

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

Wishing you the best this Holiday season from the staff of the Times



Christmas lights in Almaden: See pg. 15

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Almaden Times

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Santa Clara County schools are preparing for students to return to campus but not until COVID-19 case counts decrease. File photo courtesy of Barbara O'Loughlin.

South Bay schools delay reopening, weigh requiring teachers to take vaccine

By Lorraine Gabbert
Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

San Jose's biggest school district has put its reopening plans on pause over the resurgent coronavirus pandemic.

San Jose Unified School District (SJUSD), which intended to return thousands of students to campus on Jan. 5, informed parents last week via email it will delay that effort indefinitely.

"The pandemic continues to rage around us, dimming the hope of a return to normal life anytime soon," said San Jose Unified School District Superintendent Nancy Albarán.

The district's move came in response to Santa Clara County returning to the purple — or highest — tier for COVID-19 infection rates. As of Dec. 14, there have been 49,216 reported COVID-19 cases and 529 related deaths in the county.

SJUSD plans to resume its reopening effort when the county returns to the lower orange or yellow coronavirus tiers, Albarán said in the letter.

See VACCINE, page 8

Superheroes, bears and books make kindergarteners' day a little brighter

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Children carrying kindergarten students drove up in front of Hayes Elementary School on Dec. 11. With books and bears in hand, kinder teachers wearing capes and DC superheroes stood waiting to greet them.

Principal Tracy Cochran, who dressed as school mascot Hunter Huskey for the occasion, was also glad to help spread some holiday joy during the pandemic.

"Especially for the little kids, they need some glimmer of the happiness," Cochran said. "I hope soon... things will get back to normal, but we're making every effort we can for the kids."

Smiles lit the children's faces as they were surprised and delighted by the superheroes and gifts, in addition to the nutritious food their families came for. The books were



Children at Hayes Elementary School hug teddy bears donated by Raley's/Nob Hill and Second Harvest Silicon Valley.

donated to Oak Grove School District by the Molina Foundation.

"It's very nice this has been done for the children," said parent Soleima Mosch, whose daughter, Charlotte, hugged a bear tight. "They don't have a lot to be happy about. It's so nice to see the school mak-

ing this effort and the bears being given out."

The DC superheroes have been bringing good cheer and teddy bears to kids for years. After having a cancerous tumor removed in 2016, David Watkins wanted to give back to Kaiser Permanente

Santa Clara Medical Center and the community. Dressed as Batman, he and two friends, Steve Lam (Superman) and Dan Nitschke (Captain America), visited children in pediatric ICUs, their capes billowing behind them and bears held aloft.

The idea began when Raley's/Nob Hill, where Dave Watkins is a cashier, held a fundraiser for Second Harvest Food Bank and Food for Families, giving customers 'Buster Cozy' teddy bears in exchange for a donation. As customers often gave money without taking bears, a manager thought it might be nice to gift them to a hospital. Following his surgery, Watkins vowed to inspire others and thought this would be the perfect way to start.

Since then, the superhero friends have distributed bears to school children, the homeless, refugees,

See HEROES, page 5

Pat Dando sculpture unveiled during livestream at Almaden Branch Library

'She was always successful... a wonderful role model'

By William Bellou
Publisher

The unveiling of the new Pat Dando sculpture at the Almaden Branch Library was held in a virtual livestream dedication ceremony Saturday, Dec. 19.

The bronze sculpture honors Dando, the beloved late San José Vice Mayor and Civic Advocate. The warm nurturing sculpture, created by



Artist Mario Chiodo and his assistant Francine Agapoff created the beautiful Pat Dando sculpture. The design originated with Pat Sunseri, a graphic artist at De Mattei Construction.

artist Mario Chiodo, was funded by the Pat Dando Legacy project, which has created a generous endowment in Pat's name.

A group of nearly two dozen family members,

friends and civic leaders raised \$440,000 for the project. Of that amount, \$192,500 will be used to create an endowment for the San Jose Public

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



Happy Holidays

Yes, we are (Still) Home for The Holidays! But, whether alone or with family, we can't let that stop us from celebrating the joy of this time of year.

Wishing You a Very Healthy and Happy Holiday Season.





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and Cheers to a
Wonderful New Year!**
-Jackie



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Fire departments recruiting for new candidates

If you have ever thought about becoming a successful Fire-fighter/EMT Candidate or if you know someone that may make a great firefighter, consider visiting www.FirefightersABCs.com. All resources on the website are 100% free for candidates.

