

Youth Entrepreneur Camp gives students chance to pitch ideas to professionals
SEE PAGE 4



The race is on
Poll: Candidate Matt Mahan leads San Jose City Council District 10 race
SEE PAGE 12

Almaden Valley Women's Club installs new board of directors
SEE PAGE 10



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JAN. 24 – FEB. 6, 2020 ■ VOL. 33, NO. 3



City Council candidates from Districts 2 and 10, and State Senate candidates from District 15, spoke about housing, homelessness, and public safety at a forum held at the Santa Teresa Public Library on Jan 15. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

State Senate and City Council candidate forum informs voters

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

City Council candidates from Districts 2 and 10, and State Senate candidates from District 15, spoke about housing, homelessness, and public safety at a forum held last night at the Santa Teresa Public Library on Jan 15.

Hosted by Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association, the candidates were each allotted six minutes to speak, providing more in-depth answers than the typical 30-second responses.

City Council District 10 Candidates: Jenny Higgins Bradanini, Matt Mahan, Helen Wang

Jenny Higgins Bradanini

"As many of you know, I was involved in a tragic accident in December and my heart, my prayers, and my mind are with his family," said Women's March Foundation Director Jenny Higgins Bradanini, whose SUV fatally struck a 66-year-old man. Still, she said her love for her community and passion for the future of San Jose hasn't wavered. Higgins Bradanini

said that no issues are more important than the housing crisis and homelessness. "With the rate of homelessness and displacement going up, and housing costs skyrocketing," she said, "...we need more affordable housing options and to rescue our neighbors living on the streets and in their cars." Fiscal responsibility is also essential to Higgins Bradanini. She vows vigilance and careful investment of the city's financial resources. She is not supporting the proposed

See FORUM, page 16

Silicon Valley candidates vying for D15 Senate seat face off

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Candidates for state Senate in District 15 faced off on issues ranging from education to housing at a debate hosted by the Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) on Jan 13.

The candidates included former California Assemblymember Nora Campos, Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ken Del Valle, paratransit operator Tim Gildersleeve, San Jose Councilmember Johnny Khamis and former Federal Election Commission Chair Ann Ravel. Doug Yoder stood in for candidate Robert Howell.

Campos said she's running for the Senate to finish the work she

started on the San Jose City Council and in Sacramento. In the Assembly, she championed pay equity and authored a bill that allows San Jose to build unconventional tiny homes for the homeless. The first tiny homes community is at Ma-bury Road along the transit corridor.

Cortese co-chaired the campaign for Measure A's \$950 million housing bond—\$700 million of which is dedicated to extremely low-income housing—and provided 2,000 units for the homeless.

Del Valle, who was born and raised in Puerto Rico, said his understanding of fiscal responsibility will serve him well in politics. He is inspired by San Diego's
See DEBATE, page 17

Lunar New Year Living History Day: Feb. 8

Come visit Casa Grande in Almaden Valley and celebrate the Lunar New Year with Chinese activities and traditions.

The celebration is Saturday, February 8th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Casa Grande New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum.

The Lunar New Year celebration is sure to create delightful memories for the whole family. Planned events include guided tours of the museum, story time about Chinese traditions and



customs along with a themed craft activity.

Casa Grande will be decorated in a Lunar New Year ambiance to celebrate the New Year.

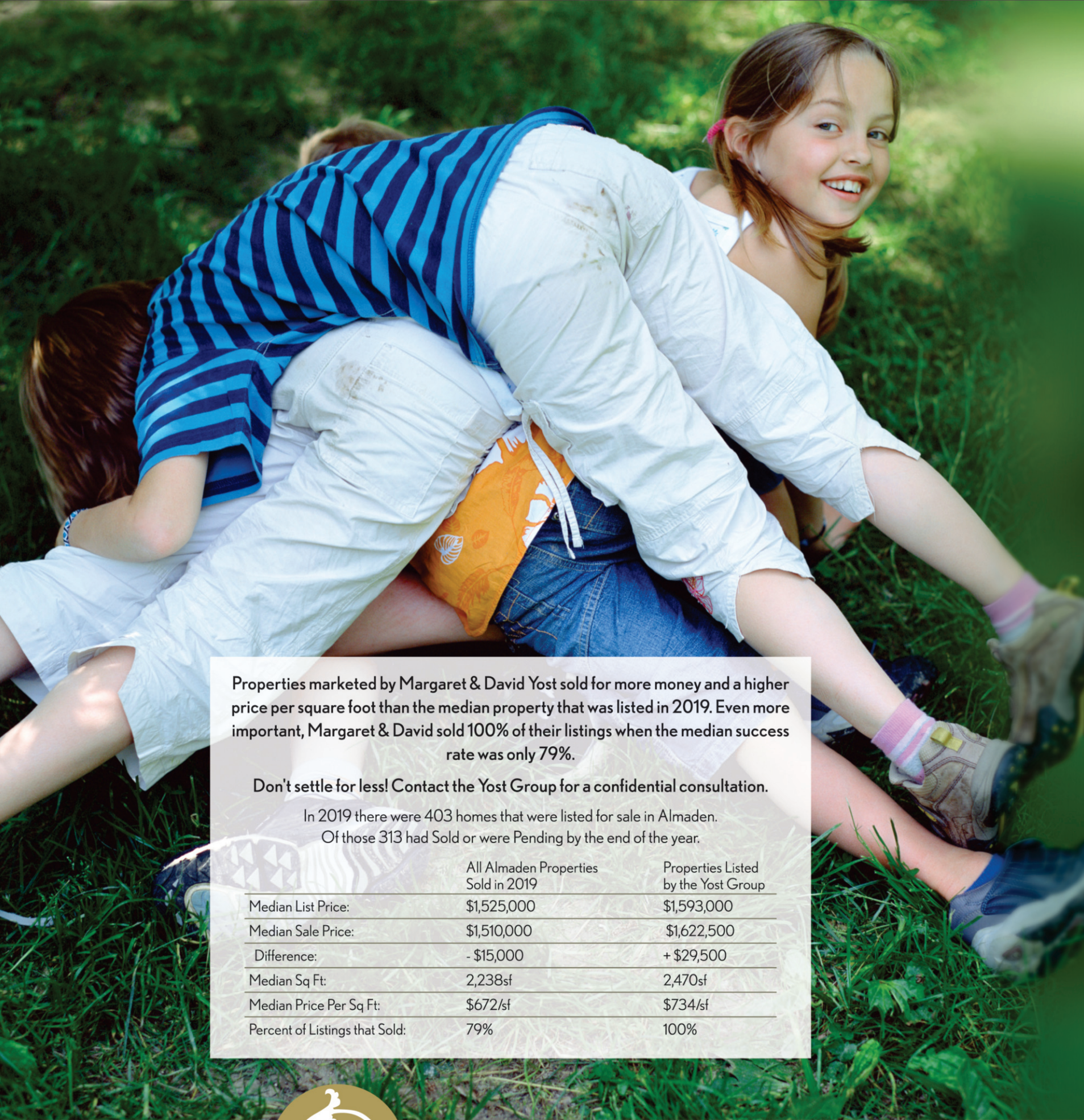
The event is free and no reservations are required. A \$2 per person suggested donation is kindly appreciated.

