

San Jose to give \$5,000 grants to help restaurants survive the winter  
**SEE PAGE 4**



**Ease of covid restrictions**  
County moves to allow resumption of additional businesses and activities  
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Lawmakers propose hunting feral pigs with bows and arrows  
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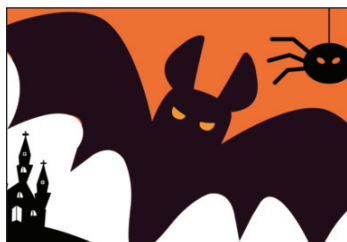
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# Times

OCTOBER 16 – 29, 2020 ■ VOL. 33, NO. 21



## Almaden Country Inn Café offering creative trick or treat solution

*Snapology's Monster Mania activity provided by Snapology of Los Gatos*

No trick or treatin' this year due to the Covid environment?

Here's a creative solution...kids can still have fun by dressing up in their favorite Halloween costumes outdoors at Country Inn Café in Almaden on Saturday, Oct. 31. Lunch will be served from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. and the activities will be held from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Country Inn Café will provide a fun Halloween afternoon for kids and parents by providing kid's meals and then you can get your scare on with Snapology's Monster Mania courtesy of Snapology of Los Gatos.

Participants can use LEGO® bricks to create your own monster fighter, build a haunted town, ghost, and have a scary good time during this fun program.

Each child will receive individual sanitized kits (no sharing). COVID precautions will be adhered to -- such as temperature checks, sanitizing hands before and after, wearing masks, maintaining social distancing.

The price for the event is \$25 (includes Kid's meals and activity material). Country Inn Café is located at: 6484 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120.

To register, visit Snapology of Los Gatos: <https://embed.snapology.com/licensee/120/events/88752>

## San Jose Police Dept. pivots by producing successful virtual 2020 National Night Out

By Denelle Fedor  
*Special to the Times*

The annual National Night Out, an event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored by city police departments throughout the country— including the San Jose Police Department (SJPd) proved to be successful this year – despite the fact that it was held virtually via Facebook live.

National Night Out occurs on the first Tuesday of October each year and is a phenomenally successful event. More than 38 million neighbors representing 16 thousand communities within the United States of America participate each year.

Prior to the pandemic, the SJPd would encourage neighborhoods

to organize an outside gathering event for the first Tuesday in October with many neighborhoods providing ice cream socials, potlucks, etc. Neighbors would then mingle with other neighbors outside and along their neighborhood streets. The SJPd would stop by the neighborhood gatherings throughout the city and chat with the neighbors and share crime prevention tips. This interaction builds and strengthens the relationship between the SJPd and the community providing an avenue for the police department and the community to build strong partnerships.

Although the current pandemic certainly changed the way National Night Out was carried out this year, it did not stop the

*See NIGHT OUT, page 20*



The National Night Out presentation was extremely well organized, upbeat, and included virtual festivities as well as a photo contest.

### ELECTION 2020



State Senate candidates **Ann Ravel** and **Dave Cortese** participated in a debate hosted Oct. 12 by the Almaden Valley Community Association.

## State Senate candidates Ann Ravel and Dave Cortese debate issues

By Lorraine Gabbert  
*Senior Staff Writer*

State Senate candidates Ann Ravel and Dave Cortese went toe-to-toe in a debate hosted Oct. 12 by the Almaden Valley Community Association.

The debate covered issues ranging from the economy to police reform. The candidates both supported balancing the state budget and oversight of Santa Clara County Public Health.

They differ on their support of propositions.

Ravel took shots at Cortese throughout the debate.

"I... care about government transparency, government accountability and honesty," Ravel said, "including honesty in cam-

paigns, because people who aren't honest in campaigns, you're not going to be able to trust them."

Ravel touted her experience at the "highest levels of government" in every level of government." Cortese referred to himself as the local representative.

"I have been a local official here spending my time in your neighborhoods...and in the small cities that are a part of this district," Cortese said.

Ravel, who was nominated to the Federal Election Commission by President Barack Obama, described herself as "working for all the people" and said her decisions wouldn't be influenced by special interests.

*See DEBATE, page 19*

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## 1334 Rimrock Drive

Custom home in the Almaden Country Club area with incredible views of Quicksilver Park and Downtown SJ. Kitchen has granite tile counters and backsplash with decorative inserts, plenty of wood cabinetry, tray ceiling with recessed lights and crown molding. Double doors open to the master bedroom suite; two large closets, recessed lights and amazing views. Downstairs area with separate entrance, private deck and great views could be used for an au pair or in-law quarters. Enormous multi-tiered backyard has several areas to entertain or relax with the view. Central A/C. 3-car garage. Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.



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Volunteers work on cleaning up Selma Orinda Park in 2019.  
Photo: [Beautifulday.org](http://Beautifulday.org).

## October 17-18 is 'Beautiful Day' 2020 in Santa Clara Valley

Since its inception in 2004, "Beautiful Day" has sought to invest in communities with simple, direct, and unyielding kindness. Each work project is an act of no-strings-attached service for those who are otherwise unable to help themselves.

"Beautiful Day" has been operating in Almaden District 10 for many years with numerous projects created. Volunteers 14 and up are invited to participate in this year's projects.

This year, there are 21 projects spread throughout Santa Clara County. Two of them are in Almaden Valley.

The first is a wall painting project at Coleman and Almaden Expressway that will also involve putting down a weed barrier.

The second project is updating and improving the Learning Center at the City of San Jose Corporation Yard located at Almaden Expressway and McAbee/Winfield.

For more information, visit: <http://beautifulday.org> and click on 2020 Projects.

# Valley Currents

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

## San Jose to give \$5,000 grants to help restaurants survive this winter

By Carly Wipf  
Article courtesy of  
San José Spotlight

San Jose restaurants in need of financial support during the pandemic can apply for a \$5,000 grant starting Oct. 16 to help them serve customers through the winter.

As the weather gets colder, business owners often have steeper heating bills to pay to keep patrons comfortable. The presence of COVID-19 also means restaurants will have to increase safety measures as businesses reopen indoors.

Those who choose to continue offering outdoor dining may also have to consider portable heating options — an additional expense some businesses may not have had before.

"We are faced with a severe economic crisis brought on by COVID-19, and restaurants face a brutally difficult road ahead, especially with the approach of winter," said Mayor Sam Liccardo.

The grants are part of a \$2 million nation-wide Main Street Strong initiative by DoorDash. The food-delivery company partnered with San Jose and The Silicon Valley Organization, a business networking group, to deliver a total of \$150,000 in grants to San Jose businesses facing seasonal stress and hardship from COVID-19.

The number of restaurant closures in the United States is continuing to rise as a result of COVID-19. According to a September report by Yelp, 32,109 restaurants nationwide have closed as of Aug. 31. Of these, 19,590 are expected to be closed permanently. Mexican restaurants, breakfast spots and burger joints are among the hardest hit, the report found.

Local examples include the retro-burger joint Peggy Sue's Diner, which shuttered after 20 years in San Pedro Square, and Emperor Norton's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria, which closed after a 45-year run.

"We know that the winter season will put a burden on our local restaurants but this Main Street



Grants can be used to provide outdoor heating. File photo.

Strong initiative gives many restaurants a fighting chance at not only surviving, but thriving this winter," said Madison Nguyen, executive vice president of The Silicon Valley Organization and former vice mayor of San Jose.

"This means economic growth for San Jose and a step forward for diners, business owners and employees."

Applications will be available beginning Oct. 16, two days after the county could issue a health order allowing indoor service for the first time since COVID-19 shut-

downs. If the new order takes effect, restaurants would be able to open at 25% capacity.

"Our city's restaurants are finally starting to move forward, and we have to help them maintain the momentum," said Mariah Ray, public policy and partnerships lead at DoorDash. "DoorDash is deeply committed to supporting our restaurant partners and the communities we serve. This initiative will provide critical financial support to keep restaurants going through the cold weather, and we're appreciative of The Silicon Valley

Organization's shared support."

Grant recipients will be notified by the end of December. Restaurants in San Jose with a maximum of three locations can apply. Restaurants must have 50 or fewer employees as of 2019 and \$3 million or less in 2019 annual revenue per location.

Hello Alice, an independent third party will manage applications, selections and the dispersal of funds.

