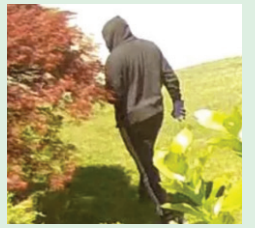


Evergreen Community Center is offering free lunch to seniors
SEE PAGE 3



School to start online
Evergreen School District Board approves full online distance learning to start 2020-21 **SEE PAGE 4**

Burglary caught on surveillance cameras at Evergreen home as homeowner arrives home **SEE PAGE 8**



JULY 17 - JULY 30, 2020 ■ VOL. 37, NO. 15

Evergreen Times

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Virginia George appointed new Quimby Oak principal

The Evergreen School District Board of Trustees has appointed Ms. Virginia “Ginger” George (pictured above) to the position of Principal of Quimby Oak Middle School at a Special Board Meeting that was held Wednesday, July 15.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Leila Welch, Board President, stated “Evergreen School District is excited and proud to appoint Ms. Ginger George as Quimby Oak Middle School’s Principal. Ms. George has the experience and the desire to lead this wonderful middle school. We look forward to her leadership!”

See *PRINCIPAL*, page 11

Birthday Giggles Guaranteed



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SHUT DOWN AGAIN

Hours after reopening, Santa Clara County businesses will have to close again

By Eduardo Cuevas and Lorraine Gabbert
Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Just hours after reopening Monday under Santa Clara County’s new health order, hair and nail salons, gyms, tattoo parlors and other personal care services have to close yet again.

During his noon briefing, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced immediate closures for indoor operations of restaurants, wineries, tasting rooms, movie theaters, card rooms, family entertainment centers, zoos and museums. Bars must close altogether. The governor called for 30 counties — approximately 80 percent of Californians — on the state monitoring list for at least three consecutive days to close personal care services, fitness centers, places of worship, business offices and shopping malls.

Santa Clara County is back on that list, as of Sunday, after being taken off July 6.

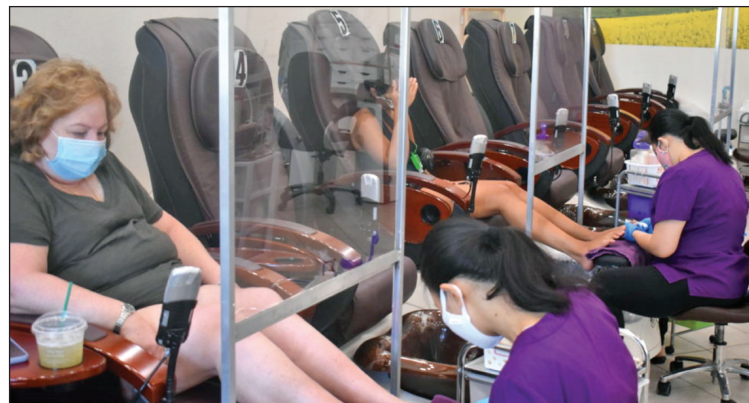
Newsom announced a dire number of new cases, albeit not many new deaths, that placed California on par with Florida and Texas in states struggling the most to contain the novel coronavirus.

“We’re seeing an increase in the spread of the virus,” Newsom said. “That’s why it’s incumbent upon all of us to recognize soberly that COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon, until there is a vaccine and-or an effective therapy.”

California saw more than 8,300 new cases Sunday. The state’s 14-day positivity rate — which determines positive results out of all tests conducted — jumped to 7.4 percent, a 21 percent increase from the latter half of June. In health care systems, hospitalizations and intensive care cases from COVID-19 are modestly increasing across the state as well.

Santa Clara at first was not identified by Newsom. But on the

See *CLOSURES*, page 2



Customers like Barbara Gallaty were adjusting to the new normal on Monday when the governor once again ordered the closure of personal care businesses.
Photo by Lorraine Gabbert



Evergreen High School Seniors (l to r) Donna Pham and Nandini Neralagi have a strong passion for STEM inspiring the next generation of innovators.

High school students inspiring the ‘Next Generation of Innovators’

Incoming seniors at Evergreen Valley High School, Donna Pham and Nandini Neralagi, have both spent much of their childhoods living close to household tech companies such as Google and Apple in their front yards.

Their strong passion for the STEM field is rooted in being exposed to the related topics in their elementary and middle school years.

With much nurturing and opportunities that numerous technology companies have provided for them, Nandini and Donna counted their blessings as these events opened doors for them to want to pursue future careers relating to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

Donna grew up in the city of Saratoga, where she was given the opportunity to take computer application classes and allowed participation in hackathons, exposing her to STEM careers early

on, and she has never stopped her love for engineering.

Nandini has lived in San Jose for most of her life and has always been drawn to technological feats presented to her. She has taken computer science classes throughout middle school and high school, encouraging her to take on her own coding projects to advance her programming skills.

Leaving for college next year, Donna and Nandini said they owe it to their communities for shaping a part of their identity. However, a prominent problem in the community was identified. Donna had noticed how Evergreen Valley’s feeder schools did not give a strong exposure to the high school curriculum. Nandini also saw the unequal distribution of opportunities in the middle schools for STEM-related activities.

In hopes of repaying the community and spreading their
See *INNOVATORS*, page 3

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF EVERGREEN AREA MEETINGS, PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

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

California Department of Public Health's website, the county was on the state watchlist for hospitalizations.

By 4:31 p.m. Monday, just hours after personal care businesses reopened, local health officials confirmed the South Bay landed back on the watchlist and the county must close those businesses again by Wednesday, three days after being among the counties monitored by state health officials.

"We wanted to share this information with businesses and residents as soon as possible," the county news release said.

The announcement came as Santa Clara County reported 253 new confirmed cases



The phones never stopped ringing at Supercuts as today hair salons and barber shops opened throughout the county.

Monday, one of the highest daily counts, though there was just one death. Hospitalizations jumped to 129 patients infected, up from just 88 a week ago, when Newsom had first taken Santa Clara off the watchlist before bringing it back.

"The fight against COVID-19 is unfortunately far from over, but our residents and businesses have shown how we can collectively make an extraordinary difference in saving lives and safeguarding our community," Cody said in a statement announcing the closures. "We strongly urge everyone to rigorously and consistently follow the state and local health orders."

The new closures affect churches, fitness centers, personal care services, shopping malls, business offices in nonessential sectors, and

even protests for an unspecified period of time. Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody has said the county hasn't seen case increases from local Black Lives Matter demonstrations, but it was hard to tell.

In a video released Saturday, Cody warned the county's numbers "aren't going in the right direction" and residents needed to limit interactions with others outside their homes, wear face coverings and physically distance at least 6 feet.

"If we come together and we're successful, we can get back to where we want to be — a community where businesses are able to stay open and kids can safely return to school," Cody said.

Before Newsom's demand to close, the county planned for many businesses — including nail and hair salons, barbershops, gyms, tattoo parlors, hotels and motels — to reopen under industry-specific safety measures.

And businesses appeared to do so, at least for a few hours.

At San Jose's Diva Nail Spa, manicure stations were no longer in connected rows, but instead individual stations were spread 6 feet apart. Only every other pedicure chair was used and the number of customers were limited.