Casa Grande / New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum is located at 21350 Almaden Rd., San Jose. For more information email interp@prk.sccgov.org or call (408) 918-7770.



Candidates for state Senate in District 15 faced off on issues ranging from education to housing at a debate hosted by the Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) on Jan 13. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

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Margaret Yost
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LETTER

Thanking residents for meeting needs

Dear Editor,
I am writing to thank San Jose residents for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children in need this past holiday season.

Because of the generosity of donors in San Jose and across the United States, Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, collected more than 8.9 million shoebox gifts in 2019. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2019, the ministry is now sending 10,569,405 shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Through shoeboxes—packed with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items—San Jose volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 178 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories since 1993.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this global project—many who do so year after year. These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Information about year-round volunteer opportunities can be found at samaritanspurse.org/occ or by calling (714) 432-2950.

Dana Williams

Operation Christmas Child

**Times Classifieds
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See page 23**

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Valley Currents

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

Youth Entrepreneur Camp allows students to pitch start-up ideas to business professionals

By Prashant Gandhi

Special to the Times

Thirty Silicon Valley students receive hands-on training on entrepreneurship and start-ups. Shooting Stars Foundation, a non-profit organization focused on empowering youths through education, conducted its Youth Entrepreneur Camp in Silicon Valley on Jan.3-5.

A group of 30 students from various local high schools participated in the three-day camp, resulting in six teams delivering 15-minute startup pitches and Q&A, in front of a panel of professional judges and parents. The camp itself was organized and managed by high school upper-class students, who themselves were participants of prior years' Youth Entrepreneur Camps.

Startups and independent businesses are the genesis of the US and world economy and often fuel a country's GDP growth. Today's world-renowned companies were yesterday's startups, including Amazon, Apple, Google and Microsoft. As we enter the age of autistics and robots, entrepreneurial thinking that drives continuous creativity and innovation will become the differentiating characteristics of tomorrow's hyper-competitive workplace.

Shooting Stars Foundation's Nebula Youth Camp has taken a unique, future-centric, approach to empowering the youth - through business and entrepreneur oriented education. They have also recognized that learning is more impactful through success stories of other entrepreneurs as well as peer youths.

The Nebula Youth Camp (NYC) is purposely structured to partner with local startup and business leaders and is organized by youth participants. The Foundation also organizes Hackathon and STEAM-A-Thon events to highlight the need for coding skills and technical education when forming startup busi-



A group of 30 students from various local high schools participated in the three-day camp.

nesses. These events have been held across ten cities in the US. The Foundation's broader mission is to spread the message of upward socioeconomic mobility through entrepreneurship to under-privileged communities.

Youth Entrepreneur Camp, January 2020

The three-day camp was held at ServiceNow, Santa Clara, and included on-site visits to local high-tech companies, Google and NetScout. The camp was organized by

two upper class high school students who are alumnis of earlier NYC, under the guidance and supervision of Foundation staff. Both the youth organizers -- Arvind Jayaraman, an 11th grader at Mission San Jose High School and Anirudh Ramasubramanian, also an 11th grader at Irvington High School — gained real-world leadership experience, which is critical for entrepreneurs as well as advantageous for highly competitive college admissions.



The winner of best startup pitch, Fresh Appetite.

Seven business leaders spoke on different aspects of entrepreneurship and on creating and nurturing startup businesses (list is provided below). These presentations helped the student campers get a real-world view of how ideations turn into profitable business outcomes and what it takes to run a successful organization.

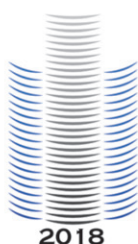
Thirty student campers, ages 12 to 15, were then grouped into six "founding" teams. Each student "founder" was encouraged to come up with a business or a product idea before coming to the camp. The founding teams learned to collaborate with peers during the ideation process — they debated each other's ideas, brainstormed new ideas and arrived at a team consensus. Then each team began to form their startup plan. Both the youth organizers and Foundation supervisors provided one-on-one assistance to startup teams, providing further insight and guidance to get to the presentation stage.

On the third day, the teams built their presentations which included: startup name and brand, its team and mission, the problem statement and proposed solution, market size, pricing and packaging, go to market options and competition. Their presentations were built leveraging materials from the professional speakers, hands on workshops, as well as the company tours they had taken. Finally, each team pitched their startup idea and business plan to a panel of three judges as well as the parents. Awards were given under the categories of Best Pitch, Best Innovative Idea and Best Business Plan.

"I cannot believe the participants put these pitches together in 3 days," said judge Karthik Chandramoulie, Marketing Manager, Google. Also impressed was judge Kevin Lee, VP Analytics, JP Morgan Chase. Lee said, "The amazing pitches just go to attest Shooting Stars ability to kindle young entrepreneurial spirit!"

LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

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Times Local News



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Gifts for Teens volunteers (l to r) are: **Kris Rosendin**, **Kylie Kammerer** and **Lea Kammerer**.

Gifts for teens benefits from Shark's Raffle Night

By Jan Giroux
Special to the Times

It was a win-win situation last month as Gifts for Teens received \$8,035.00 from the Shark's 50/50 raffle at their home game at the Shark Tank.

Gifts for Teens, a local nonprofit that provides holiday gift bags to agencies that serve homeless and low-income San Jose teens, was thrilled to be selected as a raffle recipient. The monies collected from avid and community minded Sharks fans will go a long way in purchasing sturdy duffle bags and a warm hooded sweatshirt for teens in December 2020.

In addition to the raffle, the Young Professionals Board from the Sharks Foundation helped Gifts for Teens prepare holiday gift bags on December 7 in preparation for distribution. Their enthusiasm and work ethic was contagious as they worked along-side other community volunteers.

As a result of all the volunteers, community, corporate and high school students, as well as generous donations and school drives, Gifts for Teens was able to distribute 1,336 holiday gift bags and special gifts. Thank you to all who gave of their time and funding to make this past Christmas a little merrier for this overlooked population.

Celebrate the New Year with free trees from the Arbor Day Foundation

Almaden residents can celebrate the New Year with 10 free flowering trees by joining the Arbor Day Foundation any time this month.

By becoming a part of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation, new members will receive 10 free flowering trees or five crapemyrtles.

The flowering trees include: two Sargent crabapples, three American redbuds, two Washington hawthorns and three white flowering dogwoods.

"These stunning trees will beautify your home with lovely flowers of pink, yellow and white colors," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees are perfect for large and small spaces."

The free trees are part of the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between February 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch tall trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members will also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution by January 31st to: Ten Flowering Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410.

Residents can also join online at arbor-day.org/january.



Grant contract saves sycamores

The agreement between the San Jose City and a grant contract with Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority has been completed.