To apply for the grant, visit <https://doordash.helloalice.com>

## San Jose Postcard Club dedicated to celebrating the beauty and history of postcards the world over

Did you know you can enjoy and share your collection of postcards with like-minded enthusiasts?

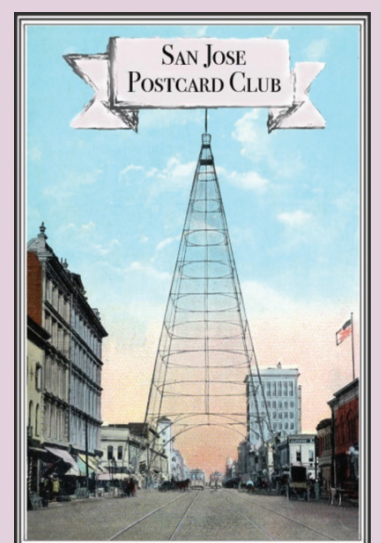
The club fosters research and collecting of postcards and paper collectables while celebrating the beauty of and history of postcards from all over the world..

The San Jose Postcard Club meets the second Wednesday of the month (except July and August) at the Pearl Avenue

Branch of the San Jose Public Library 4270 Pearl Av., San Jose, 95136.

Membership is open to all. Dues are \$20 per year for an individual or couple, \$6 per year for youths under 15 years of age.

For more information, contact Shav La Vigne at [shavlavigne@yahoo.com](mailto:shavlavigne@yahoo.com) for more details or with questions. Address: P.O. Box 23115, San Jose, CA. 95153



The San Jose Postcard Club will enable you to share your collection of postcards with like-minded enthusiasts.

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Times **Community News**

# Commercial impact fee to be imposed on new development

By Johnny Khamis  
Special to the Times

In early September, the City Council debated the issue of Commercial Linkage Impact Fees. These fees on new commercial construction generate revenues to fund affordable housing construction.

You may hear some of my comments on the housing issue at my "Johnny Khamis On The Record YouTube Channel:" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lw3S\\_DHVLps](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lw3S_DHVLps).

I shared that I thought it was not only wrong to impose more fees on developers but that this was the wrong time to do so. I do not support imposing any type of new fees as long as we're trying to emerge from an economic shock caused by the global pandemic, but it was clear that a fee had the support of all of my colleagues.

New fees on development are of particular concern to me because several new taxes and fees have been already been instituted at various levels of government, including at the City level, that affect the cost of development. Ultimately, I supported the lowest, least onerous fee option and succeeded in getting my request for an analysis of a fee exemption for small projects (below 50,000 square feet) included in the motion that was approved.

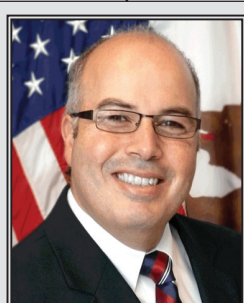
While I agree with those who assert that every business and individual needs to do their share to help solve the housing crisis, developers can pay hundreds of thousands of dollars – sometimes even millions of dollars – of fees to the City – and that is before the new Commercial Impact Fee was approved. Fees go directly to the Planning, Building Code Enforcement Department

(PBCE), Parks Department, Housing Department, and others, to support objectives such as operating PBCE, constructing and improving parks and trails, improving traffic safety, and other important projects.

The Commercial Linkage Fee will go directly to the Housing Department which already has many fees earmarked to its goals. For example, developers pay an Inclusionary Housing Fee which specifically goes to Housing in support of meeting the City's affordable housing goals. Housing is also the recipient of Measure A tax funds, as well as Measure E funds.

During the extensive discussion at City Council, after unsuccessfully arguing against any new fee, I advocated for a much lower fee than that proposed by my colleagues. I proposed a phased-in approach that would have implemented a very low fee in Year 1 and required a new study before imposing the full, staff-recommended fee in Year 3. Another point I raised at Council was the need to provide exemptions for sectors that are facing strong headwinds, including Retail, Hotels, and Residential Care facilities, and applying the fee only to new commercial, industrial, and warehouse developments. Finally, I requested that we allow developers to buy and/or build affordable housing in lieu of paying the fees. Allowing developers this flexibility would allow San Jose to produce more units, faster, than were the City to undertake these developments.

Although I was happy that the fee was lower than originally presented, I do hope this fee does not stall or deter future development in San Jose.



**District 10  
Report**

Johnny Khamis,  
City Councilmember



## Recycle Right truck sign design contest

Calling all student artists!

Would you like to see your artwork on recycling/garbage trucks in San José? San José Environmental Services Department is seeking student artists to create artwork highlighting the importance of recycling in the City of San José.

This is your opportunity to express your creativity, while helping to keep San José clean. Winners will have their artwork enlarged and featured on San José recycling/garbage trucks.

For contest rules and more information, visit: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/environmental-services/truck-artwork-design-contest>

## DAVE CORTESE: Leadership in a time of crisis



3/27/20

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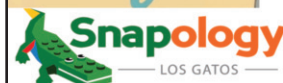
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# Lawmakers propose hunting feral pigs with bows and arrows

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Everyone knows pigs are smart; smart enough to avoid traps the City of San Jose has been using since 2013 to combat the hogs' appetite for residential lawns.

Proprietors of the Coyote Creek Golf Club say that feral pigs have cost them \$16,000 in damages on their 414-acre property in 2020 alone and also thousands of dollars of damage to residential lawns each year.

To address the problem, councilmen Johnny Khamis and Sergio Jimenez crafted a proposal that would allow licensed trappers to use their archery skills to kill the feral pigs.

San Jose city officials have some concerns, which are holding up the idea, but the City Council have recently voted unanimously to move forward with the idea as long as city officials work out some of the kinks before letting trappers resort to archery.

Officials' concerns include the vetting

process for trappers, restrictions for areas where trappers would be deployed and what would happen if a trapper misses the pig and shoots someone or something else with a bow and arrow. However, in order to become a certified trapper, you have to pass a written exam and it's up to the property owner to obtain a permit from the state's department of fish and wildlife before any trapping or hunting can begin.

San Jose Acting Assistant Police Chief Dave Tindall said the department prefers using traps over archery—especially as pigs start moving from more rural to residential areas.

Khamis said "this isn't Wilbur the pig," referring to the lovable hog in the children's classic "Charlotte's Web." Feral pigs—unlike their domesticated counterparts—are aggressive and can't be relocated.

We're having some significant problems with property damages. These are feral pigs, they're not indigenous and they last time we



Wild feral pigs destroying property may soon be hunted by archers. Photo by Nite Guard Solar

went around the Sierra Club actually supported this effort to depredation."

But not everyone was thrilled with the decision.

"I was shocked and dismayed when I saw this proposal," resident Peter Didonato told the council. "I would simply ask each and every one of you to imagine what it feels like to be shot with an arrow. It is a cruel, torturous death."

Timothy Gall—a law enforcement professional with 20 years of experience, includ-

ing 15 with the San Jose PD—is one of a handful of licensed trappers in the state. Over the years, Gall said he's trapped and killed around 100 feral pigs in San Jose.

Pigs aren't native to the Americas. In the 1530s, the Spanish explorer, Hernando de Soto, brought the first pigs to the Americas, specifically to the southeastern US. The wild hogs you see running around today are descended from de Soto's pigs and other pigs brought across the Atlantic Ocean by European explorers over the centuries.



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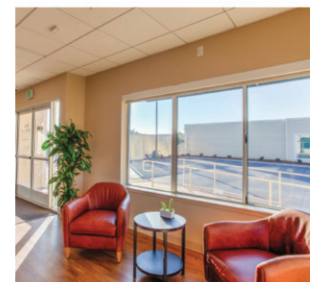
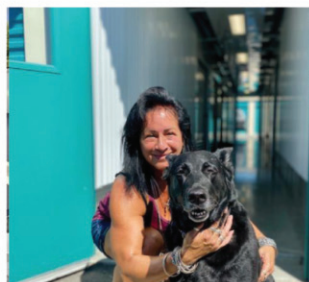
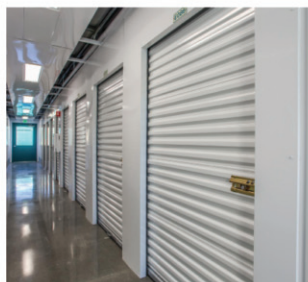


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Times **Community News**

## Teenagers give of their time to help foster youth

Thanks to volunteers Eshan and Neha Rachapudi and some generous donors, more than two dozen foster youth now have critical technology tools to use for distance learning.