Plexiglas separated manicurists from clients and customers were given hand sanitizer and a COVID-19 questionnaire when entering. Nail polish colors were posted behind plexiglass.

Staff wore masks and gloves. Clients had on face coverings. The stations were cleaned after every client and every two hours the salon underwent a thorough sanitizing.

"We do everything for the customer," said owner Van Dang. "We follow Santa Clara County guidelines."

Dang said she was worried about being closed since March but spent the time cleaning and preparing the shop. She said she was relieved that her customers are returning.

Client Barbara Gallaty was one of the last customers to receive a pedicure before Newsom's order to shut down again.

"This is how it's going to be," Gallaty said gesturing at her mask, "so let's move on with life."

Forma Gym COO Ralph Rajs on Monday opened his San Jose location indoors and limited his water aerobics class to 25 people, rather than the usual 50 per class.

Forma gave temperature checks to staff but not gym members. Touchless towels were handed to guests by tongs and members were required to sanitize their machines before and after use. Clients were not required to wear masks while exercising outdoors.

"There's definitely been a lot of planning and strategizing," Rajs said.

Rajs was relieved in early June when the county allowed outdoor recreation and pool use for athletic clubs. That relief, however, was tempered. He set up cardio equipment outdoors since June.

"We're all watching the numbers," he said. "We have to watch what the state and county say. We're going to do our very best to stay open."

As customers at the nail salon enjoyed their pedicures and gym members wiped off their machines, protocols were already changing. The county's closure announcement effective Wednesday came as a stark reminder of ever-changing public health measures made in response to the pandemic. Some orders remain, some do not.

"It's just a colossal failure of government," said Eddie Truong, director of government and community relations for the Silicon Valley

Continued next page

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Times **Community News****Evergreen Community Center offering free lunch to seniors**

From 12 noon to 12:30 p.m. each week-day, the Evergreen Community Center on San Felipe Road offers touchless free lunch pick up for seniors and others during this Corona Virus pandemic.

Lunches are served directly to seniors in their cars as they drive through the front entrance of the center. Cars begin lining up about 11 a.m. and a cart is rolled out with free donated packaged grocery store bread related items just after 11:30 a.m. At noon, the cars begin to roll forward as workers ask for the name of the individual, but no paperwork is required. If a person is picking up for another individual at home they can give their name and pick up. It was explained by one worker that the purpose of this service is to fight hunger for all. About 200 cars are served daily (Monday-Friday).

President of the Senior Advisory Council of the Evergreen Community Center, Burt Smith



stated, "This service provides a somewhat social connection and much needed nutritional foods are distributed. The process is very well staffed with excellent distribution. The staff is very effective, positive and helpful. This lunch time pick up means a lot to me because as I drive through the staff says, "Hi Burt."

Editor's Note: These "FREE PREPARED MEALS FOR ADULTS 60 YEARS & OLDER" are funded as part of the Silicon Valley Strong Community Response to Covid-19. This program is subject to availability and subject to change. Also, the Evergreen Community Center has tied in with Second Harvest with a free healthy grocery pick up the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Innovators

Continued from page 1

passion, both Nandini and Donna set out to form a community organization called The STEM Club: Next Generation Innovators in hopes of simply teaching students engaging lessons in various fields of science and math.

The club's mission is to better the community by bringing STEM-related activities and lessons to their first location, Quimby Oak Middle School.

Their lessons include teaching topics on mathematics, science (physics, chemistry), engineering, and technology. The carefully planned activities are geared to train students to apply their learnings from lessons, which are created by the founders, to real-life situations.

Over the course of the year, the club will plan lessons that would allow students to grasp the fundamentals of these challenging topics that would further ease their transition to vigorous high school courses and AP class curriculum.

Targeting feeder schools to Evergreen Valley, the club provides details of high school life that students may be interested in taking up. They ensure that their students are having fun through challenges, which often include prizes.

With an upcoming partnership with the EVHS robotics team, students in middle school have the rare opportunity to speak with high school students and their experiences in being a part of a high school club, further allowing them to participate in activities that were made specifically for high school students. To contribute to furthering the education of middle school students, the STEM club has created a website that would allow for each lesson to be uploaded. Additionally, they have launched weekly blogs by

high school students that will provide useful advice to incoming high school freshmen. They will be addressing questions and concerns from incoming freshman students regarding high school; a form to ask questions is posted on the blog section of their website.

While some clubs are catered to only a set topic, this club goes deeper into desired topics derived from the feedback of their students and parents. The STEM club uses its connections to offer unique lessons, allowing middle school students to have early exposure to high school opportunities. With real-time feedback from students, the founders hope to revise each lesson to better fit their audience. With feedback given to them on the "Topics" page of their website, Nandini and Donna will soon be creating new content for the 2020-2021 school year.

"I am lucky to be in this club because it gives me an opportunity to be exposed to the field and opens my options when finding my future career," says former member Danielle Pham. Danielle, along with her fellow classmates, all actively compete for who can build the tallest tower out of toothpicks, and who can make the sturdiest structure in hopes of winning a prize; first revealed as a fun activity which has deep roots within physics, which was later elaborated by the lesson that followed after the activity.

With a successful year of this club coming to a close, Donna and Nandini are ready to provide another year of competitions, and are planning educational activities for the new wave of middle schoolers. Although planning the lessons comes with hours of work, they hope the students will benefit from these lessons and be pushed to take up challenging STEM topics to explore through each lesson.

For more information, email nextgenerationinnovators@gmail.com or visit www.nextgenerationinnovators.weebly.com/

Closures

Continued from previous page

Organization, the area's largest chamber of commerce. "The state must explain and elaborate on why the decision was to reverse reopening based on key metrics and science that the governor announced a few months ago."

As early as last week, Santa Clara County executives questioned decision-making by the state, including the initial rejection of the county's intended move to reopen personal

care services, gyms and other businesses.

Truong said tech companies would likely not be affected by Monday's sudden change, but small businesses, such as nail salons and gyms, would be most impacted. The uncertainty sows distrust, he added.

"Until we get some clear answers that are rooted in science and data and not pure politics, we are in a situation where the public is going to lose faith in our government. And when they lose faith, they are not going to follow shelter-in-place and other orders," Truong said.



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An application for Residential Care Facility for the Elderly will be filed with the California Department of Social Services.

258102

San Jose's 13 dog parks opened

Residents and their four-legged friends who choose to use the reopened dog parks must follow all posted signage and abide by all Santa Clara County Public Health Orders and conditions. This includes staying home if you or your pet is sick and not entering a dog park if you can't stay six feet away from others.

Dog park visitors must stay out of closed areas and not share recreational equipment with others. A face covering is required unless you meet the exemptions in the County Health Officer's Critical Guidance on Face Coverings. Water fountains remain closed until further notice, please bring your own water.



Celebrating Independence

McCarty Ranch residents in the Villages Golf and Country Club participated in a 4th of July Parade of patriotically decorated golf carts to celebrate America's independence.

Photo by Suzanne Wang.

Valley Currents

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

The Sisto family helps distribute free groceries with the help of 'Food Angels'

San Jose residents Marilu and Tom Sisto, with the help of several dozen "Food Angels," have distributed free groceries to San José seniors and families affected by COVID-19.

Their effort, called "Bags of Hope," has helped feed about 250



families and filled more than 750 bags of food.

