

Balance of power on San Jose council hinges on November election  
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**Election 2020**  
Ann Ravel & Dave Cortese make their cases for State Senate race  
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San Jose Dance Theatre launches digital platform in response to COVID  
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OCT. 30 – NOV. 12, 2020 ■ VOL. 33, NO. 22

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# Almaden Times

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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 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  
*See FLU SHOTS, page 5*

## State Ballot Measures and Proposition debated

By Lorraine Gabbert  
*Senior Staff Writer*

State Ballot Measures, including adding a sales tax for Caltrain, to propositions allowing felons to vote were hotly contested at a recent forum hosted by the Almaden Valley Community Association.

### Ballot Measure S: Santa Clara Valley Water District parcel tax

If passed, Measure S, which was approved by voters in 2012 and scheduled to expire in 2028, would make the renewable \$67.67 parcel tax benefitting Santa Clara Valley Water District on-going, unless reversed by voters. The tax will annually raise about \$50 million and increase annually by at least 2%.

Although the measure would fund the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection program, complaints have been made about the lack of progress the water district has made with improvement projects at Almaden Lake Park, Coyote Creek Flood Protection and Anderson Dam.

Rick Callendar, CEO of Santa Clara Valley Water District, spoke in favor of Measure S. Rachel Gibson, director of government affairs for Santa Clara Valley Water District, also supported Measure S.

Callendar said the time is now to address issues such as the homeless and drought as they are growing problems. He said when polled, the top three community concerns were retrofitting



Rick Callendar and Rachel Gibson supported Measure S for providing clean, safe water and improvement projects. Dave Warner spoke against it saying existing water district improvement projects haven't happened.

Anderson Dam, having clean, safe water and the homeless.

Callendar said Measure S would provide needed funding to help Santa Clara Valley Water District reduce contaminants in the area's waterways, ensure the reliability of the water supply and upgrade pipes and dams. He also said it would help protect residents against natural disasters like drought and fires.

"This is about our future," Callendar said.

Resident Dave Warner, a financial manager, spoke against Measure S. Warner is an advocate for sustainable water supplies.

Warner said the water district's performance with the existing parcel tax funding has been poor regarding flood protection and environmental stewardship as Almaden Lake Park has a four-year delay for construction, upper Guadalupe flood protection is six months late  
*See BALLOT, page 18*

### OP ED

## Halloween isn't a Christian tradition any longer

By John Goldstein  
*Pastor, Grace Church of Evergreen*

It has been many centuries since Halloween was a Christian celebration.

It's been so long that some Christians call it a satanic event. It is what you determine it to be. Today, it is a quintessential American tradition that has gone in many directions; some quite discouraging.

Halloween was once one of my favorite American traditions. I

enjoyed spending time with my children and grandchildren. They are in costume, filled with anticipation and story, imaginations running wild with excitement.

I got to walk the streets with the children and visit neighbors whom I rarely see except on the way to work or some weekend chat. We actually talk, share stories and do so without any pretense or agenda! 'Hey!' 'You live down the street!' 'I didn't know that.' 'And these are your kids?' 'Wow! They are growing up so



quickly!'

It is also a time to reconnect with children of all ages and to be reminded that they, like myself are filled with excitement about life and its surprises. 'Trick or treat' the littlest ones try to say. They

are amazed that the words magically trigger smiles, laughter, and best of all candy treats!

Little kids can barely 'trick or treat' now. They are confronted by too many horror filled costumes  
*See HALLOWEEN, page 5*

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## Cortese's proposal to review Title IX regarding sexual assaults and harassment wins unanimous approval

A review of how the County's K-12 schools and colleges are complying with Title IX policies and procedures in responding to complaints of sexual assaults and harassment is moving forward after a unanimous vote by the Board of Supervisors, making Santa Clara County the first in the nation to conduct such a review.

The vote in favor of Supervisor Dave Cortese's proposal came after testimony from dozens of sexual assault survivors and their advocates who urged the Board to approve the review prompted by changes in the Title IX that survivors believe weaken survivors' protections and discourage them from filing complaints.

The administration will review public information with a follow-up request of schools and post-secondary institutions for any missing information. After a thorough review of campus websites where this information must be posted, a survey request would be sent to the school district, college, or university for which additional information is needed.

# Valley Currents

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

## Balance of power on San Jose council hinges on November election

By Carly Wipf

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

San Jose voters face a critical decision this election: vote in the new progressive candidates promising to shake the status quo on the City Council, or maintain the current leadership which has faced a number of split votes between business versus labor interests.

Over the past four years, the council has voted 6-5 on many key issues, where Mayor Sam Liccardo and his more conservative, business-friendly allies — Pam Foley, Dev Davis, Lan Diep and Johnny Khamis — comprised the majority.

But Davis and Diep could be unseated Nov. 3. Khamis, who termed out this year, will be replaced by tech entrepreneur Matt Mahan who won the March primary and will likely align with the mayor's majority.

Davis won against her Green Party competitor, Jake Tonkel, in the March primary by more than 5,000 votes, while Diep lost by a smaller margin of three percentage points to Democrat David Cohen.

The council's labor-oriented faction includes councilmembers Raul Peralez, Sergio Jimenez, Sylvia Arenas, Maya Esparza and Magdalena Carrasco. The group has banded together to oppose a number of issues, more recently the "strong mayor" initiative that divided the council 6-5 in July.

Liccardo ultimately dropped his push for the measure, which would have increased mayoral powers and extended his term by two years — a move celebrated by the so-called Latino Caucus.

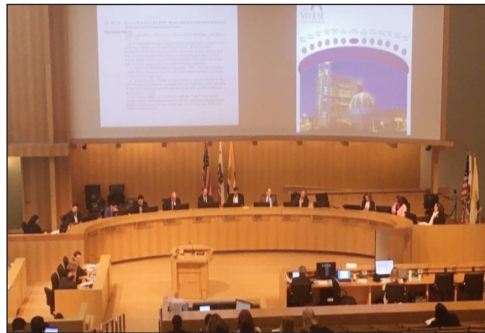
Another contentious issue last year was the city's decision to amend the Ellis Act, reducing the number of units developers would have to put back under rent control. Once again, Liccardo and his allies were the overriding force in the 6-5 split.

Cohen, Mahan and Tonkel — two Democrats and a Green Party candidate, respectively — could change this pattern by creating a like-minded majority with Jimenez, Esparza, Arenas, Carrasco and Peralez, who will remain on the council for another term.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis feared a shift in the council majority could lead to "group think" that will remove crucial dialogue from complex discussions.

"Nobody will be brave enough to ask tough questions," Khamis said. "I already feel that we're overly taxed and overly regulated as it is, and I think that a power shift could move us in a way that increases regulations and taxation in the city, and drives more hardworking small and medium-sized businesses out of the area."

Councilmember Sergio Jimenez said if power does shift in favor of a more progressive council, he'd be pleased. But he doesn't think governing with a like-minded majority is going to be any easier. "I'm not interested in being part of a group



The San Jose City Council is pictured in this file photo.

that gains power for the sake of power," Jimenez said. The presence of a more progressive majority, he said, would obligate the council to take extra care in ensuring decisions are thoughtful and inclusive. "I don't think that's necessarily happened under the status quo," he said. A more progressive council is essential for helping San Jose better tackle issues surrounding race and equity, according to Jimenez.

However, according to Terry Christensen, professor of political science at San Jose State University, a power shift wouldn't be that simple. "If one wins, that flips the balance 6-5 for the pro-

***"It's unfortunate that the City Council has gotten into this divided-camps situation where people have felt like they have to be in one camp or another," Cohen said.***

gressive — if both of them win, seven," Christensen said. "That would be a much stronger majority and we don't know that Tonkel and Cohen would align totally with the progressive Latinos on the council. So they could actually be a swing vote between the factions."

### Casting their (hypothetical) vote

Cohen, a self-proclaimed "ally of labor," told San José Spotlight his views align more with the voting habits of the Latino Caucus. For example, Cohen said he would have likely sided with the five councilmembers who vote against commercial linkage fees, citing a need for higher fee structures for developers.

