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in greater demand due  
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# Almaden Times

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OCTOBER 2 – 15, 2020 ■ VOL. 33, NO. 20



**Steffanie White**, a fifth-grade teacher at Washington Elementary School, protested outside of San José Unified School District this summer when the district was considering reopening campuses. *Photo by Katie Lauer*

## Why San Jose schools aren't opening for the rest of the year

By Lorraine Gabbert  
*Article courtesy of  
San José Spotlight*

**S**teffanie White, a fifth-grade teacher at Washington Elementary School, protested outside of San José Unified School District this summer when the district was considering reopening campuses. *Photo by Katie Lauer.*

Saying they are ill equipped to take on the burden of testing students for COVID-19, San Jose officials extended distance learning through the end of December — and may not reopen classes until 2021.

San Jose Unified School District Superintendent Nancy Albarrán said there are now more COVID-19 cases than in March when schools first closed, especially in San Jose. As of Sept. 16, Santa Clara County recorded 19,683 cases of COVID-19 and 288 deaths.

Currently, schools are responsible for testing students and staff, in addition to contact tracing. But  
*See OPENING, page 18*



San Jose resident **Eric Espinoza** spent most of 2019 in Germany where he was captain leading the 70-year-old European soccer team, FCA04 Darmstadt.

## Eric Espinoza of San Jose first American to captain European soccer team and capture league title

*He catapulted his team to victory with inspiring leadership skills*

By William Bellou  
*Publisher*

**E**ric Espinoza of San Jose spent most of 2019 in Germany where he was given the responsibility as captain to lead the 70-year-old European soccer team, FCA04 Darmstadt, to victory!

Espinoza led his European soccer teammates to win the league title, the first American to accomplish this incredible feat. The team's coach named Espinoza cap-

tain because of his emotional intelligence, dedication and honesty.

"I am very proud and fortunate to be named the captain of a very diverse, international team," Espinoza said. "I feel as though this story could motivate young athletes, as well as give positive news to our city in a rather tumultuous time."

**Learned to speak two additional languages to raise communication with team**

Espinoza explained that the players who make up the FACA04 Team came from a variety of countries:

*See ESPINOZA, page 19*

ELECTION 2020

## Almaden Valley Community Association hosts ballot measures debate – Part II

By Lorraine Gabbert  
*Senior Staff Writer*

**P**ropositions on the Nov. 3 ballot affecting criminal sentencing, app-based drivers and cash bail were contested at a recent online debate hosted by the Almaden Valley Community Association.

**Prop. 20**

California Proposition 20, the Criminal Sentencing, Parole, and DNA Collection Initiative would authorize treating some crimes currently considered non-violent misdemeanors as felonies. It would restrict early parole for these crimes.

Prop. 20 would make some theft crimes, such as firearm and vehicle theft, chargeable as misdemeanors or felonies, rather than just misdemeanors. Repeat shoplifting and organized retail crimes would also be chargeable as misdemeanors or felonies.

DNA collection would be expanded under Prop. 20 to include adults convicted of some misdemeanors.

According to Legislative Analyst's Office, Prop. 20 could cost tens of millions of dollars annually in increased state and local correctional, court and law enforcement expenses.

Police Chief Ron Lawrence spoke in favor of Prop. 20. He was contested by Mullissa Willette, an exemption investigator at the Santa Clara County Assessor's Office.

Lawrence said Prop. 20 would add 22 crimes to the list of violent felonies including human trafficking of a child, rape of an unconscious person, domestic violence, drive-by shootings, facilitation to commit murder and taking a hostage to use as a human shield.



Police Chief **Ron Lawrence** spoke in favor of Prop. 20. He was contested by Mullissa Willette, an exemption investigator at the Santa Clara County Assessor's Office.

"Proposition 20 is critical for crime victims in California," Lawrence said. "We need to give a voice back to our victims. These crimes deserve to be in the violent crime category. This is about taking those bad actors and making them ineligible for early release."

Lawrence said Prop. 20 would keep the community safe and DNA samples exonerate innocent people. He said as a theft of less than \$950 in value is considered a misdemeanor, Prop. 20 would lower the \$950 threshold on an individual's third theft conviction to \$250. Individuals convicted of theft three times would be put into mandatory drug rehabilitation, Lawrence added.

Willette said Prop. 20 would increase the number of people arrested, convicted and incarcerated and roll back prison reform.

"By prioritizing punishment over treatment, this initiative would result in more people trapped in a pattern of low-level crime," Willette said. "Historically, investments in incarceration and divestment from community services have disproportionately affected communities of color."

*See BALLOT, page 20*

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Almaden Valley home with serene back yard. One bdrm and 1 full bath on ground level. Large picture window in the Living room with built-in bookcases. Formal dining room has bay window that looks out to the backyard as well as stained glass window. Floors: lambswool carpet, high end cork. Kitchen cabinets custom-made with cherry wood and feature: corner storage garage, corner lazy Susan, sink pull-out tray, bread board, pull-out storage bins, 4 file drawers, top 2 cabinets with pull-out trays, all lower cabinets with pull-out trays. Beautiful garden with hybrid roses, a pink oleander tree, a Chinese or Japanese tree peony, a mock orange tree, a Bing cherry tree, and vegetable garden with sugar cane plant. Amazing garden views from 2 of the bedrooms. Front yard with an American guava tree and 2 Christmas holly bushes. Quiet street. Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.





**PENDING**

## 1146 Lansdale Court Almaden Valley



This traditional style Almaden home with a desired court setting is situated on 10,335 square feet of immaculately landscaped grounds. 2,235 square feet of functional living space offers 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths with the master suite on the main floor. From the functional, well-equipped kitchen to the step-down family room with wet bar, and professionally landscaped grounds, this home is an entertainer's dream! \$1,685,000 <https://beyondre.marketing/1146-Lansdale-Court>

**PENDING**

## 3379 Kirkwood Drive Almaden Valley



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## Nine students from Almaden named to Dean's List at Biola University

Nine students from Almaden Valley have been named to the Biola University Dean's List in spring 2020.

Biola students are placed on the dean's list to honor those with a GPA of 3.6 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits and whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2.

Almaden residents named to the Dean's list are: Camille Agers, Laura Denis, Rebekah Hiatt, Olivia Jacob, Bryson Keyes, Grace Lea, Amber Rizzi, Emily Starke of San Jose, and Emma Zettler.

"Inclusion in Biola University's Dean's List is reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional performance in their academic studies. This honor signifies hard work, engagement, and investment in scholarship," said Tamara Anderson, Associate Provost of Academic Effectiveness and Administration. "These attributes are the building blocks of continued success, not only in the classroom, but in the workplace and in the student's personal lives. We celebrate these students and their achievement, looking forward to their future accomplishments."

Biola University is a nationally ranked Christian university in the heart of Southern California. It was recently recognized as one of America's best colleges, earning a spot in the top tier of the "best national universities" category of U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges 2021 rankings.

# Valley Currents

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

## Table & Terrace Dinner Delivery service in greater demand

*'Delicious dishes' delivered to your doorstep*

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Table & Terrace Catering's dinner delivery service is growing in popularity in part due to the pandemic.

Table & Terrace Catering, founded in 2017 by **Tonya Tyszkiewicz** and **Israel Valencia** (inset, left), uses mostly organic fresh, seasonal ingredients to create unique and delicious dishes for any occasion.

The company offers free delivery to Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, Campbell, and South San Jose. Delivery is available outside this area for an additional fee.

"Table & Terrace is one of a kind," said Almaden resident Madeline Chiavetta. "Their dishes are not only delicious but their presentation is beautiful. Their love and passion for food and people comes through in their dishes. They really go the extra mile to make sure their customers are thrilled with their food and



*"Israel turned to me and said that the guests' kind words were better than any paycheck we could ever receive." – Tonya Tyszkiewicz*

overall experience! Their weekday meals are always different and they make dinnertime a special treat!"

### Early beginnings

"It all began when I started working in a restaurant kitchen where I met chef Israel," said Tonya Tyszkiewicz, cofounder of Table & Terrace Catering. "I wanted to work in a kitchen under a chef to learn as much as possible."

Tonya had worked in restaurants for years when she was going through school. Her professional background however was in marketing for a tech company.

"After getting married and becoming a mom with three kiddos, I ended up staying home with my children for years," explained Tonya. "My youngest was born with Down syndrome and some medical problems so I ended up staying home for a much longer time than I had originally planned to homeschool my little guy. But when I finally found a great school for my son when he was ten, I went back to work."

Tonya began working on creating some  
*See DELIVERY, next page*

## Op Ed

## Funding for open space ought to be renewed

By Matt Mahan  
Councilmember-elect,  
San Jose District 10

If there's a public resource that I've most appreciated amidst the pandemic — and most missed as recent wildfires kept us indoors — it's the open space we're blessed with in and around San José.

