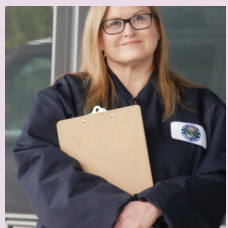


Proposed Santa Clara County tax increase due to COVID-19 impact fails  
**SEE PAGE 2**



**AVWC marches on**  
Almaden Valley Women's Club hosts virtual Wine Pull fundraiser  
**SEE PAGE 6**

Almaden Valley Girl Scout keeping WWII history alive  
**SEE PAGE 4**



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# Almaden Times

AUGUST 7 – AUGUST 20, 2020 ■ VOL. 33, NO. 16

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## REAL ESTATE



## Home prices jump in June

*Low inventory and record low interest rates spur demand*

Santa Clara County home prices jumped in June due to super-scarce inventory which drove bidding wars and fast sales while home sales decreased.

The median price in June for existing homes in Santa Clara County rose 2.4% to \$1.28 million, according to real estate data firm DQNews. The median sale price in the Bay Area rose 3.4% from last year to \$925,000.

Selma Hepp, deputy chief economist at Core-Logic, said millennials, typically first-time homebuyers in their early 30s, were the quickest to move back into the real estate market.

From mid-May, Hepp said, "the rebound was across the board." Record low interest rates also expanded buyers' budgets and enticed more people into the market. Interest rates dipped below 3% for a 30-year fixed home loan, according to Freddie Mac.

Sellers backed off from listing homes over health and safety concerns, agents said. Pandemic restrictions limiting home tours also chilled transactions during a typically busy late spring and early summer buying season.

Sales of existing homes in the Bay Area dropped nearly 8% from the previous year, but existing home sales only fell 2.1% in Santa Clara County.

## Local nonprofit provides hundreds of meals weekly

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

Cars pull up at a Valero station, but rather than gas, their occupants receive something even more essential: fresh produce, milk and hot meals.

Organizing and placing boxes of fresh produce and other food into the trunks are friends and family—some as young as 10 years old—of Devinder Kumar and Japjot Sethi, founders of Free Meals on Wheels.

"The lines of cars are miles long," Kumar said.

Every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the nonprofit distributes 750 pantry boxes filled with fresh produce from Watsonville to those in need at the Valero gas station on the corner of Capitol Expy and Snell Ave. On Thursdays, 1,000 boxes are distributed at an Arco station in Richmond.

To date, Free Meals on Wheels has provided a combined 25,000 hot meals and 15,000 grocery boxes at their two locations said Kumar.

"There is a great need during these tough times," Sethi said. "We go where the need is."

Helping feed those in need was nothing new to Sethi, who has been serving homeless people for the past 20 years at Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen.

"Hunger doesn't have a day off," Sethi said. "Somebody somewhere is in need of food and we want to get to as many people as possible."

## FILLING A NEED



(Left to right): Japjot Sethi and Devinder Kumar believe in making a difference, one meal at a time.  
Photo courtesy of Japjot Sethi

Along with rising unemployment rates due to the COVID-19 pandemic (about 2.8 million people were unemployed statewide in June) is an increased number of those who find it

hard to put food on the table.

"I come from a food industry and for me to see food insecurity within our community  
*See MEALS, page 17*

## San Jose Police Chief to retire in December

San Jose Police Chief **Eddie Garcia** (inset) says his "fantastic ride" is coming to a close.

Garcia announced Monday, August 3 that he will retire in December, ending a nearly 30-year career at the department. Garcia was confirmed as the chief on March 1, 2016.

Garcia said the decision had nothing to do with the recent civil unrest or the coronavirus pandemic. "My decision to retire has been in the works for several months."

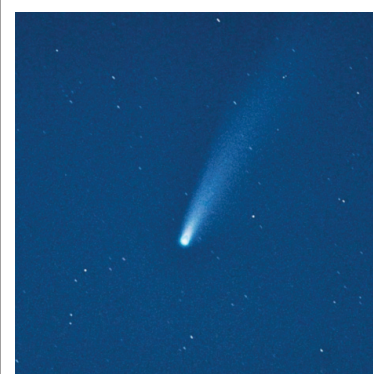
"I came to San Jose as a young boy from Puerto Rico, learned how to speak English here and ultimately became chief of the 10th largest city in the country," Garcia



said in a statement. "I will forever be grateful to this City and this Department and privileged to

have had a front row seat to watch the amazing work of the men and women of this department. These nearly 30 years have been a fantastic ride."

"History will remember Chief Eddie Garcia in the same way I've seen him embraced at countless community meetings: as a dynamic, exuberant leader who gave his heart and soul to his hometown," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "He brought this police department back from the brink, rebuilding our officers' ranks, their morale, and most importantly, their faith in themselves and their mission. I wish him all the best as he moves into this next chapter of his life." *See CHIEF, page 2*



## Stellar sight

Richard James captured several images which will not be seen again for more than 6,000 years on July 18. James captured this image of the Neowise Comet at 10 p.m. near his home at the top of Valley View using a Sony A7rII with a 70-300 mm on a tripod with a five second exposure at ASO 800. *Photo courtesy of Richard James*

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

258102



Board of Supervisors President **Cindy Chavez** killed the vote on the special tax citing concerns about garnering two-thirds support from voters. *Photo by Luke Johnson*

# Santa Clara County COVID-19 tax plan fails

## Staff Report

*Article courtesy of San José Spotlight*

**S**anta Clara County's effort to tax residents to pay for COVID-19 relief measures failed after a short debate Tuesday, August 4.

County leaders proposed two options for asking voters in November to approve a 5/8-cent sales tax to help close the county's estimated \$300 to \$600 million budget deficit. The county has spent \$165.4 million so far on its COVID-19 response, officials said.

The first option — which required a "yes" vote from four of the five Board of Supervisors — was a general sales tax for five years. The second option, which would also tax residents for five years, was a special tax allocated for specific purposes. A special tax is harder to pass at the ballot box because it requires a two-thirds vote from the public.

But on Tuesday, supervisors failed to garner enough support for the general tax. Board President Cindy Chavez and Supervisors Susan Ellenberg and Dave Cortese voted in favor, while Supervisors Joe Simitian and Mike Wasserman opposed.

Ellenberg initially had expressed concern with the tax measure last month, but shifted her stance Tuesday.

Simitian said a general sales tax hike is regressive and it's uncertain how the money will be spent. He said the county's budget has ballooned 84% in the past seven years, indicating out-of-control spending as it continues to ask residents to pay more.

"It's important that folks understand that there is no guarantee that any of those funds in a general tax would ever be used to benefit the purposes that people spoke to," Simitian said. "That's the nature of a general tax, for better or for worse."

Wasserman said the tax would further burden struggling residents, adding it would make Santa Clara County the highest-taxed

county in the state. "The idea of adding more to the cost-of-living in Santa Clara County is not something I want to support," he said.

After the failure of general sales tax, Chavez killed the vote on the special tax citing concerns about garnering two-thirds support from voters.

Chavez criticized the board for supporting a tax to keep Caltrain alive — which has a majority of riders who earn more than \$100,000 a year, she said — while failing to help poor people and people of color struggling amid the pandemic.

"The people who rebound the least are the communities who need us the most," Chavez said. "... I'd like to head off as much of the suffering as we possibly can... I don't think the cavalry is coming. I think we are the cavalry."

Many spoke in favor of letting voters decide if they should tax themselves to help patch up the deficit.

"I don't really like sales taxes, but we don't have a lot of choices," said Steve Eckert, CEO of the Alum Rock Counseling Center. "These extraordinary times cause us to consider every measure possible... right now, we can't afford to take any revenue options off the table."

County Executive Jeff Smith warned supervisors that layoffs are on the horizon without an additional revenue stream.

"We're fronting a lot of these (COVID-19) costs with general fund revenue," Smith said.

Despite the failed general tax measure, Cortese made a last-minute effort to revive talks for the special tax to no avail.

"I feel like we need to do something because we know what's coming," Cortese said. "What's being put out there in terms of the time limitation is very reasonable. I think the public would want the opportunity to do something about (the recession) themselves."

## Chief

*Continued from page 1*

San Jose City Councilmember Johnny Khamis said Garcia was a fantastic chief and is sad to see him leave, calling him a trusted and respected leader. "He came

into a department that needed a lot of help and a lot of reforms, and he was able to be that person," Khamis said. "He was in charge of a lot of change at the city — things that we could be proud of."

Liccardo said the city will conduct a nationwide search for a new police chief.





## SOLD OVER LIST PRICE 911 Foothill Drive, San Jose

This beautiful single level home has been updated with entertaining in mind! 1,723 square feet of living space offers 3 bedrooms and 2 baths situated on a 7,508 square foot lot made for large scale family gatherings, plus an entertainers backyard with outdoor kitchen! **Offered at: \$1,168,000**



## SOLD IN THREE DAYS 5952 Bridgeport Lake, San Jose

This well taken care of home is Nestled close to scenic Almaden Lake Park and is set in an ideal location. 1,002 square feet of single level living space offers 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths with detached garage. **Offered at: \$678,000**



## SALE PENDING 970 Ellis Avenue, San Jose

This remodeled 1,843 SF home offers, three-bedrooms, two baths, and a detached garage, whether you are looking to stroll to the Avenue in downtown Willow Glen or enjoy delicious restaurants and quaint shopping, this Willow Glen home is the one! **Offered at: \$1,608,000**



## SALE PENDING 611 Yolo Court, San Jose

Adorable end unit on upper level with views of the green-belt. 912 square feet offers 2 bedroom and 2 full baths. Ready to move in with remodeled kitchen, open concept living room with vaulted ceilings, fireplace and glass slider to balcony. **Offered at: \$548,000**



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## Madeline Clare Ahmann Almaden resident honored on the Dean's List at Baylor University

Madeline Clare Ahmann of Almaden Valley, attending Diana R. Garland School of Social Work, has been named to the Dean's List at Baylor University.