In the spring, when the impacts of Covid-19 and stay-at-home orders were first starting to become evident, Eshan and Neha sprung into action to help. They created a fundraiser to raise money for computers for Unity Care youth and raised \$5,100 by May which was used for 21 laptop computers and five tablets for Unity Care.

"We are very grateful to our donors for supporting our cause," wrote Eshan. "We are thrilled to hear that our funds were able to purchase 26 laptops and tablets to help foster youth participate in remote learning."

"We hope the foster youth are doing well and that the devices are helping them with schoolwork and remote learning through these difficult times."

This is the second time the brother and sister have volunteered to help foster youth

— more than two years ago, they raised nearly \$3,000 for 28 new bicycles, which they assembled and donated to Unity Care youth.

In response to the coronavirus, Eshan and Neha also sewed and donated face masks and partnered with the San Jose Public Library and a team of volunteers to 3D-print 1,600 face shields and 310 face masks to donate to hospitals, nursing homes, and frontline workers.

Eshan is now a freshman at Bellarmine



*Volunteers Eshan and Neha Rachapudi (center and right) who have raised enough funds to purchase 26 laptops and tablets to help foster youth with remote learning, present a check to a Unity Care representative.*

College Preparatory, where he is enjoying his experience, even though he thinks virtual learning is not ideal. "We are really looking forward to going back to school on campus when safely possible," he said.

Neha is currently a senior at Presentation High School and is getting ready to apply to college pre-med programs.

## Carl Guardino endorses Dave Cortese

By staff reports

*Article courtesy of San José Spotlight*

Carl Guardino once raised six figures to defeat Dave Cortese's bid for mayor. Now he wants to see him go to Sacramento.

Guardino, the powerful former CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, has endorsed Cortese's bid for the Senate District 15 seat. Cortese, a Santa Clara County supervisor, is competing with former FEC commissioner Ann Ravel for the chance to succeed Sen. Jim Beall.

"I support Dave Cortese for our State Senator because of his experienced and effective leadership on "THEE Issues" facing Silicon Valley," Guardino said in a statement emailed by Cortese's campaign. "T" for Transportation, "H" for Housing & Homelessness, "E" for Energy and the Environment; and "E" for Education."

In the heated 2014 mayoral race, Guardino raised more than \$500,000 to support Mayor Sam Liccardo, a close friend of his who was deadlocked against Cortese for the city's top political job. With Guardino's tech-fueled cash, Liccardo won the mayor's race by a slim 2 percentage points.

Now, it appears Guardino is switching gears by supporting a traditionally labor friendly candidate like Cortese.

While it might seem like strange bedfellows



Santa Clara County Supervisor **Dave Cortese** spoke to reporters at the County Government Building recently. *Photo by Katie Lauer*

to some, the longtime politician said it's not that unusual — the two men go way back, Cortese says.

"Carl and I have worked together for more than 20 years, if you count his time with HP and with Assemblymember (Rusty) Areias," Cortese told San José Spotlight. "We share the same priorities in this race. It was a very straightforward set of conversations about issues like housing, homelessness, climate and education that got us here."

In the 2020 election cycle, Guardino has also endorsed business-backed San Jose Councilmembers Lan Diep and Dev Davis — both fighting for re-election. He's stayed out of the race to fill an open seat in Assembly District 25 and supports former Sunnyvale Mayor Otto Lee in the contest to replace Cortese on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Guardino, who left the influential leadership group in June, is now the executive vice president of global government affairs of Bloom Energy.

Meanwhile, Ravel, Cortese's opponent, has many hard-hitting endorsements of her own, including former President Barack Obama and some of Cortese's colleagues.



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Times **Community News**

## California taxpayers affected by September wildfires granted extension to file and pay

The Franchise Tax Board (FTB) announced last week special tax filing relief for Californians affected by recent wildfires.

Taxpayers in governor-declared disaster areas are granted an extension to December 15, 2020, to file California tax returns on 2019 income and make any tax payments that would have been due between now and December 15.

"Californians affected by this historic wildfire season need the opportunity to focus on themselves, their families, and their properties," said State Controller and FTB Chair Betty T. Yee. "I hope this extension provides a small measure of relief under very difficult circumstances."

With the addition of the California counties that received a disaster declaration in September, FTB now has extended the deadline for individuals and businesses to file and pay in the counties of Butte, Del Norte, Fresno, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Nevada,

San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Yolo.

Information and instructions are available in FTB Publication 1034, 2019 Disaster Loss: How to Claim a State Tax Deduction.

Taxpayers may claim their disaster loss in one of two ways. They may claim the disaster loss for the 2020 tax year when they file their return next spring, or they may claim the loss against 2019 income on this year's return. An amended return may be filed by those who already have filed this year. The advantage of claiming the disaster loss in the prior tax year is that the FTB can issue a refund sooner. Taxpayers claiming the disaster loss should write the name of the disaster (for example, Glass Fire) in blue or black ink at the top of their tax returns to alert FTB and to expedite any refund. If taxpayers are filing electronically, they should follow the software instructions to enter disaster information.

## Update from District 10 Library Branches

### Kid's classes are now available after school

The San José Public Library has announced updates of the additions, expansions, progress, programs, and services at the library branches in the district: Almaden and Vineland Libraries.

**Express Pick-Up** is available at both the Vineland branch and Almaden branch libraries Monday-Saturday: 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.. For more information: <https://www.sjpl.org/express-pickup>

**R.O.C.Kn' Learn** – Distance Learning Support offers full day and after school support programming at the Almaden branch library. Full day: two classrooms open and after school: One classroom open



Lake Almaden is hosting one class of after school programming with current enrollment limited to local school district referrals and students that qualify for a scholarship. Families should contact their local school district about enrollment.

#### Coding

Coding 5K virtual programs will run through all 25 Branch locations in Fiscal Year 20/21. You can always find a list of coding classes and events at: <https://www.sjpl.org/coding5k>


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 Deadline to apply : September 20th  
 Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/aispectraBootcamp>

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Designed specifically for young women, this virtual boot camp will explore applications of Artificial Intelligence at the cross-sections of the sciences and humanities. Our boot camp includes hands-on activities in the following areas (Introduction to AI, AI and Art/Music, AI and Fashion, and AI in the Environment) and a panel consisting of various speakers currently working in AI and STEM.

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## Times Community News

### County moves into revised risk reduction allowing resumption of additional businesses and activities

Santa Clara County has moved into the State of California's Orange Tier (Tier 3).

The Public Health Officer's new Revised Risk Reduction Order (issued October 5) went into effect Wednesday, October 14, which allows additional services in the County to operate, in

accordance with the State order. Changes include allowing indoor dining and indoor gatherings, with limitations, and capacity increases for museums, zoos and retail operations.

The fact that these additional activities and capacity are now allowed should not be construed as implying such activities are safe. COVID-19 continues to pose a serious risk throughout our County. Everyone must remain cautious, maintain social distance, wear a face covering, and move activities outdoors when possible.

While the County is moving into a new tier, there are differences between what the State allows and what the County permits. Unless oth-

erwise indicated in the local health order, all County businesses and activities can resume to the extent allowed under the Orange tier. The following business categories are now allowed to be open indoors with the following capacity limitations:

- Outdoor gatherings of up to 200 people and indoor gatherings of up to 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer. This includes movie theaters, churches, and cultural ceremonies. The State generally prohibits other gatherings.
- Indoor dining up to 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer.
- Indoor museums and zoos up to 50% capacity.

• College sports activities without fans following County and State requirements.

• No capacity limitation for malls and other retail businesses.

"We ask that everyone continue their efforts to prevent COVID-19 from spreading in our county," said Dr. Sara Cody, Health Officer and Director of Public Health for the County of Santa Clara. "Everyone must take responsibility for preventing spread so that we don't move back to more restrictive tiers under the State's structure."