Walking through Quicksilver, Calero and other local parks has certainly helped preserve my physical and mental health during these difficult times and, clearly, I'm not alone: the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA) reports that usage of their open preserves has roughly doubled this year, from about 325,000 annual visits in 2019 to a

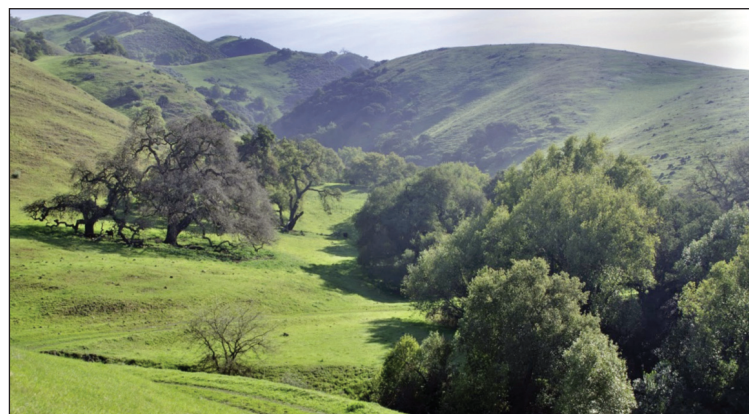
pace of 600,000 visits.

In the coming weeks, San José voters will be asked to vote on a local ballot measure — Measure T — that would extend an existing local parcel tax dedicated to open space acquisition and management until ended by voters. It's a hard time to support any tax, even a small one that already exists. In this case, however, I believe the benefits far outweigh the costs.

First, the key facts on Measure T: if passed, the measure would essentially extend an earlier measure (Measure Q, which passed with 68% of the vote in 2014). Measure Q established a \$24 tax per parcel per year. In aggregate, this tax generates \$8



**District 10 Report**  
Matt Mahan  
Councilmember-elect, District 10



View of the rolling hills and native oaks of Coyote Ridge, managed by the Open Space Authority.

million annually that is administered by OSA and focused on purchasing and maintaining open space, improving public access to those lands, protecting water supplies by preserving land around streams and creeks, and investing in urban areas through an urban grant program.

For those who are interested, this parcel tax is one of the "special assessments" within your property tax bill that I outlined in my recent post on where your tax dollars go. Based on that analysis, Measure Q constitutes approximately 0.08% of the median San

Joséan's total taxes, or less than one-tenth of one percent.

Importantly, Measure T does not increase our taxes, it simply turns Measure Q (which would otherwise expire in the coming years) into an ongoing revenue stream until and unless voters decide to change it. While I generally prefer expiration dates to maximize accountability to voters, making this funding long-term is not unreasonable given the long time horizons involved in purchasing and managing open space for public benefit. In fact, without this dedicated revenue stream, which  
*See OPEN SPACE, page 16*

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Times **OpEd**

Left: Beet Napoleons, roasted beets with Herb Goat Cheese, crushed Hazelnuts with Blood Orange Vinaigrette and Espresso Balsamic. Right: Mini Prawn Tostada.

## Delivery

*Continued from previous page*  
unique dishes while working for a local winery with their own wine bar and gained knowledge about food and wine pairing. Following her experience with a small kitchen, Tonya moved on to a larger kitchen to gain more experience.

"I applied and was hired to work at a large restaurant kitchen and that is where I met Israel," Tonya said. "Israel had been working in and around the Los Gatos area for almost 20 years at that time. He also held the role of chef for eight of those years. He made a huge impression on me with his incredible talent; but most important, Israel was humble, generous and kind with a passion for food. I learned more working alongside Israel than I ever did with any of the other chefs I worked with."

After working together for a little over a year, Tonya secured a catering job for someone on the side and she convinced Israel to help her with the event.

"My fantasy was always to open my own restaurant and I thought catering might be the path to this. Israel agreed to help me and the party was a success. I asked Israel if he would consider working together on more parties. The first

party was a great success, so was the second which was a referral from the first party. Israel and I stayed up all night cooking and arrived at the client's home the next day at 11:00 a.m. We were deliriously tired, but so excited to get to cook our own recipes. As the guests were leaving, they were all coming by the kitchen and thanking us for the food, which made us feel like giddy little children. At the end of this party as the guests were popping in and out of the kitchen saying thank you, Israel turned to me and said that the guests' kind words were better than any paycheck we could ever receive. That was when I knew we had something special and that he was the perfect partner!"

### Dinner Deliveries

Shortly after the partnership was formed, Tonya and Israel started their Dinner Deliveries service and their business grew from there as they began receiving requests for parties from all over Silicon Valley. They actually had to shut down for a time in order to keep up with the deliveries.

Tonya jokes that "we still do not have a website," (one is finally under construction). About 85 percent of Table & Terrace business has been from word of mouth.

"We have done everything from large weddings and corporate din-

ners, to small private dinners for six," Tonya said. "We love the variety. We love people and we love making people happy through food. We are absolutely crazy about food quality, and buying organic is incredibly important to us personally as well as professionally because we really believe that the best ingredients produce the very best flavors."

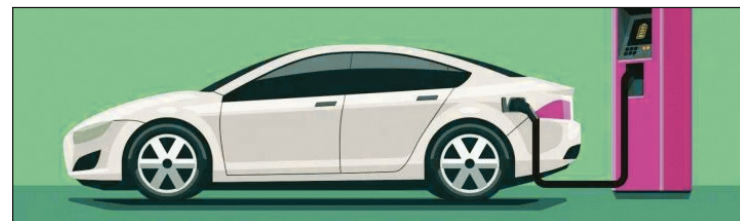
### New guidelines initiate exciting delivery to doorstep business model

"At the beginning of the shelter in place, however, all of the special events had to stop, explained Tonya. "Israel and I decided that instead of trying to get back to work right away, we would take some time off to make sure we kept our children as safe as possible. We had hoped, like everyone else, that the shutdown would be a temporary thing. So, after several months of being shut down, we finally decided we needed to change our business model in the new Covid environment. We decided to go back to our roots and start offering our dinner delivery services again. We are also now getting new requests for small gatherings again, as people are beginning to feel more comfortable with the new guidelines."

*Editor's note: Table & Terrace dinner delivery is available Tuesday through Friday, from 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. You can order dinner and then have the next day's lunch delivered at the same time or make special arrangements for a lunchtime delivery. Orders for a Tuesday delivery must be placed by midnight Sunday; all other orders must be placed by midnight Monday. Customized lunch and dinners are now available with a 72 hour notice. Free delivery is available for Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, Campbell, and South San Jose. Delivery is available outside this area for an additional fee. Onsite catering for special events is also available. Visit Table & Terrace on Facebook, Twitter: @tableandterrace, Call (408) 858-3205, or email: tableandterrace@gmail.com.*



Custom cheese board, charcuterie, and fresh fruit marinated.



## OP ED

# ZERO-EMISSION BY 2035 Is Newsom serious about banning gas-powered cars?

By Dan Walters

*Special to the Times*

Gov. Gavin Newsom flatly declared Wednesday that "In the next 15 years we will eliminate in the state of California the sales of internal combustion engines."

It was the latest example of Newsom's fondness for headline-grabbing pronouncements of "big hairy, audacious goals." The classic example was his flat campaign declaration that he would solve California's chronic housing shortage by building 3.5 million new homes.

That was impossible, as anyone familiar with housing issues could attest, and after his election, Newsom backed off, calling it an "aspirational" goal. Actually, housing production has declined during his governorship.

The governor's declaration that by 2035 new car buyers in California must buy only "zero emission vehicles" (ZEVs) seems to be in the mold of his housing promise. In fact, his executive order does not command that it happen, but rather says "it shall be a goal of the state that 100 percent of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks will be zero-emission by 2035" and directs the Air Resources Board to figure out how to do it "consistently with technological feasibility and cost effectiveness." Even if he's serious about it - and one is never certain that he is - there are immense hurdles to overcome, not the least being Californians' obvious reluctance to embrace battery-powered ZEVs as their primary motor vehicles due to their cost, relatively small size and limited range.

While California accounts for about half of the ZEVs on American roads, they are still fewer than 2% of the nearly 30 million cars and light trucks in California. And despite state and federal subsidies, they are a fraction of the state's current goal of having 1.5 million in use by 2025.

Newsom's declaration, and a request to the Legislature to phase out fracking to produce oil and natural gas, cheered environmental advocates who want California to

be bolder in reducing its emissions of greenhouse gases. He blamed global warming for the destructive wildfires that have swept through the state this year.

However, business leaders, particularly those in the affected industries, warn about the pitfalls of trying to wean California's economy off hydrocarbons. California is one of the nation's leading producers of oil and gas, particularly since fracking regenerated older fields, and the state consumes immense amounts of both fuels to not only directly power transportation but to generate the electricity that ZEVs must have.

During recent hot spells, as California's air conditioners drove electric power consumption to levels requiring blackouts, natural gas-fired power plants supplied more than half of the juice.

"Unless California, along with other states and countries, supports a market for ZEVs that ensures vehicle performance, range, safety, functionality, price, and choice for automobile consumers, then California residents alone will be left with higher energy and transportation costs without a material effect on global (greenhouse gas) emissions," the California Chamber of Commerce said. "Forcing this transition through a mandate will burden the consumers least able to afford it, either by pricing them out of the new vehicle market or increasing the cost to maintain and fuel a used vehicle with a combustion engine." Predictably critical as that statement may be, it makes valid points about the practical and socioeconomic challenges of doing what Newsom insists will be done.