The grant helps preserve the Sycamore Terrace property on the northeast corner of Almaden Expressway and Coleman Road.

"They have awarded the City of San Jose a \$300,000 grant to secure this area next to Almaden Lake — an area I'm calling 'Sycamore Grove' — as a permanent part of Almaden Lake Park," said San Jose City Councilmember Johnny Khamis.

The property is a prime location for both expanded recreation and habitat restoration. It's accessible from Almaden Lake Regional Park's parking lot via the new Coleman Road underpass, and adjacent to both the Guadalupe River Trail and the Lake Almaden Trail.

The City has not yet designed the future park, but states that it will be consistent with the Authority's definition of outdoor recreation and environmentally compatible development, and they will preserve the site's native California Sycamore trees.

Join the Santa Clara County Realtors Foundation to help clean up Fontana Park on Saturday, Jan. 25

Twice each year, volunteers from the Santa Clara County Realtors Foundation get together to clean up Fontana Park — trimming bushes, raking leaves, pulling weeds, light landscaping work — to ensure that the park continues to be an enjoyable gathering place for families.

Officer Jeffrey Fontana was a San Jose police officer who was killed in the line of duty on October 28, 2001. In remembrance of his life and service, the City of San Jose developed a Memorial Garden named in honor of Officer Fontana.

Tools, supplies, and breakfast including coffee will be provided, so you only need to bring yourself and a friend! Here's your chance to make a positive impact in the community while also honoring fallen public servants. Please wear closed-toe shoes. Rain or shine.

Volunteer Onsite Registration: 8:45am; clean up: 9:00am — 11:00am; Location: Jeffrey Fontana Park — Corner of Oakglen Way & Meridian Ave, San Jose, CA 95120.



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SOLD - IDEAL SUNNYVALE LOCATION!
1147 Reed Avenue

Adorable first floor end unit in desirable Sunny Meadow complex. This home is ready to move in with freshly painted interior and new carpeting. 1,084 square feet of open living space offers, three bedrooms and one-half baths. The spacious living room with glass sliding door to patio flows easily to dining area. Bright galley kitchen with tile floors, and white cabinetry with solid surface counters. The master bedroom features a walk-in closet and attached full bath. Plus, an additional hall powder room for guests. Spacious patio with extra storage is perfect for year-round California outdoor dining. Offered at: \$848,000



COMING SOON: 1044 Bluebird Avenue

Central Santa Clara Location: Don't miss this 1,388 square foot single level ranch house, situated on an oversized 7,194 square foot lot with 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Offered at: \$1,648,000



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Times **Community**

Potential highway/ streets funding diversion – and how I’m fighting it!

By **Johnny Khamis**
Special to the Times

We have an important vote coming up at City Council at our last meeting of the month, Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at 1:30 PM, when we will vote on a memo I authored, along with my colleagues, Vice Mayor Jones and Councilmembers Davis and Foley. We are calling on VTA to keep their commitment to the voters who approved 2016’s Measure B by making it clear that they will not divert funds intended to reduce traffic congestion or repair local streets.

As you may recall, Measure B was approved in November 2016 with 71.74% of the vote. The ballot text explicitly committed a portion of the measure’s revenue to “repair[ing] streets, fix[ing] potholes [and]...reliev[ing] traffic on all 9 expressways and key highway interchanges”.

Unfortunately, with the New Year it appears that there is a new (and disastrous) idea gaining traction at the VTA Board of

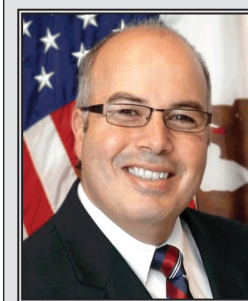
Directors that has the potential to repurpose the highway & streets funding that we were promised.

During public comment at the December 5th VTA Board of Directors meeting, activists were very vocal in seeking to divert desperately-needed highway funding in favor of the Measure’s other transit priorities. In

reaction to this public comment, Supervisor Cortese, a member of the VTA Board, directed VTA staff to come back to the Board on January 9th with a declaration of a Climate Emergency. It has since been determined that the resolution will instead be presented to the Board at the February 6th meeting. If the talk of creating and passing this Climate Emergency resolution becomes a reality, a total of \$2 billion in highway improvements and street repairs could be diverted. Measure B already programs over \$1 billion for Caltrain improvements, and \$500 million for expanded and improved transit operations – namely bus and paratransit service to senior, disabled, transit-dependent, and other vulnerable populations.

Let me be clear: Mass transit options and carbon emissions reductions are important regional priorities. Therefore, we must commit to delivering transportation projects as described in the clear language of Measure

See KHAMIS, page 15



District 10 Report

Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember

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Times **Community News**

Almaden Women's Club installs new board

New board oversees club activities including Almaden Art & Wine Festival

The Almaden Valley Women's Club installed the 2020 Board of Directors on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at their general meeting.

The new board will oversee the club activities including their big fundraiser, the annual Almaden Art & Wine Festival. This year's Festival will take place on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020 at Almaden Lake Park.

"We are looking forward to another successful community event," says Beth Swartz, newly installed Vice President of Fundraising. "We always enjoy seeing the community come together to enjoy the festival while raising funds for local area charities." The annual festival raises money for local area non-profit organizations as well as scholarships for community-minded graduating seniors from local area high schools.

The 2020 Almaden Valley Women's Club Board includes: Jenny Teixeira, President; Beth Swartz, Vice President of Fundraising; Jennifer Pearson, Vice President of Membership; Kim Nelson, Vice President of Programs; Lisa Boissier, Secretary; and Andreana Popovich, Treasurer.

"I'm very excited to jump into the new year with this fabulous new board," says President Jenny Teixeira. "I believe this board is

a reflection of the women in the Almaden Valley Women's Club and the club is a reflection of the women who live in the Almaden area."

Teixeira emphasized that the club is committed to the community. "We get together



The 2020 AVWC Board (left to right): **Andreana Popovich, Lisa Boissier, Kim Nelson, Beth Swartz, and Jenny Teixeira.**

several times a month to talk about and work on our festival, raising funds for improvement in our community," she says. "Together there is no limit to what we can accomplish. I believe this year will be one of our greatest years and hope to see other women in the area join us."

The Almaden Valley Women's Club is a local organization open to women living in the 95120, 95123, and 95118 zip codes. Members enjoy monthly programs, social activities and new friendships as they work towards the September festival.

For more information on the women's club, please visit: www.almadenwomen.org.



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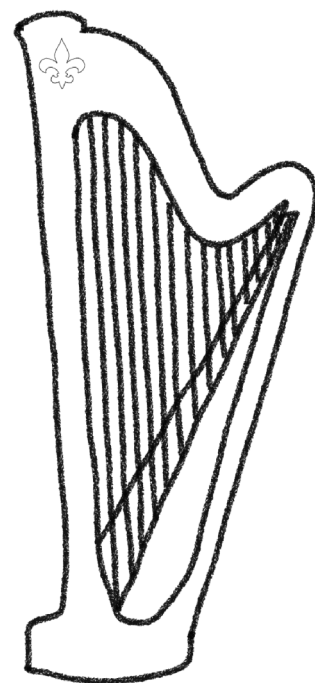
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Poll: Candidate Matt Mahan leads San Jose City Council District 10 race

By Nadia Lopez
Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

A new poll obtained by San José Spotlight shows District 10 candidate Matt Mahan gaining steam in the open City Council race to replace Councilmember Johnny Khamis next year.