For more information about the local public health order and directives, visit: [www.scc.gov.org/coronavirus](http://www.scc.gov.org/coronavirus)

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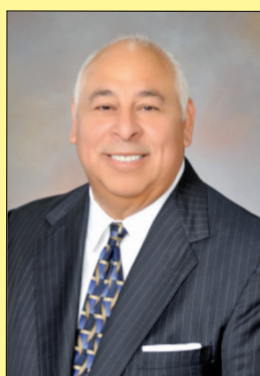


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## BBB Scam Alert: Watch out for Facebook 'friends' pushing phony COVID grants

In tough economic times, it can be hard to turn down free money – especially if it appears to be recommended by a friend. BBB.org/ScamTracker is receiving numerous reports that con artists are stealing information from Facebook and Instagram accounts and promoting phony COVID-19 relief grants to their network and Friends list (BBB stands for Better Business Bureau).

### How the Scam Works

You get a Facebook Messenger chat or Instagram direct message that looks like it comes from a friend, relative, community member, or other person you trust. The message is telling you about a grant for COVID-19 relief. Your “friend” may claim to have already applied and received thousands of dollars.

Scammers are either hacking social media accounts or creating separate lookalike profiles by stealing photos and personal information. Either way, these con artists are banking that you will trust a message that appears to come from someone you know. For example, one recent victim was contacted by someone posing as a leader in their church. “This scam was very convincing. [It looked like it came from] someone I know and trust,” they wrote. “Because of COVID-19, I’m laid off, so I would try it. [The scammer] said my name was on a list to receive this grant money. I lost \$1,000.00 of my unemployment.”

While many people report being targeted through social media, that’s not the only way scammers are reaching potential victims. Other versions of this scam use phone calls and text messages.

No matter how you hear about a “grant,” there’s a major catch! To get the “grant,” you need to pay upfront first. The scammer will claim the money pays for “delivery” or “processing.” The scammer will take the money, and your grant will never materialize.

### Tips to spot this scam:

- **Be wary of your friends’ likes and dislikes online:** Your friend or family member may have impeccable judgment in real-life. But online, email messages, social posts, and direct messages could be from a hacked or impersonated account. (before discussing such propositions, check with the friend by emailing him/her with verified email, phone or in person).

- **Don’t pay any money for a “free” government grant.** If you have to pay money to claim a “free” grant, it isn’t really free. A real government agency won’t ask you to pay a processing fee for a grant you have already been awarded. The only official list of all U.S. federal grant-making agencies is Grants.gov. For information regarding Canadian grants, contact the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada.

- **Check for look-alikes.** Be sure to do your research and see if a government agency or organization actually exists. Find contact info on your own and call them to be sure the person you’ve heard from is legitimate.

- **Report scam accounts and messages**

**to Facebook and Instagram:** Alert administrators to fake profiles, compromised accounts, and spam messages by reporting them on Facebook and Instagram.

If you’ve fallen victim to this kind of scam, help others avoid the same pitfall by filing a scam report at BBB.org/ScamTracker.

*Image: Getty Images*



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# County issues Revised Risk Reduction Order allowing resumption of more businesses

By Supervisor Mike Wasserman  
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors,  
Vice-President

As your County Supervisor, I have been asking the tough questions and pushing for the safe easing of restrictions. I have some good news to share: The County of Santa Clara Public Health Officer issued a Revised Risk Reduction Order that will allow the resumption of more businesses and activities.

As the State moved the County into Tier 3 (the Orange Tier), ideally, this will give those affected some time to prepare their businesses and organizations for keeping the public safe under the new, reduced restrictions. Unless otherwise indicated in the Revised Risk Reduction Order, all County businesses and activities will be allowed to resume to the extent allowed under the Orange tier, including:

- Outdoor gatherings of up to 200 people.
- Indoor gatherings of up to 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer.
- Indoor dining up to 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer.

To ensure alignment with the State's Orange Tier, the Health Officer will issue further modifications to various other directives before the County moves into the Orange Tier. COVID-19 continues to pose a serious risk to our residents. This is why we urge all residents to be cautious, stay home when possible, minimize interaction with anyone outside their household, maintain social distance, wear a face covering, and move activities outdoors when possible.

Recently, I was reminded of the saying, "When someone has cancer, the whole family and everyone who loves them does, too." It safe to say that while not everyone may contract COVID-19, we are all affected by it. Whether it is economically, socially, medically, mentally, academically – everyone is impacted in some way. For months, I have been advocating for the safe re-opening of our economy and I am hopeful for the thousands of people who have been contacting the County that this welcome news eases many burdens caused by COVID-19.

Many commonly celebrated Halloween and Día de Los Muertos activities carry high risk for spreading COVID-19. Please help prevent the spread by limiting activities to the people you live with, and try virtual costume parties or contests. Trick-or-treating is a high-risk activity, because it increases contact with people outside of your household who may not be as careful about COVID-19 prevention. Parties are high-risk, because mixing among people who don't live in the same home introduces more opportunities for the virus to

**COVID-19 continues to pose a serious risk to our residents. This is why we urge all residents to be cautious, stay home when possible, minimize interaction with anyone outside their household, maintain social distance, wear a face covering, and move activities outdoors when possible.**

pass from one person to another. Bay Area contact tracing has shown that gathering and mixing are key contributors to infection. For those planning to wear a costume, consider using a themed cloth mask -- a costume mask is not a substitute. Avoid wearing a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Please be safe as you enjoy the festivities!

## November 3rd Election

The November 3rd Presidential Election is right around the corner! Every registered voter in Santa Clara County will now receive a Vote By Mail ballot from the County Registrar of Voters (ROV) beginning October 5 – 29 days before Election Day. All Vote by Mail return envelopes are now postage paid and must be postmarked on or before Election Day 11/3/20.

10/19/20: Last day to register to vote (conditional voting only after this date)

10/27/20: Last day to request a Vote by Mail Ballot replacement

10/31/20: Vote Centers open all three days before Election Day

11/3/20: Election Day. All Vote Centers and ROV Office are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for both voting and ballot drop off.

**\*\*Please remember that if you have moved or changed your name or political affiliation, you must re-register to vote.\*\***

**Homeless Housing Success.** I hope that you read the recent Mercury News story: 'It works.' Groundbreaking data proves success of Santa Clara County homeless housing program. A recent study by UCSF concluded that Santa Clara County's innovative strategy to house chronically homeless residents is working.

The study looked at Project Welcome Home, which we launched in 2015 to help homeless individuals who are the most frequent users of the County's emergency services, mental health facilities and jails. The program provides individuals with subsidized housing paired with counseling, mental health, addiction and other services. The study found that 86% of participants stayed housed. This groundbreaking study provides definitive proof that permanent supportive housing is helping the county's most difficult cases. It also debunks the myth that chronically homeless people are beyond help.



**County Update**  
Mike Wasserman,  
County Supervisor

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Times **Community News**

# 17-year-old collaborates with fellow high schoolers to publish best-seller on Artificial Intelligence

*Professors endorse book including Dr. Bernard Widrow of Stanford University*

Together, with a team of nine other high schoolers, **Siddharth Sharma** (pictured, right), a rising senior at BASIS Independent Silicon Valley, wrote and published an affordable best-selling 280+ page book sold on Amazon.

The book is titled A Guide to Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and their Applications, and it provides a full break-down of AI, from basic math to the more advanced techniques.

During his AI research projects, Siddharth perceived a knowledge gap in the field: "It seems as though you would need a Masters or Ph.D. just to get started!" Siddharth came up with the idea for the book through his nonprofit organization: StartOnAI. The inspiration for StartOnAI was through a project that Siddharth did back in 8th grade. In 8th grade Siddharth built an application that used machine learning and AI to analyze whether a child has dyslexia.

Siddharth got the chance to speak about his project with Microsoft Research advisors and present it to the Amazon Web Services AI Team in Seattle. After seeing how AI could be applied to solve major problems in society, Siddharth established an Artificial



Intelligence club during his freshman year.

Year by year, Siddharth's AI club kept growing, and has now taught nearly 100 students over the course of three years.

From the very beginning, Siddharth made every slideshow, document, and video for the club, and by producing and teaching the content, he became more familiar with machine learning.