Fire Departments are currently seeking men and women who can represent the City's very diverse population. This effort includes people of all backgrounds, religions, and sexual orientations. The fire service and emergency response careers offer great benefits and retirement programs.

Online internship program

The 100% Free Online Internship Program helps build a strong foundation for interviewing, testing, and presentation skills. This program is ideal for 9th–12th grade students, college and post college students, active service members, and those wanting to start a new and exciting career.

Firefighter's ABCs is grateful for its partnerships with Toyota who provided the funding and Silicon Valley Ambulance who will provide a \$500 discount toward their EMT school.

Firefighter's ABCs will provide an additional grant in the amount of \$1000 for two diverse youth in Santa Clara County to attend EMT school in July of 2021, and will provide the same for 2022 and 2023. They will select one male and one female for this program.

Almaden Times

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Valley Currents

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

Coming soon to Almaden Lake: a Play Garden and Nature Area

'Once in a generation' all-inclusive philosophy and implementation

The All-Inclusive Playground coming to Almaden Lake Park is making tremendous progress in recent months, according to Councilmember Johnny Khamis.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a special space in Almaden where children and adults of all abilities may gather," Khamis said.

Khamis said that the Rotary Club of Almaden Valley has launched a "Capital Campaign" to expand the project to build out a "Play Garden" and "Nature Area." "The County of Santa Clara and the City of San José have already contributed \$1.3 million and the goal of the campaign is to fundraise an additional \$3.7 million."

Community leaders and service clubs are now stepping up and pledging their support to bring new features to the park – features such as the "Nature Area," the "Hillside Slide Zone," "Musical Elements," and all-inclusive restroom facilities.

What does 'all-inclusive' mean?

Beyond complying with ADA minimum requirements, an all-inclusive



playground encourages play amongst all users - regardless of age or ability.

Wheelchairs will be allowed on Merry-Go-Rounds in the 'Play Garden.' "Imagine giving a grandparent the opportunity to climb a natural hill, instead of climbing steep steps with a toddler in hand, to gleefully slide back down with one's grandchild by one's side," Khamis said. "Or, imagine the joy of a wheelchair-bound child that can now seamlessly play on a spinner or merry-go-round. And imagine the

benefits of bringing together people of all abilities and developmental levels to interact and play - leading to mutual understanding, friendship, and a true feeling of community."

The Rotary Club of Almaden Valley Endowment, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has established the "Play Garden Fund" and is now accepting tax-deductible contributions to the campaign. Service Clubs, Parent-Teacher Associations, Homeowners Associations, and others have already

signed up to support the campaign, making this a truly all-inclusive community project. With collaboration and support from individuals, businesses, and organizations throughout Almaden Valley and the surrounding area, the "Play Garden" and "Nature Area" will become a reality.

Fundraising

Fundraising for the Play Garden at Almaden Lake is currently underway.

The current design is very limited, so the Rotary Club of Almaden Valley has joined with other service clubs in Almaden to raise an additional \$3.7M. We now have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to expand the playground beyond grant funding constraints and invest in a Play Garden & Nature Area – creating a space where children and adults of all abilities can gather locally.

For more information, visit www.PlaygardenALP.org and contact friends@playgardenalp.org. All contributions will be collected through the Playgarden Fund, housed within the Rotary Club of Almaden Valley Endowment, a 501(c)(3) organization. These contributions are tax-deductible and 100% of proceeds will go directly to the expansion.

Councilmember-Elect Matt Mahan – Ready to serve

By Denelle Fedor
Times Contributing Writer

It is common to hear those who live outside of D10 (District 10) including elected officials to refer to our district as "Almaden Valley," with the assumption that D10 is only one zip code – 95120—Almaden's zip code.

This incorrect notion most likely stems from the fact that for more than 25 years, each D10 elected representative has lived in 95120. However, as those of us who live here know, there are four different zip codes – 95118, 95123, 95120 and 95136 that make up D10, not one. With the election of Councilmember Elect Matt Mahan, the tradition of the elected official living in 95120 has changed – as he, Sylvia, his wife and two children live in 95123, Blossom Valley. This change sets the stage for new representation and a new outlook for the district.

Councilmember-Elect Mahan brings a new perspective – not just in the issues of the day –



District 10 Councilmember-Elect Matt Mahan is pictured with his wife Sylvia and children Nina and Luke.

but more importantly – how he conducts himself—how he treats people and how he chooses to work through issues.