Students honored on the Dean's List are Baylor undergraduates with a minimum semester grade-point average of 3.7 with no grade lower than a "C" while enrolled in a minimum of 12 graded semester hours.

As a national Christian research university, Baylor's mission is to educate students for worldwide leadership and service by integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment in a caring community.

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# AlmadenTimes

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# Valley Currents

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

## Almaden Girl Scout keeping WWII history alive

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Girl Scout Marissa is keeping history alive with a project she is working on to obtain her Gold Award by educating the public on Japanese and Japanese American internment during WWII.

The Gold Award is the highest award presented by the Girl Scouts which requires more than 80 hours of work and leadership on a project that helps the community and has sustainability.

Marissa, a senior at Leland High School in Almaden, is a fourth generation Japanese American. Her maternal family came to America from Japan in 1923, while her paternal family emigrated from Japan to Peru.

"My dad came to America in 1988 as an engineer, learning English as his third language after Spanish and Japanese," said Marissa. "As a child, we would always visit my grandma, whose house was filled with interesting heirlooms. She would show us ancient tomes, detailing hundreds of years of Japanese history in beautiful kanji and woodblock prints (ukiyo-e), or intricately decorated stones that her mother made as a young girl. I loved hearing her stories, and as I watched the excitement light up her face, I realized that all

along she had been trying to share our history for years to uninterested family and friends."

The joy I saw on her face as she found someone who was interested in her stories made me realize that America is slowly losing important parts of its history, and that because of that, problems of the past are resurfacing and discrimination is becoming more evident.

So, for my Gold Award, I decided to educate the public on Japanese and Japanese American internment during WWII and how Angel Island, an island in San Francisco Bay, fit into the narrative. By preserving this important part of not just American history, but also Bay Area history, I want to ensure that something like this never happens again.

Marissa teamed up with the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation to locate, contact, and interview five living descendants of the Japanese who were interned at Angel Island during WWII.

"I received a list of internees from Angel Island during WWII, and then, using Ancestry.com, I searched names I randomly selected," Marissa said. "Going off of obituaries, I was able to find their living descendants, and using Whitepages, I found potential addresses. I then sent handwrit-



Marissa is pictured with Grant Din, a volunteer at Angel Island who has done extensive research on Japanese American internment. He assisted Marissa with her research and creating the exhibit.

ten letters to each address explaining my project. Some families were harder to locate, so I posted the list around the Japantown community, since many who were incarcerated were from Orange County, and their families stayed here after being released."

Marissa placed an announcement about her project in the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin newsletter and also coordinated weekly announcements made during each service. Some individuals came forward as they recognized their names on the list (Angel Island held many internees from the San Jose area and Hawaii).

"I interviewed the descendants that I got in contact with, in person or by email, and published their stories on the Angel Island Immigrant Voices website ([www.immigrant-voices.aiisf.org](http://www.immigrant-voices.aiisf.org))," Marissa said. "Their genuine happiness at the preservation of their history and the interest it was garnering in others warmed my heart and I knew I had to pursue this further. I'm currently using this information to design four unique

retractable banners, turning these stories and the history of Japanese and Japanese American internment into a professional traveling exhibit for Angel Island that will visit museums and historic sites all over the country for years to come."

To truly make an impact, Marissa had to take her project to a new level. She is currently leading two 40-minute weekly webinars – one pertaining to Japanese internment and Angel Island, and the other concentrating on internment in Hawaii and the development of the 442nd Regiment -- for youth and adults. The webinar highlights how the problems of the past are still prevalent today, with the death of George Floyd and similar incidents. If you would like to learn more or sign up for my informational webinars, please visit: [www.marissagoldaward.wixsite.com/mysite-1](http://www.marissagoldaward.wixsite.com/mysite-1)

"By explaining how to take action and eradicate this social injustice, I can make sure that everyone has an opportunity to learn from the lesson applicable to their own lives," Marissa said. "I refuse to let my generation continue with their eyes on the ground, impervious to the consequences of staying silent. I am proud to be a teen leader, keeping history alive in the minds of the youth and making a difference, one person at a time."



Pictured is an exhibit from Angel Island. The Angel Island Immigration Station served as an entry point for immigration on the west coast from 1910 to 1940.

## LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

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



Times **OpEd**

# Leland do better

## A manifesto to combat racist microaggressions in our schools and community

By Aroshi Ghosh  
Special to the Times

On June 16, 2020, in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests across the country, a manifesto named “Leland Do Better” was circulated in the Nextdoor forum and other community sites.

The document was created by a couple of African American students from Leland High School (who preferred to remain anonymous) and summarized various examples of racist and sexist behavior that they and other students of color had encountered on campus and the apathy of the Leland administration and staff to take any meaningful action in response.

The goal was to hold the school and the community accountable. The students wanted to expose the complacency of the Almaden

community to matters of race, including a persistent refusal to acknowledge unconscious biases and microaggressions that were pervasive among the student body. However, when the manifesto was initially broadcasted on Nextdoor, the post was received with widespread disbelief by many members, who tried to discredit the veracity of the information, and forced the moderators to remove

### Leland, Do Better: A Manifesto June 16, 2020

The purpose of this document is not to ‘call out’ or expose individuals — rather, it is to highlight a continuous problem at Leland of individuals making racist, sexist, and homophobic remarks and using slurs that contribute to a **toxic and dangerous environment**, especially for Black students. This document is not attempting to be comprehensive or exhaustive: these are situations and instances that we have remembered and catalogued. Most importantly, this situation is not about any single student — as mentioned previously, this is about a deeper culture at Leland that normalizes racist, sexist, and homophobic remarks and creates a toxic environment for marginalized students. *We urge you to think deeply about how you contribute to this culture, and what you can do to push back against it. We hope that documentation will hold Leland accountable, and that displaying the reality of this school will push it — and all of you — to do much, much better.* Leland can no longer fail its Black students.

ALL NAMES ARE REMAINING ANONYMOUS. THIS IS NOT TO CALL ANY INDIVIDUAL OUT. Speculating who is who is NOT THE POINT and detracts from the purpose—that we are **ALL** at fault and **ALL** be a part of the solution. We cannot grow without the support of our community and loved ones.

This is simply what a few former Leland students have witnessed, which we have attempted to document to the best of our ability. If you would like to add your own experiences or what you have witnessed, there’s this **DOCUMENT** that you can add to \*\*we are not regulating this at all, it’s just a forum to express anything else you may have experienced heard.\*\*

As mentioned previously, we encourage you to think about the role you play in Leland’s oftentimes hostile environment and **how you can hold Leland — its students, administrators, and yourself — accountable**. There is almost NO engagement around issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion at Leland from students or administrators. It is disrespectful and offensive to see students read James Baldwin in AP Lang, and then leave the classroom and say racial slurs. Frankly, it is very possible to go through all four years of high school without ever meaningfully engaging with race or racism. This problem is huge within the classroom: *the books we read are predominantly white, our teachers are largely white, there is no engagement with the idea of systemic racism, the history we learn is whitewashed.* For non-Black students

A partial screenshot of “Leland Do Better” manifesto opening statements.



Flyer for the panel discussion that was held virtually due to COVID-19 concerns.

it from the forum. Personal stories are always the hardest to share, yet even though these students of color had taken on the burden to document the incidents, it was summarily dismissed in a bid to cover up the problems that are embedded in our society today.

While the manifesto made many people uncomfortable and aroused a lot of emotions within the community, it did energize some members to organize a virtual panel discussion. The panel was open to the public and aimed to amplify the voices of colored people by enabling them to speak up about their experiences so that the community could educate themselves, hold each other accountable,

and initiate change from within.

It can be safely said that Almaden is a bubble — an affluent, sheltered suburb, where it is hard for us to acknowledge an alternative reality that may exist for minorities or people of color within the same community. Therefore, it is important for us to encourage a spirit of inclusion through dialogue and conversations, the first step of which is an acknowledgment that problems exist within the community when it comes to race relations.

The speaker panel consisted of four Leland Alumni, who have since graduated. They included Hannah Lee (Class of 2019); Vineet Byakod (Class of 2020); Mira Karthik (Class of 2020); and Sathvik Nair (Class of 2016). The moderator was Ms. Rajni Navin Chander and the forum was attended by 33 community members.

Vineet Byakod emphasized that discussing racism is imperative at this historical juncture within our small community of Almaden because ultimately we are (whether we like it or not) also part of the larger historical events that have overtaken our country. We can no longer afford to have a tunnel vision and refuse to acknowledge what is happening at our doorstep because racism matters and there are consequences to actions. Many colleges have now started taking steps and rescinded admissions for racist social media posts.

In their opening remarks, the panelists summarized the student experiences that were documented in the manifesto. These included the casual use of the “n” word and stereotyping students of color due to appearances,

See DO BETTER, page 8



## Support Your Community!

Join the Almaden Valley Women’s Club Fundraising Drive as we work to raise funds for community organizations.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Art & Wine Festival had to be cancelled. For 44 years the women’s club has produced the festival and donated all proceeds to local area charities and scholarships.

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Visit <https://almadenwomen.org> to donate or for more information.





Times **Community News**

# Almaden Valley Women's Club hosts Wine Pull Fundraiser

By William Bellou  
Publisher

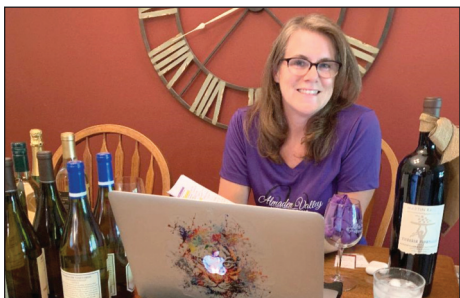
The Almaden Valley Women's Club hosted its first virtual event on Thursday, July 23 in the form of a "Wine Pull."

The event was hosted via a Zoom call and featured wines from various vineyards who normally are part of the annual Almaden Art and Wine Festival.

"We had to cancel the Festival this year due to the pandemic," says Beth Swartz, VP of Fundraising for the club. "But we still have non-profit organizations that rely on our grant money each year so we needed to come up with a new plan."