The poll, funded by Innovation for All, an independent expenditure committee organized by civic leaders Carl Guardino, Jim Cunneen and Edesa Bitbadal, shows Mahan doubling support from likely voters who were surveyed after being informed about the candidate's backgrounds.

According to the poll, Mahan initially received 24 percent support for voters, but that figure doubled to 46 percent after voters heard biographical information about him. Although he wouldn't comment on the poll's results, Mahan said he was devoted to representing the interests of District 10 residents.

"I am singularly focused on giving voice to our neighborhoods," Mahan told San José Spotlight on Wednesday. "When we bring the common sense of our neighbors to City Hall — we will make this city much more effective in addressing our core challenges, from homelessness to traffic gridlock to affordable housing."

The recent online poll was split between two time frames, taking place Dec. 16-18, 2019, and Jan. 2-5, 2020.

The new poll, conducted by FM3 Research, surveyed 305 likely 2020 District 10 primary election voters. It found Republican businesswoman Helen Wang initially ranked second, earning 11 percent support, but fell to third with 12 percent support after voters heard biographical statements. Democrat

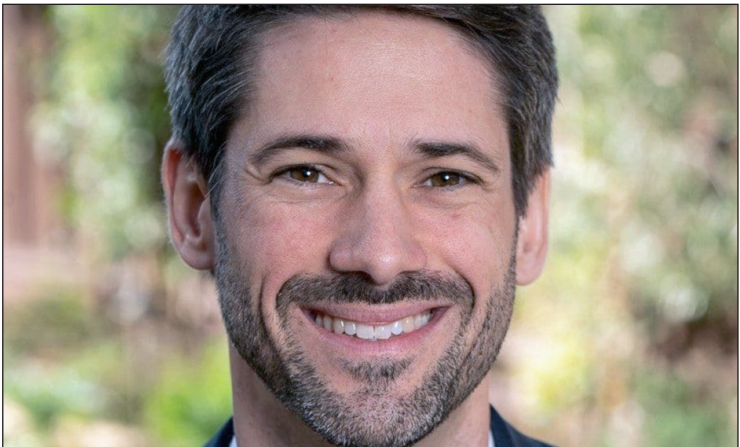


Photo courtesy of Matt Mahan

Vote After Biographical Information

Candidate	Initial Support	After Biographical Statements	Difference
Matt Mahan	24%	46%	+22%
Helen Wang	11%	12%	+1%
Jenny Higgins Bradanini	9%	16%	+7%
Undecided	56%	27%	-29%

Candidate Favorability Ratings

Candidate	Total Favorable	Total Unfavorable	Never Heard of/ Don't Know
Matt Mahan	19%	7%	74%
Helen Wang	8%	8%	84%
Jenny Higgins Bradanini	4%	8%	88%

rat Jenny Higgins Bradanini initially came in last place, according to the poll, earning 9 percent, but climbed to second place with 16 percent after voters heard about her background.

"I've been continually impressed by Matt Mahan's commitment to improving his community while also strengthening our economy for everyone," Guardino said. "Our committee is proud to organize this support for his campaign and we are heartened — although not surprised — to see his strong early lead."

Although most voters are unfamiliar with the candidates — 56 percent are undecided in the race — the poll found Mahan has a name-recognition an advantage over his challengers.

The poll found that 26 percent of those surveyed have heard of Mahan, 16 percent have heard of Wang and 12 percent heard of Higgins Bradanini.

In terms of favorability, Mahan ranked first with 19 percent, Wang received 8 percent and Higgins Bradanini netted 4 percent from the voters surveyed.

"Overall, the poll shows Mahan is well positioned to win the District 10 City Council race," said Dave Metz and Lucia Del Puppo of FM3 research. "He starts out the best-known and most favorably viewed, and holds a double-digit lead in the

race. After additional positive information about all candidates, local voters view Mahan even more favorably and his lead expands dramatically."

Tech entrepreneur Mahan, 36, originally from Watsonville, created Brigade, a platform for political and civic engagement. Mark Zuckerberg, a fellow former Harvard University student, persuaded Mahan to create his own company and blend a passion for politics and policy with technology. Mahan's drive eventually led him to settle in the world's most recognized tech hub, Silicon Valley.

Higgins Bradanini dismissed the poll results Wednesday and, if elected, vowed to work with San Jose lawmakers to protect Coyote Valley's open space from development and to keep neighborhoods safe.

"When special interests want to support their cultivated candidate, they work to develop a narrative that puts their candidate at the top," she told San José Spotlight. "I am not interested in knowing the results of a poll conducted by those same corporate interests that continue to support more taxes on our families and put profits before people."

A longtime volunteer and active mother, raising nearly a million dollars for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Higgins Bradanini

See MAHAN, page 15

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- **Link new housing to transit and road improvements** so we can make our city more affordable without making traffic worse
- **Preserve Coyote Valley and ensure city parks are safe**, well-maintained and connected to a world-class trail network

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Carl Guardino to step down as CEO of Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Carl Guardino is calling it quits!

Guardino announced that he's retiring as Silicon Valley Leadership Group's CEO as soon as the industry association selects a successor.

Guardino, 58, made the decision to step down after conferring with his family over the holidays.

During his 23 year tenure, Guardino has worked with four San Jose mayors and five California governors. He doubled the size of SVLG membership and emerged as a prominent voice for Silicon Valley in Washington DC. Guardino fought for jobs, affordable housing and efficient transportation.

Some of the long-running local fundraisers started by Guardino include the Silicon Valley Turkey Trot, the Santa Run and Salad Bars for Schools Program.

"The decision to step down as CEO of our Silicon Valley Leadership Group has not been made lightly," he wrote to the board. "Only after much contemplation, prayer and reflection with my family have I come to the conclusion that this chapter of my professional life will soon come to an end."

"I remain brimming with energy and insa-



Carl Guardino has held the top job at Silicon Valley Leadership Group since 1997.

tiably curious, so whatever role might lie ahead for me will undoubtedly be a great challenge and an equally great opportunity to add value. Yet, no matter where my next role may be, I will always be this organization's biggest supporter."

"In Carl's 23 years of leadership, I don't know of another human being who has had a greater impact for the good of our valley, spearheading initiatives for badly-needed transit investment, affordable housing, education improvements, philanthropy, or simply bringing together 25,000 people who delight in running together on a Thanksgiving morning," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo.

Guardino said he will stay at the helm for at least six months until the board finds a replacement.

I'm running for State Senate as an independent because I want to serve you – the people.