Meeting Matt for the first time last year when he was a candidate for the D10 Office, I was impressed with his focus and pragmatism. Mahan won the March 3, 2020 election with more

than 51 percent of the vote, during one of the most prosperous economic times in San Jose. Then, within two weeks of his win, the world experienced the worst pandemic in history. However, he did not miss a beat as he pivoted from winning to volunteering. Matt began

See MAHAN, page 16

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Times **Cover Story**



Steve Lam (Superman), Hayes Elementary Principal Tracy Cochran (mascot Hunter Huskey) and Dan Nitschke (Captain America).

Heroes

Continued from page 1

low-income families, special needs adults, elderly living in hospices and wildfire victims.

Watkins considers the teddy bears friends for those in need of a little love, especially during a pandemic.

"I know everything may seem really crazy right now with COVID-19," Watkins said. "Someone is thinking of you... and wishing

you the best. Don't give up, stay strong, stay healthy, and stay awesome!"

Nitschke, who normally lets children in hospital beds hold his Captain America shield, said as they couldn't visit ICUs this year, he was glad they could still do something to bring kids joy, especially as they've had their lives uprooted by COVID-19.

Lam said it meant a lot to all of them, especially this year.

"We all need encouragement, support, optimism and hope," Lam said.

Pending



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Times **Feature**

Bills call for steps toward universal preschool across state of California

Advocates say such a system would help working-class families and their children

Universal preschool is a step closer to becoming reality.

Assemblyman Kevin McCarty, D- Sacramento and other legislators last week proposed a sweeping suite of bills to help reform the state's early childhood system.

The bills seek to expand kindergarten to all 4-year-olds, make child care more affordable by creating a sliding scale for family fees, increase reimbursement rates for preschool teachers and bar expulsions and suspensions in preschool.

"This education package aims to lift up working families and our kids throughout California. We all know that early education matters for kindergarten readiness, to make sure our kids are ready to thrive when they enter a public school system, and for moms trying to go to work or go to school themselves," said McCarty, during a news conference on the legislation. "We see it

crystal clear during COVID-19 how much early education and child care impacts our economy."

"It makes no sense that only one quarter of 4-year-olds are provided access to an additional year of kindergarten," said Kerry Woods, chair of the political action group for the California School Employees Association. "Expanding transitional kindergarten to all California's 4-year-olds is the right thing to do, and we should do it now, as study after study shows that providing quality early education for our children prepares them for future educational and personal success."

Free technology classes for seniors

Now more than ever, technology can add dimension to your life in ways you may not realize.

Seniors can now participate in a free virtual technology class right from the comfort and safety of their home.

Participants at all levels of skill and experience will find classes of interest, from beginners to more advanced users. You can find a class and explore ways that technology can improve your life.

Classes are provided at no cost by AnewVista Community Services. Once you sign up you will receive the information by email about how to join the classes.

To sign up, visit: www.anewvistacs.org/virtual-classes, then click on "Sign Up for Free Virtual Classes."

For more information or if you have specific questions: Email: info@anewvista.com Phone: (650) 300-0688.

Yoon Soo Jon of Almaden Valley awarded scholarship from Iowa State University College of Human Sciences

Recognized for exceptional academic performance

Yoon Soo Jon, a HSP major from Almaden Valley, has been awarded the Irene Beavers Scholarship Endowment College of Human Sciences International Graduate and Undergraduate Students from the Iowa State University College of Human Sciences and its academic units.



Jon was recognized for exceptional academic performance. The College of Human Sciences supports Jon's academic journey and pursuit of innovation in their field. More than \$1.4 million in student scholarships are offered each year by the College of Human Sciences and its academic units, in addition to monies awarded by Iowa State at the university level.

Programs in the College of Human Sciences focus on fields of study that expand human potential and improve people's lives. The college encompasses academic units that include the School of Education and four departments: Apparel, Events, and Hospitality Management; Food Science and Human Nutrition; Human Development and Family Studies; Kinesiology and Health.

Iowa State University is one of the nation's most student-centered public research universities and is recognized among the top 50 public universities in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. With hundreds of student clubs and organizations, thousands of internship and co-op opportunities, and more than 80 learning communities, the university offers a student experience rich in academic and social diversity.



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Times **Feature****CAREER COLUMN****2021 workplace trends to watch for**

By **Angela Copeland**
Special to the Times

Have you had enough of 2020?

Let's look to what you can expect in your 2021 workplace. The 2020 pandemic has been a historic year. We've experienced unexpected change. And, interestingly, some of that change may be here to stay.

Recently, Glassdoor's Chief Economist, Dr. Andrew Chamberlain, shared his five predictions on what the future holds at work. First, office life will return, but will never be the same. Second, employees expect progress, not pledges, on corporate diversity, equality, and inclusion. Salary expectations will get a permanent work from home overhaul. Company cultures must adapt to post-COVID-19 realities. And, although the COVID-19 recession is likely over, those jobs may never return.

