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NOVEMBER 2020 ■ VOL. 16, NO. 7

Willow Glen Times

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Silicon Valley Organization CEO resigns as nonprofits line up to cut ties

By Carly Wipf

Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

The CEO of The Silicon Valley Organization, Matt Mahood, resigned as eight prominent South Bay nonprofit groups announced they are cutting ties with the influential business group.

"I am very sorry for the completely unacceptable image that was put up on our website earlier this week," Mahood said in announcing his resignation. "That image and messaging does not represent who I am as a man, a father, a husband or community leader. The people who know me and work with me on a regular basis know that."

During a news conference today, The SVO leadership announced an investigation into how the ad was posted. The investigation will be done in one week and the results will be posted on the organization's website. The organization also will start a series of diversity trainings next week.

"We want to commit and promise to be an



"We want to commit and promise to be an organization that stands up for equal rights," **Madison Nguyen**, The SVO's executive vice president, said at a news conference today. Photo by Carly Wipf

organization that stands up for equal rights," said Madison Nguyen, The SVO's executive vice president.

The SVO will establish a diversity review board that will look at its campaign mes-

saging moving forward. The names of the new board, which will contain at least three members, will be announced in a few weeks, the organization said.

"What we've seen that has happened is

absolutely appalling," said Kevin Surace, a member of The SVO executive committee. He called the ad "morally, ethically and politically wrong."

The fallout was the result of a racist political attack ad targeting District 6 candidate Jake Tonkel that was posted on The SVO's website. The ad quickly disassembled the organization, which boasted a membership of 1,200 businesses across Santa Clara County.

The post — which read "Do you really want to sign on to this?" — featured a picture of Black rioters.

The post was meant to illustrate what would happen if Tonkel, a police reform advocate, were elected and slashed the police budget — something Tonkel said he isn't looking to do. Mahood acknowledged the image was offensive and "should not have been posted" by a web administrator.

Resident Nassim Nouri, who has lived in the city for almost 30 years was the lone peaceful protestor at the SVO news conference. She stood quietly behind reporters

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Willow Glen Councilmember Davis races ahead of Tonkel in San Jose council race

By Carly Wipf

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

San Jose Councilmember Dev Davis, faced the biggest re-election challenge of her career — but she appears to be headed back to City Hall for another four years.

With 100% precincts reporting by 9 a.m. Nov. 4, Davis held the lead with 53.6% of the vote. Jake Tonkel has 46.4% of the vote. There are 1,926 votes between them.

Davis spent a quiet election night with her family watching the results trickle in. "I'm hopeful that these results hold as every ballot gets counted, and I'm grateful for everyone who voted," Davis told San José Spotlight.

Though Tonkel is trailing behind, he said he remains optimistic. He spent election night eating pizza with friends at a small masked gathering in his backyard.

"I'm extremely proud of all the work we put in, it's probably not a secret to most people, but running against incumbents in the city of San Jose is historically

very challenging," Tonkel said. "Me and the team put every last ounce into this so we're excited how things will move from here knowing how much work we put in."

The race between progressive biomedical engineer Jake Tonkel and conservative incumbent Councilmember Dev Davis has been a battleground for conversations on affordable housing, police reform and the influence of corporate and developer funds in local politics.

District 6 encompasses Willow Glen, Shasta Hanchett, the Rose Garden and the Alameda.

Davis and Tonkel both said addressing the city's housing crisis is a top priority, but on the campaign trail one issue divided the two candidates — opportunity housing.

That proposal would allow developers to build up to four homes on a single parcel in neighborhoods limited to single-family homes. Tonkel supports it as a way to increase the city's housing stock and address its affordability crisis.



Councilmember **Dev Davis** and her husband **Chris** patiently wait for election results to come in. Photo courtesy of Dev Davis

Opponents used that as fodder for attack ads, claiming he wants to end single-family zoning. The mailers were widely condemned by housing advocates.

Davis said she does not support opportunity housing because she wants to preserve and protect single-family homes in San Jose neighborhoods.