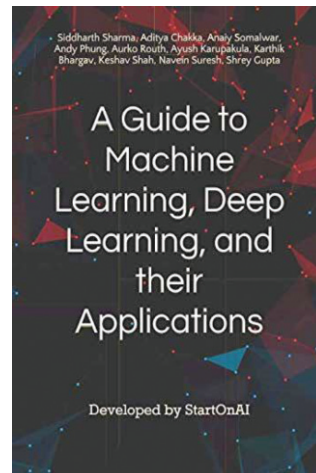
During his sophomore year of high school, Siddharth realized that students outside of his school do not have access to an AI curriculum, so he created his own nonprofit

organization - StartOnAI (startonai.com), to spread the mission of an AI education without barriers.

While several organizations provide coding education, none provide AI education. StartOnAI is the first nonprofit to accomplish this tall task while also working towards increasing diversity in the field. The nonprofit has been quite successful: it has 11 YouTube videos, 24 tutorials online, 5 workshops, and 25+ partners.

It is important to note that other books that cover Artificial Intelligence are typically expensive (\$30+) and are usually designed for students and experts who already have a degree or high background knowledge in the subject. Siddharth's book is only \$14.99 and does not require heavy math or computer science background to understand the content.

Siddharth plans to donate the proceeds of his book to Hope Services, the Bay Area nonprofit that inspired his first AI project. The book has been a best-seller during July and August and is endorsed by professors like Dr. Bernard Widrow of Stanford University. Here are more specific rankings



from July 2020:

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- #1 best new release in AI and semantics
- #24 in AI and Machine Learning BEST SELLERS
- #3 in New Releases for computer science
- #1 in AI and Machine Learning new releases
- #6 in Neural Networks BEST SELLERS
- #21 in AI and Semantics BEST SELLERS
- #58 in top computer sci-

ence best sellers in the world

While Siddharth came up with the idea and the initial draft, nine other high schoolers from across the United States played a major role in writing chapters and editing sections during the pandemic. The team members are: Aditya Chakka (NJ), Anaiy Somalwar (CA), Andy Phung (CA), Aurko Routh (TX), Ayush Karupakula (NJ), Karthik Bhargav (VA), Keshav Shah (TX), Navein Suresh (PA), and Shrey Gupta (VA).

*Editor's note: Here is a link to purchase A Guide to Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and their Applications: <https://amzn.to/3jJgw4D>*

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## Times Community News

### Report: 2020's Uninsured rates listed by city

With the national rate of people without health insurance on the rise in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2020's Uninsured Rates by City and State.

WalletHub compared the rates for 548 U.S. cities and the 50 states, in addition to a breakdown by age, race/ethnicity and income level. The following are some highlights:

**Uninsured Rates in San Jose (1=Lowest; 274=Avg.):**

- 111th – Overall Uninsured Rate (5.51%)
- 171st – Change in Uninsured Rate Between 2019 & 2010 (-9.12%)
- 113th – Children's Uninsured Rate (2.03%)
- 122nd – Adults' Uninsured Rate (6.55%)
- 103rd – Whites' Uninsured Rate (3.35%)
- 85th – Blacks' Uninsured Rate (5.79%)
- 100th – Hispanics' Uninsured Rate (10.19%)
- 140th – Lower-Income Households' Uninsured Rate (8.55%)
- 176th – Higher-Income Households' Uninsured Rate (3.44%)

San Jose ranks 111th overall and 7th

among large cities, and California has the 22nd lowest uninsured rate (7.70%) in the nation.

For the full report visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/uninsured-rates-by-city/25030>

### Drive Electric San José incentives available until Oct. 30

There is still time to take advantage of Drive Electric San José discounts to save up to \$3,000 when you buy or lease a new electric vehicle (EV).

Through October 31, 2020, five local dealerships – Capitol Chevy, Capitol Hyundai, Capitol Kia, Premier Nissan of San José, and Stevens Creek Kia – are offering exclusive discounts on seven select EV models. These discounts are stackable with available federal, state, and local EV rebates for up to \$13,000 in savings. Find your favorite eligible EV model and start contributing to cleaner air and reduced carbon emissions today.

Want to learn more about available rebates and incentives? Check out the Clean Energy website at: <https://sanjose-cleanenergy.org/ev> and attend a DriveForward EV Financial Assistance Workshop.

### TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

## Cryptocurrencies

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:

Google Trends show that the word ‘Cryptocurrency’ has been peaking in terms of search interest worldwide in the past few years. It is not surprising to see this trend, considering that one of the cryptocurrencies ‘Bitcoin’ has seen a tremendous rise of popularity and interest in the tech world.

So what is cryptocurrency exactly?

Cryptocurrencies are a form of digital currencies, with no physical form. They use cryptography to secure and verify transactions as well to control the creation of new units of a particular cryptocurrency. You would not want unlimited supplies of a particular cryptocurrency, as it can dilute the value of that currency! Unlike dollars or euros, cryptocurrency is not backed by the government or banks. There’s no central authority.

One of the problems with digital currency is double-spending. It is a fraudulent technique of spending the same amount twice. You cannot spend the same \$1 bill twice at two different vendors at the same time, similarly one should not be able to spend the same cryptocurrency twice in the same time frame. In the digital world, this problem is solved using Block chain - a public ledger of all the transactions that ever happened within the net-



work, available to everyone. So everyone in the network can see every account’s balance. Every transaction between buyer and seller is broadcasted in the network.

So what is the difference between cryptocurrency and “regular” money? It is the way the transactions between buyer and seller are logged in the database. At a bank, it’s a central figure who does the changing: the bank itself. With cryptocurrency, the entries are managed by a network of computers belonging to no one entity.

Thus, cryptocurrency manages to be decentralized, secure, and anonymous. Bitcoin, Litecoin, Ethereum and PPcoin are some of the examples of cryptocurrencies. While many people believe that cryptocurrencies are the hottest investment opportunity, they are also very high-risk investments. Their market value fluctuates like no other assets. While bitcoin is ruling the roost, there are over 1300+ cryptocurrencies that you can buy today!

#### 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.

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## Times Feature

# To be or knot to be

By Apoorva Panidapu  
Special to the Times

Hi everyone! As I mentioned in the last paper, this column is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too! This column will always be written to be fairly accessible (with a few advanced details), so you don't have to worry about not having background knowledge. Now, onto today's topic...knots! First, a disclaimer: the diagrams included are not mine, they are photos taken from the Internet.

## What are knots?

When you think of knots, you might think of your double-knotted shoelaces or your hopelessly tangled earbuds. I personally think of garlic knots. However, these sorts of knots are different from mathematical knots. What kind of snob wouldn't consider garlic knots valid knots? Well, the difference is that "knots" like shoelaces have loose ends, meaning we can always untie them. Nothing is locked in. For example, let's take your "knotted" shoelaces. It's two strings tied together in a way that we can technically take apart (though it may seem impossible) and untie and retie another way. For mathematical knots, the ends are joined together to create a continuous strand. Here's a picture of a mathematical knot:



Let's look at a more concrete example. Take a hair tie, or a stray rubber band lying around. In their untangled form, these are circles. It might surprise you that these are indeed considered knots! This is known as the unknot, or the trivial knot. Before we get into more complex knots, let's discuss the recent beginning of knot theory.

## Start of Knot Theory

Knots first became a subject of interest in the 1860s. At this time, scientists were trying to understand matter, and a man named William "Lord Kelvin" Thomson developed a theory claiming that atoms were made up of knots. He proposed that every element was a different kind of knot. While trying to sort this out, inevitable questions arose, like: What are knots? What sorts of properties do they have? What makes two knots the same? Let's try to answer some of these questions!