On the other hand, he said he isn't opposed to a strong mayor system, putting him in agreement with the mayor and his allies. But Cohen said he wouldn't have voted for it due to the way it was proposed to the council. Cohen said he isn't look-

ing to be a swing vote for a 6-5 scenario and would rather create unity on both sides. "The better outcome, maybe in some of these cases, is to build a policy that can be voted on by more than just six, by finding compromise so that you can get seven or eight votes on these issues, rather than having to have a 6-to-5 vote on them," Cohen said.

Tonkel said his views would most likely mesh with those of the labor-aligned faction and he would have voted against the strong mayor initiative. He is also a rent control advocate and wrote an opinion piece for this publication last year about preserving the integrity of the Ellis Act.

Mahan didn't want to speculate on how he would have voted but said, in general, he is "very focused on upward mobility and maintaining a strong middle class in San Jose and making it accessible to everyone."

There's always the possibility that one or all of the candidates would side with the mayor's business-friendly faction, but all made it clear they want to move past the division.

"It's unfortunate that the City Council has gotten into this divided-camps situation where people have felt like they have to be in one camp or another," Cohen said.

### How did we get here?

The emergence of a business-versus-labor split on the council can be traced back to the 1970s, Christensen said, as unions began to get more progressive and push not only for better wages, but for the general interests of working families.

Meanwhile, he said, the city's Chamber of Commerce, now called the Silicon Valley Organization, grew more conservative once it hired Republican Pat Dando, former vice mayor under Ron Gonzales. Christensen said the chamber and labor groups started "fighting it out" in campaigns for both mayor and council.

"While Gonzales was mayor, this evolves," Christensen said, adding that many of the votes from this period were split 8-3 in favor of progressive interests. "Then comes Chuck Reed, the most conservative mayor we've had probably in half a century."

Reed was a Democrat but Christensen said the former mayor's concerns surrounding budget deficits and increasing pension costs caused him to vote more conservatively and go up against unions on pension reform, paving the way for the business-friendly majority that faces a potential runoff in this election.

"I am excited for us to be past the election cycle," Tonkel said. "We might as well come to common ground and realize that no one is out to get each other. I hope we can make a lot of good happen. We're trying to design a community that works for everybody."

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**Almaden Times**

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Times **Community News**

## Halloween

*Continued from page 1*

and displays that generate fear and anger. Some of the displays focus on perverse cruelty and shock. One year I dressed myself in a sesame street costume and discovered that children gathered around me for protection of a fun clean, friendly character in contrast with the costumery of violent characters from war trilogies, destructive evil characters and unsettling faces and designs.

Most of this is unsettling to an adult too. I can't imagine how the children remember it. Shutting down 'trick or treating' due to the pandemic may provide a breather space for people to rethink the purpose of costumery and displays. Halloween in its roots was not designed for a ghoulish 'shock' factor.

Halloween may be an American celebration; but it draws from the supermarket of world celebrations to create a fun evening of costumery, celebration and reminder that life is filled with all kinds of mysterious and unanticipated aspects that have no power over us.

Halloween has its roots in ancient beliefs and practices. It is most easily traced back to pre-Christian England and Ireland and celebrations to remind the living of their link with their deceased ancestors. The ancient celebrations were 'Christianized' by the Christian conquerors as they contained elements of essential truths about life. The elemental truths are found in most cultures and religions throughout the world.

Religion is not shy to consider the profound issues of life and death, meaningful existence, relationship with our ancestors and our descendants, life values and purpose. Religion discusses them using such terms as 'reincarnation', 'incarnation', 'resurrection', 'eternal' even 'caste' or 'social place'.

Interest in 'ancestors' and the 'forces that give way to life' also gives rise to questions about the existence of spirits and other kinds

of ethereal beings that work for good or evil. The Christian view is that evil does not exist as a god force. Evil is overcome by turning on the light of truth in the midst of darkness. Darkness disappears in the light. Costuming is one ancient method to show that feared entities have no power (and in most cases) no existence beyond the imagination. Dress up as the 'evil one' and see that you can play the part as well as anyone! Because it is a part that can be dissipated and eliminated by good and kind and righteous people!

Be 'Spiderman', 'Superman' and discover in your imagination that you are as powerful as the creature that you portend to be! It is a simple method to allay fears of creatures that do not exist and even if they did, they have no power or control over you – only the power and control you give to them. Turn on the 'light' in the midst of the darkness so the Christian would say!

Okay. This doesn't sound like Halloween anymore! But the roots of the Halloween celebration head in a direction that we all long for. We all need a path to confidence and courage when we are confronted by life situations and experiences that make us fearful and afraid. There is no need to cower in fear at the forces we don't understand. Indeed. We should be mindful of our predecessor generations that survived to give us life and a life story to tell. But they don't have power over us.

Halloween would be better if we could discover and rediscover how fun, light hearted events can help make life safe, secure, anchored in the inheritance from previous generations; fun for self and the people that surround us.

I'll probably take a breather this year; but I do love seeing the children in costume. Maybe we will all rediscover the power of children asking, receiving, laughing, having fun dressed up as someone that they respect or admire. We were children once. Remember a costume only has the power you give to it.

Have a fun Halloween; if that's possible!

## Flu shots

*Continued from page 1*

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).

## DAVE CORTESE: Leadership in a time of crisis



Hard-hit Santa Clara County prepares to manage more COVID-19 patients, **leaders detail response**

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# HALLOWEEN



## Country Inn Cafe

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LOS GATOS

No trick or treatin' this year due to the Covid environment?? We have a creative solution! Kids can still have fun by dressing up in their favorite Halloween costumes outdoors at Country Inn Cafe. We are super excited to partner with Country Inn Cafe and provide a fun Halloween Afternoon for kids & parents. Country Inn will provide kid's meals and then get your scare on with Snapology's Monster Mania! Use LEGO® bricks to create your own monster fighter, build a haunted town, ghost, pumpkin and have a scary good time during this fun program. Come and join us, if you dare! Each kid will receive individual sanitized kits. No sharing. We will be taking all the COVID Precautions like Temperature check, sanitizing hands before and after, wearing masks, maintaining social distancing. Lunch: 1:30PM - 2PM Activity: 2PM - 3PM Price: \$25 (Includes Kid's meals and activity material)

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Times **Community News**

## Clean water grants totaling \$900,000 now available

*Made possible by the Safe, Clean Water, and Natural Flood Protection Program*

Valley Water will be awarding more than \$900,000 in funds for selected projects and accepting applications from now until Dec. 1, 2020, for the 2021 grant cycle.

Valley Water grants are designed to help institutions, public agencies, and non-profits advance environmental projects under the Safe, Clean Water, and Natural Flood Protection Program.

Valley Water grants support Santa Clara County projects that help clean up our waterways, educate the community about the importance of protecting our creeks, provide access to trails and open space, restore wildlife habitats or promote water conservation.

The Safe, Clean Water program is a 15-year strategy that allows Valley Water to address

five community priorities. It is funded through a 2012 ballot measure approved by the voters of Santa Clara County.

During the fiscal year 2021 grant cycle, we will be awarding funds for selected qualifying projects in the following categories:

- **Support Volunteer Cleanup Efforts and Education Grants** – A total of \$200,000 is available for projects focused on cleanup, education, outreach, or watershed stewardship activities. There is a limit of \$50,000 for each project.

- **Access to Trails & Open Space Grants** – A total of \$571,000 is available for projects that provide access to open space and trails. There is a minimum grant amount of \$25,000 for each project.

- **Mini-Grants** – A total of \$300,000 in mini-grants for small-scale projects or help kick start larger scale projects that encourage community engagement in wildlife habitat restoration, watershed stewardship, or water conservation activities in Santa Clara County. Up to \$5,000 is available per project. Mini-grant applications are accepted until all funding is awarded.

Organizations that demonstrate financial stability, a commitment to environmental justice and first-time applicants will receive extra consideration for the grants. The grant program is funded by the voter approved Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program.

For more information, including eligibility and criteria, visit: [valleywater.org/grants](http://valleywater.org/grants)

## TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

# Dark Data

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:

### Dark Data

Have you been tired answering dozens of questions in the form of surveys, product feedbacks, website visits? Do you wonder what companies do with so much data, and whether all the data you give is helpful or not!