## Fantastic creative virtual fundraiser event

The Wine Pull attracted over 30 attendees



Lisa Boissier, Wine Pull host, brought her 14 years' experience with JLohr Winery as the host of the women's club Wine Pull.

who registered to randomly win a bottle of wine. The attendees all logged in to the event via Zoom and watched as wheel spun, determining which bottle of wine they would win. Lisa Boissier, board member of the Almaden Valley Women's Club, was the host. She spent 14 years with J Lohr and is a Certified Specialist of Wine. Lisa introduced each wine before the wheel spun, explaining the various grapes involved, regions and gave some overall deeper knowledge of the wines. After Lisa described a wine, she'd spin the wheel and the winner would be announced. This brought great excitement to the fundraiser.

The program also featured two of the 2019 grant recipients. Jake's Wish Rescue and Days for Girls were both featured during the event showcasing just two examples of organizations who have received funds from the Almaden Valley Women's Club.

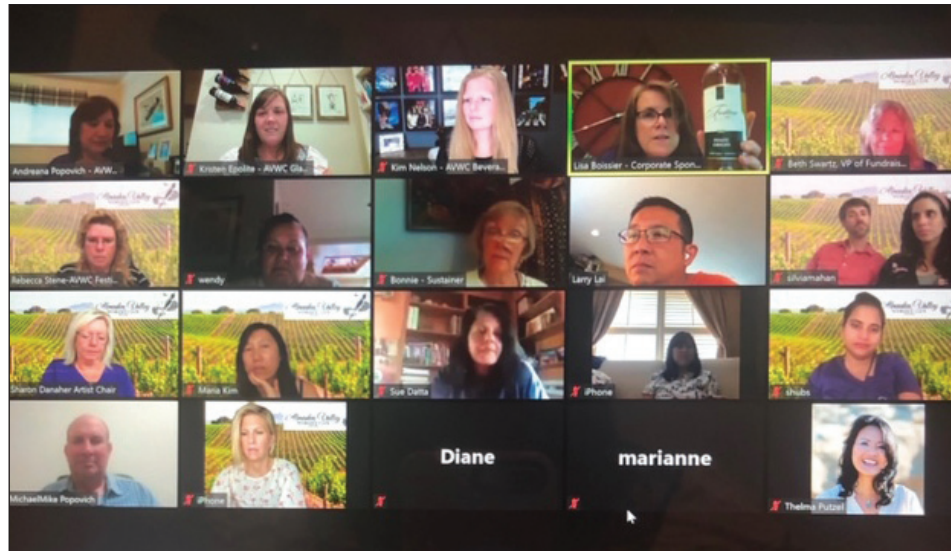
After the event, participants had their wine delivered to their homes along with a limited edition Virtual Event Series wine glass. "We wanted to continue our tradition of a wine glass plus we'd already started the logo contest before the shutdown," says Beth. "Once we made this decision, Jackie Jones generously agreed to sponsor the glass". In addition to support from Jackie Jones, the Almaden Valley Women's Club also received help from PremierOne Credit Union plus the Almaden Times.

The Wine Pull isn't the only fundraiser for the club; the group is also hoping to raise funds with sales of the limited edition wine glasses plus an ongoing donation drive happening now through the end of September. To order the glasses, interested parties can visit the Almaden Valley Women's Club website at: [www.almadenwomen.org](http://www.almadenwomen.org) and navigate to the 'Members Section' where glasses can be ordered through PayPal. The donation drive is featured on the main page of the website.

"There's no Festival this year but that doesn't mean we can find new ways to continue to help our community," says Beth.



Above, right: Almaden Valley Women's Club members prepare to deliver the wine and glasses to participants. L to r: Andreana Popovich, Kim Nelson, Sharon Danahar, Rebecca Stene, Wendy Fisher, and Beth Swartz.



Participants in the Wine Pull enjoying Lisa's descriptions and watching the wheel spin.



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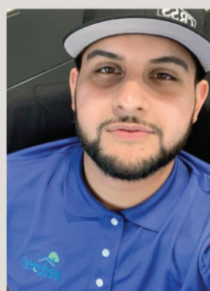


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Sales Associate



*"I love doing what I do..." -Ernesto*

Ernesto joined the team in July 2019. Ernesto previously worked in the banking industry and is attending school with a major in business administration. After a year under his belt and exploring the world of self-storage, Ernesto found his niche for a career in self-storage that complements his educational goals, Ernesto has advanced and continues to thrive as a self-storage 'whiz' while continuing to show his dedication to the business by providing exceptional customer service.

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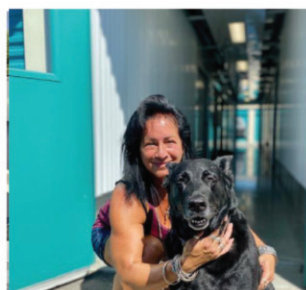
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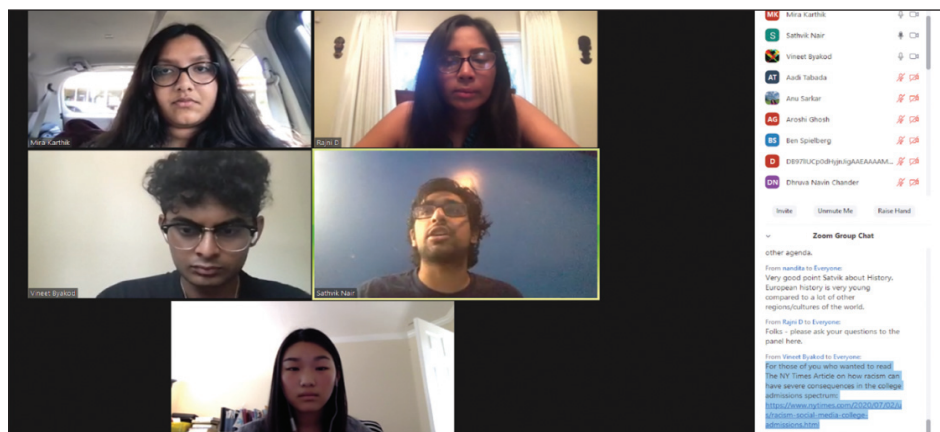


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Times **Community News**

## Do Better

Continued from page 5

food, and fashion preferences associated with their ethnicities. While it was acknowledged that most people were subject to biases, the importance of being watchful in our behaviors to prevent hurtful racial encounters was emphasized. The manifesto struck a chord among many students of color because the personal narratives reminded them of their own identity crisis as they had navigated their student lives. It was pointed out that the instances described in the document have been perva-

sive at the school over many years, but have been noted only recently. While the panelists acknowledged the great academic experiences at Leland, they also recounted incidents when they felt embarrassed about their culture and the subsequent desire to suppress the ethnic aspects of their identity due to peer pressure.

It was painful to hear some of the panelists' anecdotal accounts of "curry jokes" to which they were subjected to for the hot lunches they carried to school as opposed to the brown bags of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Sathvik Nair recounted an incident when he was asked to identify if he was a "bow and arrow Indian" or a "dot and feather Indian". Interestingly, the perpetrators of these microaggressions were not limited to White students but were normalized by many other students as well, who wanted to fit in by appropriating cultural norms that they deemed "cooler".

The format of the discussion was designed to engage the audience on several fronts, that included:

**(i) Identifying "overt" and "covert" racism**

Overt racism refers to socially unacceptable behavior like lynching, dressing up in Ku Klux Klan paraphernalia, or using the "n" word, and so on; Covert racism refers to behaviors, that are socially acceptable and often manifesta-

*The discussion concluded with the panel highlighting some of the steps people can take to be an antiracist. In many cases, displays of racism are usually a result of ignorance or a lack of awareness.*

tions of our subconscious biases.

**(ii) How covert racism manifests itself in the community**

Covert racism manifests itself in our schools through a Eurocentric curriculum that does not adequately capture the experiences of people of color and a "school to prison" pipeline that results in predominantly Brown and Black students to be at the mercy of the juvenile criminal justice system. Covert racism manifests itself through individual behaviors due to prejudices and negative stereotypes of people of color and includes denying our own privilege, the existence of racism, and microaggressions. Covert racism also manifests itself through our society due to unfair hiring practices and a refusal to acknowledge the inequities within institutions like the healthcare system or education.

The panelists clarified how using slogans like "ALL LIVES MATTER" was started by White supremacist groups to drown out the struggle of people of color, when the BLM movement was initially started.

The discussion concluded with the panel highlighting some of the steps people can take to be an antiracist. In many cases, displays of racism are usually a result of ignorance or a lack of awareness. Therefore, listening to other people's experiences and having uncomfortable conversations is an important way to find common ground. We must educate ourselves and be proactive in engaging minority students and make them feel welcome and our efforts must go beyond organizing heritage day events at school.

*Editor's note: Those wishing to read the entire "Leland do better" manifesto can do so by doing a web search.*

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Times **Community News****Mackenzie Meyer participates in McDaniel College Student-Faculty Collaborative Summer Research Program**

**M**ackenzie Meyer (right) of Almaden Valley participated in McDaniel College's Student-Faculty Collaborative Summer Research Program.

Meyer, who is majoring in Biology, collaborated virtually on the mechanics in cypriniform fishes, which includes goldfish, minnows, and carps with Katie Staab, associate professor of biology at McDaniel.

The research is comparing the kinematics of feeding in different ornamental varieties of goldfish. Examining goldfish without dorsal fins, goldfish with protruding eyes, and varieties with a wen - a tumor-like growth on their heads - Meyer



asked if these anatomical traits affect the function of the jaws and suction feeding.

Students were able to utilize high-speed videos to ask questions about animal movement as well as quantify distances and timings of fish feeding by clicking on anatomical landmarks in each frame.

Meyer, who graduated from Pioneer High School, is a member of the McDaniel College Women's Cross Country Team. At Pioneer, Meyer was Valedictorian, and a member of the National Honors Society, California Scholarship Foundation, Red Cross Club, and the Dead Poets' Society.