## What sorts of properties can knots have?

We'll think about knots in terms of simple knot diagrams. First, recall our nice simple knot from before: the unknot. Its diagram is pretty straightforward:



Let's talk about a related type of knot. Take a simple hair tie. Suppose you're fiddling with it because you're bored in your Zoom meeting, and you're just twisting and turning it and end up with a tough knot. Can you return it to its original circle form? Well, yes! It might take some effort, but if you can theoretically just undo each of your actions and return it to a circle. But while it's all tangled up, it may not appear to be the unknot — it's disguised! Knots that can deform through some set of moves into the

unknot are called culprit knots. (Yes, mathematicians do have a sense of humor!) Here is an example of a culprit knot:



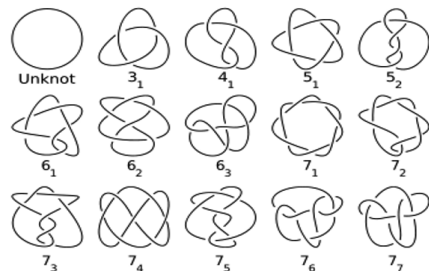
Now, let's take it up a (k)notch. The next standard knot is called the trefoil knot, and its knot notation is: 3<sub>1</sub>. What is this nonsense? Let's unpack it. First, here is a picture of the standard, simplest form of the trefoil knot:



Can you guess what the three stands for? Try to think about it from the perspective of a mathematician for a second, and see if you can find a nice reason... If you guessed that the 3 represents the number of intersections, or crossings, the knot has with itself, you would be right! Now, look carefully at the knot and guess what the 1 stands for... Okay sorry, that was a trick question. The subscripts are just an index to keep track of all the different knots that have the same number of

crossings. For the standard knot notation of a knot diagram: the number is something called the crossing number, which is the minimum possible number of crossings in the knot diagram (meaning there is no way to unknot it or deform it into something with fewer crossings), and the subscript is just a label counting how many we have of that type.

Here are the first several standard knots. In the diagram, 3<sub>1</sub> is our trefoil knot and 4<sub>1</sub> is known as the "figure 8" knot.



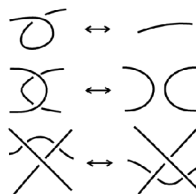
## What makes knots the same?

How can we be sure that some of these knots are not secretly the same? Maybe we just didn't untangle them the right way. Could these all be devious culprits? Well, we say that two knots are the same if one can be deformed into the other without letting it pass through itself. This process of deforming a knot without it passing through itself is called ambient isotopy. So, the next time someone calls you out for tangling and detangling your hair-tie (if that ever happens), tell them you're practicing ambient isotopy!

Okay, so now we know how to tell if knots are the same-- you just have to see if you can deform one into another. So do we just have to keep trying to untangle until we get lucky? Is there some sort of method? There is indeed!

## Reidemeister Moves

In the 1930s, Kurt Reidemeister proved that all deformations could be reduced to three moves: a twist (I), a poke (II), and a slide (III). This is a fantastic result because it means that we have a finite number of moves we can make, which really simplifies things. So, we can now say that two knots that are equivalent can be related by a sequence of these three moves. In other words, if you can transform a knot into another knot via these moves, they are equivalent (up to ambient isotopy).



This is an amazing tool to prove that two knots are the same. But, can we use it to show that two knots are different?

This is where something called invariants comes into play. Invariants are characteristics of knots that remain unchanged, and are unaffected by Reidemeister moves. We're not really going to get into them, because they can be pretty complex, but you're welcome to search them up!

## Where can I find mathematical knots?

Knots can actually be found in nature, structure in DNA, and in the sun's corona! People

are also considering using knots to make money more secure. When quantum computers are more prevalent, quantum money can be encoded with knots, and algorithms will check knots. Because of their complexity, this could be a pretty secure system.

And that's where we'll end it for today! Final question: can you knot? I don't know about you, but I can knot. Now I'm going to go eat some garlic knots. Until next time!

If you have any questions or comments, please email me at [apoorvapwrites@gmail.com](mailto:apoorvapwrites@gmail.com).

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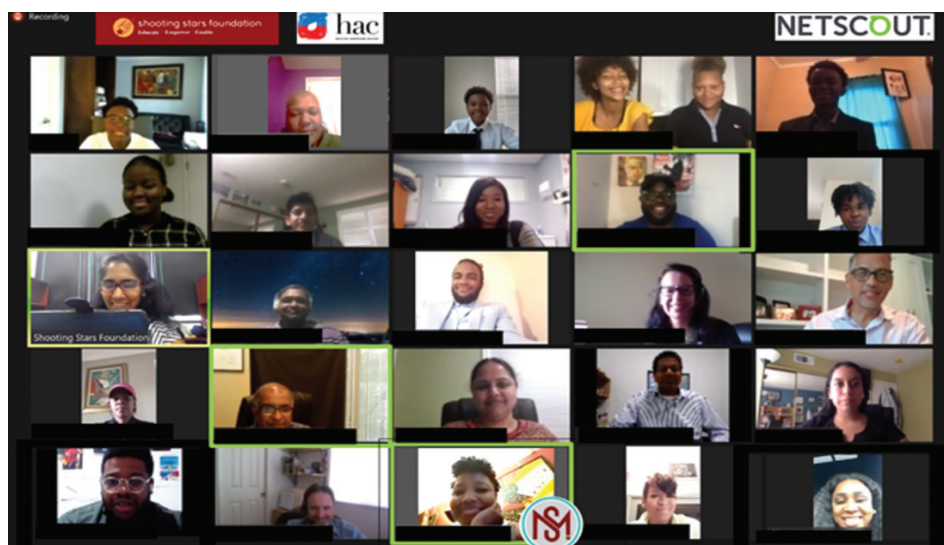


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## Times Feature



# Nebula Youth Camps extends entrepreneurial experience to Haitian American Youth from Silicon Valley to Brooklyn, NY

## A subsidiary of Shooting Stars Foundation

Young people are interested in starting their own businesses more than ever, especially minority youth, but they aren't getting the training and education that is necessary in order to prepare to become entrepreneurs, according to latest findings of the Gallup-HOPE Index Report.

Shooting Stars Foundation and its subsidiary Nebula Youth Camps attempt to bridge this gap with their innovative hands-on two week entrepreneurship camp. While Nebula Youth Camps have been running their Entrepreneurship, Incubator, Data Science camps, Hackathons for the past two years in about 10 US cities nationwide, the COVID situation forced them to take everything online. That led to new in-roads, with the Silicon Valley professionals teaching business to Brooklyn students from the Haitian American Caucus Global (<https://hacglobal.org/>).

SSF organized and managed a group of high school students from Brooklyn to learn the ins and outs of developing a business from professional mentors of a leading company, NETSCOUT, as part of their social justice initiative. NETSCOUT provided a \$10,000 grant to Shooting Stars along with an enthusiastic employee volunteer team to execute this program.

The "Inclusive Youth Entrepreneurship Camp" was recently held virtually, two hours a day from 6 - 8 p.m. EST for two weeks. In the beginning, although highly beneficial and desirable, this after-school program was a challenge for some of the wanna-be participants who had to work part-time in the evening. It was heart wrenching to hear their "WHYs" they wanted to do the camp. One student stated, "I am doing it only because my mom asked me to, she has suffered so much for us. Another student said, "I believe this will get us out of poverty and "I want to become a billionaire." Amongst other reasons and despite their personal challenges, the participating students delivered detailed Shark-Tank style of their start-ups on the final demo day.

### Professional Mentors (NETSCOUT):

Raj i Srinivasan (Senior manager of the

Business Systems) - taught ideation and ikigai concepts and felt warm about the experience. Rossitza Grozeva (Director of Product Marketing) - taught design level thinking and product features prioritization.

Michael Segal (AVP Strategic Marketing) - taught the skills to define the mission for their businesses, and to identify competitors and target market.

Jason Jacob (AVP of Global Services) taught Pitching and Presentation, and applauded the students' dedication on his Friday night session.

Throughout their course, the students also received mentoring support from fellow high schoolers Shama and Abhyuday, under supervision of Latha Narayanan, the CEO of Shooting Stars Foundation, who is also an AVP of IT Applications at NETSCOUT and Rakesh Kesavan (Principal Developer at Netscout).

The final session was the pitching day to the judges, as if they were potential investors,

NETSCOUT CEO, Anil Singhal, and VP Global Services Operations, Tracy Steele. Anil were excited by the start-up ideas that the students presented, considering that they only received their training in such a short period of time. Tracy motivated the students with his own story, a humble beginning. He also praised them for being able to make well-thought-out presentations which showcased their dedicated teamwork, considering that they each had challenging personal responsibilities.

In the end, Anil and Tracy decided to reward the teams with the same prizes because each of their projects had their own strengths and compelling stories, which were marketable and had potential success. Anil in fact extended his support to the students when they are ready to take their start-up ideas to the next level.

### Testimonials

Participant - "Thank you for the Finance, Marketing Brand, and Pitching ideas. I real-

ly enjoyed the classes and the teachers."