Companies today gather huge volumes of data which they believe can help their product and services. However, a large portion of the collected data is never even analyzed. This data is known as Dark data. Examples of dark data in companies include customer information, log files, raw survey data, old versions of relevant documents, etc.

So why is data held by companies not analyzed or mined? While collecting data, com-

panies always assume that the data is going to provide some value. They may even invest a lot on data collection by buying from other sources; however sometimes this data is left unanalyzed for practical reasons. The data may be dirty and by the time it can be scrubbed, the information may be too old to be useful. Sometimes records may contain incomplete or outdated data, which if parsed may not give correct information. Also, the time and money investment in mining the dark data may outweigh the advantages of

getting information from them, which is why companies would dump the data in some storage. It is unlikely that all of the dark data will be valuable. Hence, one never knows whether to toss out all the dark data or consider it as a goldmine.

Dark data certainly represents unused opportunities that many companies are letting go of because of process, investment and technology constraints. In a sense, this failure to use dark data also makes big data collection, which is a big exercise, a partial failure.

### 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.

**"Examples of dark data in companies include customer information, log files, raw survey data, old versions of relevant documents, etc."**



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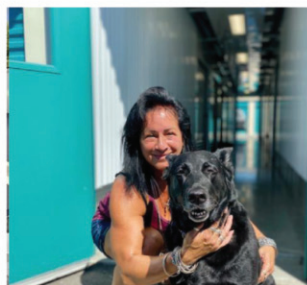
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## Economists cautiously optimistic about recovery while Santa Clara County employment improves

By Rex Crum

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

As the Bay Area takes more steps to reopen amid the pandemic, a new report is taking a cautiously optimistic approach to the ability of the region's economy to recover from its biggest shock since the Great Recession more than a decade ago.

But, according to officials with the Bay Area Council (BAC), a possible new surge in COVID-19 cases in the fall and winter remains a psychological barrier that may impede the ability of the economy to turnaround for months to come.

The Bay Area Council, an influential business advocacy group, gave its assessment of the local economic situation and outlook Oct. 22 as part of its biennial economic profile.

Speaking on a Zoom webinar to discuss the report, Patrick Kellerman, research director of the BAC's Economic Institute, said the economy around the area remains subject to a tradeoff between the necessities of getting people back to work and ensuring as much as possible the health of the public.

"Around here we have taken a more cautious approach," Kellerman said. "We're still being pretty cautious, and the result is we remain pretty far away from a full recovery."

Kellerman said evidence of that can be

found in figures such as the unemployment numbers for the nine Bay Area counties, which have lost a combined 366,900 jobs since January, and now have an unemployment rate of 8.1%.

However, the employment situation is showing some signs of improvement. At the end of September, Bay Area counties reported having slightly more than 3.7 million people employed, up from 3.68 million at the end of August.

"I'm structurally optimistic (about the Bay Area's economy)," Kellerman said. "I do think that for our future as an innovative region, a little more breathing room is needed."

In Santa Clara County, the unemployment rate of 7% remains one of the lowest in the Bay Area, and is only bettered by the 6.5% rate of Marin County. Solano County's unemployment rate of 9.7% is the highest among Bay Area counties, according to the BAC.

On the national level, California's unemployment rate of 11% has the state trailing only Nevada, and its 12.6% unemployment



In Santa Clara County, the unemployment rate of 7% remains one of the lowest in the Bay Area. File photo.

rate and Hawaii's 15% unemployment rate, according to the latest figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Despite the encouraging employment data, local business leaders say a recovery has a long way to go in the South Bay. The San Jose Downtown Association, in a report earlier

this month, painted a bleak economic picture, noting half of the storefront businesses in downtown are shuttered.

Sarah Bohn, senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, said it's no secret the hardest hit job sectors remain those in the leisure, hospitality and services industries. Construction, manufacturing, health care and some areas of retail haven't been bruised as much, and providers of professional services, such as lawyers and accountants, have suffered

the least job losses during the pandemic.

"The shock in California has hit some workers more than others," Bohn said. "(It) reflects the persistent differences in economic work and opportunities."

Jeff Korzenik, chief investment officer at Fifth Third Bank, which sponsored the BAC report, said it's important to keep in mind how markets work, and the typical steps that occur that lead to economic recovery.

"In theory, we should be able to turn the economy around more quickly," Korzenik said. "Markets are forward looking, and reflect what we will see going forward. Stock prices recover before earnings, earnings recover before GDP (gross domestic product), and GDP recovers before employment."

However, Korzenik said that even if the economy improves, it will probably take the release of a coronavirus vaccine to return a sense of normalcy to the employment situation.

"Ultimately, we're still held hostage to medical information," Korzenik said.

**"I'm structurally optimistic (about the Bay Area's economy)," Kellerman said. "I do think that for our future as an innovative region, a little more breathing room is needed."**



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## Steinway Society launches Fall Home Concert Hall Series

*Innovative series brings outstanding artists to classical music lovers*

Four outstanding international classical piano artists will be performing for Steinway Society – The Bay Area this Fall through an innovative Home Concert Hall virtual series.

Steinway Society's 26th season launches in October with Italian pianist Federico Colli, followed by Russian performers Zlata Chochieva in November and Vyacheslav Gryaznov in December, as well as American pianist Andrew Li in January 2021.

"We were so disappointed to have to cancel concerts this spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Kathy Yu Wilson, Steinway Society president. "When we realized we would still not be able to host live performances in the Fall, we decided if we couldn't bring patrons to a concert hall, we'd bring the concert hall to them instead."

### Unique Video Performances Watched at Your Leisure

The series will consist of recordings produced specifically for Steinway Society – The Bay Area that will not be available elsewhere on the Internet.

Each month's concert will be released at a given date and subscribers will be able to view the recording as many times as they would like during the four-day performance window. Each artist has been invited to give a short talk before the performance about their choice of pieces, their musical lives, and how the pandemic has impacted them. A recorded pre-concert lecture by Bay Area classical music expert Dr. Gary Lemco will be available for download as well.

### Prices Set Low to Allow Greater Participation

While tickets to in-person concerts of Steinway Society artists typically cost between \$40 to \$60. Home Concert Hall virtual tickets are priced at \$20 per household per concert. Or, the entire four-concert series is available at the special promotional price of \$60.

"With our virtual Home Concert Hall series, every seat is a front-row seat, and there's only one charge per household," said Kathy Yu Wilson. "We hope this will encourage classical music lovers in the Bay Area and around the world to join us for these exceptional performances, while we provide much needed support to outstanding artists whose livelihoods have been severely impacted by the pandemic."

#### Artists:

- Federico Colli - October 30-November 2
- Zlata Chochieva - November 13-16
- Vyacheslav Gryaznov - December 18-21
- Andrew Li - January 22-25, 2021

Federico Colli, whose concerts have been broadcast live throughout Europe, was scheduled to make his West Coast Debut as the featured artist in the final concert of Steinway Society —The Bay Area's 25th Anniversary Season last May. Born in Italy, Colli has studied at the Milan Conservatory, the Imola International Piano Academy, and the Salzburg Mozarteum. In 2014, he was selected by International Piano magazine as one of the "30 pianists under 30 who are likely to dominate the world stage in years to come."

#### Tickets Available Now

Tickets for the performances may be purchased in advance by going to [www.steinwaysociety.com/tickets](http://www.steinwaysociety.com/tickets) or by contacting the Steinway Society box office at 408-300-5635. Tickets: \$20 per concert, or \$60 for the package of four concerts.



Federico Colli Photo by Sarah Ferrara

waysociety.com/tickets or by contacting the Steinway Society box office at 408-300-5635. Tickets: \$20 per concert, or \$60 for the package of four concerts.

For more information, visit: [www.steinwaysociety.com](http://www.steinwaysociety.com)

## Tickets on sale now for drive-through 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.

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).

### Op Ed

## Mismanagement of Reid-Hillview Airport causes blight and costs millions

By John Carr

Chairman of the Santa Clara County Airports Commission

By Anissa Mohler

Regional Airline Pilot and Flight Instructor at Reid-Hillview

In December 2018, the Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to accept a proposal put forward by Supervisor Cindy Chavez to not accept FAA grants to support Reid-Hillview's operations and study moving all aviation activities and services, including emergency services, currently available in Evergreen to San Martin.