Finally, there's the political/legal question of whether California can do it. It would require the federal government to continue California's "waiver" from federal air pollution rules and that would probably hinge on whether Republican President Donald Trump is reelected or is defeated by Democrat Joe Biden.

*Dan Walters is a CalMatters columnist.*



# Harry Mavrogenes: Almaden resident and Executive Director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency passes away at 71

*Resident of the Pierce Ranch in the Almaden Valley for nearly forty-five years*

**By Denelle Fedor**  
*Special to the Times*

The city of San Jose has lost an admired community service advocate.

Almaden Valley resident Harry Steve Mavrogenes, who served as Executive Director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency and a founding member of St. Basil's Greek Orthodox Church in Almaden, passed away Sunday, September 20, 2020 at the age of 71.

Mavrogenes, who was born on July 22, 1949 in Chicago, Illinois, leaves behind his loving and devoted wife, Olga, his brother Nick and his wife Lynn, daughter Emily and her fiancé Larry, daughter Stephanie and her husband Adam, daughter Maria, granddaughter Chole, grandson Jacob, Sylvia (mother to Stephanie and Emily), and his grand dog Ollie.

Harry was born to Stephanos and Theodora Mavrogenes both of Greek origin. Stephanos was a physical therapist and Theodora was a seamstress.

Harry showed signs of accomplishment at



**Harry Steve Mavrogenes and his wife Olga.**

an early age as he attended a school that taught both English and Greek as a young child growing up in Chicago. He did so well that he skipped a grade during elementary school. Harry loved to play with his friends in his neighborhood and would often indulge in a game of hide and seek in the projects where he grew up in Chicago when he was in middle school.

Like many little boys in the 1950's Harry had a fondness for model cars; and because money was scarce, Harry would often forgo lunch and save his lunch money to purchase them. Collecting model cars turned into a lifelong passion as Harry continued to collect cars throughout his life – both, model, and life size cars.

Harry and his family moved to Modesto, CA. after his high school years where he attended Modesto Junior College before transferring to San Francisco State graduating with a bachelor's degree in urban planning in 1970.

Harry started his career in San Jose and left only briefly to work in Miami Beach for eight years; but Harry knew San Jose was home and returned here. Harry loved San Jose and everything about it – the people, businesses, and the overall community. Harry made his home in Almaden as a resident of the Pierce Ranch area for nearly forty-five years.

Harry was a devout Greek Orthodox Christian. Following in the teachings of the Church, everything he did was to help others and positively impact the communities he lived in. From a young age he served as an Altar Boy in Modesto and taught Sunday School. Harry most recently served as the Vice Pres-

ident on the Parish Council at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose. All three of Harry's daughters were raised within the Greek Church.

Harry adored his family and friends and would often cook Sunday night dinners. Harry also enjoyed making his own wine and hosting Taco Tuesday's for his family and friends. Harry was an avid listener of classical radio station - KDFC.

Harry's dedication to community service showcases his dedication of leaving the world a better place than when you found it.

Harry's service includes working at the Assistant City Manager for Miami Beach from 1990 thru 1998; Deputy Executive Director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency from 1998 thru 2003; Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency from 2003-2011; Chief Deputy County Administrator of San Joaquin County from 2012-2014; the Stockton Metropolitan Airport Director from 2014 – 2019 and the San Benito County Director with the Resource Management Agency from 2019 to September -2020. Besides his professional work, Harry also would lend a hand to help his friends.

Most of all, Harry's passion rested with  
*See MAVROGENES, page 11*



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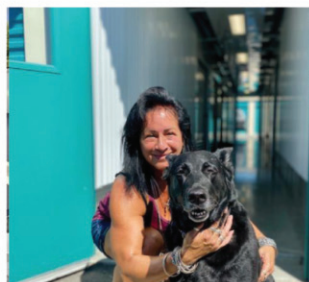
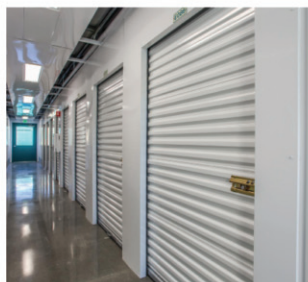


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Times **Community News**

## 18th Annual Breath of Life Walk: Saturday, October 17

Coronavirus and wild fires will not stop the 18th annual Breath of Life Walk on Saturday, October 17, but Breathe California of the Bay Area, Golden Gate, and Central Coast has announced a few changes to be safe.

The event is a chance for local community members to get together, while socially distanced, to show their support for the agency's lung disease, tobacco control, and environmental stewardship programs. Each year, the walk attracts people directly affected by lung disease as well as family, friends and others who wish to build healthier communities.

Breathe California CEO Margo Sidener encourages this year's walkers to participate virtually from their homes or the location of their choice, while a limited number visit on-site. Participants can get involved in helping the organization continue its effective community work. "The

programs and services we provide year-round rely on the funds we raise from our events. This year's lung health threats are among the most serious in history, so we hope that you'll come out or log in and join us for a great morning to show your support for Breathe California's work."

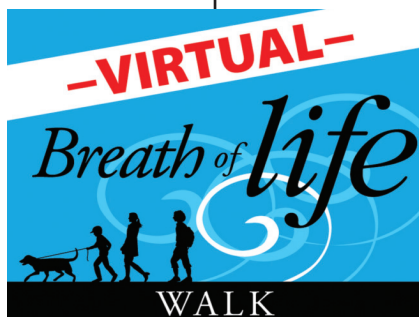
This year, a limited number of walkers can choose to participate in an "On-site Walk" starting off from Breathe California's office in San Jose's Rose Garden district, and all others can join a "Virtual Walk" by sending videos to be shared by Zoom conference on the day of the event. Everyone

will be eligible for the prizes and raffle, virtual or live, and all registrants will receive an official Walk mask.

Breathe California of the Bay Area, Golden Gate, and Central Coast is dedicated to fighting lung disease, advocating for clean air and promoting public health

in our local communities. Since 1911, we have addressed the most serious health threats of our time—including now coronavirus, wildfires, and vaping—through grassroots programs that empower individual, institutional and community change for better breathing and healthier living.

To learn more about the Breath of Life Walk visit [www.breathoflifewalk.org](http://www.breathoflifewalk.org). To learn more about Breathe California, please visit [www.lungsrus.org](http://www.lungsrus.org).



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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.

**Donate today!**

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





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Times **Community News**

Harry Mavrogenes with daughters (l to r) Stephanie, Emily and Maria.

## Mavrogenes

*Continued from page 6*

San Jose and specifically his role as the Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency as this was “his dream job,” shared Harry’s wife Olga. Harry’s passion was to see San Jose improve – to grow and flourish – to be the city it was intended to be. Harry was most proud of the revitalization efforts he led with an incredible team dedicated to rebuilding the Downtown San Jose.

Harry’s dream and focus were to change San Jose’ downtown from urban wasteland to a 21st century mixed used community with entertainment, recreation and cultural facilities, as well as housing, restaurants, retail and major corporate office development.

Due to Harry’s guidance, he and his talented Redevelopment team that made up the former Redevelopment Agency created a metamorphosis of San Jose’s downtown core. From working with professional baseball teams, to the renowned Pedro Square – from preserving the Improv to building the City’s first high-rise condo building, Harry Mavrogenes oversight made it possible.

Captured below are the highlights of action items – development that happened and has made San Jose’s downtown core the vision of a 21st century city – the way Harry envisioned.

### Under Harry Mavrogenes leadership:

- Induced development of 900 units (four towers) of new, for sale high-rise residential development which were the first new high-rise residential buildings in Downtown San Jose’s history by offering assistance in developing parking, selling or leasing agency owned land and providing an expedited review process.

- Brought the first new major grocery store in Downtown San Jose.

- Developed over 500,000 sq. ft. of new retail in Downtown San Jose, including the 350,000 sq. ft. Market Center development on former brownfields railroad property.

- Completed the \$75 million renovation of the his-

toric California Theater as San Jose’s new opera and symphony hall.

- Developed and implemented a plan investing \$100 million to improve 19 troubled neighborhoods (Strong Neighborhoods Initiative), which won National League of Cities award and recognition.

- Completed development agreement to create a new urban village with 700 housing units on the edge of Downtown.

- Completed a new 15,000 sq. ft. Gold LEED Certified community center.

- Negotiated a development agreement with Brocade, a major network equipment provider to locate its 2,500 employee corporate headquarters in North San Jose.

- Negotiated development agreements with 10 other smaller firms to commit headquarters in North San Jose to create 5,000 new jobs.

Major League Baseball Initiative: Worked with owner of the Oakland A’s team to identify a site for a new baseball stadium in Downtown San Jose. Performed environmental impact reports and economic studies for the project and acquired 9 of 11 parcels necessary for the development of a ballpark in Downtown San Jose. While the move of the Oakland A’s was not approved by Major League Baseball, the site was recently acquired by Google as part of the company’s planned Google Village in Downtown San Jose, adjacent to the Diridon rail station.