Participant - Jlynn (11th grade, Bronx, NY) "I already have a business in mind. This camp is good for me to expand my idea. I will definitely pursue my plan."

Participant - Treasure (12th grade, Brooklyn, NY) "I made new friends and got to learn in a team of other high school kids here."

Participant - Christin (12th grade, Brooklyn, NY) "I took off from work to watch my daughter's pitch. Thank you for affording these kids this opportunity. Hopefully they will have their own businesses in the future."

Parent - Kristal "Hopefully they will store the knowledge from these training and become entrepreneurs themselves."

Parent - Ketia "These kids need this kind of program. I hope it will have a great impact. I already see it in my son."

Parent - Christine "This is a very good opportunity for the minority community."

Champion - Nadia Aristide, Founder-CEO, Maroon Strategist "I am looking forward to other opportunities like this."

Liaison - Vanessa Adolphe, HAC-Global "This is a BIG BIG deal. You have the CEO of a huge company, NETSCOUT, to give you this kind of opportunity. Stick with the program and do the learning seriously."

Champion - Samuel M. Pierre, Co-founder and U.S. Country Director of the HAC-Global and Carl Schramm, President of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation stated: "For the United States to survive and continue its economic and political leadership in the world, we must see entrepreneurship as our central competitive advantage."

SSF is doing its part to create entrepreneurial skills in young underserved communities to keep our competitive advantage. SSF has developed outreach programs that will attempt to fill this gap.

SSF is looking to expand such activities coast to coast, thanks to the online and hands-on model it has developed successfully.

If your company is interested in partnering with Shooting Stars Foundation to improve diversity and inclusion and at the same time provide an exciting employee engagement and volunteering opportunity online, check out the programs at [www.nebulayouthcamps.org](http://www.nebulayouthcamps.org).

For more information, visit [www.shooting-stars-foundation.org](http://www.shooting-stars-foundation.org)

## 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 which hospitalizes over 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: 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).



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

Cortese, who served for more than 10 years on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and eight years on the San Jose City Council, said he will continue to work on pressing issues.

"Housing and homelessness, climate, justice reform, education...all of those things are ripe for action and will be major issues in the State Senate," Cortese said.

Regarding the state budget deficit, Ravel said the state needs to audit every agency and will have to negotiate with the federal government.

"Assuming the Biden administration is in office," Ravel said, "since I'm working on the transition team, I think I'll be able to talk with them about helping California."

Cortese spoke of his experience having to balance the budget during the recession while serving on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

"We had to negotiate with 24 collective bargaining units and get them to accept concession contracts," Cortese said. "The state's going to have to do the same thing."

**Priorities**

Ravel said her priorities focus on responding to economic and health impacts of COVID-19. She spoke of providing fair, accessible medical care, bringing businesses back and re-educating people for new jobs.

Cortese said his priority is balancing the state's budget while supporting faster COVID-19 testing and better protocols to allow businesses to continue to reopen. Cortese also said housing and homelessness are "huge priorities."

"We have a housing deficit," he said. "We're creating jobs at a 6 to 1 ratio over housing in the Bay Area and that can't continue."

**Prop 15 and 21**

Prop. 15 would require commercial and indus-

trial properties, except those zoned as agriculture, to be taxed based on their market value, rather than purchase price. Business owners with \$3 million or less in holdings would continue to be taxed based on their purchase price. A small business' personal property would be exempt from taxes, with \$500,000 in value for a non-small business' personal property. The ballot initiative is projected to generate between \$8 billion and \$12.5 billion per year, with 60% going to local governments and 40% to school districts and community colleges.

Ravel said although she doesn't support Prop. 15, more funding for schools is needed as well as changes to the "unfair" tax structure. She said the \$3 million threshold on small businesses would have a negative impact due to triple net leases.

Cortese said he supports Prop. 15 as large commercial properties have had a tax loophole. He said school districts are struggling under revenue limits and some real estate properties haven't been reassessed in decades.

Neither candidate supports Prop. 21, which would allow local government to enact rent control on housing first occupied more than 15 years ago, with an exception for landlords who own no more than two homes.

"We need to be careful about placing restrictions on rents that are so severe," Cortese said. "They undermine the legislation that's already in place and force developers to leave the area. We need housing...and affordable housing badly."

Ravel said rent control will make housing costs rise and adversely affect affordable housing.

"What we have to do is...start building more truly affordable housing so everybody can live here; the teachers, the firefighters, everybody," Ravel said.

**Public Health**

Both candidates favor more oversight of Santa Clara County Public Health.

"Some of the health decisions...have unequal

health consequences," Ravel said. "They have failed during COVID to provide what is necessary."

Cortese said because of the pandemic, the County Board of Supervisors made a Declaration of Emergency to qualify for millions of dollars in state and federal emergency funds, which bestowed "tremendous power" on public health officials.

"What I would support is legislation that says that either the public health official or the county's board of supervisors could hold that vested authority in emergencies," Cortese said

**Police reform**

Cortese said all 58 counties in California should adopt Santa Clara County's "8 Can't Wait" police reforms to have uniformity at the state level.

Ravel said there needs to be transparency of police officers' files, especially of those who have committed crimes, so agencies don't hire

people "who have done things that are inappropriate for police officers." She said the state legislature has this responsibility as it oversees policing standards, hiring and issues regarding independent reviews and DAs imposing punishments.

Both candidates asked for voters' support. "You've vetted me," Cortese said. "You've allowed me to lead on the same issues we're addressing here today. I want to ask all of you to trust me with your vote...sending me to the State Senate."

Ravel said she was endorsed by President Obama and Councilmember Johnny Khamis.

"I'm running," Ravel said, "because I really care about this place."

Editor's Note: To learn more in depth information about each candidate go to their websites: [www.ravelforca.com](http://www.ravelforca.com) and or [www.dav-eortese.com](http://www.dav-eortese.com)

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Times Feature



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

Press day: October 28, 2020  
Deadline: October 25, 2020

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

**Almaden Times**



A look at San Jose's dispatchers at work.

## Night Out

*Continued from page 1*

neighborhood spirit of San Jose. The SJPD took the annual event online via Facebook live and asked San Jose residents to tune in on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm. The National Night Out presentation was extremely well organized, upbeat, and included virtual festivities as well as a photo contest. The contest asked residents to send in their photos of prior neighborhood watch gatherings and share what Neighborhood Watch means to you.

The event also included a variety of speakers including city management, police personnel and community members who shared important information and friendly reminders about how to keep you, your home and neighborhood safe. Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese shared, "Promoting community involvement is a precursor to help in keeping our neighborhoods safe." Assistant City Manager, Jennifer Maguire shared, "I am passionate about community service and honored to serve as your Assistant City Manager," and encouraged all residents to light up their street by turning on outside lights.

The SJPD spoke to their newest campaign called "Remove It or Lose It" which was created to help educate the public to remove ALL belongings in their car. SJPD Captain's Paul Joseph, Elle Washburn and Michael Kihm stressed the importance of removing your garage door opener, and other items within your car

including your trunk and glove compartment. They said just because an item cannot be seen through a window does not mean that a burglar won't knock out a window and check for themselves. They also stressed to not leave any item with your personal information on it – like a work badge, garage pass, etc. as a burglar could access your personal information and monetary accounts.

For more information regarding the "Remove It or Lose It" program, visit [http://www.sjpd.org/bfo/community/crimeprev/preventiontips/prevent\\_auto\\_burglary.html](http://www.sjpd.org/bfo/community/crimeprev/preventiontips/prevent_auto_burglary.html)

In closing, the SJPD shared a heartfelt message titled, "We Got You, San Jose." This public service announcement by the SJPD recognizes the many people that make up the department – including the dispatchers, record keepers, private investigators, and others. To view the message, visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DCTsYhAOuQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DCTsYhAOuQ)

To watch National Night Out use this link: <https://www.facebook.com/San-JosePD/videos/685520888728019>

### Important Phone Numbers Below

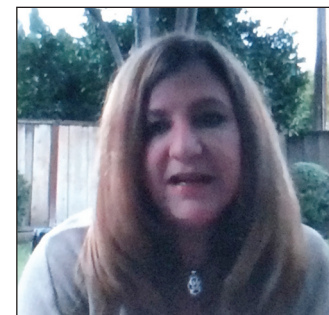
\*Dialing 9-1-1 for Emergency Services from your cell phone will not work.