The county's decision to not take FAA grants and, at the same time, not commit to continue operating the airport has a direct impact on the county budget, funds available for other critical services and creates blight in the Evergreen community. This situation harms every Santa Clara County resident.

### Refusing FAA Grants Costs Santa Clara County Taxpayers Millions

Operating an airport per FAA safety standards is an expensive proposition, however, it does not have to impact county taxpayers. The United States government recognizes the importance of airports in the national transportation infrastructure and the cost of operating airports safely. Federal legislation in 1946, 1970, 1982 and 2012 demonstrate the government's commitment to our critical airport infrastructure. Today the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) is

funded by aviation related fees, fuel taxes and airport user fees. The airport sponsor agrees to operate the airport per FAA safety regulations for a maximum of 20 years in exchange for each grant issued.

Until 2018 Santa Clara County successfully used State and Federal AIP grants to offset the costs of operating its airports. Between the state and federal grants, the County would typically pay 5% of the total cost of capital, rehabilitation and safety related projects on the airports. The airports were fully self-sufficient using the combination of grants and the Airports Enterprise Fund (AEF). The AEF is funded through airport user fees, fuel fees and leases of airport property to aviation and non-aviation businesses.

However, in May 2018, both San Martin and Reid Hillview airports were repaved and remarked. The cost for this was three million dollars which was borrowed by the airport from the county general fund. If the County Supervisors chose to apply for grants for this project the total cost would have even a mere \$150,000, easily funded by the AEF. Instead county taxpayers are on the hook for an extra \$2.85 million related to this project. In addition, any capital improvement or upgrade necessary for the airport to comply with FAA safety standards through 2031 that could be funded by AIP grants will be at the expense of county taxpayers!

### Lack of Commitment to Ongoing Airport Operations Creates Blight

Evergreen residents are familiar with Reid-Hillview's current state. Chest high weeds often border the roads on the property. Trash and torn banners adorn the Little League Fields. Shabby, colorless, often empty, office buildings and maintenance hangars sit on the property. Santa Clara County's policies and management created this situation.

For over a decade the County has managed Reid-Hillview with a surprising level of neglect for a critical resource. In 2018,

Kitchell consultants reported average condition of county managed facilities "Critical", yet maintenance continues to be deferred.

Continued uncertainty regarding the airport's ongoing operations are driving non-aviation and aviation businesses out of the airport today. Remaining businesses have leases that will expire in December 2021. Leaseholders haven't received an RFP to apply for leases past 2021. The uncertainty related to new leases and the county's apparent intent to close RHV in 2031, in spite of protestations to the contrary, result in leaseholders delaying maintenance and improvements of their buildings.

The combination of neglect and continued uncertainty are accelerating the blight on airport property and unnecessarily impacting the quality of life for surrounding residents. Without a long-term commitment for operating the property as an airport we can only expect the situation to continue to deteriorate.

### It Doesn't Have to Be Like This

Airports like Reid-Hillview do not have to be a costly blight on the community. Hayward and Livermore have examples of well managed airports. Proper management and community engagement can make Reid-Hillview a resource valued by the community, for emergency services and as a center of innovation, education and business for all.

The county could take grants to offset capital project costs and create leases for non-aviation and aviation related businesses to ensure the airport remains self-sufficient. The county could incentivize hiring local residents at those businesses and conversion of training aircraft to the unleaded fuel available today, and encourage engagement with local schools to advance STEM education and skills. The county does not.

Residents must demand Santa Clara County manage the airport properly for everyone's benefit!



Times **Community News**

# 1 Million voters

By **Mike Wasserman**  
*Special to the Times*

**S**anta Clara County achieved a significant milestone this month: We now have 1 million registered voters! With each voter receiving a ballot by mail this election, some people may wonder how our Registrar of Voters processes such enormous volumes of ballots securely?

**What happens if someone receives two ballots?**

The County's voter registration system, called the Election Information Management System (EIMS), is programmed to automatically re-issue a new ballot when there is a change to a voter's registration record. These changes can be initiated because the voter submitted a new registration form or another change request, such as a change of address. They can also be triggered by an automatic registration from the DMV under the new Motor Voter law or any other update that the County received from the statewide voter registration database, VoteCal. As a result of this, it is normal for voters to receive more than one ballot and is not indicative of an error.

**What happens if someone returns more than one ballot?**

If a voter accidentally or intentionally returns two ballots, the County has safeguards in place to prevent more than one ballot being accepted and counted per voter. When a new ballot is issued to a voter, all previous ballots are automatically voided in EIMS. Further, when a voter's ballot is accepted, EIMS will automatically mark any subsequent ballot that is received as invalid and prevent ROV staff from accepting it as valid.

**How are ballots signatures verified?**

The County verifies every vote by mail ballot returned by scanning the signature from the outside of the ballot envelope and comparing it to the signature on file. If after multiple levels of review staff feel the signatures do not match, the County contacts the voter and provides them the opportunity to submit a signature for comparison.

Want to know more about ballot security, voting by mail, drop off locations or other

voting procedures? Please visit the Registrar of Voters website.

**COVID-19 Update**

Last week, Santa Clara became the largest County in California to enter the Orange Tier of the State's COVID-19 Framework, reflecting the long, collective work of our community to reduce COVID-19 transmission. After starting as one of the national epicenters of the pandemic and following a surge in cases in the middle of the summer, case counts and hospitalizations have come down substantially since mid to late July. These positive trends have allowed additional businesses and activities to resume or increase operation.



**County Report**  
**Mike Wasserman,**  
County Supervisor

However, as more activities and businesses open up, it becomes even more important that we stay vigilant. While County and State trends have been quite encouraging lately, national and international trends tell a different story. Average daily case counts in the U.S. are now back up to nearly 55,000 cases per day, a 25% jump in just the past two weeks. All told, new cases are on the rise in 44 states. COVID trends in Europe are even more alarming. Numerous countries are breaking records for new infections, and daily case counts for the continent have more than doubled in the past month.

Looking around the nation and globe provides a sobering reminder of the unrelenting nature of this virus. COVID-19 hasn't gone anywhere. Rather, it is our careful behavior that has slowed the spread over time in our community. We must continue wearing face coverings; moving activities outdoors whenever possible; maintaining social distance; minimizing contacts and avoiding unnecessary risks. As always, it will take all of us working together to hold this virus at bay. Work and live wisely, and continue to hope an effective vaccine is available soon!

**\$100 Million Loan Program for Small Businesses Proposed**

I have heard from hundreds of small business owners across the County as they cope with prolonged closures, reduced operations, continued losses, layoffs and bankruptcy as a result of the pandemic. Yesterday, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved

See **WASSERMAN**, page 13



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Amy L. Horowitz Attorney at Law

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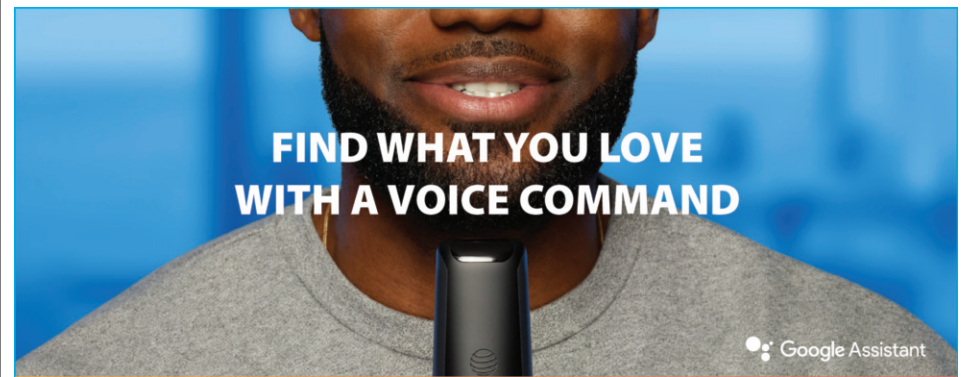
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Times **Community News**

**IN MEMORY**

**James 'Jim' Kelso**

**May 29, 1934 - October 4, 2020**

**Resident of Almaden Valley**

**J**ames "Jim" Kelso (inset) passed away on Sunday, October 4, 2020 in his long time Almaden Valley home in the Crossgates neighborhood. He is survived by his ever-loving wife Helen, of 63 years; five sons - Timothy (Margaret), Michael, Patrick (Eliz-

abeth), Christopher (Lisa), and Matthew (Heather); seven grandchildren - Carl, Jennifer, Catherine, Danielle, Dominique, Rose, and Nicholas; four great-grandsons - Clayton, Samuel, Benjamin, and Eric.