San Jose will fondly remember Harry Mavrogenes with his caring heart – someone who made time for everyone – a committed public servant.

Graveside service will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at Oak Hill Funeral home & Memorial Park located at 300 Curtner Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125.



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## County of Santa Clara offers free flu shots

*Health officials are asking the public to get vaccinated for influenza right now*

Early and timely flu shots are estimated to prevent a disease that hospitalizes 200,000 Americans every year.

Each winter, people sick with flu crowd hospitals and urgent care clinics, resources that may be strained due to COVID-19, so to reduce the strain, free flu shots are now available at Valley Health Center Moorpark, San José thru mid-December.

Flu shots are available every Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 2400 Moorpark Ave., San José, CA 95128

Age requirements: 12 years and older; children age 12-17 must be accompanied by a guardian; age 3 years and older. Children age 3-17 must be accompanied by a guardian. No appointments are necessary, and masks are required.

“You need a flu shot every year, and this is not the year to skip it,” said Dr. Sara Cody, County of Santa Clara Health Officer and director of the County Public Health Department. “The flu shot is a safe, effective way to reduce your chance of ending up in the hospital with severe flu. It is important for parents to know that it is safe to take kids into the doctor for vaccinations.”

In the Bay Area, as is the case across the state and the country, the percentage of children up to date on immunizations has fallen as parents delay routine visits to their

pediatricians, which is a serious concern. The County of Santa Clara regularly communicates with parents about keeping kids up to date, which is required for school attendance. An annual flu shot visit is a great time for kids to catch up on vaccination.

The flu vaccine offers protection for many months, but not forever. Also, the strains of influenza circulating in the community change over time, so it is important to get the new vaccine every year.

For those with insurance, under the Affordable Care Act, a flu shot is available without cost as a preventive service from your regular doctor or most pharmacies. For those without health insurance, or anyone who finds it more convenient, free community clinics and the County offer many opportunities to get a free flu shot.

For more information about flu, visit the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department flu web page, [sccphd.org/flu](http://sccphd.org/flu).

## Volunteer court-appointed Child Advocates of Silicon Valley sworn in

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley swore in a new class of volunteer court-appointed special advocates last month, including five residents from Almaden Valley.

The new volunteers will be assigned children in the local foster care system, speaking on behalf of the children in the courts and helping ensure their well-being.

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Times **Community News**

Tickets on sale now  
for drive-thru  
Christmas in the Park

Change of venue to History  
Park due to COVID-19

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Tickets for San Jose's beloved holiday tradition, Christmas in the Park, are now available for its new venue due

to COVID-19. It might seem a bit early to start thinking about Christmas, but Jason Minsky, the executive director of Christmas in the Park, has been hard at work coming up with a social distancing venue. Instead of a stroll through downtown's Plaza de Cesar Chavez, Christmas in the Park will instead be a drive-through event at History Park on Senter Road. And — like the annual Fantasy of Lights show at Vasona Park — you have to reserve a day and time to visit in advance.


See CHRISTMAS, next page



Christmas in the Park is sponsored by International Brotherhood of Electgrical Workers

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Times **Community News**

## Tech Jargon of the Week

# Smart Homes

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:

### Smart Homes

Have you ever been sitting in your office and wondering if you turned off the stove at home? Worried if you set the security alarm? Are the surveillance cameras working? With the advent of smart homes, you can stop worrying of these issues.

Twenty years ago, a porch light timer would have been considered a smart home technology. Today, as the technology advances, the demand for thermostats to automatically switch to your “desired” temperature, or lights turning on and off based on the presence of the room, has increased. Smart homes mean that appliances like the clocks, lights, door bells, cameras, and hot water heaters

– all these devices have the capability to communicate, send your information over the internet and also take your commands. Smart homes are exactly what they sound like: automating the ability to control items around the house.

Most homes today already have a certain amount of “smartness” because many appliances already contain built-in sensors or electronic controllers. The washing machines have programs that make them follow a distinct series of washes, rinses and spins depending on how you set their various

knobs when you first switch it on. There are robotic vacuum cleaners which crawl the floor and sweep the dust on their own.

All these appliances are a step towards smart homes, but the concept takes things a step further. In the advanced smart homes, there is a centralized controller that can monitor the state of the home and switch on or off any appliances. For example, it monitors the light levels coming through the windows and automatically raises or lowers the window blinds. It can detect movement across the floor and respond appropriately.

Some of the common smart home products are the Amazon Echo and Echo Dot, Nest Cam Outdoors for surveillance of the home, Nest Learning thermostat for controlling temperature, and the iRobot Roomba to clean the home, etc.

### About the Author

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

## Christmas

*Continued from previous page*

A change in venue for Christmas in the Park, the first time in its 41-year history, was required because a loss of sponsorship revenue due to the pandemic, not to mention the lost vendor and ride income normally taken in during a normal year.

“People are going to expect to see Christmas in the Park from a car, and I think they’re going to be blown away,” he said. “They’re going to be overwhelmed by how much more there is to see,” Minsky said.

As a bonus, the regular Christmas in the Park displays, the historic and replica buildings at History Park also will be decorated, along with the illuminated replica of the San Jose Light Tower.

“There will be light tunnels, giant snowflakes and hundreds of decorated trees, with the whole visit choreographed to music. Santa Claus will be around, too,” said Minsky.

### Drive-thru pricing

The pricing for Christmas in the Park drive-thru is \$20 per vehicle for standard-sized cars and trucks up to 8 ft. high (no buses or limos)— from 5 to 10 p.m., and \$10 during “twilight hour” between 4 and 5 p.m. Reservations are in 15-minute windows, with hundreds of cars able to visit in a single day.

There’s no option to visit during the day due to the emphasis on illuminated displays.

Understanding not all families can afford the admission, Minsky said tickets also are being distributed through nonprofit partners including Somos Mayfair and Catholic Charities. You can donate to sponsor another car when purchasing a ticket.

For more information and to reserve a spot visit: [www.christmasinthepark.com](http://www.christmasinthepark.com).

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Times **Community News**

**Op Ed**

**One woman's crusade to close Reid-Hillview Airport**

**By John Carr**

*Chairman of the Santa Clara County  
Airports Commission*

**By Anissa Mohler**

*Regional Airline Pilot and Flight Instructor  
at Reid-Hillview*

In August and September, the SCU Lightning Complex Fire burned more than 396,600 acres and stopped just three miles short of San Jose's eastern border.

CalFire's use of Reid-Hillview airport, located in the center of Evergreen, made the airport's role as a critical firefighting asset clear to all. Santa Clara County officials have been aware of the airport's importance to the safety of our community for decades. Yet, there have been numerous attempts to close the airport since 1990. Why?

**Why Close Reid-Hillview Airport? Safety? Cost?**

In 1993, then City Council member, Blanca Alvarado pushed the Santa Clara County Supervisors to shut down the airport to improve general safety for the surrounding community. The County hired SRI International to evaluate the risks to the community's safety with the property used as an airport vs alternate uses such as housing. The SRI study concluded the safest use of the land for the surrounding community was as an airport. Safety is not a reason.

Reid-Hillview has been and remains fully self-sufficient in its operations. In spite of that, in 2008, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Pete McHugh, moved to consider shutting down Reid-Hillview to address overall County budget shortfalls by redeveloping the property. This motion was seconded enthusiastically by Supervisor Blanca Alvarado.

In an August 2008 memorandum, then County Counsel Ann Ravel, concluded: "Should the Board determine that it wishes to pursue the sale or lease of Reid-Hillview Airport, the legal procedures would be extremely complex and lengthy [costly]." The Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 not to consider the issue further.

**Blanca Alvarado moves again to close Reid-Hillview**

A routine update to the Airport's Business Plan in 2018 became another opportunity for Blanca Alvarado, now a private citizen, to attempt to close Reid-Hillview. This time her excuse is low income housing. In November 2018 Ms. Alvarado told the San Jose Spotlight she organized a coalition to close Reid-Hillview and use the land for affordable apartments in spite of resistance by officials.

On May 9, 2017, the Board of Supervisors directed County airport staff to update the 2006 Airport Business Plan prior to accepting further FAA grants. FAA grants are used in conjunction with the Airport Enterprise Fund (AEF) to allow the airport to operate independent of the county general fund. When the County accepts an FAA grant it also

agrees to continue airport operations for twenty years. The last grant accepted by the County was in 2011 making 2031 the expiration date under the current grant.

The Business Plan update cost \$130,000 and took 19 months. The final business plan was presented at a Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting in December 2018.



New housing near Reid-Hillview Airport

The primary recommendation by airport staff was to approve the update and accept FAA grants.

The Business Plan proposal as written was not voted on. Instead, Supervisor Chavez ignored her own consultants and introduced a complex motion written the day before the Board meeting dedicated exclusively to closing Reid Hillview, transferring all aviation assets to San Martin and using the land for non-aviation purposes. While housing was championed in public comment by Ms. Alvarado, not one supervisor committed to that use.

