exhilarating event. As an adult you either hated it or loved it.

So here's the thing, everyone opened gifts simultaneously; with 40 or so people taking turns viewing was impractical; but every once in a while, a fantastic electrifying present would draw the room's attention.

That was the roll of toilet paper from my grandparents. You see the roll didn't look quite as tight as a new one...had the look of being rerolled. The end tissue flapped freely, not glued down. So I started to play with it and unroll it, and low and behold a \$1 bill fell out, and as I continued to unroll the

paper more dollar bills fell out, in fact dozens fell out and some \$5s too, and the bills piled up around me, while the entire room gaped with astonishment and a touch of jealousy.

So here are some financial-minded gift ideas for Christmas and for children:

- Roll of toilet paper (see above).
- Investment account (see below).
- Runner-up: Monopoly.

Possibly the most impactful effective way to teach children about the stock market is to open an investment account on their behalf. This is known as a custodial account. The adult controls the account until the minor reaches the age of 18 (you can extend this to 25). Also, this could be a gifting strategy for other loved ones, like your niece, nephew or grandkids. Now we're not going to just open the account, you want to fund it with some stock pics.

So think about the technologies, toys or hobbies that touch your children and associate them to their respective public companies (needs to be a publicly traded company). If they're on Instagram,

See FINANCE, next page

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#### Times **Feature**



Happy holidays from the Hathaway family!

#### **Finance**

Continued from previous page could be Facebook. PlayStation, then buy Sony. If they have an iPhone, then buy Apple. Barbie, buy Mattel. Watch Netflix, then Netflix. Etc. Then when you open the account, consider buying one share of each company.

Now have them track their portfolio on an ongoing basis. For their birthday, offer to buy them more stock, but have them assist in the decision of which stocks to purchase. As part of this exercise, have them analyze the performance of each stock/company since Christmas. Ask them and discuss with them why some stocks perform better than others. Finally - and I'd be remiss if I didn't say this - con-

sider buying an ETF of the US Broad Stock Market (ex SCHB), so they can see how their individual companies/stocks perform against the broader market.

A spin on the above, is opening a 529 College Savings plan and sharing those numbers with your kids; mine are always excited to hear what the balance is.

If these two finance gifts are too much work, then default to Monopoly and enjoy with family.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season. Cherish this time with loved ones and family, because in the end they matter most.

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

### Loc Trinh of Almaden named to 2019 President's List at Chadron State College

Loc Trinh of Almaden Valley has been named to the Fall 2019 President's List by earning a 4.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Chadron State College, which was founded in 1911, is the only four-year, regionally-accredited college in the western half of Nebraska. Nearly 3,000 undergraduate, graduate and students currently attend Chadron State which offers programs and courses in more than 50 major and eight master's degree programs.

## Board approves ordinance requiring safe storage of firearms in homes

At the initiative of Supervisor Dave Cortese, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an ordinance last week to require safe storage of firearms in homes in unincorporated Santa Clara County.

The ordinance, which emerged from Supervisor Cortese's 2018 Community Summit on Firearms

Safety, is intended to reduce accidents, suicides, acts of violence using firearms and preventing thefts and illicit resale of stolen firearms or their use in crimes.

Final approval will come at the December 10 Board meeting, with implementation 90 days after that. The Board also approved an outreach plan to inform the public about the new requirement and receive further input.

"The main intention of this ordinance is to save lives," said Supervisor Cortese. "Studies have found that guns used by youth in suicides, accidents or school shootings come from their homes. Safe storage of an unloaded firearm can significantly decrease the risks of those tragedies occurring."

The proposed ordinance generally requires a person in possession of a firearm in a residence in the unincorporated area of the County to either safely store the firearm—by placing the firearm in a locked container, or by disabling the firearm with a triggerlock—or to have the firearm in their close possession and control.

The proposed ordinance would apply only to firearms while they are inside of residences in the unincorporated areas of the County, and would not apply whenever firearms are carried outside of residences. The proposed ordinance also exempts licensed hunters while using a seasonal hunting lodge located in rural parts of the County.



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Our ministries/activities include:

- · Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6PM.
- · A Food Pantry serving anyone in need--open Tu/ Th/ Sa 10:00 AM to Noon.
- Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thoughtprovoking theater productions, informative lec-

tures, and even an occasional karaoke night--all in a wholesome environment.

Our activities flow from our core values:

- · Extravagant Joy
- · Passionate Faith · Loving Respect
- Deep Connectedness
- Intentional Growth
- · Shared Laughter Visit us at our web site at: church@campbellucc.org or better vet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

#### CONGREGATIONAL **CHURCH OF ALMADEN** VALLEY, UCC

6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243. 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 Pover-

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,

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6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Dennev. Rector Phone: 408-268-0243 Web:www.eca-sj.org

At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are iovful 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 stu dents 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 ISLAMIC** CENTER (FIC)

Visit our Web Site at www.eicsanjose.org 2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose, CA 95148. (408) 239-6668 `As-Śalaamu-Alaikum," the Arabic greeting mean ing "Peace be upon you". Announcement: Evergreen Islamic Center (EIC) will hold its annual fundraising dinner on December 7th, 2019 at Chandni Restaurant located at 5748 Mowry School Rd., Newark, CA at 5:30 PM. Please purchase ticket online from FIC's website and bring friends & family members to the event. Services: Five daily prayers, Quranic/Islamic studies for all age groups. weekly seminars, presentations and much more. Learn about our weekly programs and current prayer times by visiting our website. Jazāk Allāhu Khayran!