After graduating from Serra High School in San Mateo, Jim completed his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University. In 1956, he started his career working on large steam turbines with General Electric in Schenectady, NY. He then moved



his young family to Canoga Park, CA in 1962 to work for Rocketdyne at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory where he was involved with the Atlas and Saturn V rocket engines used in the early space program leading to the Apollo moon landings.

In 1966, Jim was recruited by an old Stanford mentor to move his growing family north and work with the San Jose GE Nuclear program where he spent the bulk of his distinguished career. After retirement from GE in 1994, he continued

working as a consultant for EPRI until he was 83 doing the work he loved while instructing and creating a legacy by writing a mechanical maintenance training guide for the turbine on which he spent the majority of his career.

As a proud graduate, he was a Stanford football season ticket holder for over 50 years where he could be found in the stadium every home game until the clock showed 0:00 no matter the weather, score or type of season. As a father and neighbor, he was a long-time contributor to the Crossgates Gators Swim

*See KELSO, next page*

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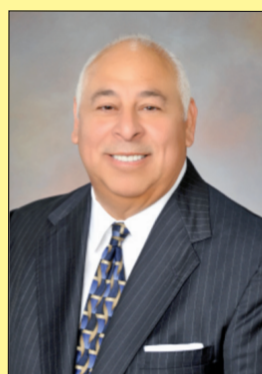


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# Op Ed: Hybrid SAT testing options: What is fair and feasible?

By Aroshi Ghosh

Times contributing writer

I registered for the June SAT exam that was canceled. I switched my registration to the August test date but the test center in San Jose canceled. Not to be defeated, I registered for the October SAT, (this time in Fresno) and that was canceled as well. Now, I plan to travel interstate in December to take the test. I know I am persistent but I have my reasons and they apply to most juniors and seniors who plan to apply to competitive colleges within the next couple of years.

The "Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)" was canceled in March 2020 when the pandemic first gripped our nation and in April, the College Board announced plans to develop an online version of the exam. However, those plans were soon canceled in June after the fiasco of the online AP exams. Concerns were raised regarding the digital divide and all students not having access to three hours of reliable Internet service that would be required to complete the test.

While these concerns are legitimate, I believe that summarily rejecting the option to conduct an online exam, has in fact been more challenging and unfair for the middle class and poor students. Instead of adopting a knee jerk reaction against online testing options for SAT to avoid liability and criti-

cism, the College Board should have embraced a hybrid model.

A hybrid model would allow students the option to take the test online or on site. The College Board has the technology to make online SAT testing available. If the majority of students are able to take the test online, it reduces the burden on testing centers considerably to maintain social distancing. Test centers can then easily administer the test

safely because they would have to accommodate a smaller body of students in the classroom setting for testing purposes.

Instead, what has happened is that the College Board has issued an ultimatum that all testing would only be conducted onsite. The excessive burden of ensuring the safety of students interested to take the test has compelled most of the sites across the nation to close down. The onus of informing the Col-

lege Board about the cancellations is on the individual testing centers, who may cancel the exams at the last minute. Not only that, the College Board website is not updated and students keep registering to take the test at test centers displayed on the UI (user interface), but the centers are in reality, shut down.

While the Courts have ordered the UC system to go "test blind", competitive universities, *See TESTING, page 21*

## Kelso

Continued from previous page

Team, keeping the pool running and happily shooting the gun to start races for nearly 20 years. He traveled much of the world with his wife, but he was always happiest to just be at home with her by his side.

In honor of Jim and in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to his high school using its website: [www.serrahs.com/memorial](http://www.serrahs.com/memorial). Contributions to the memorial program will help fund financial aid for deserving families. Private services were recently held.

## Wasserman

Continued from page 11

investigating a COVID-19 small business loan program of up to \$100 million to help address these needs. The concept is to provide relief that can and should be provided by the state and federal government -- but that has not been sufficient.

During the November 18 and 20, 2020 budget hearings, County Administration will provide the Board with options for structuring the program. Among the issues to be addressed in a report back are: identifying borrowers; source of funds; eligibility criteria; range of loan amounts; how and by whom the loans will be underwritten and serviced; and any issues with legal prohibitions on "gift of public funds" and/or constitutional prohibitions on public banking.

As a small business owner for decades, I know firsthand that small businesses are the backbone of our economy and our community. If we can find funding partners, I believe this program could provide some needed relief.



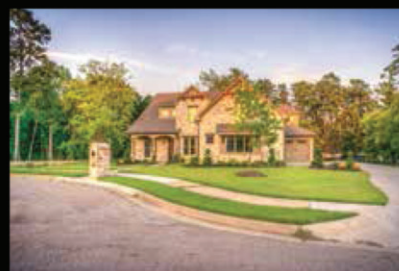
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# San Jose Dance Theatre launches digital platform

In response to the COVID crisis and a digitally changing world, San Jose Dance Theatre has launched SJDT Digital, a new digital streaming platform as part of its 'Friends of the Ballet' program beginning on November 1.

Access to all of the exclusive SJDT Digital content, including 10 episodes of "Ballet Tips," 10 episodes of "Fitness through Dance," plus sneak peeks into the lives of dancers and the making of our productions, and much more, are included for subscribers at \$11.99 per month. It also includes the previously announced new three-part digital 2020/21 dance season of the professional company. SJDT Digital episodes will roll out over the year introducing company dancers and faculty sharing insider tips and knowledge meant to entertain and instruct the viewer.

Supporting the dancers and the whole San Jose dance community, this new program will allow viewers to see our dancers performing again back onstage filmed at the Hammer Theatre, in class, at rehearsals, and importantly the program will include streaming of all three San Jose Dance Theatre mainstage productions - The Nutcracker, Innovations and Sleeping Beauty new for 2020-21.



With a spin on the traditional online dance programming now seen across the globe, SJDT Digital is fusing classical dance with other genres for a digital menu catering to a growing and diverse digital audience. In addition to Ballet, Modern, and Contemporary dance, an additional goal is pioneering new work and supporting local art. The three part mainstage program will be followed up by digital dance shorts featuring new and emerging choreographers from San Jose.

SJDT Friends of the Ballet, which launches November 1 and includes all SJDT Digital programs including the three mainstage productions is available via subscription at [www.sjdt.org/friends-of-the-ballet/](http://www.sjdt.org/friends-of-the-ballet/) for \$11.99/month.

## Report: 2020's Best Small Cities in America

With the COVID-19 pandemic spurring some Americans to migrate out of big cities, the personal-finance website WalletHub recently released its report on 2020's Best Small Cities in America

To help Americans put down roots in places offering good quality of life and affordability, WalletHub compared more than 1,200 U.S. cities with populations between 25,000 and 100,000 across 43 key indicators of livability. They range from housing costs and school-system quality to restaurants per capita and COVID-19 cases in the last seven days per 100,000 residents.

### Top 20 Small Cities in America

1. Sammamish, WA
2. Lexington, MA
3. Carmel, IN
4. Needham, MA
5. Sugar Land, TX
6. Milton, MA
7. Brentwood, TN

8. Southlake, TX
9. Cedar Park, TX
10. Redmond, WA
11. Leawood, KS
12. Dublin, OH
13. Arlington, MA
14. Princeton, NJ
15. Castle Rock, CO
16. Westfield, IN
17. Wheaton, IL
18. Kaysville, UT
19. Mason, OH
20. Fishers, IN

### Best vs. Worst

- Southlake, Texas, has the highest median annual household income, \$230,700, which is 10.5 times higher than in Carbondale, Illinois, the city with the lowest at \$22,025.