Sadly, the people of Ms. Alvarado's coalition will benefit the least if this latest attempt is successful. Supervisor Chavez publicly admits she doesn't know what the county would do with the property if it were available for development. Logic would dictate if affordable housing were the primary concern for the County the new housing being built just south of Reid-Hillview right now would be affordable. It is not.

**Who benefits from closing Reid-Hillview? Not Evergreen!**

While Ms. Alvarado has a respected history of advocacy for the Latinx community these attempts to close Reid-Hillview in their name are misguided at best. This is not concern for the disadvantaged or the county budget or safety. This is something else. Repurposing the Reid-Hillview property will displace lower income residents and eliminate an irreplaceable public safety asset; risking the homes and lives of all Evergreen residents when the next firestorm happens.

To get periodic updates on this issue visit: [www.savereidhillview.org/](http://www.savereidhillview.org/) and sign up for the newsletter. Email your County of Santa Clara Supervisors, and District 8 San Jose City Council person Sylvia Arenas at: [district8@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district8@sanjoseca.gov)

The next article in this series discusses the safety, quality of life and financial impact of the county's lack of formal decision to operate the property as an airport long term.



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# Report: 'Safest Cities in California for 2020'

California is known for its beautiful cities, sunny days and being home to leading technology companies in Silicon Valley. Home to more than 39 million people across 482 municipalities, making it the largest state in the country, which of California's cities are the safest?

Safety.com has released its new report: 'Safest Cities in California for 2020' Safety.com narrowed down the safest cities in each state based on two primary categories.

First, public safety factors were evaluated including violent, property and hate crimes in each area to help determine the safest areas to live. Financial and socioeconomic factors were evaluated including household income, average rent and health insurance. In addition, each state was evaluated for natural disaster safety and public health safety. You can find a detailed breakdown of our methodology and links to sources here.

Here are the public safety factors counted for each city based on a population of 10,000 (for example, a "2" means two incidents for every 10,000 people).

- Property crime – Number of property crimes reported in the city (FBI Crime Report)
- Violent crime – Number of violent crimes reported in the city (FBI Crime Report)
- Aggravated assaults – Number of aggravated assaults reported in the city (FBI Crime Report)

- Hate crime – Number of hate crimes reported in the city (FBI Hate Crime Report)
- Officer-related incidents – Number of officer-involved shootings reported in the city (Gun Violence Archive)

- Mass shootings – Incidents in which four or more people are shot/killed in the city (Gun Violence Archive)

Here are the financial safety factors we counted for each city:

- Annual rent – Annualized median rent
- Unemployment rate – The average rate of unemployed residents in each city
- Cost of living – The average annual rent and household income per city
- Poverty rate – Percentage of families that reported experiencing poverty in the last 12 months

- Uninsured employed – Percentage of employed residents that reported not having health insurance

- Uninsured unemployed – Percentage of unemployed residents that reported not having health insurance

## 25 Safest Cities in California

### No. 1 Thousand Oaks

Thousand Oaks has an overall low violence, assault, hate crime and officer incident rate – making it a great place for families. It is home to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and California Lutheran University. It's only 40 miles from Los Ange-

les and has a few popular sights of its own including the Conejo Valley Botanical Garden and Gardens of the World.

### No. 2 Sunnyvale

Sunnyvale also has a low mass shooting, officer incident and hate crime rate. It's home to two digital powerhouses, Yahoo! Inc. and LinkedIn. The city prides itself on its community policing efforts to keep its municipality safe. Their Explorer Post 417 program lets people get officer training and participate in safety initiatives including DUI checkpoints.

### No. 3 Corona

Corona's property crime rate is slightly high, but the city has a low crime rate overall. It's a growing California city that sits 95 miles north of San Diego. If you plan to visit, stop by the Pumpkin Rock to see one of the city's most famous landmarks of a pumpkin-painted rock. Chino Hill State Park and the Santiago Peak are also nearby for outdoor adventures.

### No. 4 Murrieta

Murrieta's poverty level is average compared to other California cities, but their overall crime rate is low. It's known for great wine and food with atmospheres that can be quiet and cozy or entertaining with live music. The city is home to a few of California's most popular wineries including Callaway Vineyard & Winery, Miramonte Winery and Lorimar Vine-

yards and Winery.

### No. 5 Huntington Beach

Huntington Beach has a low crime rate and lower than average annual rent, but the property crime rate is slightly higher than average. It's the perfect vacation spot with a popular amusement park, Adventure City, and The Reptile Zoo. The Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum is also a great place for surfers to see the surfing culture from a worldwide view.

### No. 6 Simi Valley

Simi Valley has a slightly higher hate crime rate than previously noted cities. But overall, the poverty rate is lower than others. It's home to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library showcasing the archives, life and presidency of the 40th President of the United States. There's also the Skateboarding Hall of Fame and Museum. You can also visit Universal Studios and Hollywood Boulevard nearby.

### No. 7 Santa Clarita

Santa Clarita's property crime rate is lower than other California cities, but their violent crime and mass shooting rates are slightly higher. It is known for Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park, Stevenson Ranch and Six Flags Magic Mountain theme park nearby. The amusement park is known for BATMAN: The Ride and SUPERMAN: Escape from Krypton.

### No. 8 Irvine

Irvine has a low violent crime rate and fairly high household income for families. The city hosts the annual Irvine Global Village Festival celebrating different cultures through

*See SAFETY, page 18*



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## Times Community News



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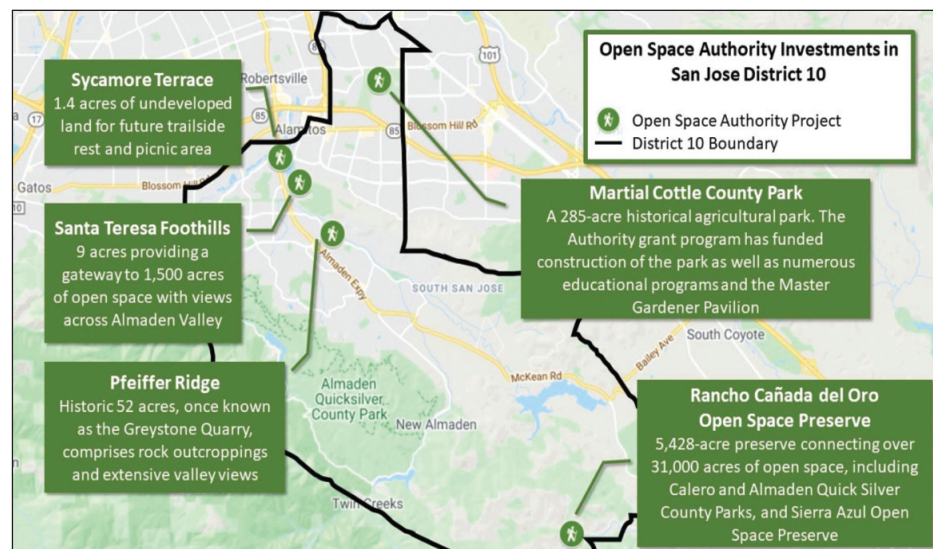
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## Open space

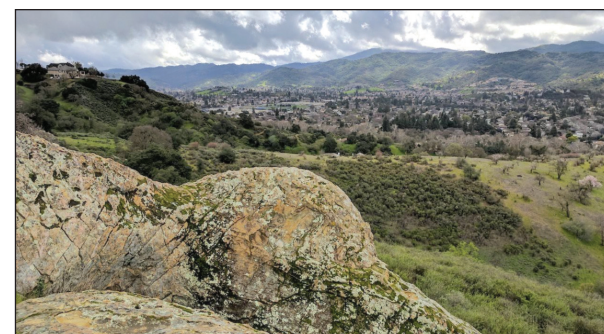
*Continued from page 4*  
accounts for two-thirds of OSA's operating budget, OSA would not be able to keep its many preserves open to the public.

I also think it's smart to run these efforts through a small and focused entity, like the OSA, rather than allow open space funds to disappear within a larger bureaucracy that faces competing demands. OSA is quite adept at leveraging its small budget for matching funds from other entities, attracting an average of \$3 in private, state, and federal investment for every \$1 supplied by local taxpayers.

Indeed, over the years, OSA has used Measure Q revenue and matching funds to make a number of strategic investments across its jurisdiction, including many in District 10 (see map, above.)

I've been impressed by OSA's disciplined approach to buying key parcels of land that increase connectivity between existing open space. OSA's purchases have focused on ecological value and the potential for low-impact public access, rather than simply growing acres under management.

For example, their acquisition of 52 acres on Pfeiffer Ridge (just above the Pfeiffer, Sunrise and Shadowbrook neighborhoods in Almaden) is part of a long-term vision to connect Almaden Lake to Santa Teresa Coun-



View of Almaden Valley from Pfeiffer Ridge, where the Open Space Authority purchased 52 acres in 2017. It will one day serve as a gateway to 1,500 acres of open space along the Santa Teresa Foothills, connecting Almaden Lake to Santa Teresa County Park.

ty Park along the ridge, which would be an incredible asset for all San Joséans and especially the many thousands of Santa Teresa and Almaden residents who live within walking distance.