She is also in favor of building new homes for working class families and homeless residents. On the City Council, she has backed efforts to create accessory dwelling units, tiny homes and mixed-use urban villages. Her efforts to secure housing for San Jose's homeless

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Times **From the Cover**

SVO

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holding a Black Lives Matter sign. “We need fundamental change in any organization calling itself a chamber representing businesses if those businesses represent bigotry, inequity, and lies,” Nouri said. “We don’t want those businesses in San Jose.”

Leaders of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Latinas Contra Cancer, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), People Acting in Community Together (PACT), The Health Trust, United Way Bay Area and Silicon Valley at Home met in front of the SVO offices to explain why they are leaving the organization.

The nonprofits are demanding the SVO PAC be disbanded and the leadership of The SVO, the California Association of Realtors and the California Apartment Association be fired. The real estate groups are closely connected to The SVO and have paid for some of the campaign mailers.

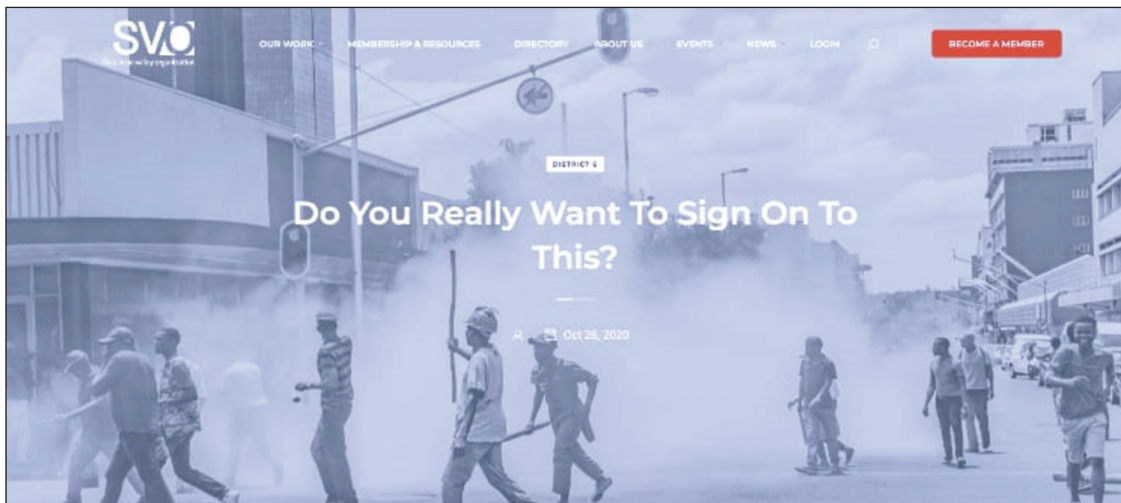
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County was the first of many local organizations to publicly rescind its membership.

“As leaders of community based organizations — many of which are members of the Silicon Valley Organization — we are appalled at the blatant racist fear mongering tactics of SVO and SVO political action committee, the California Association of Realtors and the California Apartment Association,” said the nonprofit’s CEO Gregory Kepferle.

Catholic Charities said it is returning a reward it had received from The SVO while the Health Trust asked for a proportional refund of its membership dues.

The Health Trust also said it would no longer be a member of SVO.

“Today is a day of reckoning for the SVO,” Michele Lew, CEO of The Health Trust said. “The SVO has engaged in a disturbing years long pattern of racist behavior ... enough is



This image on the website of The Silicon Valley Organization prompted an outcry.

enough. We demand systemic change.” She called for changes in the organizational culture of the SVO and said San Jose should have “zero tolerance for a pattern of racist behavior.”

Milan Balinton, executive director of African American Community Service Agency, was invited to serve on the SVO board and decided to seize the opportunity to make change from within.

“When we get together as board members once I’m finally on that board, we better be ready to make change immediately,” Balinton said.

Since the ad’s release — and subsequent removal — at least three SVO board members have stepped down. Mahood was initially placed on administrative leave and all SVO political action committee activities were suspended. A third-party investigator will conduct an investigation at all levels of the organization to discover more about why the image was posted.

Councilmember Dev Davis, Tonkel and prominent advocacy groups across the city have denounced The SVO for its “poor judgement.”

Davis, who has maintained a long-standing positive relationship with The SVO, tweeted that she felt “ashamed” of the support she received after seeing the ad.