Marilu posts an updated pantry list every morning on neighborhood social networking site Nextdoor, and people select items and schedule a delivery or pickup.

Marilu and Tom prepare food bags with donations from neighbors and distribute them to those in need. They wear masks and take other safety precautions when preparing and delivering the bags.

The program has grown because of generous donations from 33 "Food Angels." Since April, they have lovingly seen their operation grow.

"We are so grateful to our 'Food Angels' who have gone out of their way to help people with heart-breaking stories who simply want-



ed to feed their families," said Marilu.

The City of San José is featuring Marilu and Tom in "Stories of Hope," a series of videos highlighting acts of kindness and creativity

by members of our community during COVID-19.

"Thank you, Marilu, Tom, and all of the 'Food Angels' for your generosity," said Councilmember Johnny Khamis.

Evergreen School District Board of Trustees approves full online distance learning to start 2020-21

At a special board meeting on July 15, 2020, the Evergreen School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved a full online distance learning model to commence the 2020-21 school year, which begins on August 19, 2020.

"Due to the recent increases in COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County, and out of concern for the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students, staff, and community, all students will start the school year in full online distance learning," said Dr. Emy Flores, Superintendent of the Evergreen School District.

The plan approved by the board also directs staff to develop a hybrid learning model, which is tentatively scheduled to be implemented in January 2021, when students return from Winter Break, depending on the level of positive COVID-19 infections in Santa Clara County. "We will re-evaluate our ability to safeguard schools and keep students and staff healthy and safe at the end of the third week in December so that, if we can change to the Hybrid Learning Model, we will do so in January, when students return from Winter break," said Dr. Flores, who also emphasized that parents will still be provided choices for learning model options for their children at that time. Details regarding distance learning—including the Preschool-sixth grade schedules, platform, and student and staff expectations and requirements, resources for parents, and mental, social, emotional wellness supports that will be provided for students and staff later this month.

Dr. Flores also emphasized the Evergreen

School District's commitment to providing a high quality of education to students: "Through professional development our teachers and staff will be prepared for delivering engaging and quality education in the distance learning format, and we will also identify additional ways that students can be supported so that they can be successful and have an enriching educational experience." Prior to the beginning of the school year, the District will also ensure that all students have access to technology and internet access.

The Safe Together Schools Reopening Plan is led by Dr. Flores, and is supported by the Superintendent's Teaching and Learning in Safe Environments Advisory Committee (TLSEAC), an advisory committee composed of district staff, principals, teachers, support staff, counselors, special education staff, and parents that was appointed by Superintendent Dr. Flores, and has been meeting since June. Data gathered from stakeholder feedback from focus group meetings with students, and surveys of parents, staff and students is also being used for input for the schools reopening process.

Superintendent Flores is also providing regular updates to the Evergreen community through community information sessions, the Safe Together website, emails, phone calls, texts and social media.

The TLSEAC is also working alongside three subcommittees on developing specific plans for the distance, hybrid, and homeschooling learning models. Each subcommittee meets concurrently and provides information and

updates to the TLSEAC throughout the process.

This committee and the subcommittees will continue to meet in order to finalize plans for the hybrid and homeschooling learning models, so those can be implemented at appropriate times, "Our community clearly wants options for their children's instructional model during the pandemic. We have been offering families options to choose from distance learning, hybrid learning, and homeschooling for the 2020-2021 school year, and will implement these when appropriate and will return students and teachers to the classroom when it is safe to do so," said Dr. Flores.

The district will continue to meet with the community to provide updates and obtain additional stakeholder input throughout the month of July and August on the following dates:

July 16, 2020, 6 p.m. | This meeting will be conducted in Spanish

July 21, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

July 23, 2020, 6 p.m. | This meeting will be conducted Vietnamese

August 4, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

More information and register at: bit.ly/ESDCommunityInfoMtg

For more information, please visit: www.eesd.org/safetogether or contact Johanna Villareal, Director of Board and Administrative Services, at (650) 279-6681 or jvillareal@eesd.org.

More information about Evergreen School District can be found at www.eesd.org.

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Times **Community News**

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East Side Union High School District Fall 2020 opening scheduled August 11

Distance learning to continue based on guidelines from County Health Department

The East Side Union High School District 2020/21 school year will begin on August 11, 2020 with distance learning, based on the guidelines from the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

The Fall districtwide schedule, consists of four days of distance learning with one day (Wednesday) scheduled for staff collaboration and professional development in the morning and tutorial/advisory period in the afternoon for activities such as academic counseling, sessions with social workers, school-wide lessons, and academic support from teachers. Lunch will be provided at all sites as a grab and go from 11:45am - 12:50pm.

Student class schedules will be emailed, available by accessing our Infinite Campus portal, posted on School Loop, and mailed home. Students will receive instructions about how to access their class schedules from each of their school sites

no later than August 4, 2020.

Video conferencing

Teachers within the district will be required to provide instruction and support in each assigned period that they teach and they will be using either Zoom or Google Meet for video conferencing. Canvas (JL) or School Loop for digital classroom management will be engaged and provide feedback to their students. We are working to develop common assurances across every classroom in the district to ensure equitable high-quality instruction.

On the first day of school, students will access the video conferencing link for each of their classes on August 11 and log into their first class as per their schedule. Students will be provided a link that will be provided by their teacher where they will follow the schedule for the day, logging into each of their classes.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken and will be monitored using our student information system (Infinite Campus). Parents/guardians will be able to monitor attendance

See ESUHSD, next page

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Times **Community News**

ESUHSD

Continued from previous page
using School Loop and automated phone calls will be made to households when a student is marked absent. An absence refers to a student not logging onto the video conferencing link for each of their designated periods where their teacher can verify their attendance. Although students will not be mandated to show their face while video conferencing, we highly encourage them to do so even if just for attendance verification.

All courses offered will assign letter grades for the fall semester (A,B, C, D, F). Grades will be determined by each teacher based on performance and mastery of skills and concepts. Please note there will be no grade floor as student grades may fluctuate based on performance.

Chromebooks

Students that do not have access to a computing device at home can contact their site principal to request the use of a Chromebook. Students can send an email to their principal with the request and provide the following information: Student Name - Student ID# - Expected Graduation Year. The school principal will follow up with a time to pick up the Chromebook at the lunch drive up location during lunch distribution. If a different type of laptop is required for a specific course, such as Multimedia or Computer Science, the appropriate laptop will be provided.

Music and art

Students taking art and music courses may access additional materials and equipment may have to come to campus for those courses during designated times in small groups if possible based on class size and public health guidelines.

Most of our courses now have textbooks that are accessible online. For courses where there is no digital textbook, students will be allowed to pick up textbooks on grade level scheduled days for both return and pick up of materials. Sites will provide the process with details, including the dates and times, by mid-July.

Internet access

For those students that do not have internet access at home, the school will provide a hotspot for their use. In addition, schools will be providing on-site school access during the school day with identified needs. Students needing to be on campus to access the District network or other resources will be organized in groups of twelve. School admin-

istrators will work to identify students needing on-site access.