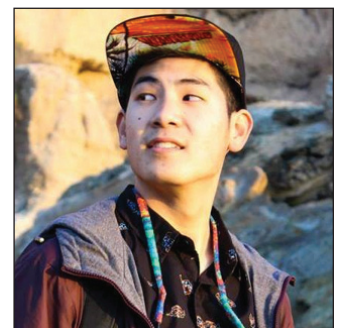
- Oswego, Illinois, has the lowest share of the population living in poverty, 1.20 percent, which is 38.2 times lower than in Carbondale, Illinois, the city with the highest at 45.80 percent.

To view the full report and your city's rank, visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-small-cities-to-live-in/16581>

## Local student named to Palmer College Dean's List

Jeffrey Wu of Almaden Valley (right) has been named to the summer 2020 quarter Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's West campus in San Jose, Calif.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, Calif.; and Port Orange, Fla.



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"I have no illusions about what I'm headed into. I'm not planning on taking any vacations," says Santa Clara County Supervisor **Dave Cortese** regarding his bid for state Senate. *Photo courtesy of Dave Cortese.*

**ELECTION 2020**

**After 30 years in Santa Clara County politics, Dave Cortese aims for state Senate**

By Adam F. Hutton

*Article courtesy of San José Spotlight*  
California politics is in Dave Cortese's blood. His maternal grandfather was a Santa Clara councilman. His father was Santa Clara County supervisor and a state assemblyman. For nearly 30 years he's been serving as an elected official in San Jose.

Now he's hoping to put that experience to work as a senator representing California's 15th district.

Cortese got his start as a trustee on the city's East Side Union High School board in 1992. He was elected to the San Jose City Council in 2000 and made his first run for mayor in 2006. He was elected to the county Board of Supervisors in 2008 and made a second run for mayor in 2014, narrowly losing to Sam Liccardo by a little more than 2,700 votes.

When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the Bay Area two weeks after the March 3 primary, Cortese told San José Spotlight his focus shifted to protecting public health, then to economic recovery. At first, "trying to save lives, protect people and be of assistance to the public health department was all consuming," Cortese said.

Since March 17, when public health officials issued the first shelter-in-place order, the supervisor says he's spent 90 percent of his time on coronavirus response efforts.

**Fostering an economic recovery**

Seven months after the first public health order — with the city, county, and state all forecasting continued budget deficits due to COVID-19 — Cortese says he's also thinking about finances and how government can give the economy a jolt.

"I don't know if the public has fully realized yet, but our governments haven't yet felt the financial impact of the pandemic," Cortese said. "The state is not going to be in a position to raise taxes, we'll need to use capital investment."

Simply put, Cortese said, the state and local governments will have to borrow money to continue providing services and foster an economic recovery. That's going to require a lot of effort on the part of legislators in Sacramento, he said.

"We're going to have to buckle down," Cortese said. "I have no illusions about what I'm headed into. I'm not planning on taking

any vacations."

Limiting the spread of the virus, reopening businesses and finding ways to help people who are hurting financially because of the pandemic, are all part of the job, as Cortese sees it. "My job as an elected official is to get people feeling good again," Cortese said. "Whatever we need to do to right the ship and give people confidence that we're going to be able to recover."

**Justice and police reform**

Cortese said this spring's protests against police brutality have resurfaced the issue of justice reform in the public arena.

He touted his record spearheading a push for a juvenile justice reform program in Santa Clara County that diverted children from the penal system and reduced recidivism.

"The social unrest after George Floyd's murder have brought the issue of justice reform to the surface again, but it has always been there, and it has always been a priority for me," Cortese said.

If elected as a senator, Cortese says he will continue to find ways to put fewer people behind bars and change how society views public safety by "redirecting funding for mental health crisis intervention outside of law enforcement."

**'His work speaks for itself'**

In the March primary, Cortese finished first in a seven-way race to replace term-out Jim Beall in the state Senate.

Beall, who is retiring after 40 years in Silicon Valley politics, including 14 years in the legislature working on issues including housing, transportation and mental health, has endorsed Cortese.

"He'll carry the torch for me on those issues," Beall told San José Spotlight.

Citing his record on the school board, Beall said Cortese won't shy away from "uncomfortable subjects that require our attention" including social justice and institutional racism. "He's not a guy who goes out and gives extravagant speeches," Beall added, praising Cortese's work ethic. "Public service requires real work. He works at it and his work speaks for itself."

According to campaign finance reports, Cortese has raised \$922,307 and spent \$1,009,241 this year until Sept. 19.

On Election Day he's facing off against Ann  
*See CORTESE, page 19*

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Times **Community News**

Ann Ravel is running for California Senate District 15. Photo courtesy of Ann Ravel.

**ELECTION 2020**

## From policy wonk to politician, Ann Ravel eyes state Senate

By Adam F. Hutton

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Ann Ravel is not a politician. And, although she's running her first campaign for elected office, she's not a novice either.

Ravel has served as an appointed government official at every level.

She was Santa Clara County counsel for nearly a decade and worked in that office for years prior to her appointment by the Board of Supervisors. Gov. Jerry Brown tapped her to serve on California's Fair Political Practices Commission. In 2009 President Barack Obama elevated her to a post in the Department of Justice, as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in charge of consumer litigation and torts. In 2013, Obama appointed her to the Federal Election Commission.

Now, Ravel is running for California Senate District 15, which includes parts of San Jose, Campbell, Cupertino and Los Gatos.

### Affordable health care and housing

Ravel says income inequality — a longstanding problem in Silicon Valley — is the source of many of the region's most pressing needs. Although the yawning gap between the haves and the have-nots has been self-evident for years, Ravel says the coronavirus has exacerbated the problem and made it even more visible.

"It drives me crazy when people say that COVID has revealed the inequity here," Ravel said. "It was obvious all along but it was easy for some people to ignore."

The pandemic has highlighted many of the issues surrounding income inequality. For example, many Californians who lost their jobs due to the pandemic also lost their health insurance. And between medical bills and day-to-day expenses, Ravel told San José Spotlight, many of those who have felt the financial impact of the virus are teetering on the brink of homelessness.

Which is why Ravel says if she is elected she will focus on making sure health care is universal and affordable, small businesses stay afloat and quality education is available to help people get good jobs.

### Restoring faith in government

"A lot of people distrust the government," Ravel said. "They think that it works in favor of special interests that are not their own."

And it's easy to understand why, she said.

"Government makes a lot of decisions that apply unfairly," she said.

That distrust is bad for society, Ravel said, because when there is a sense that authority figures don't play fair, people are more likely to rebel against injustices in the system by dropping out — they stop engaging with government officials and political leaders about the issues that concern their communities.

Some people stop voting, or never cast a ballot at all because they believe government doesn't care about them or is too important to help.

"When people don't trust the government they feel like they aren't part of their community, they don't believe that they are going to get a fair shake," Ravel said. "I think we need to change that and we can. It's not a good thing for our democracy. We've got to get back to a government that works for the people and that's what I want to do."

### 'Her integrity is a given'

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian told San José Spotlight he is supporting Ravel because she has the necessary skills, work ethic and "a commitment to the values that the valley holds dear."

"Even when you disagree with Ann, you can feel absolutely confident that she is using her best judgement to do the right thing," said Simitian, who is also a former assemblyman and state senator. "You never have to wonder about what is motivating her."

Simitian first got to know Ravel when she was working in the county counsel's office. He's currently a colleague of her opponent in the senate race — Supervisor Dave Cortese.

"I know what the job entails," Simitian said. "I have worked closely with both candidates in the runoff and it is clear to me that Ann is the better candidate. Her integrity is a given."

Simitian also praised Ravel's accomplishments as a government official.

"She's done excellent work at the highest levels of government," Simitian said, adding a candidate like that doesn't come along every election. "We have an extraordinary opportunity to elect someone of national stature to represent us and it would be a shame to miss that opportunity."