**Fauci suggests the possibility of wearing goggles or face shield**

Dr. Anthony Fauci is suggesting that Americans should consider wearing goggles or a face shield in order to prevent spreading or catching COVID-19.

The nation's top infectious disease expert told ABC News Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Jennifer Ashton during an Instagram Live conversation. Fauci said that wearing goggles and eye or face shields are "not uni-

versally recommended" at this time, "but if you really want to be complete, you should probably use it if you can."

"If you have goggles or an eye shield, you should use it," Fauci said. When asked if we're going to get to a point where eye protection is recommended, Fauci responded, "It might, if you really want perfect protection of the mucosal surfaces."

"You have mucosa in the nose, mucosa in the mouth, but you also have mucosa in the eye," he continued. "Theoretically, you should protect all the mucosal surfaces. So if you have goggles or an eye shield you should use it."

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# Mayor Liccardo releases proposed next stage for police reform

Mayor Sam Liccardo released the next stage of his comprehensive plan for police reform in San José on Thursday, July 30.

In his official proposal to City Council, Mayor Liccardo, joined by Vice Mayor Charles "Chappie" Jones, Coun-

cilmember Lan Diep (D-4) and Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco (D-5), proposed speeding up the adoption and implementation of reforms that will provide more oversight of the police department, strengthen the investigative authority of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA), and

unveil a new proposal to provide more accountability to the public.

"We have promised concrete, substantial and expedient reforms to how the San José Police Department operates including the amount of transparency and accountability to the elected leadership of the city and the community as a whole," said Mayor Liccardo. "The reforms that will be considered in Council on August 11 are one more step in living up to that promise."

"Now that Council has returned to session, we have an opportunity to roll up our sleeves and commence this work," added Mayor Liccardo.

The highlights are:

1. Starting the process to move investigations of police misconduct from SJPd's Internal Affairs (IA) to the Independent Police Auditor.

2. Tasking the City Attorney, IPA, and City Manager to provide Council with specific recommendations to reform the arbitration process.

3. A plan to engage the community, with the support of experts, consultants, and research to:

a. Publicly review use of force policy in the Duty Manual, and explore potential reforms.

b. Reimagine public safety response, such as by supplanting SJPd response to many non-criminal matters with civilian response.

c. Examine how and whether to mandate expedited public disclosure of body-worn camera footage of incidents of substantial public concern, such as major protests or controversial uses of force.

This set of revisions follow several proposed reforms that are already scheduled for City Council consideration in August, including the expansion of IPA authority and a ban on the deployment of rubber bullets.

The memo to Council, the official vehicle to introduce proposals to the legislative process, outlines several key initiatives that, once implemented by Council, will begin to help change the trajectory of the San José Police Department and its interactions with the community.

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Times **Community News**

# San Jose council candidate was on prescription drugs before deadly crash

By Adam F. Hutton

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

San Jose City Council candidate Jenny Higgins Bradanini tested positive for benzodiazepine, a class of medication sometimes prescribed for anxiety and insomnia, after she killed a pedestrian with her SUV in Los Gatos last year, according to documents charging her with a felony.

Patients who are prescribed tranquilizers are warned not to drive because the drugs are known to make people drowsy, weak and dizzy.

The documents obtained by San José Spotlight — including the results of Higgins Bradanini's blood toxicology report — were provided in response to a public records request to the Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara, where she now faces the charge of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence, as first reported by San Jose Inside.

The maximum penalty for that crime is six years in a state prison.

Higgins Bradanini finished third in the March primary election for the open District 10 seat on the City Council.

A phone message left for Higgins Bradanini's lawyer on Tuesday was not returned.

Among the charging documents is a detailed police report including witness statements from other drivers who stopped to help and call 911.

A report from the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department says Higgins Bradanini was "lying on the sidewalk... in the fetal position crying hysterically" when investigators arrived at the scene of the crash on Blossom Hill Road near the intersection of Cherry Blossom Lane on the morning of Dec. 16, 2019.

An off-duty captain in the San Jose Fire Department who was driving in the area stopped and, after determining the pedestrian was dead, tried to comfort Higgins Bradanini as she laid wailing on the concrete. Another witness told police she saw Higgins Bradanini swerving in her Land Rover — and nearly called 911 to report an intoxicated driver — just before the activist and City Council hopeful killed 66-year-old Timothy Starkey of Santa Cruz.

After she composed herself, Higgins Bradanini told police at the scene she had left City Hall earlier that day to go to her doctor's office and was headed to a nearby pharmacy in Los Gatos to pick up a prescription, according to the report. But, police say, she could not remember whether she had tried to stop the car before she hit Starkey or what she was doing just before the crash.

"I don't remember what I was doing, I don't know," she told police.

"I don't know what I did," Higgins Bradanini continued, according to the incident report. "I know I killed him, it's all my fault."

"Am I going to jail?" she asked the officer on the scene.

The officer conducting the interview reas-

sured her that he was just trying to "figure out what happened," the report says. Police eventually took Higgins Bradanini back to the station to continue the interview "away from the traumatic scene," the report says. But before they left, she said something that raised concerns she might be suicidal.



Photo courtesy of Jenny Higgins Bradanini's campaign.

"I don't even want to live," she said at the scene, according to the incident report.

Later, back at the station, police asked her directly if she was feeling suicidal.

"I took somebody's life by accident," Higgins Bradanini said. "I don't know how you get past that." "I'm not suicidal," she added. "I just don't want to be here. I just don't know how I can live anymore."

According to the police report, Higgins Bradanini did not display signs of alcohol intoxication, but was unable to clearly describe her actions before the collision, had memory loss, trouble focusing and articulating her thoughts, or answering simple questions.

She claimed she may have been taking off her jacket before the collision happened, but insisted she was not on her phone.

Starkey died immediately on impact, suffering from head and torso injuries. The report said he was at a friend's house hanging up Christmas lights.

Timothy Lundell, an attorney representing Starkey's widow and children, told San José Spotlight his death was "a crushing blow for the family."

"They are satisfied that it was a thorough investigation by police," Lundell said. "But the family feels like they are the only ones to have suffered and they are eager for a fair resolution."

"Tim was a fantastic guy," said Lundell, who is also a family friend.

Higgins Bradanini was charged on July 14 and a warrant was issued for her arrest, but it is unclear when the court will begin hearing the charges.

Contact Adam F. Hutton at [afhutton.sjspotlight@gmail.com](mailto:afhutton.sjspotlight@gmail.com) or follow @adamfhutton on Twitter.

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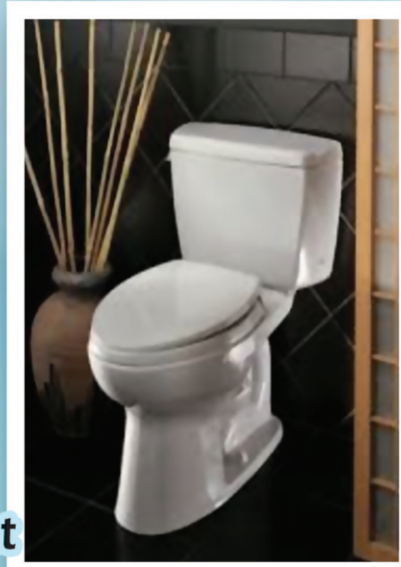
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Times **Community News**

# Sacred Heart seeks support in effort to meet unprecedented need for its annual school supply giveaway program

**O**n Friday, August 7th at 8:30 a.m. Sacred Heart Community Service in San Jose will begin distributing thousands of backpacks filled with school supplies to local families as part of their annual 'Pack A Back' campaign.

The economic downturn related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the shift to distance learning this fall has created an unprecedented need for these supplies. This year Sacred Heart has registered more than 3,800 children to receive free backpacks and school supplies which is 500 more than last year.

'Pack-A-Back' is made possible thanks to Sacred Heart's generous community members. Hundreds of local communi-

ty members, several schools, businesses, and churches have already started sharing, but Sacred Heart needs to raise an additional \$95,000.00 to ensure every child can get the supplies they need this fall.

There are many ways people can support this campaign including making a financial donation, volunteering, organizing a school supplies drive, or purchasing items on the organization's Amazon "Wishlist."

When coronavirus shut down nearly everything in March, Sacred Heart had to redesign all of its programs to ensure health and safety while remaining open for their most vulnerable neighbors.

Sacred Heart is pivoting to multiple distribution days (August 7th, 10th, 11th, 12th) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and "no contact" (touchless) home deliveries for families who cannot come to the distribution days for health reasons.

In addition to donations, Sacred Heart is also looking for volunteers to help with backpack distribution.

Those interested in volunteering can get involved by emailing: [volunteers@sacredheartcs.org](mailto:volunteers@sacredheartcs.org). For more information regarding Pack A Back 2020, visit: [www.sacredheartcs.org/pab](http://www.sacredheartcs.org/pab)

*Editor's note: Sacred Heart Community Service is located at: 1381 S. First Street, San Jose, CA.*



There are many ways people can support this campaign including making a financial donation, volunteering, organizing a school supplies drive, or purchasing items on the organization's Amazon "Wishlist."

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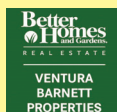


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Times **Community**

## SJ Mayor Sam Liccardo sues to count undocumented immigrants in census

In an unusual move, San Jose Mayor Liccardo is a named plaintiff in a lawsuit against President Trump.

Liccardo said he has personally joined the City of San José and other concerned jurisdictions and individuals to stop President Donald Trump from excluding undocumented residents from being counted in the 2020 census — a violation of the Constitution.

"In San José, and under the U.S. Constitution, everyone counts," Mayor Liccardo said. "The explicit promise of the 14th Amendment that apportionment rely upon the 'counting of the whole number of persons in each State' does not countenance or allow the disregard of any one 'person,' as the White House seeks. It is astounding that 132 years after we wiped the abhorrent 'three-fifths' clause from Article I of our U.S. Constitution, and as our nation yearns for racial equity, we have a Presidential Administration seeking to return to the days prior to the passage of the 14th Amendment."