This same focus on "connectivity" and public value is evident in OSA's investments at Sycamore Terrace, which has been incorporated into Almaden Lake Park, Rancho Cañada del Oro (connecting extensive trail networks on the southern and western edges of Almaden Valley), and Martial Cottle Park, which promises to become one of San José's premier urban parks in the years ahead.

But even if one doesn't walk, hike, ride through — or otherwise directly experience — the local parks and open space preserves in which OSA invests, I think Measure T is a good investment for other reasons as well.

First, if you want a strict dollars-and-cents argument, open space and regional parks

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Sycamore Terrace at the intersection of Almaden Expressway and Coleman Rd., now part of Almaden Lake Park. Photo credit: Dave Poeschel



Times **Community News**

Both a working farm and public park, Martial Cottle in the northern part of District 10 offers residents walking and cycling trails, Master Gardeners classes, event space, and other amenities. *Photo credit: Ron Horii*

make our neighborhoods more desirable and our homes more valuable. I'd happily wager that homeowners in District 10 have derived far more than \$24 per year in home value appreciation attributable to our proximity to abundant open space. In fact, a literature review published by the University of Washington and the U.S. Forest Service found that homes adjacent to naturalistic parks are valued 8–20% higher than comparable properties, with positive effects persisting up to one-half mile from a given park.

Second, and more pressing from my perspective, open space promotes health for our entire community. In addition to encouraging active lifestyles for park goers, open space in and near urban areas measurably improves air quality even for residents who never step foot in a park.

We're just beginning to understand the true impact of poor air quality on human health, but recent research findings are alarming: numerous studies have found that a high concentration of air pollutants can induce neurological diseases, accelerate aging, lower cognitive ability, increase respiratory disease rates, hamper productivity, and stunt children's intellectual development. Here again, if you're looking for a financial ROI (return on investment) argument, cleaner air and healthier lifestyles

reduce health care costs, which are now the single largest component of government spending in the United States.

Third, open space creates a city that is simply more beautiful and enjoyable. As a parent, some of my most cherished experiences with our young children involve going outside and experiencing nature together. Our family feels extremely fortunate to be a short bike or car ride from so many beautiful places. I have no doubt these protected areas contribute to our collective mental health and happiness, and that our appreciation for them will only grow over time as the Bay Area grows.

If you're interested in learning more about Measure T and OSA's work, I'm organizing a community chat over Zoom with OSA's General Manager, Andrea Mackenzie, on Thursday, October 1st at 5pm. Bring your tough questions and ambitious ideas, and please sign up here for the event link: [tinyurl.com/MeasureTMahan](https://tinyurl.com/MeasureTMahan)

In closing, I hope you'll consider joining me in support of Measure T. I think we'd be hard-pressed to find another investment of \$24 per year (call it a handful of trips to Starbucks) that would yield greater collective benefit for our community than this one. I know future generations will be grateful to ours for making this small sacrifice today.



The rolling hills of nearby Coyote Ridge (top left) and Rancho Cañada del Oro (bottom right) provide habitat for native flora and fauna, cleaner air and a beautiful place to call home.

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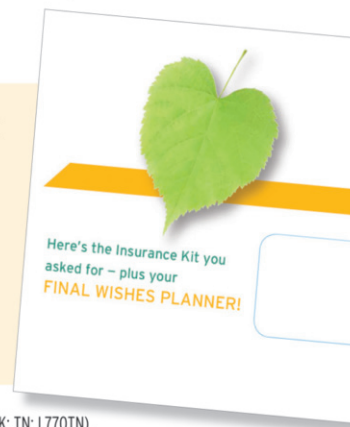
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## Times Feature

### Safety

*Continued from page 15*

videos, food and art. It's known as one of the best multicultural festivals in Orange County. Irvine was also a filming location for blockbusters including *The Hangover*, *Part III* and *Iron Man*.

#### No. 9 Chula Vista

Chula Vista has an overall higher poverty and violent crime rate across the board. Chula Vista, meaning 'beautiful view,' is one of the biggest cities in the state and is Southern California's seventh largest city. It's the perfect place for water lovers, especially those with kayaks and boats. The city has over 32 acres of water adventures including SeaWorld and Aquatica.

#### No. 10 Clovis

Unfortunately, Clovis has a higher property crime rate compared to most safe California cities. It's residents are less than 7 miles from downtown Fresno, a popular California city. Their downtown area is known for restaurants, history and culture that can be seen best through a guided walking tour. The city is also best known for the Clovis Botanical Gardens and Sierra National Forest for hiking or outdoor activities.

#### No. 11 Temecula

Temecula has a low violent crime rate, but higher than normal unemployment rate. It's a tourist city that's best known for their wineries and attractions including the Temecula Valley Wine Country, Callaway Vineyard and Winery and Pechanga Resort Casino. The city is also best known for the Temecula Valley Film Festival that showcases music and film from countries worldwide.

#### No. 12 Torrance

A large number of unemployed Torrance residents are uninsured, but the unemployment rate is average compared to

other cities. Torrance consistently has a low crime rate and is regularly known as one of the safest cities statewide. The city has popular local breweries including George Lopez Brewing Company, Red Car Brewery & Restaurant and Cosmic Brewery.

#### No. 13 Glendale

Glendale has a high unemployment rate and expensive annual rent. It's one of the largest cities in Los Angeles county that's known for food and art. Visit the Museum of Neon Art then try food from different cuisines at local restaurants. The city is best known for their Armenian presence with authentic baked goods, kebabs and art around Glendale and Los Angeles.

#### No. 14 Santa Clara

Santa Clara has a low unemployment rate, but a higher violent crime rate overall. It's home to many tech companies including Intel and Hitachi. The city is also known for the popular Intel Museum, Computer History Museum and the 49ers Museum to showcase the San Francisco football team. If you visit, California's Great America amusement park is a popular attraction,

#### No. 15 Roseville

Roseville has a higher than average property crime and violent crime rate. It is near the Sacramento area, and is home to Hewlett-Packard and NEC Electronics. It's a great area for families and senior citizens to reside not too far from a metropolitan area. Roseville has highly ranked public schools, neighborhoods and retirement areas making it the perfect place to live for people of all ages.

#### No. 16 San Mateo

San Mateo has a great household income average and annual rent. It's south of San Francisco. Visit the San Mateo Japanese Garden in San Mateo Central Park to see one of the best gardens in California, especially during the spring to see the cherry blossoms. The San Francisco Botanical Garden is also

nearby for a day of outdoor activities.

#### No. 17 Orange

Orange has a high poverty rate and property crime rate compared to other safe cities, but they are still low overall. It's close to the Crystal Cathedral – a popular Roman Catholic church that was built in 1981. The Crystal Cathedral has Medieval art and the Hazel Wright Memorial Organ, one of the largest instruments in the world. You can also visit the Orange County Zoo for a small, intimate zoo with a focus on Southwestern animals.

#### No. 18 Carlsbad

Carlsbad has a high household income and most residents have access to the internet. It's close to San Diego and a popular place for both residents and tourists alike. It's known for being one of the wealthier California areas. The city is close to the San Diego Safari Park, Legoland and a farmer's market for locally sourced produce every Wednesday.

#### No. 19 Fullerton

Fullerton has one of the lowest rent costs annually, but a high property crime rate. The city is the home of Kraft Foods, California State University and Fullerton College. The city is filled with public art, but is best known for the Muckenthaler Cultural Center. The center is a mansion that was donated by the Muckenthaler family as a place to host concerts, exhibits and cultural events.

#### No. 20 Elk Grove

Elk Grove lies in Sacramento County and has a low violent crime rate along with a number of parks for recreational activities and a sense of community. The most popular park is Elk Grove Regional Park. There's an aquatic center, softball fields, youth center and more. The park also hosts the Giant Pumpkin Festival every October for pumpkin growers to show off their produce.

### Opening

*Continued from page 1*

Albarrán said the district doesn't have ade-

quate funding or staff to source the quantity of tests that would be required or provide contact tracing for positive cases.

SJUSD spokesperson Jennifer Maddox said testing by large health care providers needs

to be ramped up and contact tracing is the realm of the county.

"I don't think anyone realistically anticipated school districts would be able to handle the burden of testing," Maddox said. "We can provide devices, instruction, online classrooms, connect people to the internet and provide meal service. But when we start to reach into testing for a pandemic, it goes beyond our capabilities and expertise."

To reach its decision to extend online learning through December, the school district considered feedback from a survey, negotiations with labor groups, discussions with health officials and county data on viral transmission.

About 60% of survey respondents preferred a plan that would remain consistent through at least the end of the semester in December.

"We know that consistency is critical to our families," said Jodi Lax, associate superintendent of instruction. "We absolutely recognize that in-person learning is the ideal experience for students and teachers and want to welcome students back to campuses when it is safe to do so."