Mental health support

Any student needing support with mental health issues may contact the Mental Health Office at their school. Parents or guardians who are concerned about their student's mental health should also contact the Mental Health Office. All contacts are available on the home-

page for each school.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities scheduled in self-contained programs, such as our ID and Autistic programs, will have the opportunity for small group, in-person, on site instruction. Additionally, target student populations such as foster youth, McKinney Vento, and Short-Term English Learners will be provid-

ed opportunities for in-person onsite instruction and intervention.

Extracurricular activities

The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), which governs athletics across California, will announce by July 20, when the fall season will begin. The Santa Clara County Department of Public Health has also indicated that it will be issuing guidance

and requirements in the next few days regarding athletics and extracurricular activities. The current goal is to offer a truncated season for the fall, winter and spring. Clubs will continue in person and through Zoom based on the size of the club and the planned activity, all within the social gathering and social distancing guidelines.



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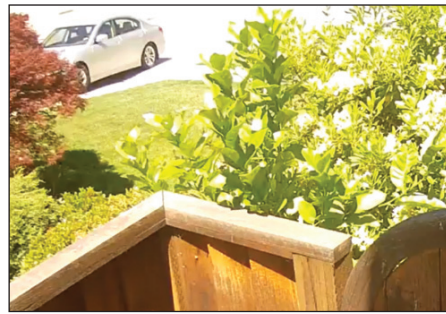
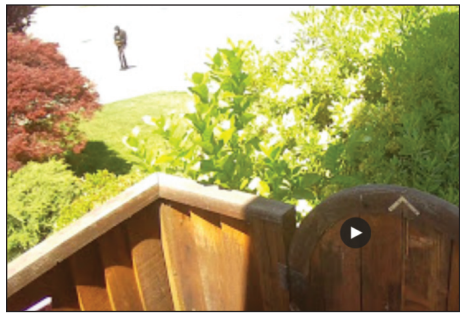
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Times **Community News**

Burglary caught on surveillance cameras at Evergreen home as homeowner arrives home



Pictured via the side gate cam: the suspect arrives (top left), then the victim arrives home (top right), then the suspect escapes (center left). Pictured bottom left: the suspect's white car; pictured bottom right: window damage from the break-in.

\$10,000 reward offered for information leading to suspect's arrest and conviction

Evergreen resident Brian was the victim to a recent home burglary in broad daylight on the 3200 block of Delta Road. The incident is currently being investigated by the San Jose Police Department.

The burglary suspect was caught on surveillance cameras (see photo below) both approaching and fleeing from Brian's home. Also caught on a security camera is a photo of the getaway car, a white 4-door BMW sedan.

The suspect wore a face mask but was made less suspicious due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, and he brazenly walked in broad daylight to break into the house. The video showed the victim spending an extra minute going to his mailbox after opening the garage door, which gave the suspect time to flee.

"If I had entered my house through the front door, the burglar may have attacked me as I would have caught him red handed," Brian said. "In July last year my neighbor, who lived on the 3200 block of Montecito Drive, 1 block away from my house, was murdered when his home was burglarized. I feel very fortunate to not have been a homicide victim that day, arriving home while my house was being burglarized."

Brian is seeking help from the community to identify the suspect and is offering a reward.

"I'd like to raise public awareness to be

vigilant during the Covid-19 pandemic and am offering a \$10,000 reward to anyone who can provide information that will lead to the successful conviction of this burglary suspect before he harms another resident," Brian said.

Videos of this burglary can be viewed at sjcrimetips.wixsite.com/burglary. Tips can be sent via email to SJCrimeTips@gmail.com.

Editor's note: Photos and videos timestamps are off by one hour due to daylight saving time adjustment.

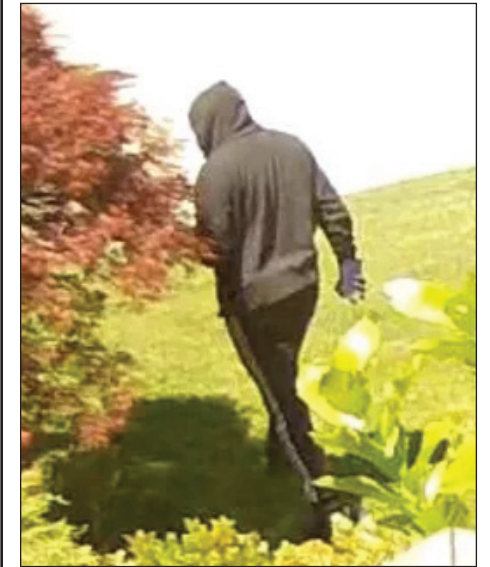


Photo of suspect, wearing black sweatpants with 3 white stripes, grey hooded sweatshirt, and black tennis shoes.



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Times News

SOS AUTO REPAIR

Did you see that speed racer!?


Many of us have been eager and anxious to get back to our normal lives and back on the road.

With less cars on the road during the pandemic there seems to be a surge in speeding and reckless driving.

According to law enforcement and traffic experts, reckless driving has increased dramatically since March of this year. Some people driving over 100 miles per hour! Let's try to remember to be safe and kind out there!

It can be so thrilling to speed down the highway or even on a long stretch of road, we've all done it. But aside from the danger we put ourselves and others in; our cars also pay a price for speeding. We believe that most vehicles perform best between 40 and 60 mph. If you go faster, your engine will consume more fuel per mile driven and your transmission will also wear out sooner. Speeding also means extra stress on all the other components of your vehicle, brakes, suspension, tires, just to name a few. Driving at

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Times **Community News**

Local teen coordinates relief effort making thousands of masks and protective gear for California medical facilities

By **Kannan Srinivasan**
Special to the Times

In May 2020, 15-year old high school sophomore Nethra Srinivasan launched a make-a-mask effort, challenging families in local Scout Troops and Explorers programs to make 1,000 face masks. Communities across the nation were able to come together to bond with their families by making masks to serve our healthcare soldiers at the frontlines of this pandemic.

Nethra's Make-A-Mask Challenge ran through June 5th. Each family was challenged to make at least 5 masks, take a family picture and post on social media with hashtags #SVMBC and #ScoutingAtHome.

Nethra tells Evergreen Times she had no hesitations about jumping into action when she saw the announcement from the CDC regarding a shortage of PPE in hospitals across the US.

"In the fight against the coronavirus, doctors and nurses are most susceptible to being infected. They are in need of personal protective equipment to serve their patients. I saw in the news that there was a major shortage in N-95 masks at the local hospitals and that the masks had to be repeatedly worn, to my dismay, to increase their lifespan.

With the support of SVMBC Boy Scouts of America, Nethra started the Make-a-Mask Challenge to collect and donate homemade masks to local hospitals to wear over N-95 masks, which will in turn extend the life of the N-95 masks and help medical professionals treat more patients to continue their quick response and save as many lives as possible.

"I feel that we adolescents, especially during a time of need, have an obligation to serve our nation and our superheroes, the health care professionals. It is the least we can do while staying at home."

Within a week of the launch, scouting connections across the country rose to her Make-A-Mask Challenge, from Texas to California in this multi-state effort.

She never expected that her goal of 1K masks resulted in collecting 3,072 cloth masks, 1,000 face shields, 600 mask extenders and 100 fabric kits, totaling 4,772 pieces of personal protective equipment in just a few weeks.