State Senate Candidate
Johnny Khamis

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Johnny Khamis[★] for State Senate

My priorities for District 15 are:

■ Accountability for Our Tax Dollars

Californians are overtaxed, yet we can see in too many areas, such as fighting homelessness, that we still don't get value for the tax dollars we are already spending.

■ Address Housing Costs

California's housing prices are pushing the American Dream further out of reach. I will work to address the causes of these inflated housing costs and work with members of both parties to pass legislation to make the dream of affordable, attainable housing for Californians a reality.

■ Protect Public Safety

As your State Senator, I will support public safety protections and close the loopholes that release violent criminals that voters never intended for early parole.

■ Fight climate change

Climate change is real and our generation's solemn responsibility to address. California should lead the way.



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Johnny Khamis
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 15

www.johnnykhamis.com

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Times **Local News**

Hollister's first active adult community new home models kickoff February 1

Super Bowl-themed refreshments to be served

Twin Oaks, Hollister's first Active Adult community is celebrating the opening of their new models with a kickoff event, open to the public, on Saturday February 1, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the new models, chat with the Lifestyle Expert, enjoy Super Bowl-themed refreshments and discover all the planned resort-style amenities that make this thoughtfully-designed community the best place for people over 55 to purchase their next home.

"Twin Oaks is a legacy project 20 years in the making, and there's nothing else like it in Hollister," explains Founder Marty Miller.

"Our vision has always been to create a beautiful community specifically designed for adults who are looking for a place to pursue their passions, make new friends, learn new things, and really enjoy the next stage of their lives, while living in close proximity to town, good restaurants and activities. I believe we have achieved all of that – and more."

Working closely with WHA Architects, MHG Builders and Blue Star Resort & Golf, the Twin Oaks gated community, conveniently situated just off Airline Highway, blends convenience, style and design. Twin Oaks was named after the two heritage oaks that will anchor the future clubhouse named The Cannery Club in honor of the many fruit and vegetable packing firms that form the historic backbone of Hollister.

The clubhouse will feature a resort-style pool, demonstration kitchen, and indoor and outdoor fitness areas. "Our residents will be able to be as active or relaxed as they'd like," Marty explains. There will be something for everyone."

Marty will be at the event, along with his son Jeff and daughter Amy, both of whom are also very involved with the project. "This event is a celebration which welcomes the Hollister and surrounding San Benito communities to come check out Twin Oaks," said Marty. "For over a year, people passing by have seen a lot of construction, including a perimeter wall going up, and have been curious as to what it's all about. Now is their chance to discover all we have to offer."

The community consists of just 168 single-story thoughtfully-designed homes ranging from 1,579 to 2,011 square feet. Twin Oaks offers five floor plans each with three or four distinct elevations featuring such special amenities as an outdoor covered loggia, pantries, and gourmet kitchens, to name a

few.

"The homes are designed to be low maintenance to make people's lives easier," explained Marty. "Which means the time you currently spend on housework can be spent relaxing among friends and neighbors."

The Models Opening Kickoff event is at the Welcome Center at 2701 Red Oak Drive, Hollister, CA 95023. Visitors are asked to RSVP in advance at TwinOaksHollister.com/Kickoff. To learn more, visit TwinOaksHollister.com.

Khamis

Continued from page 8

B. A Climate Emergency declaration must not be used to change these voter-approved priorities. After all, public transit, especially busses, rely on quality streets and efficient highways to fulfill their function in getting cars off the street and reducing carbon emissions.

VTA isn't just a transit agency – it's also the county's congestion management agency. VTA already struggles to adequately address congestion; diverting funds from our congested highways will only exacerbate the issue.

As an elected official, I have committed my tenure in office to promoting transparent and honest government. It is my hope that Supervisor Cortese and the entirety of the board share my convictions and see to it that the Measure B promises are kept. I call upon all county taxpayers to show their support for our highways and roads at VTA's upcoming Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, February 6th. Without healthy roads and highways, you and I won't be getting anywhere on time, by transit or by car.



Councilmember Johnny Khamis presented a Certificate of Recognition to **Mr. Duc Le**, President of QNDN Association, at the QNDN Lunar New Year Festival on January 12. He added to those who celebrate Lunar New Year a wish for a year filled with happiness, wealth, longevity, and good fortune.

Mahan

Continued from page 12

was also a policy aide for former Councilmember Don Rocha, before running for the District 10 seat.

Higgins Bradanini, president of Women's March San Jose, revealed nearly a month ago that she was involved in the Dec. 16 fatal car collision that killed 66-year-old Tim Starkey. Although she was not arrested, the District Attorney's office confirmed in an email that her case was still under investigation.

Wang, a longtime business owner and

registered nurse, also could not be reached for comment. Wang worked in the medical field for more than 30 years, also serving on San Jose's Small Business Task Force, the Tenant Protection Task Force in Milpitas and as president of the Silicon Valley Chinese Technology and Business Association (SVCTBA).

A former contender, financial adviser Vinh Do, ended his campaign weeks ago after revealing that his fiancée was sick and being tested for cancer.

Contact Nadia Lopez at nadia@sanjos-espottlight.com or follow @n_lopez on Twitter.

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CA CHRYSLER CAPITAL 2019 BONUS CASH**	\$1,000
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DODGE CA 2019 BONUS CASH*	\$2,250

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DODGE CA 2019 BONUS CASH*	\$2,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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GILROY DEALER DISCOUNT - \$6,500
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NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DEALER DISCOUNT AND REBATES

\$11,000

5 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #708170, 708081, 707985, 707998, 708098

2019 DODGE CHARGER HELLCAT



GILROY DEALER DISCOUNT - \$7,000
DODGE CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH* - \$7,070

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DEALER DISCOUNT AND REBATES

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NEW 2019 RAM 2500 4-DOOR



10 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

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RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	\$1,000
RAM BONUS CASH COUPONS (8)	\$2,000
2019 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT UPGRADE**	\$500
FCA CONQUEST BONUS CASH***	\$500
COMMERCIAL TRUCK/VAN SEASON B&E BONUS CASH	\$1,000

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DEALER DISCOUNT AND REBATES

\$14,000

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40 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

GILROY DEALER DISCOUNT	\$4,750
RAM PROMASTER CONQUEST BONUS CASH***	\$750
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	\$1,500
RAM COMMERCIAL BONUS CASH****	\$1,500
2019 RAM ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT UPGRADE**	\$500
COMMERCIAL TRUCK/VAN SEASON B&E BONUS CASH	\$1,000

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DEALER DISCOUNT AND REBATES

\$10,000

5 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #M22355, M30730, M33270, M35310, M40188

2019 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4



GILROY DEALER DISCOUNT	\$8,500
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	\$2,000
RAM CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH**	\$750
CA CHRYSLER CAPITAL 2019 BONUS CASH**	\$500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL 2019 BONUS CASH**	\$1,000
RAM BONUS CASH COUPONS (8)	\$2,000
CA 2019 RETAIL BONUS CASH*	\$750
CA 2019 BONUS CASH*	\$2,500

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DEALER DISCOUNT AND REBATES

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6 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #615909, 615910, 621140, 621183, 615911, 621141

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RAM CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH**	\$750
CA CHRYSLER CAPITAL 2019 BONUS CASH**	\$1,000
RAM BONUS CASH COUPONS (8)	\$2,000
CA 2019 RETAIL BONUS CASH*	\$750
CA 2019 BONUS CASH*	\$2,000

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CHRYSLER CAPITAL 2019 BONUS CASH**	\$1,000
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Times **Community News**

Candidates for San Jose City Council District 10 (l to r) Jenny Higgins Bandani, Matt Mahan and Helen Wang.