See RAVEL, page 19

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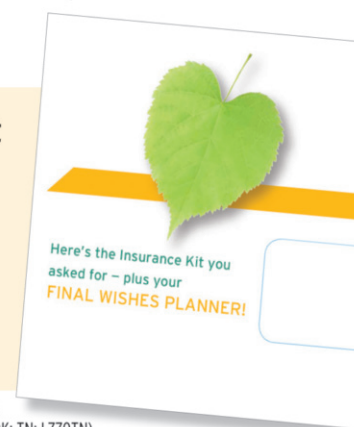
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Times Feature

# Ballot

Continued from page 1

and cleaning up trash and homeless encampments along Los Alamitos Creek Trail has stopped.

Warner said not having a sunset date takes away people's rights to vote and as the previous parcel tax was for specific projects, when the projects are completed, the parcel tax should expire. Additionally, Warner objects to Measure S taxing all single-family homes the same rate, whether small or large lots.

"Problems like drought, climate change and aging pipelines are not going away," Gibson said. "The homeless situation needs addressing right now. Without long-term funding, we're going to be locked into inefficient and inadequate solutions."

## Ballot Measure RR: One-eighth cent sales tax for Caltrain services

If passed, Ballot Measure RR would add a sales tax of one-eighth cent (a penny on an \$8 purchase) for Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco counties to benefit Caltrain. Estimated to raise \$108 million annually, the ballot measure would maintain and expand Caltrain's operations.

Jason Baker, vice president of transportation, housing and community development for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and former mayor of Campbell, spoke in favor of Measure RR. Baker also served as board member for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and on the Metropolitan Transportation commission.

Jim Lawrence, who managed financial organizations and served as mayor of Foster City, is opposed to Measure RR.

"Investing in Caltrain is a good business decision as it relieves traffic, reduces pollution and saves Caltrain," Baker said. "Caltrain is the only major rail system in the Bay Area without its own source of operating funds," Baker said. "Measure RR would finally give Caltrain its own source of operating funding to keep it a stable force to reduce traffic for decades to come."

Baker said Measure RR would run cleaner, quieter trains to reduce noise and air pollution, add jobs and potentially tripling its ridership.

An expansion possible through Measure RR, Baker said, would provide the equivalent of two lanes of traffic on Caltrain and avoid a potential shutdown. Baker said that while ticket sales usually fund 70% of Caltrain's operating funds, COVID-19 has threatened its income.

Lawrence said Measure RR was created as a remedy for Caltrain's loss of revenue "on the backs of the total population" for a service affecting 1%. He said the \$100 million generated by the sales tax would better be spent on housing, schools, health care or serving the underprivileged and unemployed.

"Why would we give this organization another \$100 million to play with?" he said. "It's a dinosaur. Why make the whole community pay for a commute

option 1% uses?"

Baker said Caltrain helps and doesn't hurt low income individuals and will continue to offer discounts of up to 50% for means based fares. He said 40% of the ridership is made up of those making less than \$100,000 a year and half make below \$50,000.

Those who drive also benefit from less traffic and pollution, Baker said. He said people will be ready to come back to Caltrain after COVID-19 and projects a potential daily ridership of 165,000 people. Last, Baker said Caltrain provides connections to BART, VTA and Muni and serves as a backbone to transportation in this region.

Lawrence objected to funding Caltrain through Measure RR.

"Caltrain is for the 1%," he said. "Today it has less than 1,000 riders. With people riding remotely, they'll never achieve those ridership levels again."

**If passed, Ballot Measure RR would add a sales tax of one-eighth cent (a penny on an \$8 purchase) for Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco counties to benefit Caltrain. Estimated to raise \$108 million annually, the ballot measure would maintain and expand Caltrain's operations.**

## Prop. 17: Allows parolees for felony convictions to vote.

California Proposition 17 restores the right to vote for people convicted of felonies who are on parole.

Brittany Stonesifer, an attorney for ACLU and Prop. 17 Campaign Manager Shay Franco-Clausen supported Prop. 17. Colleen Britton, a teacher and mortgage planner is against it. Britton served as president of Bay Area Coalition for Election Integrity Project and founded the Constitution Literacy Advocates in Solano County.

Stonesifer said more than 50,000 individuals in California have completed serving their prison terms and are currently paying taxes and contributing to society but denied their rights to vote.

She said restoring the voting rights of citizens encourages them to reenter society and have a stake in their communities, making them less likely to enact another crime.

Voting is a positive act of community engagement and a fundamental right, Stonesifer said. Historically, felony disenfranchise laws were written into the state constitution in the 1800s to undermine the political power of Black and brown Californians, she said, and due to racial disparities in policing and incarceration, in California, three out of four



Left: **Jim Lawrence** said Measure RR was created as a remedy for Caltrain's loss of revenue "on the backs of the total population" for a service affecting 1%. Right: **Colleen Britton** does not support Prop. 17. She said convicted felons have their rights to vote restored when their full sentences, including parole, are completed.



Left: **Brittany Stonesifer**, an attorney for ACLU, supports Prop. 17 for helping citizens on parole feel part of their communities. Right: Prop. 17 Campaign Manager **Shay Franco-Clausen** said parole is a time of re-entry and readjustment into society.



**Jason Baker** said Measure RR would fund Caltrain's operating costs and help it run cleaner, quieter trains to reduce noise and air pollution.

individuals leaving prisons are Black, Latino or Asian Americans. Nationwide, Stonesifer said, Blacks are 4 times more likely to face felony convictions.

"Prop. 17 will help right past and ongoing wrongs and make our communities more

**"Prop. 17 will help right past and ongoing wrongs and make our communities more inclusive and safer," Stonesifer said.**

**"It's not a racial thing, it's a law-abiding thing," Britton said.**

inclusive and safer," Stonesifer said.

"It's not a racial thing, it's a law-abiding thing," Britton said.

Britton said convicted felons have their rights to vote restored when their full sentences, including parole, are completed. She said Prop. 17 applies to violent felons and parole is "a period of testing the offender." Britton said half of parolees commit new crimes.

"If we can't trust these parolees to abide by the terms of their parole," Britton said, "we should not yet trust them to take the responsibility of voting seriously. The right to vote is a privilege that must be earned."

Franco-Clausen said parole is a readjustment period rather than an extension of punishment. Prison terms end the day an individual leaves prison, she said.



Times **Community News**

**Cortese**

*Continued from page 16*  
Ravel, an attorney, former Santa Clara County counsel and Obama administration Federal Election Commission member.

**At a glance**

**Name:** Dave Cortese

**Age:** 64

**Family:** Married, 4 kids

**Political affiliation:**

Democrat

**Education:** BS Political Science UC Davis, JD Lincoln Law School San Jose

**Profession:** Businessman, attorney, elected official

**Current or previous elected or appointed positions:** ESUHSD School Board Member, San Jose City Council Member, San Jose



Vice Mayor, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Silicon Valley Clean Energy Director, BART Regional Connector Board, Committee for Housing the Bay Area, Veterans Affairs Liaison (partial list)

**Top 3 priorities:** Housing/homelessness, public safety/justice reform, climate restoration

**Top 3 endorsements:** California Democratic

Party, Dolores Huerta, Senator Jim Beall

**Special talent:** I was once a championship men's fast-pitch softball player

**In one sentence, why vote for you?** "Because I am a tireless fighter for those who need help."

**Ravel**

*Continued from page 17*  
According to campaign finance reports, Ravel has raised \$706,587 and spent \$534,524 from Jan. 1 to Sept. 19.

**At a Glance**

**Name:** Ann M. Ravel

**Age:** 71

**Family:** Married, 3 children, 5 grandchildren

**Political affiliation:**

Democrat

**Education:** Willow Glen High School, University of California Berkeley, BA Philosophy, Law Degree UC Hastings Law School

**Profession:** Consumer attorney, public official at county, state and federal government, Director, Digital Deception Project at MapLight, Adjunct Professor at UC Berkeley Law School

**Current or previous elected or appointed positions:** County Counsel Santa Clara County, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in charge of Consumer Litigation and Torts, Department of Justice, chair of the California Fair Political Practices Commission, chair, vice chair and commissioner of



the Federal Elections Commission.

**Top 3 priorities:** All issues that relate to and exacerbate the extreme economic disparity in this valley, including access to affordable universal health care and affordable pharmaceuticals, the economy and oversight of the state budget to assure people can get back to work and have a livable wage and small business can thrive, and making sure all people can afford to live here so there is affordable housing and housing for the unsheltered.