"I can't believe how far we have come! However, I had full faith that when there is a time in need, citizens in our community

will step up and rise up to the challenge. I am very thankful to Ms. Vinh and Mr. Denise from the SVMBC board, OC Mask Masters, and scouts/explorer families that made this large donation possible."



On May 21, practicing social distancing, Nethra, Susan, and board member George Denise delivered the equipment to 5 San Jose medical facilities. On June 5, equipment was delivered at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital and on June 12, masks were delivered to the Valley Medical Center Foundation, serving hospitals all over Santa Clara county.

The list of recipients is as follows:

1. 1,000 masks and 300 extenders to Community Health Partnership
2. 100 masks to Dr. Anagnos, Sleep Medicine and Neurology PC
3. 4 boxes of extenders filaments to scouter Gary Pham
4. 1,000 masks, 1,000 face shields, 700 frames and 300 mask extenders to Dr. Khoo and Dr. Xu - American Medical Women's Association
5. 150 masks and 100 fabric kits to Dr. Gia Hung Pham @ Kaiser Hospital
6. 372 masks, 300 face shields and 300 frames to Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital
7. 450 masks to Santa Clara County Public Health, Valley Medical Center Foundation (distributed to hospitals in the Santa Clara County)

Susan Vinh, Exploring Executive with the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Boy Scouts of America said, "When we do our good turn daily, as a group we accomplish great things!"



Online registration is now available for new students for Grades TK - 8

Registration can now be completed online at: www.eesd.org.
Click on Enroll My Child (Online Registration).

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June 15 thru Aug. 7 – Lunch: 11:30am – 12:30pm – M-F
Hillview Branch Library - 1600 Hopkins Dr.

June 15 thru July 30 – Lunch: 11:00am-1:00pm – M-TH
****Ocala STEAM Academy - 2800 Ocala Ave.**

June 15 thru July 30 – Lunch: 11:00am-1:00pm – M-TH
****Linda Vista Elementary - 100 Kirk Ave.**

June 15 thru July 30 – Lunch: 11:00am-1:00pm – M-TH
****Dorsa Elementary - 1290 Bal Harbor Way**

**** On Thursdays - Meals for Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday will be available at Ocala, Linda Vista and Dorsa**
* All Sites Closed on July 3, 2020

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Times **Community News****Study suggests common steroid can reduce coronavirus deaths**

Scientists at the University of Oxford said last week that an inexpensive and commonly available drug reduced deaths in patients with severe COVID-19.

The drug, a steroid called dexamethasone, would be the first treatment shown to reduce mortality in the sickest patients.

Researches said that had doctors been using the drug to treat the sickest COVID-19 patients in Britain at the beginning of the pandemic, up to 5,000 deaths could have been prevented.

In severe cases, the virus directly attacks cells lining the patient's airways and lungs due to inflammation. The drug appears to reduce inflammation caused by the immune system, protecting the tissues.

**DANCE DUO**

Jake Mcauley and A.T. Chau, known as the contemporary dance duo Jake & Chau from San Jose advanced to the "World of Dance" show's semifinals during the Upper Division duels on Tuesday, July 14 after an incredible performance set to "Chainsmoking" by Jacob Banks. Judge Derek Hough raved over the South Bay natives, calling their performance "so beautiful and interesting and innovative." Meanwhile, Jennifer Lopez marveled at their strength and power — and especially Chau's incredible foot agility and said, "You pushed the boundaries and the edges." *Photo: Jake and Chau (Jordin Althaus/NBC)*

Principal

Continued from page 1

Dr. Emy Flores, Superintendent stated, "We are thrilled to have Ms. George to be the new Principal of Quimby Oak Middle School. I am confident that Ms. George will lead to provide the continuity of a positive school culture, where all of our students will continue to grow and thrive. Please join me in congratulating Ms. George! I am confident that her leadership at Quimby Oak Middle School will continue to provide a positive school culture, where all of our students will continue to grow and thrive."

Ms. George began her career in Evergreen in 2005 as a student teacher at Carolyn Clark Elementary. She began teaching at Montgomery Elementary in 2006 and joined the

reinvention team at Katherine Smith Elementary in 2012. Long time certified teacher with the New Tech Network and leadership team member, Ms. George served as a District Instructional Common Core Coach at O.B. Whaley Elementary before joining Evergreen's administration team. Known for her creative drive, knowledge and collaborative spirit, Ms. George served as an Assistant Principal and Coach at Quimby Oak before transitioning to Site Director of Lobo School of Innovation.

Ms. George stated "Having the privilege to be the new leader of Quimby Oak Middle School, a community with such a rich history, is truly an honor. Quimby Oak is home for me and I look forward to seeing it continue to thrive while we work together in the months and years ahead."

Tech Jargon of the week:**Bitcoin**

Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this "techie" word – and even after you've broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there's no need to sweat it. Let us teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

Bitcoin

You may have heard of the word "Bitcoin" more than the word "Block chain". It's true that today many people are aware of the digital currency bitcoin while it is merely one of the seven hundred applications that use the "Block chain" technology.

Bitcoin first appeared in a 2008 white paper authored under the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto. The white paper detailed an innovative peer to peer electronic cash system called Bitcoin that enabled online payments to be transferred directly, without an intermediary.

So what exactly is a Bitcoin?

Bitcoin is basically a form of virtual currency. It allows you to purchase electronically through merchants and also can be transferred between friends. Every single

purchase or transaction is logged digitally on a transaction track that tracks the time of purchase and updates who owns how many bitcoins. This digital transaction log is called blockchain.

The blockchain records every single transaction - of present and past - and the ownership of every single bitcoin in circulation. The people who are constantly verifying the blockchain, ensuring that all the information is correct and updating it each time a transaction is made, are called 'miners'. Their job is to ensure that the transaction is secure and processed properly and safely. In return for their services, miners are paid fees by the merchants of each transaction.

More than \$1.5 billion worth of bitcoins are currently in circulation around the world, with millions of transactions occurring daily. Needless to say, the popularity and usage of Bitcoin is picking up very quickly as more and more businesses and individuals are becoming aware of its benefits and advantages over traditional currencies.

About the Author: Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at shub.saxen@gmail.com. Shubhi Asthana works as a Research Senior Software Engineer at the IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose.

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Times **Community News**

Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson named New President for Evergreen Valley College

Following a nationwide search, Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson has been named the next president of Evergreen Valley College (EVC).

One of seven children, Dr. Gilkerson was the first and only member of her family to graduate from college. Dr. Gilkerson has spent most of her career in the Califor-

nia Community College system, serving most recently as president of Laney College in Oakland, a position she held since early 2017.

"From her days as a student leader at UC Berkeley to her direct work advancing economic opportunity and empowerment for people of color, Dr. Gilkerson has

demonstrated a life-long commitment to our District's core values of Opportunity, Equity, and Social Justice," said Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland, chancellor of San José - Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD). "We are very fortunate to have someone with her vast experience and skills to serve as the next president of

Evergreen Valley College."