Use 1-408-277-8911 to access Emergency Services from your cell phone.

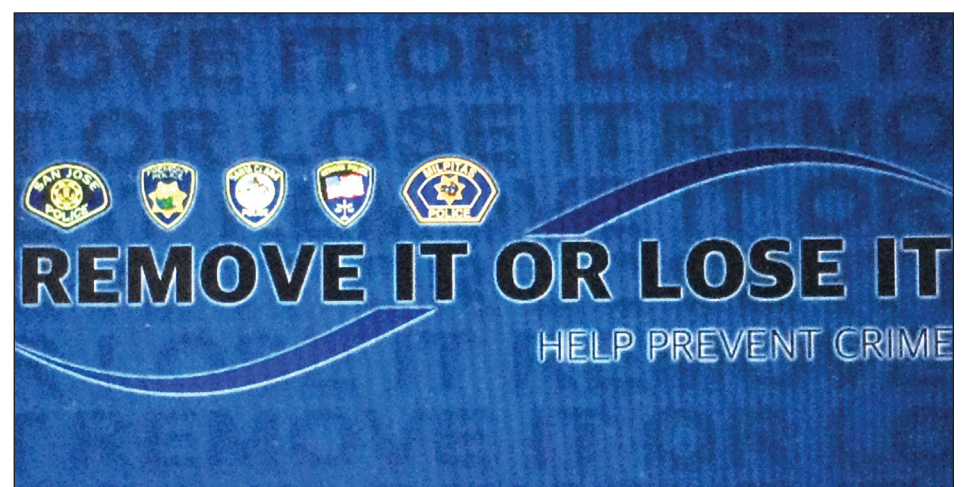
\*Dialing 3-1-1 for Non-Emergency Services from your cell phone will not work.

Use 1-408-277-8900 to access Non-Emergency Services from your cell phone.

\*Crime Prevention Unit  
1-408-277-4133



Assistant City Manager  
Jennifer Maguire





Times **Community News**

## Inclusionary Housing Zoning Ordinance Amendment adopted by County of Santa Clara

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors took action to require the construction of affordable housing throughout all unincorporated areas at its Oct. 6 board meeting.

The Board's action is part of its multi-year effort to address the County's housing supply and affordability crisis and follows its September 2018 adoption of an Inclusionary Housing Ordinance applicable to the Stanford University.

"California has a housing supply and affordability crisis of historic proportions," said Cindy Chavez, president of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. "We must serve our vulnerable residents and tackle the housing crisis in every corner of Santa Clara County including the unincorporated areas."

The amendment is part of a larger project to establish inclusionary housing requirements and affordable housing impact fees in the unincorporated areas, based on a region-wide housing study.

Phase I of this project was completed when the Board adopted inclusionary housing requirements and an impact fee for development within the Stanford area in 2018. The amendments passed today mark Phase II of the County's effort to establish countywide inclusionary housing requirements for residential development. This will be followed by Phase III, which will consider the establishment of an affordable housing impact fee for non-residential development in all unincorporated areas.

"A strong inclusionary housing ordinance is one effective tool the Board has at its disposal to address our County's mounting housing crisis," said Santa Clara County Counsel James R. Williams. "Today marks another important step forward taken by the Board to alleviate the housing burden and ensure housing solutions that benefit the entire community."

The new amendment includes the following key provisions:

- Establishes a 16 percent inclusionary housing requirement for development resulting in three or more residential units (qualifying residential developments may include single-family, two-family or multi-family homes).
- Exempts accessory dwelling units (ADUs), residential care facilities and residential remodel projects from inclusionary housing requirements.
- Sets income level requirements for the inclusionary affordable units at the moderate level for for-sale units, and at low-income levels for rental units for a minimum of 55 years.
- Provides compliance options as an alternative to on-site inclusionary unit construction including:

□ Outside of the SCPA, an in-lieu fee option for fractional affordable unit obligations (example: a 10-unit project would have an obligation of 1.6 inclusionary dwelling units; a developer could pay an in-lieu fee for any decimal fraction above

a whole number of inclusionary dwelling units required [0.6] or could satisfy this obligation by rounding the fraction up and providing an additional inclusionary unit on site.).

□ Within the SCPA, maintains the existing option to bank fractional unit obligations for later construction.

□ Within both areas, provides an option to construct affordable units off-site.

□ Within both areas, allows rehabilitation of off-site units at a ratio of 2:1.

## 18th Annual Breath of Life Walk: 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.

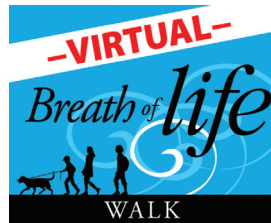
The event is a chance for local community members to get together, while socially distanced, to show their support for the agency's lung disease, tobacco control, and environmental stewardship programs. Each year, the walk attracts people directly affected by lung disease as well as family, friends and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

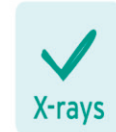


# Dental Insurance

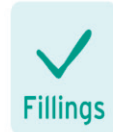
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Campbell, CA 95008  
(408) 378-4418  
Pastor: Rev. Naomi Schulz

No Matter Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here! We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, and celebrate members of the LGBTQ+ Community. Joy-filled worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM, with communion open to all. Join Pastor Naomi for tea/coffee at Orchard Valley cafe in Campbell during community drop-in office hours from 11 AM to 1 PM on most Tuesdays.

Our ministries/activities include:

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

- Extravagant Joy
- Passionate Faith
- 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.

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC

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

Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.

Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion

2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.

Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM.

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118  
408.265.5837

[www.bibleroad.org](http://www.bibleroad.org)

We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament. Bible class at 9:30 AM Worship at 10:30 AM Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243

Web: [www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org)

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.



### EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)

<http://www.eicsanjosel.org>  
2486 Ruby Ave,  
San Jose CA 95148.

(408) 239-6668

"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".

Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?

A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilatakh" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

### FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com

Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!



### GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN

[www.GraceChurchSJ.net](http://www.GraceChurchSJ.net)  
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2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor  
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### thepoint.church

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3695 Rose Terrasse Cir  
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(408) 270-7646

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Spanish Service:

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Cambodian Service:

11:00 AM

Cantonese Service:

11:00 AM

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11:00AM

Youth Extreme Point

(7th-12th grade):

Every Saturday at 6:30

PM - 8:30 PM

### SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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nity, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and wherever you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at [www.churchstanthony.com](http://www.churchstanthony.com). Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



God is One  
ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ  
Rab Ik Hai

### SAN JOSE GURDWARA

3636 Gurdwara Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95148  
The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk

the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd.,  
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[www.stfrancisofassisi.com](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.com)

or [www.stfranciscatholic.org](http://www.stfranciscatholic.org)

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(Mass in Vietnamese),

6:00 PM Youth Mass

St. Francis of Assisi Gath-

ering Hall

Sunday 9:00 AM, Sun-

day 11:00AM, Igbo Mass -

Second Sunday of the

month 12:30 PM

Mt. Hamilton Grange -

2840 Aborn Road

Sunday 9:30 AM

The Villages Gated Com-

munity (Cribari Auditori-

um) Sunday 8:15 AM

For more information,

please call or visit us at

the Parish Mission Center

open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00

PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Come join us and share

your presence with us so

that together we may grow

and share our gifts to help

build God's Kingdom!

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ads, call  
408.483-5458**

*The Almaden Senior Association members are a diverse group of enthusiastic, active, 50+ adults who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures.*

**Membership in the Almaden Senior Association offers discounts and opportunities to enjoy . . .**

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs

organized and run by members of the Association;

- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

### Connected

We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

**For more information, go to [www.almadenseniors.org](http://www.almadenseniors.org)**

**Contact via email: [alamadenseniors1@gmail.com](mailto:alamadenseniors1@gmail.com)**





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# TimesClassifieds

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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](mailto:info@advantagedriversed.com) | Website: [advantagedriversed.com](http://advantagedriversed.com)

## Storage

## Summer Specials!

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5x7.5:	\$68
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7.5x10:	\$124
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\$2,350,000 | 5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3126 Sq Ft | 14,732 Sq Ft Lot



**Therese Swan**

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*The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 11 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2019 was no exception.*

*She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.*

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



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