Forum

Continued from page 1

property transfer tax due to her frustration with the city waiving affordable housing impact fees for downtown high-rise developers. "When our city council...agreed to waive impact fees of \$67 million and turns around and asks our residents to pay more taxes for affordable housing...I can't support that," she said.

Matt Mahan

Businessman Matt Mahan is concerned with the high cost of housing, homelessness, traffic congestion, crumbling infrastructure, property crime, and fiscal challenges. Mahan sees everything as interconnected: Public safety is also a staffing and budget issue, and while San Jose needs jobs to grow, there is a housing imbalance. "The County added eight jobs for every one housing unit we've built," he said, "so working class people are pushed out as more workers come here and compete for the same limited stock of housing." He agrees that housing needs to be denser, near transit downtown as sprawl would impact traffic and air pollution. Mahan is in favor of building long-term mental home facilities. "I did a police ride-along and saw the revolving door of picking people up, dropping them off at Valley Med," he said. "They're there for up to 72 hours just to get hydrated and they're right back on the street. It's costing us tens of thousands of dollars a year per homeless person and we're not making their lives any better." Regarding city finances, Mahan is in favor of annual audits and self-contained, self-funding pension funding liability.

Helen Wang

Helen Wang, small business task force advisor for the City of San Jose, found running a small business challenging in San Jose. Wang is in favor of limiting the red tape and taxation businesses face. Public safety and helping the homeless are also important to Wang. Acknowledging that San Jose needs more

police, Wang suggests the city subcontract from the County's Sheriff's office and use county jails. She suggests using St. Louise Regional Hospital as a mental hospital or rehab location for the homeless and offering job training. "We need to fix the problem rather than just moving homeless people from location to location," she said, "or putting the mentally ill in jail."

State Senate District 15 Candidates: Nora Campos, Dave Cortese, Tim Gildersleeve, Johnny Khamis

Nora Campos

Public safety is a hallmark of California State Assembly member Nora Campos. During her 10-year tenure on the city council, she worked to increase the police department. She served as Chair of Public Safety in the Assembly. "Public safety truly is a priority for me," she said. The author of Tiny Homes, Campos also views affordable housing as a priority. With mental health counseling and job training, it is a one stop shop for individuals to get back on their feet.

Dave Cortese

Santa Clara Supervisor Dave Cortese worked with Vice Mayor Pat Dando on Measure P, which paid for San Jose's community centers. In 2002, he chaired the public safety bond campaign responsible for additional fire stations and the police substation. While serving on the Board of Supervisors, he co-chaired the campaign for Measure A's Affordable Housing Bond. The \$950 million housing bond included \$700 million for extremely low-income housing, funding 2,000 units for the homeless. "We'll have three times as many before we're done," he said. Cortese spoke at the United Nations, delivering a call to action for local governments around the world on the issue of climate change.

Tim Gildersleeve

Tim Gildersleeve views housing as a human right and unions as a tool to combat inequality. He favors tuition-free education, universal

See FORUM, page 23

Times **Community News****Debate***Continued from page 1*

success in significantly decreasing homelessness, and if elected, would focus on this.

Gildersleeve said that Jesus Christ's example of serving others inspires him to serve. Pro-union and pro-environment, he believes tuition-free education, universal health care and housing are human rights. He said he would represent fellow renters in Sacramento.

"Rents are going sky-high," he said, "and need to be controlled."

Howell, President of Exatron, considers himself a citizen statesman. An ardent supporter of President Donald Trump, he founded the Tea Party of Silicon Valley. He sees homelessness as a compelling problem in San Jose.

Khamis views himself as a strong, independent voice at San Jose City Hall. He has focused on fiscal accountability, preserving open space in Coyote Valley and public safety.

"We need to work together on solving homelessness," he said.

Ravel considers herself the most qualified candidate as she's served in all levels of government and has written legislation that's passed with bipartisan support.

"I know how to get things done," she said.

Education

Although all the candidates agreed that teachers are underpaid and education needs to be a priority, they differ on how to improve it.

Campos said every school needs a top-notch STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow. Cortese said he's proud of creating 200 homework centers in the county and bringing counseling services to schools. Del Valle believes public schools can succeed if funding is provided, while Gildersleeve called out California's public schools as being poor in per-pupil spending at 41st in the nation.

"If the public education system can't get its act together, vouchers may be put to voters," Gildersleeve said.

Howell is a proponent of charter schools and parent choice. Khamis said too much funding is spent on administration and duplicated services at the 19 school districts in San Jose. Ravel blamed teachers' low salaries on their retirement funding coming out of school budgets.

Government spending

When asked what to do with the state's \$22 billion budget surplus, Campos suggested spending it on education and housing.

"Teachers are leaving because they can't afford to live here," she said. "Designate money to cities dedicated to housing for teachers."

Cortese said the \$22 billion is a reserve against an economic downturn.

"You can't budget to the best year, but to the mean," he said.

Gildersleeve would keep a portion of the funding in reserve for pension liability and fund transportation and housing. Khamis said that while the state saved billions by emptying out prisons, it reneged on its promise of providing rehabilitation.

"When people leave prison, if they're not given a job or drug addiction programs,

they're going to do the same thing they went to jail for, or become homeless," Khamis said. "What are their options? The state is failing on this. We need to do more."

Ravel said tech companies like Apple who don't pay their fair share of property taxes need to step up.

High-speed Rail

The candidates are divided over high-speed rail. Campos, Cortese, Gildersleeve and Ravel believe high-speed rail is essential for alleviating traffic, housing, and climate issues.

With 157,000 vehicles commuting daily from the Central Valley to the Bay Area, Cortese doesn't consider high-speed rail a bad idea, provided federal funding helps build it.

"People come here to work from the Central Valley where there aren't enough jobs," said Ravel. "They shouldn't have to be in traffic for three hours. We need to invest in transportation."

"The problem," said Cortese, "is the state doesn't have the money...and the federal government hasn't had a transportation authorization bill in years."

Khamis and Yoder have a different perspective.

"In 2008, voters were sold a bill of goods," said Khamis. "They said high-speed rail will come to San Jose for \$33 billion. Now it's estimated at over \$120 to \$130 billion. I think we need to invest in newer and more efficient technologies."

Yoder was more succinct: "Hell no," he said. "It's a complete waste of money."