On July 21, 2020 President Trump directed the secretary of commerce to statistically manipulate the completed 2020 census count to exclude undocumented immigrants living in the country from being considered for purposes of calculating the number of representatives to Congress from the various states.

The lawsuit was filed Wednesday, July 29, 2020 in San José by the City of San José, the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), King County (Washington), Arlington County (Virginia), and individual plaintiffs Sam Liccardo, Zerihoun Yilma, and Lovette Kargbo-Thompson—alleges that the president's memorandum violates the Census Act, the Enumeration Clause of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution, and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

## Receive 10 free trees by joining Arbor Day Foundation in August

Spruce up your landscape by joining the Arbor Day Foundation in August.

Everyone who joins the Arbor Day Foundation with a \$10 donation will receive 10 free Norway spruce trees or 10 white flowering dogwood trees through the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid between October 15 and December 10, depending on the right time for planting in each member's area. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

"Norway spruce trees truly provide year-round beauty for any landscape," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "White flowering dogwood trees will add color and beauty to your yard throughout the year, with their showy spring

flowers, scarlet autumn foliage, and red berries that attract songbirds in the winter."

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

To receive the free Norway spruce trees, join online at [arborday.org/august](http://arborday.org/august) or send a \$10 membership contribution by August 31 to: Ten Free Norway Spruces, or Ten Free White Dogwood, Arbor Day Foundation, 211 N 12th St., Lincoln, NE 68508.

## County Supervisors approve placing Caltrain sales tax on November ballot

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, August 4 unanimously voted to approve putting an eighth-cent sales tax on the November 3 ballot to fund Caltrain.

Supporters believe the tax is crucial for

the rail agency to survive its current financial downfall due to the Covid pandemic. Caltrain normally receives 70 percent of its operating funds from passenger fares.

The tax measure must win two-thirds approval at the ballot box. The proposed sales tax ballot measure is estimated to yield more than \$100 million a year for Caltrain.

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors president Cindy Chavez said it is essential to fund Caltrain for climate protection and traffic mitigation.

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From left, **Nayeli Grano** and **Dave Cortese** spoke recently about Santa Clara County's basic income program, which will provide monthly payments to young adults transitioning out of the foster care system. *Photo by Katie Lauer*

# Santa Clara County foster youth begin receiving universal basic income at \$1,000 monthly

By **Katie Lauer**

*Article courtesy of San José Spotlight*

**P**aid rent, a full stomach and freedom to pursue her dreams: that’s what Santa Clara County’s new Basic Income Program means for Nayeli Grano, one of the 72 foster youth who have already started receiving funds.

As a 23-year-old sociology student transitioning out of the foster care system, Grano said she can now breathe easier knowing the money will not only help her survive and stay off the streets – especially in the increasingly expensive Bay Area – but also enjoy life.

“UBI (Universal Basic Income) is the least that we can do for our community to survive,” Grano said Monday. “UBI represents the happiness and stress-free mindset that people can have, because after paying for their basic needs, they finally have some cents left over to go out and have fun – you know, live a little.”

Santa Clara County’s program is the first in the nation to provide unconditional \$1,000 monthly payments to foster youth between 21 to 24 years old who are struggling to find housing and jobs. The program runs from June 2020 to May 2021.

The payments were unanimously approved in May, after being fast-tracked from a committee in December. Supervisor Dave Cortese, who first introduced the proposal, said the timing couldn’t be better with the ongoing pandemic, which has exacerbated issues of homelessness, immigration and child welfare.

But the veteran lawmaker and state Senate candidate said the program isn’t a hand-out, especially as these “children of the coun-

ty” will maintain the autonomy on how to spend the money.

“They’re not a charity case. It’s our obligation to (help),” Cortese said. “That is the beauty of the UBI program: we are saying be empowered, make your decisions, invest in your life.”

Dr. Sandhya Hermon, a deputy director in the county’s Social Services Agency, said this population often has limited access to support systems, which can lead to lower educational achievements and unstable finances in the future.

According to Talk Poverty, 150 young people age out of the foster care system in Santa Clara County annually and 90% of foster youth across California don’t have any source of income when they transition out. San Jose nonprofit Razing the Bar, which provides mentorship and housing support services to foster youth, said 45% of the homeless population under the age of 25 spent time in the foster system.

Cortese said the year-long program is a much-needed investment into the local community. He said the UBI program’s funds will most likely go directly into schools and cash registers across the county — helping others prosper, too.

“Most of the time if you want to do fundamental change, you are challenged by the fact that the status quo is almost unmovable, but when it fails so drastically as it’s failing before our eyes, you’re way ahead of the game,” stated Gisèle Huff, president of The Gerald Huff Fund for Humanity. “Every single instance of (universal basic income) is just another tile, and it’s worth investing in or participating in, because it’s part of the bigger picture.”



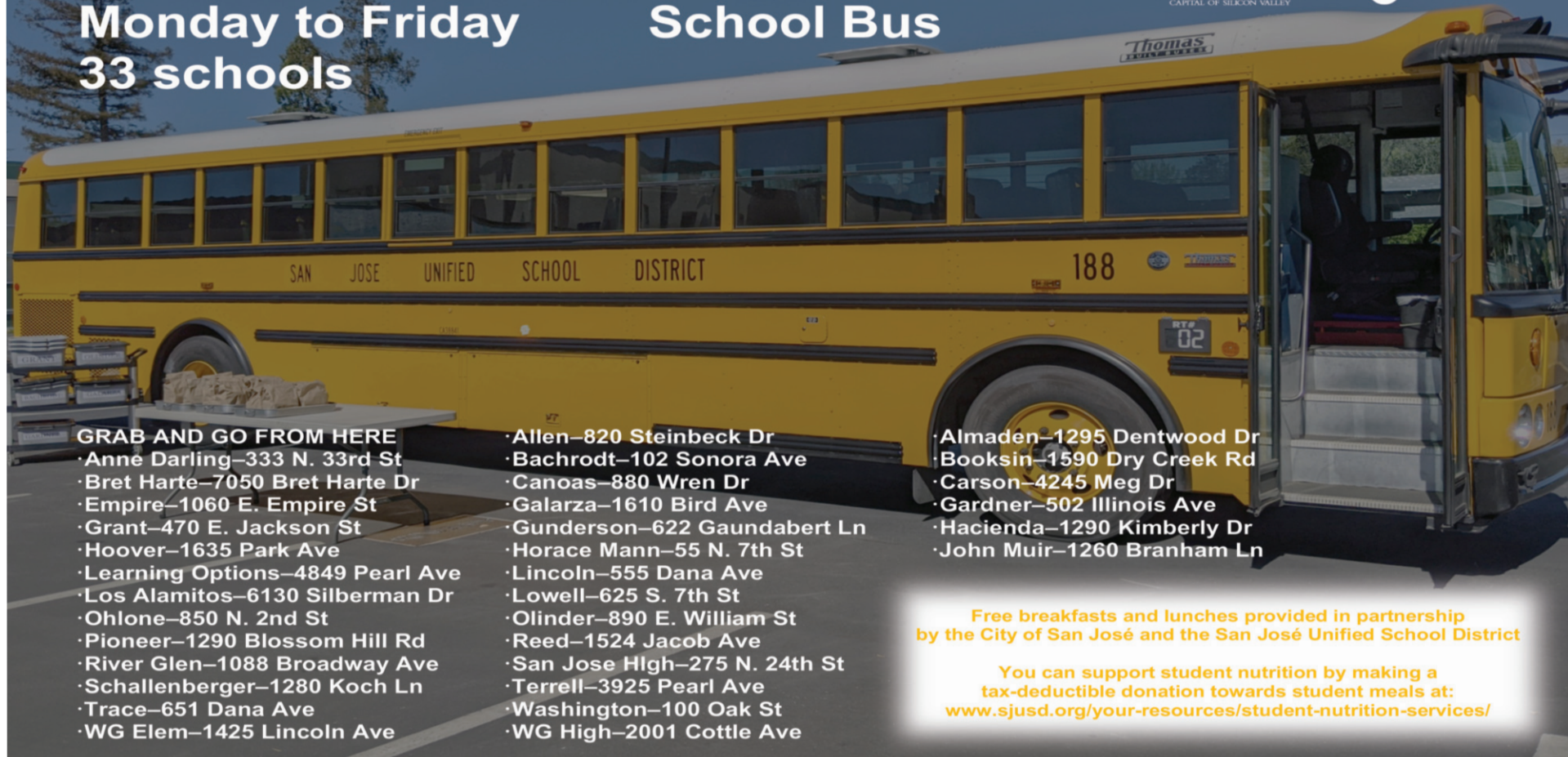
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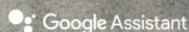
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## Times Community News

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One scheduled project includes planting native plants that benefit the ecosystem and provide wildlife habitat along areas of Alamitos Creek (above) and Guadalupe Creek.

## Providing flood protection through the stream maintenance program and Adopt-A-Creek Program

By Linda J. LeZotte

Valley Water Board of Directors

As part of Valley Water's mission to provide flood protection for our communities, we are continuously preparing for the possibility of flooding. We must regularly keep our streams and creeks well maintained to handle the rainy season and protect the many species of wildlife that live there.

Valley Water's primary flood prevention efforts are performed annually under the Stream Maintenance Program (SMP). The SMP work kicked off on June 15 and will continue through Oct. 15. We will work at over 30 different locations throughout Santa Clara County that we've identified as critical flood protection projects. This work is necessary to help reduce the impact of flooding if we are hit with sudden downpours that could overwhelm our waterways, causing them to overflow into our streets and homes. The program is also intended to improve wildlife habitat by removing invasive plants, trash and debris.

Some of the work performed during the SMP includes removing build-up of rocks that restrict the flow of water, cutting overgrown weeds, trimming trees, planting native plants, stabilizing creek banks that have eroded, and clearing trash and debris.

Several projects are scheduled to take place in District 4 in San Jose:

- Planting native plants that benefit the ecosystem and provide wildlife habitat along

areas of Alamitos Creek and Guadalupe Creek.