Despite resigning, Mahood claimed he had no idea the racist photo would be posted. SVO leaders have blamed an outside web administrator, but refuse to disclose their name.

“Although the SVO internal investigation has not yet been conducted or concluded, I am confident that the results of the investigation will show a breakdown of internal process and control, and that I had no knowledge of the image’s posting on our website,” Mahood said. “And in fact, as soon as I was made aware that the webpage existed, I had it taken down immediately. The investigation will find that it was a horrible mistake made by someone on the SVO team — the team for whom I am ultimately responsible for.”

The SVO proved itself a heavyweight this election season, spending more than half a million dollars promoting its anti-Tonkel, pro-Dev Davis agenda.

About \$200,000 was thrown in the ring specifically to defeat Tonkel but the recent post on The SVO website went too far, according to advocacy groups that gathered in protest at San Jose City Hall Oct. 28.

In addition to supporting Davis and campaigning against Tonkel, The SVO has advocated for San Jose Councilmember Lan Diep’s reelection and has distributed messages in opposition of District 4 candi-

date David Cohen.

Faith leaders of Silicon Valley, NAACP, South Bay Labor Council, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, Silicon Valley De-Bug and other organizations called on Davis and Diep to reject The SVO’s support, adding the PAC has a history of darkening the faces of Latino councilmembers Sergio Jimenez and Sylvia Arenas in ads.

Also this week, many large businesses and for-profit organizations cut ties with The SVO. In addition to Republic Services and the California Apartment Association, Santa Clara Valley Water District left The SVO after 44 years.

Rick Callender, Valley Water’s first African American CEO, said he’s “disgusted, hurt and deeply offended.”

“Using these images to suggest there should be something to fear or distrust or other stereotypical issues associated with African American men should not be allowed in political campaigns, in the community, or from those who purport to represent us as industry associations,” Callender said. “This is not about the election cycle; this is about trying to incite people to be fearful of me, an African American man, in my own community, which I live and work. This racist act is unacceptable.”

The Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits also withdrew its Nonprofit Ally Award given to The SVO last week for Mahood’s help in securing PPE for nonprofit essential workers.

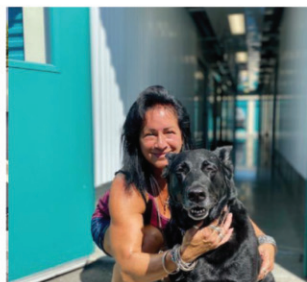
“SVO has apologized for the webpage image, but given the organization’s history of similar deplorable behavior, frankly, an apology isn’t sufficient,” said the council’s CEO Kyra Kazantzis. “As a SVO member organization, we stand with other nonprofit members in calling for true accountability as well as a demonstrated commitment to culture change at every level of the organization.”

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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.

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Valley Currents

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

Table & Terrace Dinner Delivery service in greater demand

'Delicious dishes' delivered to your doorstep

By William Bellou
Publisher

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

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

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

"Table & Terrace is one of a kind," said San Jose resident Madeline Chiavetta. "Their dishes are not only delicious but their presentation is beautiful. Their love and passion for food and people comes through in their dishes. They really go the extra mile to make sure their customers are thrilled with their food and overall experience! Their weekday meals are always different and they make dinnertime a special treat!"

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

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

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

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

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

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



Israel Valencia and Tonya Tyszkiewicz

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

Dinner Deliveries

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



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

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

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

New guidelines initiate exciting delivery to doorstep business model

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

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



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Times **Community News**

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.

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 build-



ings 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.

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Times **Community News****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!

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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.



RE/MAX Gold has announced that **Carlos Stefano Garcia** (left) and **Elva Acevedo** (right) are the latest additions of the growing real estate franchise staff in Willow Glen.

Garcia and Acevedo join RE/MAX Gold in Willow Glen as real estate agents

RE/MAX Gold has announced that Carlos Stefano Garcia and Elva Acevedo are the latest additions of the growing real estate franchise staff in Willow Glen.

Carlos brings to the office more than seven years of local real estate and specializes in (Luxury Listings, Relocation, and First Time Home Buyers. Garcia is also a member of Santa Clara County Association of Realtors, National Hispanic Organization of Real Estate Associates and Silicon Valley Young Professionals Network.