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#### God is One ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA 3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148 The 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 printhepoint.church ciples; 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

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age 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. San-JoseGurdwara.org

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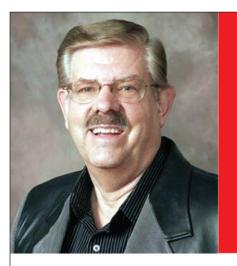












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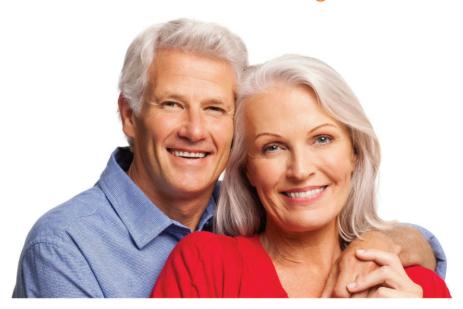
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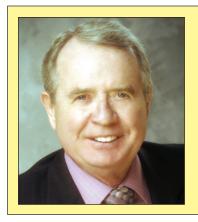
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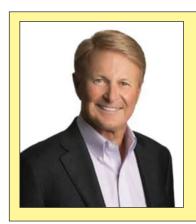
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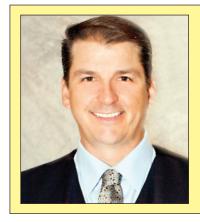
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#### Times Local News





District 10
Report
Johnny Khamis,

## Season's Greetings from the District 10 Team!

y staff and I wish you a holiday season filled with joy and peace. With a few new team members on board, we are all invigorated by the opportunity to continue to focus on serving you in the coming year. We'll continue to focus on improving efficiency and accountability in government, solving the challenges we face as a community, and ensuring that our tax dollars are being spent responsibly. Even though I have just over a year left as your District 10 Councilmember, we're prepared and energized for 2020.

#### CHARITY

## Report: 2019 'Most Caring Cities in America' named by WalletHub website

ith the holidays reminding Americans to look out for one another through acts of kindness like charitable giving – Americans donated over \$427 billion in 2018 – the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2019's Most Caring Cities in America.

In order to identify the most compassionate places in America, WalletHub compared the 100 largest U.S. cities across 39 key metrics. The data set ranges from homelessness rate to share of income donated to charity to special-education teachers per capita.

#### **Most Caring Cities in America**

- 1. Virginia Beach, VA
- 2. Madison, WI
- 3. Pittsburgh, PA
- 4. Lincoln, NE
- 5. Minneapolis, MN
- 6. St. Paul, MN
- 7. Fremont, CA
- 8. Chesapeake, VA
- 9. Boston, MA
- 10. Scottsdale, AZ 11. Aurora, CO 12. New York, NY
- 13. Denver, CO
- 14 Dlane TV
- 14. Plano, TX
- 15. Gilbert, AZ 16. Jersey City, NJ

- 17. Irvine, CA
- 18. Washington, DC
- 19. Seattle, WA
- 20. Omaha, NE

#### **Key Stats**

- Memphis, Tennessee, has the highest share of income donated to charity, 5.60 percent, which is 2.4 times higher than in Buffalo, New York, the city with the lowest at 2.30 percent.
- Baltimore has the most volunteer hours per capita, 56.28, which is 5.4 times more than in Jacksonville, Florida, the city with the fewest at 10.47.
- Jacksonville, Florida, has the highest share of residents who do favors for their neighbors, 68.70 percent, which is 1.8 times higher than in Orlando, Florida, the cities with the lowest at 38.30 percent.
- Buffalo, New York, has the highest share of sheltered homeless persons, 98.43 percent, which is 4.6 times higher than in Fresno, California, the city with the lowest at 21.60 percent.
- Fremont, California, has the lowest childpoverty rate, 4.58 percent, which is 11 times lower than in Cleveland, the city with the highest at 50.53 percent.

To view the full report and your city's rank, please visit: wallethub.com/edu/most-caring-cities/17814

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## Almaden Valley

(Senior) Singles

**Singles** 

The organization that brings single residents of Almaden Valley (95120) over 65 to enjoy a social life close to home and take part in community service.

Come and join us for our monthly breakfast which is held at 9 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Cup and Saucer, Princeton Plaza Mall, 1375 Blossom Hill Road.



## Happy Holidays

Wishing Everyone
Peace,
Joy,
and
Happiness

This Holiday Season



Therese Swan 408.656.8240 tswan@tswan.com AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com DRE 01355719









Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 10 years as measured by Dollars per Agent per Year. And 2019 will be no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to ever have been nationally ranked and recognized by Wall Street Journal/RealTrends twice for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.