Public safety

Campos is proud of her record on public safety. While serving on the city council, she created funding for new officers. In the Assembly, as Chair for public safety, her priority was to funnel millions of dollars to communities for infrastructure.

"If we're not providing wages and retirement security for police officers, they leave," said Cortese, who doesn't think San Jose is adequately staffing its police department.

"Have you tried to report a property crime?" he says. "No one comes out."

Del Valle said that the County should be cooperating with state and federal laws. He also believes that the implementation of California Proposition 47, which reduced non-violent property crimes—including theft for amounts up to \$950—from a felony to a misdemeanor, along with Proposition 57, which allows parole consideration for nonviolent felons, including credits for rehabilitation, good behavior, and education, have done a disservice to our community.

"People need to respect the law," he said, "so we have a more civil society."

Gildersleeve agreed. He believes Prop 47 was a mistake and is responsible for the increase in auto break-ins.

"We need to subsidize city police officers," he said, "and increase educational and job opportunities for at-risk youth."

Khamis said that the police force boasts three academies and currently has 1,115 officers. The burglary unit has been reinstated, and the City has implemented crime prevention programs including after-school programs in low-income areas. He said that he helped pay for a summer education program for at-risk youth out of his council budget and provided 1,000 summer jobs for at-risk youth last year.



L-R: **Tim Gildersleeve, Ken Del Valle, Dave Cortese** and **Nora Campos** debate at a recent AVCA meeting.

He supports the California Criminal Sentencing, Parole, and DNA Collection Initiative, which adds crimes to the list of violent felonies for which early parole is restricted and requires DNA collection for certain misdemeanors.

Ravel said that regarding Prop 47, people didn't consider that home burglary is an assault on individuals and makes the community feel unsafe. Regarding Prop 57, she agreed that essential rehabilitation was not provided.

"When people are released from jail," she said, "if they can't re-enter society with jobs, places to live, and treatment, they're not going to be productive."

Yoder said that society is failing to support officers both in funding and systematically.

"If they arrest somebody, the whole system is working against them," he said. "We need to take a stand and have the willpower to say, 'We're not going to tolerate crime. We need to support our officers and let them do their jobs.'"

Housing

The candidates agreed that high-density housing is needed along transit corridors to alleviate the housing crisis and that there are currently too many regulations and fees.

"Cities are not meeting their housing element plans," said Campos. "The state has to be a partner in it and we're holding our local governments accountable for getting housing in the pipeline."

Cortese agreed that the state needs to look for ways to streamline the process for housing production.

"We're not building housing nearly as fast as we're creating jobs," he said. "The State tells us if we don't start getting housing production up, we will fall 600,000 homes short of the housing we need. We need housing now."

He is in favor of SB 50, which would authorize the development of multifamily projects (4-plexes) and a streamlined approval process.

"We need to look at what we're regulating and decide how practical it is," said Del

Valle.

"High-density housing is the way to go if people want to protect open space," said Gildersleeve.

Khamis said high development fees, and frivolous lawsuits that exploit the flaws of the California Environmental Quality Act—costing hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees and years of litigation—need to be dramatically reduced. He is proud of the city increasing the number of auxiliary dwelling units (granny units) from 5 a year to almost 400.

Ravel said that communities should have a say in their zoning, with the housing crisis, the state can mandate the amount of housing stock each community should produce.

"Counties and cities should give up unused properties for housing," she said.

Yoder also focused on exuberant building fees. He said a housing developer told him that 40 percent of housing costs are due to requirements and fees.

Leland High School students moderated final questions from the audience. Senior Adrian Rafizadeh said he appreciated the chance to become informed as he'll be voting in the election.

Sanctuary City

"California is a sanctuary state and I support the law," said Campos. "Anyone who commits a crime should be prosecuted to the fullest. What I don't want us to do is to profile people based upon their ethnicity."

Cortese said that Santa Clara County is constitutional when it comes to due process and can't detain anyone beyond their judicial release date due to possible immigration status.

"Everybody who is apprehended for a serious crime is prosecuted to the full extent of the law," he said. "No one is shielded."

"I know people in the Latino community because I am one," said Del Valle. "We've been talking about following the rules and being accountable, and then suddenly we're going to be very flexible regarding how we go about immigration and sanctuary cities?"

See DEBATE, page 18



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Times Cover Story



L-R: Ann Ravel, Johnny Khamis and Doug Yoder (standing in for Robert Howell) debate the issues.

Debate

Continued from page 17

I was raised under values promoting being accountable.”

Gildersleeve said the idea of a sanctuary city is a biblical concept from the Five Books of Moses.

“We need to be willing to help those in desperate need,” he said. “If a person is trying to escape violence, extreme poverty, and horrible conditions in their country, I favor sanctuary cities,” he said. “For criminals and drug dealers, that’s out. I’m very much opposed to that.”

Howell, Yoder said, would be firmly against sanctuary cities and the idea that a city can decide which federal laws it follows.

Khamis said he supported the City’s sanctuary policy with not asking people to prove their citizenship if they are pulled over for speeding. However, he would like the County to change its policy on violent criminals and release those prisoners to the custody of federal agents.

“We don’t want a situation where people are afraid,” said Ravel. “Law enforcement should work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), go into jails, and ask for immigration status information. That is different than the County or the City trying to turn in individuals.”

Proposition 13 property tax overhaul

Campos said that she would only support Prop 13 if it protected small businesses. Cortese would leave residential taxes as is but

reassess commercial properties. He objects to extremely successful high-tech firms like Apple and eBay raking in billions in profits and paying the same property tax as senior citizens.

“It’s time we changed that,” he said.

Gildersleeve, favors a revised Prop 13 and taxation in general. He agreed that small businesses should not be affected. Howell would be against raising taxes, said Yoder. Khamis and Ravel both said they are against revising Prop 13.

“Everyone thinks changing the tax rate on businesses won’t hurt anyone but the businesses,” said Khamis. “But if they can’t make a profit, they go out of business, so, they’ll raise rents. If dry cleansers and Burger King have to pay higher rates, you’ll have to pay higher prices for your drying cleaning and hamburgers. The people who really have to pay are you.”

Khamis adds that as the state already has a budget surplus, why would it ask for more money?

“Let’s live within our means,” he said, “and be accountable for the money we are spending.”

AVCA Vice President Michele Dexter said that the organization strives to inform and educate residents so they can make intelligent decisions on voting and take responsibility for their government.

“We’ve been having candidate forums for decades,” she said, “to make sure people are aware of important issues and to bring candidates and government to Almaden Valley.”



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By Sean Hathaway
Special to the Times

It's ok if you don't know who Larry Fink is. Most don't. But, he is one of the many old white billionaires (OWB) accumulating in our country. It's difficult to detect how their actions impact us, but they do. BTW, I have nothing against OWB's. In fact, each one I've ever really taken the time to understand is off-the-charts intelligent, and generally good intentioned. I even listened to an interview with Charles Koch, who I previously understood to be the devil, and now believe he is severely misunderstood.