Prior to her role at Laney College, Dr. Gilkerson served as vice president of academic and student affairs at Contra Costa College and as the first diversity, inclusion, and innovation officer for the Contra Costa Community College District. Dr. Gilkerson is also familiar with EVC and SJECCD,



Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson

Opera San José announces virtual performance of Robert Schumann's 'Dichterliebe' (A Poet's Love)

To be supertitled in Spanish, Vietnamese, and English

In addition to its usual English supertitles, Opera San José has announced plans to offer

its virtual performances of Robert Schumann's Dichterliebe ('A Poet's Love') with Spanish and Vietnamese translations providing a broader San Jose community for all to enjoy.

When viewing the concert, audiences can chose which transla-

tion they wish to see on the supertitles.

"We are always eager to find ways to make our work accessible to as many members of our community as possible," said General Director Khorri Dastoor. "This virtual concert provides an

incredible opportunity to expand our reach. Finding partners in this effort, particularly our good fortune in identifying high quality Vietnamese and Spanish translations that serve both Heine's poetry and Schumann's score, will enable OSJ to live out its mis-

sion of sharing the immense talent and artistry of our company of Resident Artists with the residents of our culturally rich and diverse San Jose home."

Performed by Resident Artist baritone Eugene Brancoveanu and Resident Artist conductor Christopher James Ray on piano, this song cycle will be filmed in the Fred Heiman Digital Media Studio, a new performance space that will enable the company to stream high-quality, fully-produced operatic performances into the living rooms of patrons. Robert Schumann's Dichterliebe ('A Poet's Love') song cycle will be available to stream beginning July 11 [through August 15].

For tickets (Pay-What-You-Choose: \$15-\$50 per household) and more information, the public can visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm). Pre-show lectures and post-show In-Conversation events with the artists will be offered on select dates.

having previously served as dean of counseling and matriculation at EVC and vice president of academic affairs at San Jose City College.

"I am exceptionally proud to be named the president of one of the premier community colleges in the state," Dr. Gilkerson said. "I am humbled by the confidence and trust of the search committees, Chancellor Breland, and the Board of Trustees. I look forward to returning to the Evergreen Valley College community that has already taught me so much. I am excited to listen, learn, and grow together."

Dr. Gilkerson is a leader in a number of statewide efforts to find solutions that address students' basic needs, support undocumented and mixed-status students, and improve the quality and delivery of distance education. Through her participation on the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce, the Dreamer's Advisory Group, and the Distance Education & Educational Technology Advisory Committee she has developed high-level policy recommendations and practical strategies for front-line practitioners.

Dr. Gilkerson began her community college career as a faculty member in psychology-counseling at Chabot College, where she served as the coordinator for the TRIO Student Support Services program. In addition to her work in community colleges, Dr. Gilkerson served as the academy and education policy director at the Greenlining Institute and in various positions at UC Berkeley in the Office of Student Life and the Early Academic Outreach Program.

She holds a bachelor's degree in history, a master's degree in counseling with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy and pupil personnel services, and a doctorate in organizational leadership with an emphasis in higher education.

Dr. Gilkerson assumed her role as EVC president on July 6, 2020 and her appointment was approved by the SJECCD board of trustees on July 14, 2020.

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Times **Community News**

Parents worry about shootings after police booted from San Jose schools

By Katie Lauer

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Fear of another school shooting has rekindled in parents' minds now that San Jose Police officers will no longer patrol campuses within the East Side Union High School and Alum Rock Union School Districts.

The move is part of a nationwide reexamination of law enforcement's role in society, especially as officer presence has not impacted safety and often leads to negative social student outcomes. The East Side Union High School and Alum Rock Union school districts severed contracts with San Jose police last month, joining school districts like Oakland, San Francisco and Minneapolis that severed agreements with law enforcement. The San Jose Unified School District will consider a similar proposal Aug. 6.

For school leaders, the answer is to create a culture where teachers, students and administrators report suspicious circumstances or people, while relying on law enforcement only for actively dangerous situations.

But a number of parents fear removing officers from school campuses exposes their kids to dangerous situations and could be deadly in the event of a school shooting. Instead, some parents are calling for better officer training, which is echoed by national commentary, including family members of students killed by a gunman at a Parkland, FL high school in 2018.

"This will work until another mass shooting," said Hollis Shaner in response to a San Jose Spotlight story in June.

"Now active shooters will have free range," chimed in another person who calls himself a "concerned parent."

When asked how schools can protect students from gun violence without police, East Side Union High School District Superintendent Chris Funk focused on the idea that each person on campus has a role.

Funk pointed to having a campus monitor, an adult who patrols the property, manages visitors and reports students out of class. Schools also have advisors and administrators who are monitoring things during passing periods and in between classes, he said, as well as paying teachers more to take on supervision duties. Only Mount Pleasant and Evergreen Valley high schools had officers on campus consistently before contracts were nixed.

Although none of these administrators carry guns, Funk believes their presence and visibility can help thwart dangers such as school shootings.

"That's why I say it's all eyes and ears open, because we all have to take responsibility to keeping our campuses safe," Funk said. "Even if an officer is on campus, they can't stop every fight from happening, and that's an unrealistic goal. If someone were to bring a gun on campus, there's no way an officer will know that."

Funk conceded that a school resource officer would provide a faster response to active shooters, but said San Jose Police Chief Eddie Garcia adopted a policy that specifically designates a patrol officer to respond to an active shooter regionally.

"But the reality is when you think about how many active shootings there's been in



the last decade and the number of schools across the United States, the chances of an active shooter being on campus is very very low," Funk added.

There have been more than 1,300 school shootings in K-12 schools in the U.S. since 1970, according to the Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

Still, according to David Ropeik, a retired Harvard instructor and risk communication consultant, the statistical likelihood of a student being killed by a gun in school is 1 in 614 million and the occurrences have been getting less common since the 1990s. Additionally, data does not show that violent events are already happening in East Side Union High School District schools.

Funk said 31 citations and five arrests were made across the district's 30 schools during the 2019-20 school year, which represents less than one percent of the district's 22,000 students. "I think the data is clear that having officers on campus do not prevent this type of activity," he added, "And that there's not enough activity to warrant having officers on campus."

There's also no evidence showing that an expansion of campus cops created safer schools, according to Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute.

"In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for," Schindler told NPR in 2018.

A 2019 report published by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security analyzing 41 incidents between 2008 and 2017 reported that nearly half of schools that were attacked had one or more full-time school resource officers, while another 20% employed officers part-time.

East Side Union High School District Trustee Lorena Chavez said there's an opportunity for teachers and students to take more responsibility in preventing on-campus violence, especially by changing the culture around snitching and informing adults before concerns arise or fights brew.

"We should be at a point where ... we support each other as family to keep each other from making mistakes or a bad choice," Chavez said. "That's going to mean that our staff across the board is gonna have to step it up — our students as well. We're going to have to learn a different way of operating without the police, and I think it's important for the district to support defining what that looks like."