- Removal of invasive plants that spread aggressively, damages the homes of wildlife, and pose an increased risk of flooding and fire danger at Guadalupe River from Blossom Hill Road to Branham Lane.

- Removal of vegetation to help restore water flow at various parts of Alamitos Creek, Golf Creek, Greystone Creek, and Guadalupe Creek.

While most of the work takes place during the summer, stream maintenance is a year-round effort. However, we can't do it alone. Join us and be stewards of the environment and protect our creeks and streams by participating in our Adopt-A-Creek Program. Our partners adopt a creek, monitor trash and commit to at least two cleanups a year.

We encourage you to start the process now to adopt a creek near you. Cleanup supplies are provided free of charge. To learn more, visit [www.valleywater.org/learning-center/adopt-creek](http://www.valleywater.org/learning-center/adopt-creek).

Let's work together and continue to do our part in protecting our communities and keeping our families safe. If you notice a problem in our creeks, you can report it on our Access Valley Water service portal to alert our field crews of downed trees, eroding banks, trash and debris, and overgrown vegetation.

Visit [www.valleywater.org/AVWapp](http://www.valleywater.org/AVWapp)

For more information about SMP, visit [www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/streammaintenance-program](http://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/streammaintenance-program)

SMP is partially funded by the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, a voter approved parcel tax. To learn more, visit [www.valleywater.org/safe-cleanwater](http://www.valleywater.org/safe-cleanwater)

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Times **Community News**

"Hunger doesn't have a day off," Sethi said. "Somebody somewhere is in need of food and we want to get to as many people as possible."

## Meals

*Continued from page 1*

means a lot," Kumar said. "I cannot resist the urge to come out and help."

Wanting to make a difference, with Kumar's background working as executive chef for Stanford University (he currently consults with various universities regarding their culinary programs), and Japjot's background in creating tech solutions (he works for Apple), they decided to start a nonprofit to provide food to the underserved via food trucks.

As the arrival of their 501c3 paperwork coincided with the start of sheltering in place in mid-March, their focus shifted to serving people at LifeMoves homeless shelters, then those who lost their jobs.

"It was humbling to hear people didn't have food for days," Kumar said. "We are following the Sikh culture with the Spirit of Langar, feeding anybody at our doorstep."

The produce comes from Amor Acres, an agricultural cooperative, which utilizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers to Families Food Box Program, designed to support American farmers, distributors, food banks and nonprofits. At Bay Area Kitchen Rental in Fremont, Kumar manages groceries and the cooking of the hot

meals made by Free Meals on Wheels volunteer staff.

At the start of their San Jose distribution, Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Councilmember Johnny Khamis and members of the San Jose Police Department came to lend their support.

With enough funding and volunteers, Free Meals on Wheels would like to expand their distribution and continue the program until the end of August or even December. They are also working on fundraising to make the food trucks a reality.

"It's not about religion, class, color or culture," Sethi said. "The principal of our religion is to serve everybody. We started our nonprofit to serve people in need."

"Our purpose is helping humankind one meal at a time," Kumar said. "Our families are the pillars of our strength. Japjot and my wife and kids show up every week to keep us going."

"It warms my heart," said San Jose resident Elva Acevedo in reaction to Free Meals on Wheels feeding the hungry, "yet it's a sad reality of the need of so many communities."

To donate or volunteer, see: [www.freemealsonwheels.com](http://www.freemealsonwheels.com) or text "Free Meals" to 474747 for information on food distribution.

## Mayor Sam Liccardo endorses Ann Ravel for State Senate

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo is endorsing Ann Ravel's campaign to become the next State Senator of District 15.

"As mayor of San Jose, I know that our city needs a proven leader in Sacramento who will work every day to make government more accountable, transparent and effective for every member of our diverse community. That's why I am so proud to give my endorsement to Ann Ravel for State Senate," said Liccardo. "Ann Ravel's groundbreaking career is a demonstration of her tenacity, independence and commitment to serving the people. In these tough times we need strong and independent representatives like Ann Ravel."

"I'm honored to have the support of Mayor Liccardo, a leader who has shown that the inno-

vation and economic growth represented by Silicon Valley's future is brightest when everyone can share in the prosperity," said Ravel.

In recent months, Ravel has announced endorsements from Congresswoman Katie Porter, ten incumbent members of the California legislature, members of the San Jose City Council, the Silicon Valley Organization, Latinas Lead California and EMILY's List.

The Mercury News has also endorsed Ravel calling her a "stand-out" candidate.

Ravel was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve in his administration – first serving at the Department of Justice, then working as head of the Federal Election Commission. Ravel was also appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as Chair of California's Fair Political Practices Commission.

California's State Senate District 15 includes San Jose, Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and Saratoga. This is an open seat — current State Senator Jim Beall is termed out in 2020.



Ann Ravel

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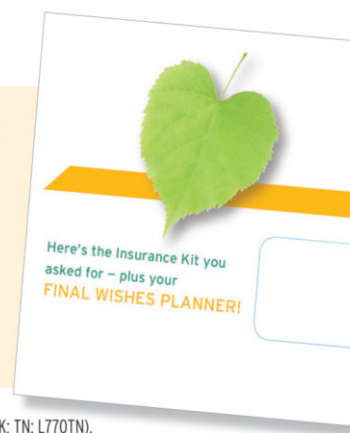
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Times Feature

# San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo drops his 'strong mayor' plan

By Carly Wipf and Mauricio La Plante  
Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

After a month of pressure and community outcry, Mayor Sam Liccardo on Monday, July 27, 2020 quietly dropped his push for a 'strong mayor' initiative that would extend his term by two years and increase his powers.

In a memo released Monday — a day before the San Jose City Council was set to vote on the controversial plan — Liccardo proposed creating a charter review commission to consider changes and instead pursue a November ballot measure that would only move mayoral elections to presidential years. The plan would no longer extend his term to 2024 or increase his powers.

"In recent weeks, several organizations have urged that we slow the process of charter reforms designed to lead to a more effective, accountable, and representative government," Liccardo wrote in the memo. "Given what has become a highly contentious political environment surrounding these efforts — they're right. We need to slow this down, to enable more outreach and community engagement."

The original plan, which drew the ire of five of Liccardo's council colleagues and dozens of community leaders, would've awarded him two more years in office and allowed him more powers, including hiring and firing the city manager and department heads. It was narrowly approved in a 6-5 vote by the City Council after nine hours of debate starting on June 30.

The City Council planned to hash out the measure's language on Tuesday in another high-stakes showdown.

Now, Liccardo suggests returning to the City Council in spring 2022 — his last year in office — to pursue a Nov. 2022 ballot measure that would "align mayoral authority" with the residents' expectations for a major city. He did not outline what additional powers the mayor should have, and instead, appears to leave that decision in the hands of the public in 2022.

The Nov. 2022 measure would also propose some campaign finance reform, including requiring councilmembers to recuse themselves from voting on certain items if they have accepted campaign contributions from those who might benefit. The measure would also prohibit campaign contributions and gifts from lobbyists and city contractors to City Council candidates.

Liccardo also suggested the Nov. 2022 measure bar city contractors or lobbyists from serving on city commissions.

"At the end of the day, our city belongs to its residents," Liccardo wrote. "I believe now as much as ever that our residents deserve to have the power to hold their government accountable. Let's move forward together in 2022 with long-overdue reforms."

Liccardo said the controversial strong mayor measure was meant to be a compromise after an initiative from labor leaders — called the Fair Elections Initiative — failed to gather enough signatures. That measure, however, had no language about increasing Liccardo's powers or extending his term. At the time, Liccardo opposed that measure.

The plan fell apart after city unions and five prominent councilmembers — Magdalena Carrasco, Sergio Jimenez, Sylvia Arenas, Raul Perez and Maya Esparza — opposed the mayor's push to increase his authority and extend his term. They claimed the measure was an unvetted power grab by Liccardo and criticized him for failing to do any community outreach on the plan.

"Since I first issued a memorandum in response to this hastily done deal, I have said we should be slowing down and utilizing the Charter Revision Commission," Perez said. "This should have been the mayor's direction after hours of opposition back on July 1, but thanks to continued pressure from many community members and organizations, I'm certainly pleased with the opportunity we'll have in front of us tomorrow."

Perez called the original measure politics at its worst in an op-ed for this news organization.

"I am happy to hear that Mayor Liccardo is reconsidering the strong mayor initiative," Carrasco told San José Spotlight. "It was a very bad idea from day one because it was a backroom deal and more importantly because of the negative consequences on our most vulnerable communities."

Carrasco said the five Latino councilmembers pushed hard to make sure their voices were heard.

"Pulling this from the ballot to have more community input is a good first step," she said. "We look forward to working with the mayor to make a better San Jose that's just and equitable and ensures that the political status quo respects the rich historic diversity of our city."

Terry Christensen, a political science professor at San Jose State University, is in favor of a strong mayor system "in theory," but said the council shouldn't make a decision based on what's best for other cities and should think carefully about San Jose's specific needs.

"Most big cities do have a strong mayor, because they need that kind of leadership to deal with the complex problems that they have," Christensen said. "That's what Liccardo was talking about when he first began advocating for this. He feels like he's in a position where a lot is expected of him. But he doesn't actually have the authority to be the kind of leader that people want."

Christensen noted that Liccardo's power under the current system makes him a mere "exalted member of the council."

"Maybe we need more than that," he said. But for now, Christensen supports Liccardo's decision to give strong mayor talks room to breathe. "I think they were rushing, pushing it through too fast and that it really is something that the community should have time to contemplate in some depth," he said.

City union leaders who opposed the strong mayor initiative said they support the changes unveiled by Liccardo on Monday.



San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo is pictured in this file photo.

holders think about additional powers," Mason said. "I think it's too early to say what our position would be because we don't know what the community is going to say, all we know is the community did not want this at this time."

Although some unions, such as the San Jose Police Officers' Association and the Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Sprinkler Fitters trade unions, supported the initiative — creating a rift in the labor camp — Mason said this was a step toward gaining consensus among labor in San Jose.