Elva brings to the office four years of local real estate and specializes in Resi-

dential, First-time Buyers, Sellers, and Land sales. Elva has earned The National Commercial Real Estate Association Designation and is working on pursuing a Broker's License. Elva also is a member of Multiple Listing Service and MetroList organizations.

In addition to helping community members find the right home, Carlos is also passionate about giving back to His community. He donates yearly to Second Harvest Canned Food Drives and Toys for Tots.

Elva has spent many years participating and fundraising for many great causes such as Earth Day Clean up, 39-Mile Avon Breast Cancer Walk, Local Little League, Latinas Contra Cancer, Food and Turkey Drives, Coat Drives, Shipped over 300 lbs., coffee and cookies to our troops.

For more information about Carlos Garcia, contact him at: (408) 431-8941 or by email at CarlosStefanoGarcia@gmail.com

For more information about Elva, contact her at (408) 876-3407 or by email at elva@elvasellshomes.com



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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 rate and Hawaii's 15% unem-



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

ployment 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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Times Community News



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/ 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>

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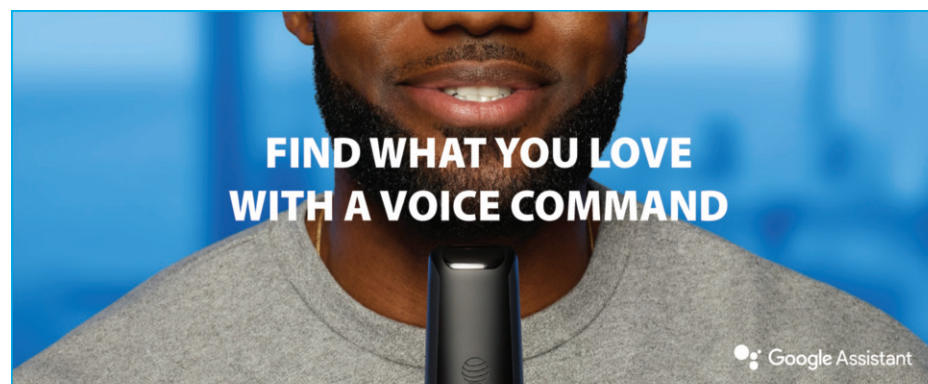


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Clean water grants totaling \$900,000 now available

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

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,

companies 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. 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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Times **Community News**

Jake Tonkel and his supporters wait for election results at a small gathering on Nov. 3.



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Election

Continued from page 1

residents won her praise at a Project Homekey news conference from Gov. Gavin Newsom and longtime ally, Mayor Sam Liccardo.

Tonkel has criticized Davis and the council majority, which includes Liccardo, for favoring big developers and not doing enough to create housing for low-income individuals. Currently 94% of residential land in San Jose is zoned for single-family homes and only 6% is for multi-family homes.

As of Oct. 26, special interest groups in Silicon Valley spent \$836,247 to ensure the success or defeat of the two candidates. The California Apartment Association, The Silicon Valley Organization (SVO) and California Real Estate expenditure committee spent upwards of \$200,000 opposing Tonkel.

South Bay Labor Council, on the other hand, donated \$77,000 to get Tonkel in office.

Days before Election Day, The SVO posted a racist image on its website in an attack on Tonkel. The ad pictured a photo of Black men surrounded by tear gas in South Africa and the caption read, "Do you really want to sign on to this?" referring to Tonkel's goals for reforming the police department.

The issue led to The SVO's PAC, one of Davis' biggest supporters, dissolving in the crucial lead up to the election. CEO Matt Mahood resigned after being placed on administrative leave. Advocacy groups, including the NAACP, told San José Spotlight The SVO's attack on Tonkel fanned the flames of Trumpism and promoted fear of low-income families. They also said the SVO has a history of targeting people of color, including current city council members.

On Oct. 27, Davis rebuked the SVO and donated \$1,200 in SVO campaign contributions she received to NAACP.

The candidates also differ on police reform in San Jose. Davis takes pride in the fact that 300 new officers were hired

Despite claims that he wanted to cut police budgets by 80%, Tonkel said he does not want to slash police funding, but does want to investigate areas where professionals may be used to diffuse situations more effectively than officers. He cited schools as one example.

during her time in office and has called for a greater police presence in San Jose—a somewhat controversial opinion at the height of the BLM movement amid calls for defunding the police.