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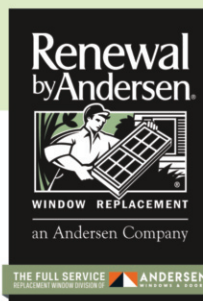
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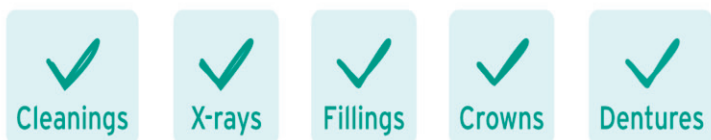
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Times Local News

Industry Closed for Indoor Operations	Date of Closure
Restaurants	Closed statewide effective July 13 th
Wineries and tasting rooms	Closed statewide effective July 13 th
Movie theaters	Closed statewide effective July 13 th
Cardrooms	Closed statewide effective July 13 th
Family entertainment centers	Closed statewide effective July 13 th
Zoos and museums	Closed statewide effective July 13 th
Bars, breweries, and pubs (indoor and outdoor)	Closed statewide effective July 13 th
Worship services	Closed in Santa Clara County effective July 15 th
Protests	Closed in Santa Clara County effective July 15 th
Fitness centers	Closed in Santa Clara County effective July 15 th
Offices in nonessential sectors	Closed in Santa Clara County effective July 15 th
Personal care services, e.g. nail salons, body waxing, tattoo parlors	Closed in Santa Clara County effective July 15 th
Hair salons and barbershops	Closed in Santa Clara County effective July 15 th
Shopping malls	Closed in Santa Clara County effective July 15 th

State law imposes more closings

By Dave Cortese
County Supervisor

Some of the indoor businesses that were allowed to open this week under a state approved County health order, including nail and hair salons, fitness centers and gyms, will need to close by 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15, under state law.

On Monday, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that indoor business operations statewide would need to close, and that the 30 plus counties on a State Monitoring List, including Santa Clara County,

would need to close some indoor operations. Therefore, even though Santa Clara County's local orders and ordinance are not changing, state law supersedes local law at this time.

The businesses that must close include: Indoor fitness centers, places of worship, indoor protests, offices for non-critical infrastructure sectors, personal care services, hair salons, barbershops and malls. They are to remain closed until the State issues another order.

Activities that the state has allowed to remain open include outdoor dining, outdoor religious services, construction projects and non-contact recreation activities and other allowances of the order that went into effect on July 13.

Report: Best states for first time homebuyers

With mortgage interest rates hitting record lows but many Americans struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2020's Best & Worst Cities for First-Time Home Buyers.

To determine the most favorable housing markets for first-time buyers, WalletHub took the pulse of real estate in 300 cities of varying sizes using 26 key metrics. The data set ranges from housing affordability to real-estate tax rate to property-crime rate.

Best Cities for First-Time Home Buyers (1-10) Worst Cities for First-Time Home Buyers (291-300)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Henderson, NV | 291. San Mateo, CA |
| 2. Boise, ID | 292. Miami Beach, FL |
| 3. Thornton, CO | 293. Daly City, CA |
| 4. Chesapeake, VA | 294. Los Angeles, CA |
| 5. Gilbert, AZ | 295. Oakland, CA |
| 6. Tampa, FL | 296. New York, NY |
| 7. Las Vegas, NV | 297. Detroit, MI |
| 8. N. Las Vegas, NV | 298. Santa Barbara, CA |
| 9. Peoria, AZ | 299. San Francisco, CA |
| 10. Lincoln, NE | 300. Berkeley, CA |

Best vs. Worst

- Akron, Ohio, has the most affordable



housing (median house price divided by median annual household income), with a ratio of 1.90, which is 7.8 times cheaper than in Berkeley, California, the city with the least affordable housing, with a ratio of 14.82.

- Honolulu has the lowest real-estate tax rate, 0.29 percent, which is 13.1 times lower than in Waterbury, Connecticut, the city with the highest at 3.79 percent.

- Rochester, New York, has the highest rent-to-price ratio, 15.88 percent, which is 4.7 times higher than in Sunnyvale, California, the city with the lowest at 3.38 percent.

- Westminster, Colorado, has the lowest total home-energy cost per month, \$99.29, which is 3.9 times lower than in Honolulu, the city with the highest at \$388.18.

To view the full report and your city's rank, please visit: wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-cities-for-first-time-home-buyers/5564

Times **Local News**

San Jose City Council approves drafting 'strong mayor' November ballot measure

Unprecedented 11 hours of debate on unique agenda item

By **Mauricio La Plante**

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

San Jose councilmembers voted 6-5 Wednesday, July 1, 2020 to approve a November ballot measure to expand Mayor Sam Liccardo's power, extend his term until 2024, shift mayoral elections to presidential years and enact a slew of campaign finance reforms.

Liccardo, Vice Mayor Chappie Jones, Councilmembers Johnny Khamis, Pam Foley, Dev Davis and Lan Diep voted in favor of the measure, while Councilmembers Raul Peralez, Magdalena Carrasco, Sylvia Arenas, Maya Esparza and Sergio Jimenez voted against it.

The narrow decision followed 11 hours of heated debate, in which councilmembers against the measure charged Liccardo with rushing a back-room deal, pushing a "self-serving" measure and failing to gain adequate community feedback.

"This deal was already negotiated, and it was negotiated without any of us being at the table," Carrasco said. "... Individuals who have sworn that you're two degrees away from the title of Satan were (in) the room. Y'all made a pact. You didn't take the Latino Caucus into account, who represent half the city to ask us, 'do you think this is a good direction for your residents?'"

Liccardo was expected to term out in 2022. The plan - dubbed the "strong mayor" initiative - will extend Liccardo's term by two additional years after Jones made a last-minute decision to eliminate alternatives to voters, such as electing a new mayor in 2022 for six years or electing a new mayor in 2022 who would seek re-election in two years.

"This is a power grab, and I think the nuances, how the mayor added the strong mayor as a part of the election, those two things shouldn't be together," said Andrew Bigelow, an organizer with Silicon Valley De-Bug. "It was sneaky. It's unethical."

But supporters of the plan said it would align authority and accountability.

"This modest reform will create an electable, accountable mayor who will be directly responsible for the city and to the residents of San Jose who elect him or her," said Matt Mahood, CEO of the Silicon Valley Organization.

If the ballot measure is approved by voters in November, Liccardo would have the power to hire and fire the city manager, which would usually have to be approved by the City Council. The mayor would additionally be able to direct city staff and other department heads. Right now, the unelected city manager has those responsibilities.

The measure would also require councilmembers to recuse themselves from votes dealing with special interest groups that contributed to their campaigns. Khamis recommended approving language from Jones' proposal that bars the mayor, councilmembers and top city leaders from accepting gifts from lobbyists, city contractors or direct beneficiaries of city contractors.

Davis amended the measure so that councilmembers would disclose campaign contributions more frequently for the city attorney to review.

"We don't know what's happened in February or March until the next filing," City Attorney Rick Doyle said.

But lawmakers and residents criticized the

"strong mayor" initiative Tuesday, criticizing the lack of public input and community engagement.

The mayor argued the COVID-19 pandemic and protests over the police killing of George Floyd and systemic racism prompted the push to expand his office's powers.

"In a crisis, basically my authority is constrained by a multi-month process of proposals, hearings, meetings and council votes," Liccardo said.

Liccardo referring to COVID-19 to expand his authority sparked outcry from other councilmembers.

"I think it's reprehensible to use the pandemic as an excuse for this," Esparza said. Esparza and the other dissenters also said the proposal was too last-minute for sufficient review and included campaign finance reform to make it more appealing to voters.

Arenas compared it to sneaking vegetables in her kids' lasagna.