Parent Holly Case said she wasn't surprised with the school district's decision and that schools don't have enough space or manpower to open during the pandemic.

Case said she prefers her teenage daughter continue with distance learning safely at home but couldn't imagine how hard it would be if she had a young child and had to juggle helping her with schoolwork while working.

According to the California School Sector Specific Guidelines and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, schools may reopen for in-person instruction if they are in a local health jurisdiction that has not been on the county monitoring list within the prior 14 days.

The school district was confused by the county's prohibition on activities such as indoor dining, movies and gatherings while allowing K-12 schools to reopen without clear guidelines.

"It's hard to reconcile that indoor gatherings aren't safe but having 30 children in the classroom is," Maddox said.

Maddox said the state hasn't increased funding enough to account for the reduced class sizes and additional staff and cleaning service returning to school during the pandemic would require. She also doubts the district would be able to procure enough COVID-19 tests as they're difficult for even health care providers to get.

The district assured families they could choose distance learning even if in-person instruction is offered, Maddox said.


About 40% of parents said they preferred distance learning in the district's most recent survey.


"It will depend on how much progress we can make in the next couple of months whether or not we can safely reopen in the new year," Maddox said. "The other challenge is that we've seen some districts start to open and in the first week or two they get a positive case and the whole thing shuts down."

In addition, because of upcoming holidays and the likelihood of people traveling in and out of the county, Maddox said it didn't make sense to open now.


"We are extremely disappointed that we don't feel we can safely bring students back at this point," she said. "We know in-person learning is best for our students and especially those with special needs. It's difficult for them to succeed with distance learning. But we do feel it's the right decision for our community at this time. We hope conditions in the county continue to improve so we can welcome students back in 2021."

## Coping with Stress During COVID-19







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

Colombia, USA, Germany, Brazil, Ukraine, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, and others; all with the same ambition -- to become professional soccer players. Many of Espinoza's teammates spoke German and Portuguese, so he learned both languages. "I already spoke my native languages of English and Spanish. With time, I was able to speak to the German referees in German, speak Portuguese to my teammates, and effectively use my leadership abilities to their fullest effect."

"Being in a new country without knowing the language or having many native friends was extremely difficult," Espinoza said. "Being away from your family for so long and having little support in close proximity was daunting at times. What helped my psyche were the friends I was able to make. One Valdrin Tahiri, Kosovo-German, helped immensely, as well as other players on the team."

"We had some difficulties at times with our share the drama of disorganized aspects. However, the main appeal to being there was the talent of the players," said Espinoza.

"The team's raw talent is so impressive; the soccer club was granted the opportunity to play friendlies against a variety of higher league teams in the 5th Hessenliga division. As a result of winning the title, our team was promoted to a higher league."

**Racist altercations**

"The opposing teams we were sometimes racist in their comments to our team because we were a team of essentially all foreigners,"

Espinoza explained. "The referees, the opposing fans, and the opposing players would say whatever they could to ease their anger and frustration. It was only magnified by the unsurpassable quality we had on the pitch. Their anger would increase as we would score again and again and again. At first I could not understand their remarks, then once I learned enough German, I would do my best to defend my teammates, who themselves really did not know what was being said, but unfortunately it was appalling at times."

**The art of Winning**

"Our strong team was the top of the table for the entirety of the season leading up to the league being cancelled due to COVID-19," Espinoza explained. "The most pivotal game was the 17th, and the last one before the winter break. On December 29th, we played against the 2nd place team called Groß Gerau. We were scored on very early in the game around the 1st minute. And all hell broke loose, where the team was absolutely bashing one another in criticism. But as the leader I recognized the situation and focused on playing simply effective soccer. After some time, I began to heavily praise every single motion of my teammates; and as time went on, the moral improved immensely, where we were able to score the tying goal. From an interception I had a long pass to the winger, a cross to the attacking midfielder in the box and a wonderful finish."

"We ended up winning the game with seven minutes left, from a brilliant left footed curler towards the far post. The game extended our lead in the league by 11 points (3 for win 1 for draw 0 for loss). As we celebrated, I heard the chant from our club president, Derby

Sieger... "Derby Sieger ay ay," translated to Derby Winner! I knew this would put us in phenomenal position to win the league when it resumed again in March 2020. The season ended up being suspended and finally cancelled. Speculation was looming as to whether the 1st place would be crowned champions, and if the last places would face relegation etc. However, in the end on June 20th 2020, the German Federation announced that FCA04 Darmstadt were the winners of the Kreioberliga, and gained promotion to the GruppenLiga," stated Espinoza.

**Team captain at Whitworth University**

At Whitworth University as a Community Health and Psychology double major, Espinoza captained his soccer team to three conference championships and a national ranking each year he attended. After grad-

uation, Espinoza moved to Europe so he could pursue a career in professional soccer.

*"...all hell broke loose, where the team was absolutely bashing one another in criticism. But as the leader I recognized the situation and focused on playing simply effective soccer. After some time, I began to heavily praise every single motion of my teammates; and as time went on, the moral improved immensely..."*

**- Eric Espinoza**

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Times Feature



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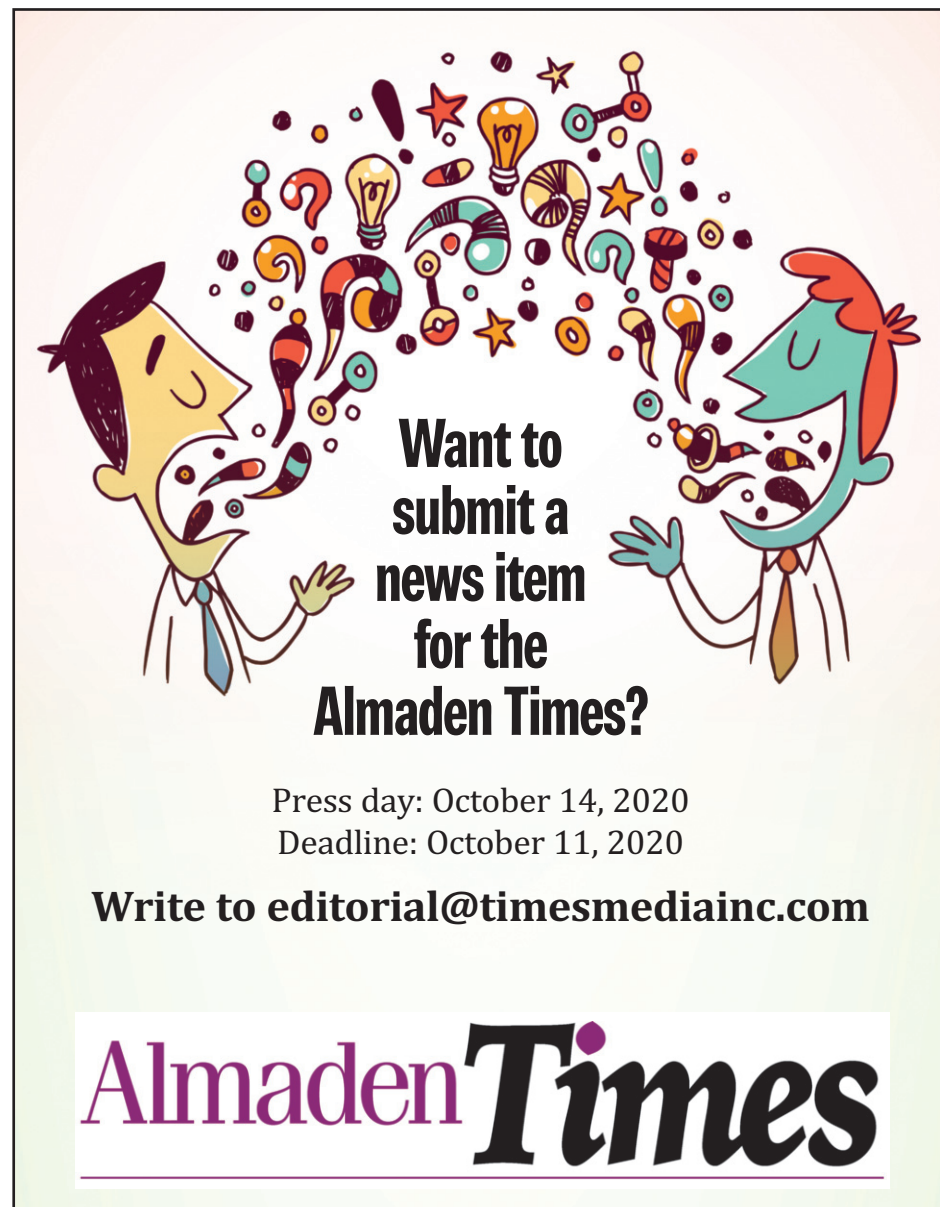
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**Almaden Times**



**Kyle Griffith** (left), senior coalitions coordinator for the 'Yes on 22' campaign endorses the Prop. 22. **Cherri Murphy**, a doctoral student, social justice organizer and Lyft driver, spoke against it.

## Ballot

*Continued from page 1*

Willette said Prop. 20 would result in massive prison overcrowding, prolong prison sentences, limit rehabilitation and push parolees back into the prison system.