Tonkel, on the other hand, has called for reallocating some police funding to mental health and social services.

That position led to the San Jose Police Officers Association spending \$231,939 on anti-Tonkel ads.

Despite claims that he wanted to cut police budgets by 80%, Tonkel said he does not want to slash police funding, but does want to investigate areas where professionals may be used to diffuse situations more effectively than officers. He cited schools as one example.

Davis has acquired hefty longtime support from business organizations, including SJPOA, who spent more than \$200,000 to promote her reelection.

Tonkel said the situation with The SVO highlights how big spending in local elections can be dangerous for public trust—something his campaign has been trying to draw attention to since the March primary.

Davis won by more than 5,000 votes in the March primary. If Tonkel unseats Davis, his win would shift the 6-5 majority to the council, which favors Liccardo and his business-friendly allies.

To date, Davis has raised a total of \$174,472 for her campaign while Tonkel has raised \$147,671.

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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.

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IN MEMORY

Della Felicetta
January 16, 1931 -
July 10, 2020, San Jose

Della Felicetta passed away on July 10th with family by her side.

Dee was a California native who grew up and lived in Willow Glen most of her life. She was born to Peter and Delia Crisham, both Irish immigrants.

During her childhood she lived with her parents, her sister, Patty and brother, Peter in residence attached to the Crisham Grocery Store on Coe Avenue in Willow Glen. She attended St. Leo's Grammar School and Notre Dame High School.

Della married the love of her life, George

Felicetta in 1958, after meeting at a Catholic singles club. They were blessed with a daughter, Regina Madigan (John) of Mountain View and two sons, Vince Felicetta

(Kelly) of Capitola and Rob Felicetta (Nancy) of Carson City, NV. Grandma Dee was doubly blessed with five grandchildren Keara, Elise, Joey, Danny and Lauren, one great-grandchild, Maggie and nieces and nephews who she was delighted to spend time with locally and on family vacations.

Della graduated from San Jose State University, received a teaching credential and also earned a Master's degree in Special Education from UC Santa Cruz. Over her long career she worked at various schools



in San Jose where she fulfilled her passion of teaching children and positively touched many student's lives. After retirement she volunteered at the Thrift Box in Willow Glen, and the

One-Room School House at the San Jose History Museum.

Dee enjoyed life to the fullest, especially loving get-togethers with family and friends. She always greeted friends and family with such joy that each person knew they were loved and appreciated. She was the life of the party, singing, dancing, talking and playing cards. She had a passion for anything having to do with Ireland, especially enjoying the annual family St. Patrick's Day Party and Irish Bread. She also had a special place in her heart for Capitola, where she and George owned a home and spent much of their family and leisure time near the beautiful Pacific Ocean.

Dee and George belonged to the Valiant Investment Group, a tight knit group of couples who invested, socialized and traveled for more than 50 years. They were like family and Dee cherished each and every member of the group. She also enjoyed investing on her own and had been investment savvy.

She cherished being a part of a special group of neighborhood ladies, the "Bridge Club," which still meets for monthly lunches. They all raised children together and were a source of joy and support for her.

IN MEMORY

Michael Leo Chiechi

February 1, 1918 -
October 3, 2020, San Jose

Instrumental in building St Christopher's church in Willow Glen

Michael Leo Chiechi passed away in his Willow Glen home from natural causes at 102 years old.

A US Armed Forces veteran of WW2, he lived through the transition of the Valley of Hearts Delight to Silicon Valley as a farmer, home builder, and a developer.



Mike is survived by his wife of 76 years Evelyn Chiechi, sons Mark (Roxana) & Marty (Suzette), and his daughter Michele Hyland. As well as grandchildren Ryan Chiechi, Matt Gallagher, Caitlin Smith, Kelly Hyland, Dan Hyland, Brian Hyland, Cameron Chiechi, Josh Dammeier, his 14 great grandchildren, and his cousin/buddy Margie Chiechi. He is preceded by parents Leo & Theresa Chiechi, and his brother Anthony "Tony" Chiechi.