"I had to chop up my zucchini so fine, so that my kids don't know that I'm feeding them vegetables, and that is exactly what you have done here by marrying this, you know, Kamikaze of initiatives together," Arenas said.

Esparza suggested approving the campaign finance reforms without a ballot measure. By removing that from the measure, voters would only decide on giving Liccardo more powers, extending his term to 2024 and moving mayoral elections.

Peralez, who penned an op-ed for this news organization denouncing the measure, also said the city would have to scrape up \$1.7 million to print ballots, as it plunges into a \$100 million deficit.

"My main concern is that it did not get vetted through our community in the process that it deserves," Peralez said.

After the demise of the Fair Elections Initiative, which would have prohibited campaign contributions from businesses and shifted mayoral elections to presidential election years, Liccardo unexpectedly suggested a compromise. He had previously opposed moving mayoral elections and extending his term.

When questioned by Peralez, who is eyeing a run for mayor, Liccardo said he didn't support extending his term then but that "it makes more sense now" under the current circumstances.

"But I can tell you I'm not going to die on that sword," Liccardo said. "I'm not in this to get an extra two years."

Liccardo refused to abstain from the vote, as demanded by Arenas, who said he would benefit from the measure. Doyle said Liccardo was not legally required to abstain. Supporters such as Diep said the current form of government limits the city's top elected leader.

"We have a situation where a mayoral candidate can win, but he or she will be constrained from implementing the platform that was promised to voters because of the anachronistic system that we have in San Jose," Diep said.

Under the current system, most executive authority is under City Manager

Dave Sykes. The mayor has only slightly more authority than a councilmember by creating budgets and making council committee appointments - but he cannot veto council decisions nor can he hire, fire or direct staff or department heads, including the police chief who recently came under fire for use of force and aggressive tactics during George Floyd protests.

See **STRONG MAYOR**, page 17

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ESUHSD to provide equitable access to quality education for all students

By **Chris Funk**
Superintendent, East Side Union High School District

School districts across Santa Clara County are scrambling to put into place plans for opening school for the 2020/21 school year. Each district must apply the guidelines provided by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department and meet the specific guidelines and expectations from the state budget and trailer bills supporting the return to school which include in person instruction, distance learning or a hybrid approach.

As we prepare and plan for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year at East Side Union High School District, during the COVID 19 pandemic, East Side is committed to ensuring equitable access to a quality education for all students. We recognize that there will continue to be changes as the situation with COVID 19 evolves and we will respond as needed given guidelines and restrictions are issued. Our approach as a high school district is much different than the seven feeder K-8 districts. The size of our schools and the age populations require a different response.

Our vision as a district continues to be focused on building equitable communities where: ALL learners are welcomed as they are, strengths and areas of growth for all learners are known and supported, adults positively respond to the social-emotional, wellness, and academic needs of all learners and ALL learners engage with tasks that develop the strategic thinking skills for FULL participation in their local communities and the global society.

As we prepare and plan for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year during the COVID-19 pandemic, East Side is committed to ensuring equitable access to a quality education for all students. We recognize that there will continue to be changes as the situation with COVID-19 evolves and we will respond as needed given guidelines and restrictions issued by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

At this point in time, due to the increasing COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County, with some of the highest cases falling within the ESUHSD boundaries, the safety and health of our staff, students and families is our top priority. Additionally, based on the districtwide survey and several virtual forums, anywhere between 40%-48% of staff, students and parents are not comfortable attending in-person instruction; thus, requiring us to examine the safest approach to the opening of our schools for the fall.

Our goal is to get back to full-time, in-person instruction as soon as possible. Based on current conditions and the expectations that schools will more than likely

close at some point during the school year, ESUHSD has decided that we will start in distance learning for the 2020-21 school year with specific guidelines, expectations, and accountability measures in place.

All comprehensive schools will follow a block period schedule. For Foothill, Calero, and our other alternative high schools (Apollo, Pegasus, Phoenix) students will follow a schedule that more than likely will include in-person instruction. The schedules for these school sites will be posted in the next week or so.

We know that we want to provide in-person instruction for our most underserved populations, which include but are not limited to students who have special needs, Foster Youth, McKinney-Vento and our short-term English Learners. We will also be providing support for students who do not have broadband and/or a safe and quiet place to study. Additionally, we plan to offer in-person support for some specialty classes, tutoring, mental health and college guidance support.

We acknowledge the hardship that distance learning places on all stakeholders. We also acknowledge that we need to have more accountability for both staff and students as we begin the new school year. We are developing common assurances across the district for the delivery of instruction, grading and student support to ensure our goal of building equitable communities.

All teachers will be required to provide instruction and support in each assigned period that they teach. Teachers will be using either Zoom or Google Meet for video conferencing, and Canvas (JL) or School Loop for digital classroom management to engage and provide feedback to their students. We are working to develop common assurances across every classroom in the district to ensure equitable high-quality instruction.

We know that our rising Seniors have concerns about college applications and financial aid. Counselors will continue to be available to provide support to all students. The fall schedule has tutorial/ advisory periods built in to allow for students to meet with counselors to receive support. Counselors will offer webinars, Zoom, and small group sessions to assist students with completing college applications and financial aid forms.

Any student needing support with mental health issues may contact the Mental Health Office at their school. Parents or guardians who are concerned about their student's mental health should also contact the Mental Health Office.

Taking the complex system of everyday instruction, support, student and teacher interaction and placing it in the virtual world is next to impossible to duplicate. We are taking the lessons learned from last spring and which we have applied to our summer school program and are continuing to make adjustments so that we provide common assurances across our entire system to ensure equitable high-quality instruction and support for ALL students.



Chris Funk

Times **Local News**

Strong Mayor

Continued from page 15

Liccardo dubbed the changes as “low-hanging fruit” and ultimately necessary to run San Jose more efficiently.

He said a large city such as San Jose should model itself after other metropolitan areas in California such as San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles where the mayor has more power.

A slew of council memos were released prior to Tuesday’s meeting, staking each lawmaker’s position on the controversial measure.

Carrasco and Esparza unsuccessfully sought to create a charter review committee for public discus-

sion on the initiative. Jimenez agreed with the additional campaign finance rules, and proposed the creation of a Blue Ribbon Task Force to assess the effects of the changes and recommend charter revisions for the future. However, Peralez said creating a task force after an initiative is passed would fail to prevent any actions that run counter to the community’s interests.

The City Council will approve the language for the measure during a special meeting July 28. The ballot language must be submitted to the county Registrar of Voters office by Aug. 7.

Contact *Mauricio La Plante* at mplaplante19@gmail.com or follow [@mplaplanteneews](https://twitter.com/mplaplanteneews) on Twitter.



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A Nuclear Gauge was stolen from a locked truck at the **Creekbridge Community** near **Beacon Hill Drive in Salinas** on **Monday, October 21st** at 2:38 a.m. A reward will be provided for the return of the missing item and its contents. If you have any information please contact:
Alan (RSO): (650) 444-4270
Steve (ARSO): (650) 804-6274

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The 2020 Calendar featuring wildlife pictures taken by Lou Alexander is now available for \$23.95. About \$5 goes to the Villages Medical Auxiliary. The calendar is on the far right of the first row at www.zazzle.com/store/thevillagesvma There are also some small note cards for sale on the site, all featuring scenes from inside The Villages.



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