**Top 3 endorsements:** President Barack Obama, the Mercury News and San Francisco Chronicle

**Special talent:** Complete honesty in all things

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Times Feature

# Fauci to meet with Santa Clara County leaders to discuss COVID-19 response

By Grace Stetson

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

The country's top expert on COVID-19, **Dr. Anthony Fauci** (inset), is scheduled to speak with Santa Clara County leaders next week to discuss the ongoing pandemic and logistics for lowering case numbers while establishing safe reopening plans.

Fauci, the director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a leader on the White House Coronavirus Task Force, will address regional and national successes and challenges.

The Oct. 30 event was organized by Silicon Valley Leadership Group, an advocacy nonprofit that represents more than 340 local employers on issues that affect the economic health and livability in the area. The group arranged the panel with the assistance of local leaders, including Santa Clara County Public Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody, who worked with Fauci on the regional pandemic response.

"We could not be more excited to host someone of (Fauci's) caliber," said Ahmad Thomas, who joined SVLG as CEO in August, told San José Spotlight. "There's no bigger issue in our region, our economy, our businesses, our state, our nation than this pandemic, and managing through this."

With a steady rise in COVID-related deaths in the United States — recently passing 221,000 — Thomas said forward-looking discussions and planning are essential. "(We need to see) where our executives, our member companies and the most innovative companies in the world can add value to help solve problems not only for the region and the state, but for our country and the world," he said.

One of SVLG's directives is addressing the economic challenges that Silicon Valley companies and employees continue to face during the pandemic.

"I want to ensure that we are doing everything humanly possible to keep our economy afloat, but also managing all of that with the health concerns that are extremely serious," he said.

The group is also overseeing concerns surrounding vaccine distribution logistics for the public.

Following their discussion, Fauci and Thomas will be joined by local experts — including Cody and Santa Clara County COVID-19 Testing Officer Dr. Marty Fenstersheib — in a discussion of the local, regional and state-level effects of COVID-19.

Cody gained national recognition for her response to the virus, becoming the first public health officer in the United States to order a countywide shelter-in-place on March 16. While Cody's action likely led to a decreased COVID-19 spread, it also stirred

up threats and intimidation. A Gilroy man was arrested in September after sending letters that included veiled threats to Cody's life. The same is true for many California health officers, with some choosing early retirement in place of the pushback. Fauci himself now has a security detail after receiving threats and harassment against his family.

For Thomas — a husband to a frontline doctor and a son of a retired nurse — the negative reaction is upsetting.

"I don't have a lot of patience for folks who threaten (health care workers) — it's a really cowardly, weak thing to do," he said. "I see up-close the sacrifice that our nurses and doctors make ... do we want to see a reopen as soon as possible?"

Of course — but it needs to be done in a way that's smart."

At the time of the county's shelter-in-place order, there were approximately 258 confirmed cases across six Bay Area counties; as recently as Oct. 20, there were 23,458 cases in Santa Clara County alone.

Cindy Chavez, president of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, said Fauci represents what public health is all about. "He will speak truth to power no matter who that is and is masterful in his role of connecting with the public about their concerns over COVID-19 and educating them about the realities of the virus," she said.

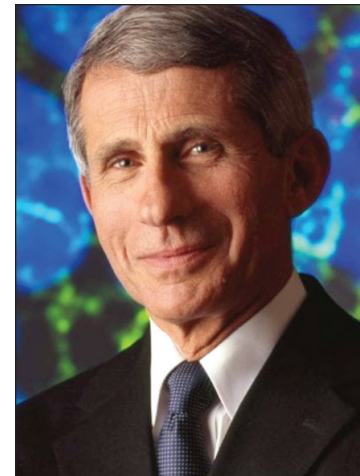
The forum will close out with a panel on racial justice and equity, discussing solutions to the challenges underrepresented minorities in Silicon Valley face during the pandemic. As Thomas emphasized, business leaders must find ways to provide support to essential workers — largely from marginalized communities — in establishing safer practices.

"Black and brown communities are hurting, and COVID is only exacerbating many of the divisions that were already there," Thomas said. "As we turn to the vaccine and the logistics around that, that's going to be a real question to address — how do we get those frontline workers the vaccinations soon, so they can go to their jobs and be safe and protected?"

Ultimately, Thomas said he hopes the conversation with Fauci will tie these topics together, providing forward-thinking ideas for where efforts should be focused and where local leaders can add value.

"I truly hope that we will get some guidance and direction and then immediately move to mobilize and act in concert with the feedback from Dr. Fauci, Dr. Cody and Dr. Fenstersheib," he said. "Really, we're here to take guidance and immediately act."

The virtual event will be available in limited viewing to the public Oct. 30, with the full forum available virtually on the SVLG website and YouTube Nov. 2.



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Press day: November 11, 2020  
Deadline: November 8, 2020

**Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com**

**Almaden Times**



Times **Community News**



## Cleaning crews in action

Valley Water has started its fall creek cleanup program with crews in action. Volunteers met in Almaden at the Bass Pro shopping center on October 22 to help with the cleanup. **Pictured above:** Crews and volunteers begin their cleanup program in Santa Clara County. **Pictured below:** Berm at Rock Springs Park in San Jose: A type of flood barrier known as a berm was installed at Rock Springs Park to help reduce future flood risks.



## Testing

*Continued from page 13*

like Harvard have opted to go “test-optional.” Note that “test-optional” is not the same as “test blind” and therefore, students are still scrambling to take the test.

Being “test-optional” means that Harvard will still look at SAT scores for candidates who provide them. How can that be a problem, you ask? After all, you do not want to penalize students who have already taken the SAT and have received good scores. But, it is a problem because if you have two candidates of equal caliber (in terms of extracurricular activities, GPA, and so on) your SAT score is the only differentiating factor.

I am a student at an affluent high school in a less affluent school district. I know many of my friends have traveled long distances to Nevada, Florida, and Colorado to take the SAT exam and increased their odds in the college admission lottery. Logically taking the test makes sense and poorer students who are not able to book hotels or travel long distances are left in the lurch.

CollegeBoard has an obligation to enable

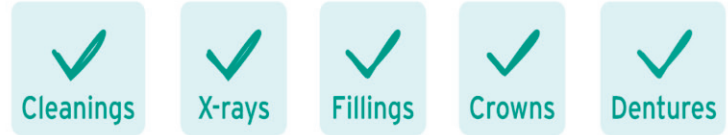
students to take the SAT exam without challenging them to identify and then travel to available test centers themselves.

School districts and test centers are not without blame. San Jose Unified School District has been shut down for the remaining part of the year, which means that no school within this district may be used as a test center. However, is it really so much of a health risk, if most students take the test online and a few with internet access issues register to take the test onsite. After all, private schools like Bellarmine Preparatory are still allowing their kids to register for the test but keeping everyone else out.

No one seems to care for the public school students - not the College Board, not the test centers, nor the Universities, and not the teacher unions. Most of these entities are only concerned about the optics of the situation. Don't get me wrong. I am a supporter of wearing masks and following all safety protocols. I am just advocating for common sense. Can we not empathize with our juniors and seniors and allow them to take the test comfortably because the alternative of traveling to non-existent test centers is impossible for the majority of the students?

# Dental Insurance

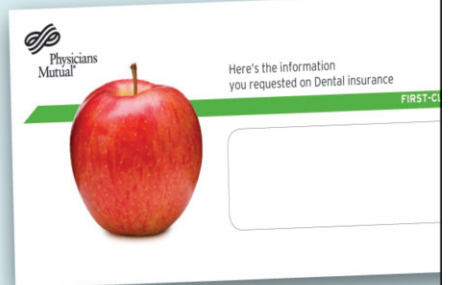
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Visit us at our web site at: [church@campbellucc.org](http://church@campbellucc.org) or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

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[www.ccvucc.org](http://www.ccvucc.org).  
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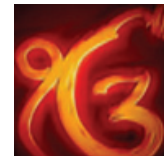
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**9:00 am - 5:00 pm**  
**Saturday**  
**9:30 am - 4:00 pm**  
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## 19889 Graystone Lane

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

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

**Therese Swan**  
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