Mike's hobbies included all things outdoors from fishing, duck hunting, to tending his fruit trees & vegetable gardens. One could find him at Orchard Supply daily, picking up hardware to rebuild old tractors, army jeeps, or whatever invention he was creating. He was a 49ers season ticket holder for over 50 years, and rarely missed a game. Mike enjoyed all of these hobbies past his 100th birthday.

As a past president of the Tricarico Social Club and the St Christopher's Holy Names Society, and a member of the Jugoslav Napredak Club, Mike was always making things happen, whether it was behind the BBQ or organizing the patrons. He was instrumental in building the St Christopher's church and school in Willow Glen, and was active at Presentation High School.

Mike was a truly one of a kind man who packed as much into 102 years as humanly possible. Mike's smile, boisterous personality, and love of life will be missed.

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GIFT CARD: \$100 Visa Gift Card fulfilled by Protect Your Home through third-party provider, Mpell, upon installation of a security system and execution of monitoring contract. \$4.95 shipping and handling fee, gift cards can take up to 8 weeks to arrive after following the Mpell redemption process. **BASIC SYSTEM:** \$99 Installation. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,007.64). 24-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$671.76) for California. Offer applies to homeowners only. Basic system requires landline phone. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Cannot be combined with any other offer. The \$27.99 Offer does not include Quality Service Plan (QSP), ADT's Extended Limited Warranty. **ADT Pulse:** ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Pulse"), which help you manage your home environment and family lifestyle, require the purchase and/or activation of an ADT alarm system with monitored burglary service and a compatible computer, cell phone or PDA with Internet and email access. These ADT Pulse services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Pulse equipment. All ADT Pulse services are not available with the various levels of ADT Pulse. All ADT Pulse services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the ADT Pulse features you desire. **ADT PULSE + VIDEO:** ADT Pulse + Video installation is an additional \$299. 36-month monitoring contract required from ADT Pulse + Video: \$59.99 per month, (\$2,159.64), including Quality Service Plan (QSP). Doorbell camera may not be available in all areas. **GENERAL:** For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, satisfactory credit history is required and termination fee applies. Certain packages require approved landline phone. Local permit fees may be required. Certain restrictions may apply. Additional monitoring fees required for some services. For example, Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert monitoring requires purchase and/or activation of an ADT security system with monitored Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert devices and are an additional charge. Additional equipment may be purchased for an additional charge. Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. Prices subject to change. Prices may vary by market. Some insurance companies offer discounts on Homeowner's Insurance. Please consult your insurance company. Photos are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect the exact product/service actually provided. **Licenses:** AL-21-001104, AR-CMPY.0001725 AZ-ROC217517, CA-AC06320, CT-ELC.0193944-L5, DC-EMS902653, DC-602516000016, DE-07-212, FL-EC13003427, EC13003401, GA-LVA205395, IA-AS-0206, ID-ELE-SJ-39131, IL-127.001042, IN-C.P.D. Reg. No. - 19-08088, City of Indianapolis: LAC-000156, KY-City of Louisville: 483, LA-F1914, LA-F1915, LA-F1082, MA-1355C, MD-107-1626, ME-LM50017382, MI-3601205773, MN-TS01807, MO-City of St. Louis: CC#354, St. Louis County: 100194, MS-15007958, MT-PSP-ELS-LIC-247, NC-25310-SP-FA/LV, NC-1622-CSA, NE-14451, NJ Burglar Alarm Lic. # -NJ-34BF00021800, NM-353366, NV-0068518, City of Las Vegas: 300008296, NY-Licensed by the N.Y.S. Department of State UID#12000317691, NYS #12000286451, OH-53891446, City of Cincinnati: AC86, OK-AK1048, OR-170997, Pennsylvania Home Improvement Contractor Registration Number: PA022999, RI-3582, RI-7508, SC-BAC5630, SD- 1025-7001-ET, TN-1520, TX-B13734, ACR-3492, UT-6422596-6501, VA-115120, VT-ES-2382(7C), WA-602588694/ECPROTEYH934RS, WI-City of Milwaukee: PAS-0002966, WV-WV042433, WY-LV-G-21499. 3750 Priority Way South Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46240 ©2017 DEFENDERS, Inc. dba Protect Your Home DF-CD-NP-Q220

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