### Prop. 22

California Proposition 22, the App-Based Drivers as Contractors and Labor Policies Initiative, would define app-based transportation and delivery drivers (such as drivers for Uber, Lyft and DoorDash), as independent contractors rather than employees. Prop. 22 would exempt app-based transportation and delivery companies from having to provide employee benefits like minimum wage, overtime, paid sick leave and unemployment insurance.

However, Prop. 22 would provide independent-contractor drivers with some compensation, including minimum wage, some auto insurance and maintenance coverage and a health care stipend.

Kyle Griffith, senior coalitions coordinator for the 'Yes on 22' campaign endorses the proposition. Cherri Murphy, a doctoral student, social justice organizer and Lyft driver, spoke against it.

Griffith said Prop. 22 would save app-based jobs and services in California, as Uber and Lyft have threatened leaving the state if it does not pass.

As independent contractors, app-based drivers are able to set their own hours and decide when, where, and how long to work, Griffith said.

"Last year, Sacramento politicians passed Assembly Bill 85 to extend employee benefits towards these drivers," Griffith said, "...and created unintended consequences that threaten the ability of these drivers to continue this kind of work."

Griffith said Prop. 22 would guarantee app-based drivers at least 120% of minimum wage and 30 cents a mile compensation and provide them with occupational accident insurance. He also said app-based drivers who work at least 15 hours a week would receive some health care.

Prop. 22 is a public safety measure, Griffith said, as it requires app-based drivers to have background checks and take safety courses and states a zero-tolerance policy for drivers using drugs and alcohol.

Murphy, a Lyft driver, strongly opposes Prop. 22.

"Uber, Lyft and DoorDash created Prop. 22 to keep denying the rights drivers deserve," Murphy said. "When the pandemic hit, we stepped up for our communities, but Uber, Lyft and DoorDash haven't stepped up for us."

Murphy said if Prop. 22 passes, it would ensure app-based drivers do not have paid sick leave, health care, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation, minimum wage or overtime.

"If these corporations truly cared for their workers," Murphy said, "when the pandemic hit, they would have made sure workers had personal protective equipment to ensure the welfare of their drivers and passengers."

Griffith said Berkeley Research Group found that forcing these companies to adhere to an employment model would eliminate 80 to 90% of app-based jobs. With Prop. 22, he said, the companies can continue working in California rather than shut down in many parts of the state. Prop. 22 extends earnings, health benefits and accident insurance, Griffith said, while ensuring these businesses can continue operating in California.

Murphy said Lyft and Uber drivers want to be treated with dignity and respect.

"Labor and workers have value," Murphy said. "Pay them fairly, give them disability, worker's comp and paid leave. Their business model focuses on the bottom line."

### Prop. 25

California Proposition 25, the Replace Cash Bail with Risk Assessments Referendum, would uphold Senate Bill 10, replacing cash bail for a detained suspect awaiting trial with an assessment of the individual's risk of committing another crime or not appearing in court.

Criminal suspects in California pay a cash bond to be released from jail pending trial, with the understanding that they will reappear in court for trials and hearings. Regardless of the outcome, the cash bond was repaid to suspects after their criminal trials, as long as they appeared.

Usually, a standard bail amount would be set for any alleged offense, but judges had the option to raise, lower or waive the bail. If a suspect could not afford to pay the bail, the individual could borrow money through a commercial bail bond agent.

Bail bond companies are responsible for the defendant's bail obligation in exchange for a nonrefundable fee, which is generally 10 to 15 percent of the bail amount. The remaining cost is secured by collateral such as a car, house or jewelry, which is forfeited to the bail bond company if the defendant misses a court appearance.

According to Brennan Center for Justice, bail practices are frequently discriminatory, with Black and Latino men assessed at higher amounts than white men for similar crimes on average by 35 and 19 percent respectively.

Senate Bill 10 replaced cash bail with risk assessments. Those judged as low risks to public safety and of failing to appear in court



Times **Feature**



**Mullissa Willette** (left), exemption investigator at the Santa Clara County Assessor’s Office, spoke in favor of Prop. 25. **Corrin Rankin**, a former bail bond agent, spoke against it.

would be released from jail. Suspects considered medium risk could be released depending upon the court’s rulings. High risk cases would remain in jail but might have an opportunity to argue before a judge for their release.

Mullissa Willette, exemption investigator at the Santa Clara County Assessor’s Office, spoke in favor of Prop. 25. Corrin Rankin, a former bail bond agent, spoke against it.

Willette equated cash bail with ransom and said the money bail system is inherently unfair to low-income people and people of color.

“Right now, it’s a crime to be poor,” Willette said. “Innocence should be determined by a system of equal justice under the law, not how much money you have in your bank account.”

Willette said as the average bail in California is \$50,000 dollars, individuals who can’t afford to pay it must borrow \$5,000 from bail bonds services. Even if they are never convicted, these people will never see the \$5,000 again, she said.

If they don’t have the money, they have to stay in jail until trial...and can lose their jobs, childcare, homes and cars, Willette said, while wealthy people who can pay the full bail amount will recoup their money.

Willette shared the story of a man who stole cologne spending 351 days in jail while

a Stanford University student who was accused of sexually assaulting a woman while she was unconscious was released the same day he was arrested.

“The wealthy can buy their freedom,” Willette said. “Eliminating bail is justice for all.”

Rankin said bail is a state and federal constitutional right.

“We are insurance agents ensuring people’s appearance in court,” Rankin said. “Getting rid of this would overburden the courts because without a bondsman, people are less likely to go to court. Justice doesn’t happen when you’re arrested. Justice happens in the court in front of the judge.”

Rankin said as Prop. 25 would replace a bondsman with a computerized algorithm shown to have racial bias against Blacks and Hispanics based upon ethnic names, previous arrests and ZIP codes.

“Computer algorithms have no place in our justice system,” Rankin said.

Willette said an alternative to money bail is needed. She said wealthy people “paying their way by getting fat wallets out” is unfair to the poor.

Rankin said under Prop. 25, in addition to the police department being tasked with ensuring people go to court, without bondsman, people could have to wait a month before being released from jail due to the backlog of government bureaucracy.

**Report: Safest states for schools to reopen**

With some students learning online or experiencing a hybrid of online and in-person classes due to COVID-19, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on the Safest States for Schools to Reopen.

To identify which states have the safest conditions for reopening schools, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 15 key metrics. Our data set includes such things as the number of child COVID-19 cases per 100,000 children, the average public-school class size, and the ratio of students to school nurses. Below, you can see highlights from the report, along with the top 10 states data.

**School Reopening Safety in California** (1=Safest, 25=Avg.):

- 35th – Child COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 Children
- 19th – Child COVID-19 Deaths per 100,000 Children
- 23rd – COVID-19 Cases in the Last Seven Days per 100,000 Residents
- 1st – Share of K-12 Public School Students Transported Through School Transportation
- 47th – Average Public-School Class Size
- 49th – Pupil-Teacher Ratio
- 49th – Share of Seniors Living with School-Age Children
- 46th – Share of Children Living in Crowded Housing
- 18th – Overall Likelihood of COVID-19 Infections
- 40th – Student-to-School-Nurse Ratio

(1 = Best) State		Overall Rank	Total Score		'COVID-19 Infections' Rank
1	Vermont	80.48	1		1
2	Maine	74.65	2		2
3	Pennsylvania	69.66	6		6
4	Massachusetts	69.27	5		5
5	New Hampshire	68.65	4		4
6	Rhode Island	66.85	14		14
7	Ohio	66.54	7		7
8	New Jersey	65.69	8		8
9	Connecticut	65.47	19		19
10	Nebraska	64.71	15		15

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

tures, and even an occasional karaoke night—all in a wholesome environment. Our activities flow from our core values:

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- Loving Respect
- Deep Connectedness
- Intentional Growth
- Shared Laughter

Visit us at our web site at: [church@campbellucc.org](http://church@campbellucc.org) or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

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6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243. [www.ccvucc.org](http://www.ccvucc.org). We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second

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2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.  
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At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



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*The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 11 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2019 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/Real-Trends 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.***



**\$1,599,000**  
**4 Bed | 3 Bath**  
**2080 Sq Ft | 8164 Sq Ft Lot**

Almaden Valley home with serene back yard. One bdrm and 1 full bath on ground level. Large picture window in the Living room with built-in bookcases. Formal dining room has bay window that looks out to the backyard as well as stained glass window. Floors: lambswool carpet, high end cork. Kitchen cabinets custom-made with cherry wood and feature: corner storage garage, corner lazy Susan, sink pull-out tray, bread board, pull-out storage bins, 4 file drawers, top 2 cabinets with pull-out trays, all lower cabinets with pull-out trays. Beautiful garden with hybrid roses, a pink oleander tree, a Chinese or Japanese tree peony, a mock orange tree, a Bing cherry tree, and vegetable garden with sugar cane plant. Amazing garden views from 2 of the bedrooms. Front yard with an American guava tree and 2 Christmas holly bushes. Quiet street. Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.



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