Back to Larry Fink; he is the CEO of BlackRock, a company that controls over \$7 trillion of investment dollars; only the US and China have annual GDP higher than that.

Each year he writes an open letter to CEOs' -- a presumptuous act in nature -- but hey, here we are talking about it. In very short, his letter from last week says:

- Climate change is real and it's a defining factor in companies' long term prospects.

- Climate change is causing a fundamental reshaping of finance, AND

- There will be a significant reallocation of capital as a result. "Reallocation of Capital" is finance jargon meaning investors are beginning to prioritize environmental responsibility and sustainability over profitability. This is a concept economists, business leaders and society have debated the merits of heavily during the last century. Milton Friedman famously summarized:

"There is one and only one social responsibility of business -- to use its resources and engage in activities designed to increase its profits."

Fink overtly states as example that Blackrock will be "exiting investments that present a high sustainability-related risk, such as thermal coal producers." Jeez; sucks to be a coal producer I guess.

This isn't just Fink. Also, this last week, Tom Steyer emphasized in the democratic debates that fighting climate would be his number one priority as President and Satya Nadella the CEO of Microsoft committed to eliminate Microsoft's carbon emissions and invest \$1 billion in climate initiatives. Microsoft actually cited the Xbox as one of its largest carbon footprints. Who would've

thought?

These are not entirely new concepts to finance. The Dow Jones began publishing in 1999 global sustainability indexes based on their environmental, social and governance practices (known as ESG criteria). Mr. Fink's company Blackrock offers ETFs, for example, that are based on these ESG indexes and can even exclude businesses involving alcohol, tobacco, gambling, firearms and adult entertainment.

We are in the midst of a paradigm shift in thinking: acknowledging that real-economic value can and will be derived from social impact. And we should go ahead and thank the millennials, led by Greta Thunberg 17 year old Swedish environmental activist and 2019 Time Person of the Year, for driving us here hard and fast.

Personally, I have not historically advocated an investment approach that is "environmentally conscious". Not because I'm opposed to it, but more because I subscribed to the Milton Friedman and Adam Smith school of thought. And it just didn't seem that practical: Do I boycott a company that uses Styrofoam packaging? I'm now amenable to an ESG investment approach, because I think doing something is better than nothing and there could be financial rewards. Good excuse to buy a Tesla as well.

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

Ferguson of Almaden named to Dean's List at University of New England

Gillian Ferguson of Almaden has been named to the Dean's List for the 2019 fall semester at the University of New England.

Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

The University of New England is Maine's largest private university, featuring two distinctive campuses in Maine, Tangier, Morocco, and an array of innovative offerings online.



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Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com

Almaden Times

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Hosted by:
Councilmembers:
Johnny Khamis, Pam Foley
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Friday, February 21, 2020
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A Travel Seminar Presented by The Almaden Senior Association

Saturday, February 8, 2020
1:00 -3:00 pm

Many of our Almaden Seniors have experience with travel all over the world. Join us for this informative, fun event.

This seminar will inform you about travel by plane, train, car and cruise ship.

It will include tips on hotels, hostels and Airbnb's, using travel agents to arrange trips or how you can use the internet to book your own vacation.

We will begin with a panel of travelers sharing their experiences followed by your questions.

Lunch provided by Panera Bread.

\$12.00 members, \$15.00 non-members.

Cash or check only.

Please bring your membership card.

Ticket sales begin January 17, in the lobby of Almaden Community Center
M. W, F 8:40-10:00 am

Questions call Jeanne @: 408 425-5723



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Times **Cover Story**



L-R: Nora Compos, Dave Corese, Tim Gildersleeve, and Johnny Khamis.

Forum

Continued from page 16
health care, and taxes with accountability. “I have a brother who is mentally ill, living in a locked facility,” he said. “If not for community taxes, my brother wouldn’t be in a safe place.” To help the homelessness, Gildersleeve would sanction tent encampments and transitional housing with social services for those suffering with mentally illness, drug, and alcohol addiction. “We need more affordable housing,” he said. “Residents want to keep open space, so we need high-density housing downtown.”

Johnny Khamis
Fiscal responsibility is key for councilmember Johnny Khamis. Frustrated with how City Hall managed money when it cut library and park hours, and services, he was motivated to join the political arena. During his first year on the city council, he saved the city a million dollars by consolidating leases. The VTA outreach audit he requested uncovered 200,000 unverifiable trips, at a cost of \$3 million a year during the three years they were audited. “Money spent affects other services,” said Khamis. “That’s money for police and parks.” He is proud of the libraries currently being open six days a week, having 1,100 police officers serving San Jose, and reinstituting the burglary unit. Today, Khamis is frustrated with how the state is spending residents’ tax dollars. “We never paid more money in taxes, but our streets are getting more deteriorated, there are more criminals on our streets, a lot more homeless, and the price of housing keeps going up,” he said. “Some-

thing has to change on the Senate level and I’m going to be that voice for change.” Regarding the homeless, he is working to implement Laura’s Law and enforce mandatory drug rehabilitation for people leaving prison.

City Council District 2 Candidates: Jonathan Fleming, Sergio Jimenez
Jonathan Fleming

Jonathan Fleming believes it’s time for a change. “We’re worse today than we were three years ago,” Fleming said, citing that homelessness has risen 52 percent, crime is up 20 percent, and with the high cost of living, residents are leaving the state as they can’t afford to live here. Linking homelessness with mental illness, and drug and alcohol abuse, he advocates for treatment, job training, and placement. Fleming says that today people don’t feel safe and he calls for more police officers. “Crime is up,” he said. “A city of over a million people needs more than 1,141 allocated officers.”

Sergio Jimenez
Councilmember Sergio Jimenez is proud that District 2 provided leadership to secure and preserve about 1,000 acres in Coyote Valley into perpetuity. “I sincerely believe that if I hadn’t been elected...someone supportive of preserving that open space, we wouldn’t have that today,” he said. As opening the police substation in South San Jose is one of his primary goals, he has earmarked \$2 million to that end. Jimenez used part of his \$4 million in budget allocations to provide a computer center for seniors at Southside Community Center and distributed \$60,000 in grants to neighborhood associations.

Ahn and Hatcher of Almaden named to Baylor University Dean’s Honor Roll

Joyce Ahn, and Jillian Claire Hatcher of Almaden Valley have been named to the Dean's Academic Honor Roll for the 2019 fall semester at Baylor University.
Ahn, College of Arts and Sciences, and Hatcher, Hankamer School of Business, were honored on the Dean's List are Baylor undergraduates with a minimum grade-point average of 3.7, while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.
Baylor University is a private Christian university and a nationally ranked research institution. The University provides a vibrant campus community for more than 17,000 students by blending interdisciplinary research with an international reputation for educational excellence and a faculty commitment to teaching and scholarship.

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Princeton Plaza Mall,
1375 Blossom Hill Road.

Wishing a

Happy Lunar New Year

to all my Almaden neighbors who
celebrate this happy occasion.



Therese Swan

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The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 11 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2019 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.

If you are thinking of selling your home in 2020, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.

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