"We're a family in labor and sometimes families have fights," Mason said. "Sometimes they become more public than we like

but there's always a way to find a way back to the dinner table and to break bread together and I'm confident that will happen in this case."

Contact Mauricio La Plante at [msla-plante19@gmail.com](mailto:msla-plante19@gmail.com) or follow @msla-plantenews on Twitter.

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## Times Feature

# Young author publishes book on the stock market

*Empowering and helping young audiences with first-hand knowledge of their own possible investments*

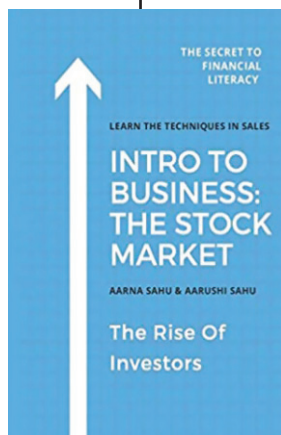
By William Bellou

Publisher

**A**arna Sahu, 12, has published a nonfiction 32-page book on the Stock Market, with the assistance of her 16-year-old sister, Aarushi, putting their time to good use during the pandemic.

*Intro To Business: The Stock Market* is filled with bubbly pictures, arranged for intrigued middle school and rising students. This book covers stock trading, trading tips, lingo, brokerage guidance, disparities amid firms, loans, annual variances, and notable gains – as described on Amazon.com

Aarna said she wrote her Stock Market book because she has always been intrigued by business and economics and wanted to encourage inspiring curious middle schoolers and introductory students, while quarantined, to help them discover the business and economic field.



“Last summer, in my final year of elementary, I went to a finance-economics-stock market-related class,” Aarna said. “I noticed how all of the boys were focused and converged in the class. Then, I saw girls-chit-chatting and talking with each other. I made it my mission to empower and help young audiences comprehend business and economics with an easy to understand book I wrote the help of my sister.”

Aarna found writing her interesting book a great way to channelize her energy by helping young audiences with first-hand knowledge with her own investments.

“My first investment in the Stock Market was made in January 2019,” Aarna said. “With the right skills, I managed to triple my investment in value from the knowledge I gained overhearing my dad discussing the Stock Market with his friends. I thought that it was a neat way to invest and earn money with periodical gains and losses.”

## Economics in schools

Aarna believes there is an educational inequity at most schools due to the lack of teaching finances. She hopes her book will inspire an interest in economics and business courses for young audiences.

“Since local schools do not teach economics, I wanted to create a kick-starter for interested youth, said Aarushi. “I believe this inequity should raise awareness among global youth and academics about the need for financial education.

Although the limitation might seem disappointing at first, my goal is to educate people further on in their development.”

*Intro To Business: The Stock Market* is available on Amazon.com.



*“My first investment in the Stock Market was made in January 2019,” Aarna Sahu said (pictured right, above with her sister, Aarushi). “With the right skills, I managed to triple my investment in value from the knowledge I gained overhearing my dad discussing the Stock Market with his friends. I thought that it was a neat way to invest and earn money with periodical gains and losses.”*

# New face of Silicon Valley Leadership Group announced

By Stella Lorence

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

**B**arclays Capital executive Ahmad Thomas is the new CEO of the powerful Silicon Valley Leadership Group, becoming the fourth person to lead the 43-year-old organization and its first African-American CEO.

“As the economic capital of California, Silicon Valley is looked to as a leader in economic growth, innovation, public policy and now, more than ever social issues,” Thomas said in a statement. “Our community has always had serious issues to tackle, but with unprecedented economic challenges brought on by a once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic and reckoning with systemic racism, we need to lead with industry-wide initiatives that drive both the national dialogue and bring about real, measurable change.”

Thomas will take the reins on Aug. 10. He succeeds Carl Guardino, who announced in January that he was leaving SVLG after 23 years. Guardino revealed last month that he’s accepted a position as the executive vice

president of global government affairs and policy at Bloom Energy.

“Running track in school, we learned how to successfully pass the baton on to the next runner,” Guardino said in a statement. “After nearly 24 years, I am excited to pass the baton of leadership to someone I have known and respected for 16 years, whose collaboration, courage and creativity will well-serve our 340 member companies, our employees and the communities in which we live and conduct business.”

Prior to joining SVLG, Thomas worked as an investment banker for Barclays, where he gained experience leading the firm’s California and Silicon Valley regional municipal banking teams as well as other social impact projects.

Thomas also worked as a senior aide to U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, where he was responsible for tax, financial services, critical infrastructure, federal budget and labor issues. During his time with Feinstein, he helped develop five bills that were signed into law, and began working with SVLG on tax and economic issues.

“Ahmad showed a keen understanding of complex subjects, insight that has only grown over the years,” Feinstein said in a statement. “Ahmad’s practical understanding of how businesses interact with the community will be invaluable as he carries on the work of Carl Guardino, who made transportation, housing and career development cornerstone issues for the SVLG.”

Thomas’s priorities for his new role at SVLG include partnering with community college programs that channel two-year degree candidates into technology jobs and using investments from member companies to bolster affordable housing, renewable energy and social impact infrastructure projects. He also advocates for more racial equity in Silicon Valley by helping member companies hire more minority candidates and funding more Black- and Latinx-owned startups.

Thomas is a California native who resides in Menlo Park with his wife, Reena Thomas, and their two sons.

Contact Stella Lorence at [stella.g.lorence@gmail.com](mailto:stella.g.lorence@gmail.com) or follow on Twitter @slorence3.



**Ahmad Thomas**, named as CEO of Silicon Valley Leadership Group. Ahmad Thomas, an investment banker and former legislative aide in the U.S. Senate, has been picked as the new chief executive officer of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

Photo courtesy of SVLG



Times **Feature**



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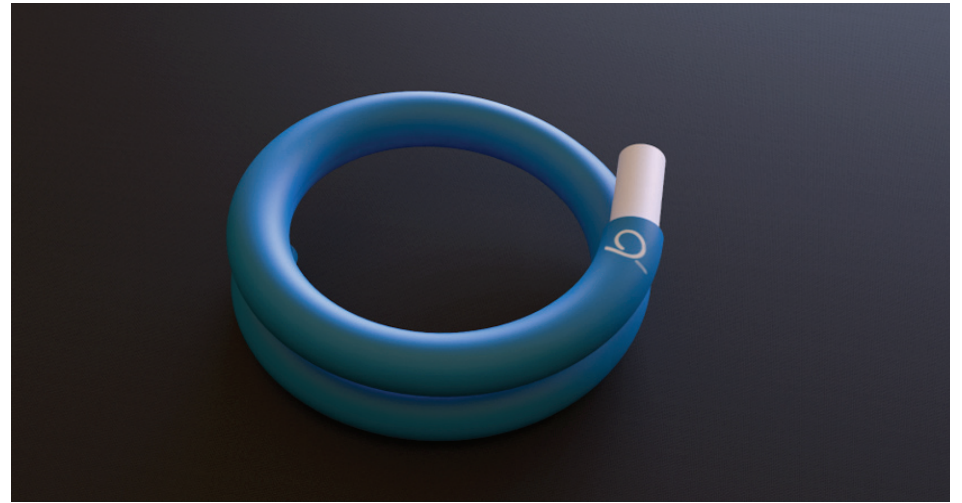
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The reusable straw/bracelet itself is pretty simplistic and minimal.

## High school entrepreneurs developing environmental friendly product

By **Derrick Cai**  
*Special to the Times*

**D**id you know that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish? In fact, every single day, the United States uses 500 million plastic straws.

If someone was to join that many straws together, it would circle the earth two and a half times; crazy, right?

Plastic pollution is by no means a new problem, yet humans are expected to produce more plastic waste than ever before in the coming years. However, people all over the world are trying to combat this problem. This year, five passionate high schoolers got together and came up with a unique idea to help reduce plastic waste in our oceans and beaches.

Derrick Cai, Ashish Basetty, Harry Yuan, Arnav Jain, and Maddox Yu are five high school students located in Northern California. "We've all been pretty big on recycling and reducing plastic waste," Harry says, "but we really wanted to make a difference beyond just our own lives."

The five friends thought of problems they had in living an eco-friendly lifestyle, and among them was reusable straws. After performing surveys and interviews with people all over the globe, they found out that people had a lot of trouble with cleaning reusable straws. An even larger problem was convenience: people often forget to take reusable straws when going out, and end up taking a plastic straw anyway.

Their solution to the problem is an openable, easy-to-clean silicone reusable straw that doubled as a stylish bracelet. Instead of having to take a straw or case around wherever you go, wearing a bracelet not only would be convenient every time you would stop for a drink, but it would also be a great conversation starter and make a statement about keeping our oceans plastic free.

The bracelet itself is pretty simplistic and

minimal, but it's made with silicone and protects the inner straw from germs and bacteria. Inside the straw, their reusable straws are pretty nifty - they have an openable function that makes them super easy to clean, yet are still airtight - they work just like a regular straw!

"While reusable straws alone aren't exactly a complete fix to the plastic pollution on our Earth, we think that if we can make small changes in people's behaviors, it will add up to make a huge difference." In fact, the students have expressed their vision for this product as something more than just a convenient bracelet. "After being around social media all our lives and talking to people from around the globe, we've discovered that the shift away from plastic straws has become a sort of symbol for a shift towards a greener future," Derrick says. They're hoping that the bracelet can represent an effort to move towards sustainability. Part of their proceeds will go



to plastic cleanups around the world.

The five students have started a crowdfunding campaign through IndieGoGo, and in just two days raised almost \$500. If you're interested in pre ordering a BluStraw for yourself or just want to donate to these young entrepreneurs, you can visit their campaign at: [igg.me/at/blustraw](http://igg.me/at/blustraw) The funding from their campaign will go towards manufacturing their product and allowing them to hit the market as soon as possible.



**Want to submit a news item for the Almaden Times?**

Press day: August 19, 2020  
Deadline: August 16, 2020

**Write to [editorial@timesmediainc.com](mailto:editorial@timesmediainc.com)**

**Almaden Times**



Op Ed

# Masks to freedom

## Wearing masks will bring back freedom

By Otto Lee  
*Special to the Times*

Few things bother Americans more than infringing on their Freedom. Freedom is the God given right to Americans. Go spend a day at the beach, go shopping, go to the movie theater, go to work, or go visit one's family. But all these have changed with the latest COVID-19 pandemic.

First, people are told that they have to stay at home or "Shelter In Place." Then they are told that they have to wear masks. Shelter-in-Place means you are not allowed to leave the house and do those things that you are supposed to be free to do. This restriction absolutely infringes upon your freedom of movement and freedom of assembly.

Masking is even more personal – you have to wear this cloth or filter material that covers half your face. It's definitely uncomfortable. This makes it much harder to breathe, especially in hot weather, when walking or exercising. Some argue that you would breathe in the bad carbon dioxide that you exhale, which is unhealthy. If you wear glasses, it fogs up the lens in seconds. In addition, masks are getting expensive, as the prices have risen and most stores have a hard time stocking enough of them. And on top of that, how could a democratic government tell Americans what to wear? What kind of country has this become?

President Trump has called COVID many names - it's from China, it's just a flu, it's a hoax from liberals or Democrats to help Biden. For months, he has steadfastly refused to wear a mask. So why did he finally put on a mask himself when visiting the Walter Reed Hospital?

The truth of the matter is that the COVID virus is very different and extremely contagious: it can be transmitted by people carrying the virus without any symptoms. It is airborne, meaning that it can transmit invisibly in midair. We've all heard of washing our hands for thirty seconds, or maintaining 6-foot social distancing. But it turns out the most important thing anyone can do to stop the transmission of this dangerous and often deadly virus is when everyone wears a mask.

In places like Hong Kong, where the population density is very high with 7.5 Million people living in skyscrapers similar to Manhattan, most people use public transportation daily, and social distancing basically is difficult. Many people probably do wash their hands, but certainly not every one. And yet, since February, there are only 6 confirmed deaths linked to COVID in Hong Kong. That literally is less than one in a million. Compared to the latest hot spots far less dense or populous in America - Hot Springs, Arkansas's rate is over 21,500 deaths per million; while many small Texas towns such as Scurry, Crockett, Anderson, and Val Verde have an equivalent rate of over 15,000 deaths per million.



How is that possible?

The answer is not simply social distancing. The biggest difference is that 99% of Hong Kong residents wear masks. They wear masks outdoors, while riding buses and subway trains, and they wear masks indoors, at malls, and at work. Besides wearing masks, life is actually quite normal in Hong Kong throughout this time without the government ordering Shelter-in-Place.

Goldman Sachs recently released a study showing that mandatory mask-wearing by every American can save the United States GDP by 5% because if everyone wears a mask, fewer Shelter-in-Place restrictions would be necessary, allowing the American economy to be reopened. Another fascinating story emerged: at a Missouri hair salon where two stylists, unbeknownst to them, contracted the COVID virus, neither their co-workers nor their 139 clients were infected simply because everyone was wearing masks despite their close proximity.

Based on what we have learned in the last few months, not wearing masks is not about freedom – it's really inconsiderate, reckless, and deadly. Wearing masks is the fastest way we can reopen our economy to bring our freedoms back. While different politicians are still dithering whether or not to mandate mask wearing, it's time to put factually-based statistics and science above politics. Just wear masks and let us get back to our daily freedoms.

*Editor's note: Otto Lee is an Intellectual Property Attorney, former Sunnyvale Mayor and Councilmember, and also a retired US Navy Commander. He is the candidate for Santa Clara County Supervisor.*

Tech Jargon of the week

# Cloud Computing

By Shubhi Asthana  
*Special to the Times*

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:

**Cloud Computing**

Suppose you want to start a new company. Your company would require a lot of computer hardware and software to setup the IT infrastructure and network for it. Cloud Computing is simply a way of taking all this IT infrastructure and operations and handing it over to someone else to build or manage, so that your internal team can focus on ways to build the business, rather than becoming experts at managing storage or protecting data. If the computing service can be provided to you over the Internet by another company, then exactly where the hardware and software is located and how it all works doesn't matter to you at all. This

is the underlying concept of Cloud Computing!

There are many examples where we use cloud computing in our everyday lives without realizing it. When you search a term on Google, your computer is not trying to find the answers to your search. The words you type are sent over the internet to Google's datacenters where they dig out the results and send back the answer to you. These datacenters may be local or can be sitting anywhere in the world like Tokyo, or Beijing or anywhere else.

"You don't generate your own electricity. Why generate your own computing?" – Jeff Bezos, CEO, Amazon

Think of cloud computing as renting a fully serviced flat instead of buying a home of your own. The cloud's main appeal is to reduce the time to market of applications that need to scale dynamically. Increasingly, however, developers are drawn to the cloud by the abundance of advanced new services that can be incorporated into applications, from machine learning to internet of things (IoT) connectivity. Clearly, the advantages and the convenience have helped Cloud Computing grow in the world of technology.

**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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**We Can Help You!**

Simple, Convenient and Safe Process

**Free Consultation****(831) 210 3480**

Helpyousellonline2020@gmail.com

## Plumbing

**PLUMBING  
TOTO.****TOTO Toilet Sale Includes:**

Toto Eco Drake Toilet  
Comfort Height, Elongated Bowl,  
TOTO Soft Close Seat  
Standard Installation  
No Disposal Fees  
1 Year Warranty On Labor  
**Save \$200.00 - CALL TODAY**  
**ALVCO Service**  
Ca. State Lic. #B585720, C-36  
**408.279.5531**

## Clocks

**GRANDFATHER  
Clock Repair**

Because it's not advisable to move Grandfather  
Clocks for repair, we will come to you!  
Please give us a call today and we'll be happy to  
come out and take care of your "home's heartbeat."

**M&L Watch & Clock Repair**  
3218 S White Rd., SJ CA 95148  
**(408) 270-6080**

## Singles

**Almaden Valley  
(Senior) Singles**

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

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

# TimesClassifieds

## Spas and Salons

## Eye for Beauty



**Therapeutic Massage  
Eyelash extensions**



## Spa Therapy

16820 Jackson Oaks Dr., Morgan Hill CA

Hours 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM

**Call: (831) 232-8182**

By appointment only during Covid

## Home Services



## Benson's CLEANERS

Full Service Dry Cleaners 5965 Almaden  
Wash & Fold Expwy #160  
MON - FRI 6:30 AM - 6:30 PM 408-997-6144

## Driving School



**Advantage Driving School** is the premier driving school in northern  
California. Advantage Driving School has trained more than  
300,000 students to drive safely since 1994. We offer complete  
programs for both traditional classroom and online courses.

Driver Training is the behind the wheel training which prepares your  
child to pass the driving test at the DMV. We also offer complete programs  
for adults and senior citizens. If you have never driven or just need some  
supplemental instruction to improve your driving skills, we are just the  
school for you! We believe Advantage Driving School offers a great  
combination of experienced driving instructors and affordable prices!

Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;

Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email:  
info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com

## Storage

## LittleOrchard Self Storage

# Summer Specials!

5x5:	\$46
5x7.5:	\$68
5x10:	\$99
7.5x10:	\$124
10x15:	\$229

1833 LITTLE ORCHARD STREET  
SAN JOSE, CA 95125

**(408) 872-9536**

Quality Storage is our Business

[www.LittleOrchardSelfStorage.com](http://www.LittleOrchardSelfStorage.com)

## Jewelry

## M & L Jewelers

Jewelers & Watch Repair  
Ring sizing - Watch bands  
Watch batteries - Engraving  
Stone replacement & More!

Ask about our exclusive watch battery warranties!

**(408) 270-6080**

3218 S. White Rd. San Jose, CA  
Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm, Sat. 10am-5pm

## Shoe Repair

## ANDY'S SHOE REPAIR

**408-270-0850**

No Shoe is Ever Too Old!

Hours:

**Mon-Fri****9:00 am - 5:00 pm****Saturday****9:30 am - 4:00 pm**

2850 Quimby Rd. Suite 100 • 270-0850

## Kitchen/Bath

## TOMLINSON

**KITCHEN & BATH**

6055 MERIDIAN AVE #140, SAN JOSE CA 95120

**408-316-4997**

■ Cabinetry ■ Countertops ■ Plumbing Fixtures ■ Tile ■ Hardware &amp; More...

We offer Design Consultations, 3D Renderings and Construction Services

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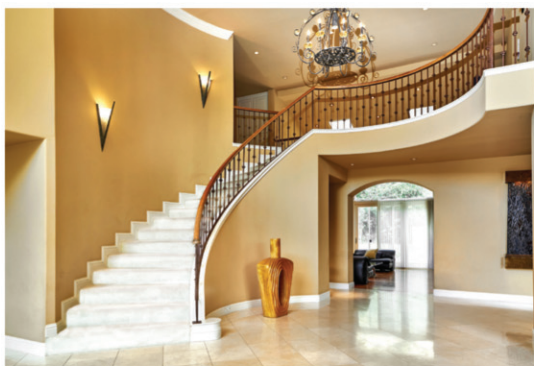


**Therese Swan**  
 408.656.8240  
 tswan@tswan.com  
 AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com  
 DRE 01355719



*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.***



**\$3,600,000**  
**5 Bed | 4.5 Bath**  
**5479 Sq Ft | 2.16 Acre Lot**

This magnificent custom smart home is one of four estates on an exclusive cul-de-sac adjacent to the Greystone Quarry in the Almaden Valley area of San Jose. Breathtaking views of large rock formations and Mount Umunhum.



Total privacy and tranquility yet just minutes to commute routes. The private property is a gallery of outdoor amenities including a custom kinetic sculpture, dramatic fountains and fire features, ironwork and a fire pit nestled amongst the trees, and more.  
*Remarkable setting!*

**For more photos and video go to**  
**SiliconValleySmartHome.com**