I'm sure you would agree; there's a lot to unpack here. Let's start with a few of the highlights.

More than 40% of US workers have been working from home full-time since June 2020. This dramatic shift has caused significant changes in the way we work. Chamberlain believes that although companies have been forced to rethink work from home policies, employees will ultimately return to work

once it's safe. Although remote work allows companies to hire from anywhere, it has downsides. Chamberlain cites poor employee communication, lack of motivation and performance, lower creativity, and lack of spontaneity as the drawbacks to remote work. Casual bonds created through in-person interactions are critical for building a culture of innovation and creativity. According to an internal survey of Glassdoor's own workforce, most workers prefer a hybrid work arrangement, splitting time between home and office.

The Black Lives Matter movement also cast a needed light on racial inequality that will impact our workplace going forward. Companies are being pushed to make real progress on diversity and inclusion efforts. The public also expects more transparency on these efforts going forward. Conversations around economic inequality and police violence sparked a national conversation. In the workplace, this conversation has the potential to be a win-win. In other words, diversity attracts talent. Glassdoor found in a recent survey that more than three in four employees and job seekers say they would no longer apply at a company without workplace diversity.

Chamberlain also predicts a shift in salary expectations. He believes tech workers moving from expensive metros such as San Francisco or New York should expect pay reductions from five to thirty percent, depending on where they move. This is one point where my perspective veers away from Chamberlain. If a worker has a unique skillset, a com-

pany will be forced to pay the fair market rate for that skillset, regardless of where they live. On the flip side, if location is no issue, job seekers will likely face more competition as they apply for jobs. I believe the increase in competition will change salaries more than a cost of living adjustment.

Ultimately, the unexpected nature of 2020 has forever changed our workplace, for good and for bad.

Here's to a better 2021!

Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.

**Vaccine**

Continued from page 1

The district polled parents in November about whether they wanted their children to attend in-person learning when it was expected to resume in January. The district plans to give parents who chose to send their children back to school four weeks notice before such instruction resumes, Albarrán said.

The state Legislature is requiring schools to offer in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible, SJUSD spokeswoman Jennifer Maddox said. Despite the delay, the district is preparing classrooms for students to return, collecting personal protective equipment for teachers and other personnel, separating students' desks to allow for social distancing and ordering acrylic barriers that will allow teachers to move about their classrooms.

"We are still planning and preparing for a Jan. 5 start date even though we know that's not going to happen, solely because we want to be ready," Maddox said.

SJUSD's delay of in-person learning is one of several among local school districts.

East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) put its own reopening plans on pause last month. ESUHSD previously brought some students back to campus and had planned to have 500 students at each of its campuses starting Jan. 15.

But the district announced Nov. 16 it would put that plan on hold until the county gets back into at least the red tier for coronavirus infections.

Campbell Union School District similarly has delayed its reopening plans.

Across the district's 10 elementary and two middle schools, only about 300 students total are attending classes in-person, Marla Sanchez, a district spokeswoman, said. The district had been hoping to move to the next stage of reopening — a hybrid schedule with students on campus for part of the day and learning remotely for the other part — but put that on pause when the county went into the purple tier.

It won't resume its reopening effort until the county has dropped to the red tier and stayed there for two weeks, Sanchez said. At this point, the district won't resume its reopening effort until Jan. 19 at the earliest, she said.

"Everything is in place to go into the next phase," she said. "But things with this virus keep changing."

To speed the return of in-person learning, school district representatives as well as other education officials and advocates are

urging health officials to make it a priority to administer coronavirus vaccines to teachers and school staff.

Santa Clara County will initially receive some 17,550 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and about 39,300 doses of the Moderna vaccine, all of which are reserved for health care workers.

The Pfizer doses started arriving Dec. 15 while the Moderna ones are slated to arrive by Dec. 25, public health officials said. But given that both vaccines require two doses, those allotments won't be nearly enough to cover the approximately 100,000 health care workers in the county, much less teachers or anyone else.

School workers shouldn't get the vaccines before health care workers but they should be considered a priority, Maddox said.

"If we want the schools to be open as a community, we have to look at making sure the people who work in school facilities have access to the vaccine," she said.

Teachers and staff should be included within the first three waves of COVID-19 vaccinations, ESUHSD Superintendent Chris Funk said.

"That's the only way to have confidence in reopening our schools," he said. "And without reopening our schools fully, our economy won't come back."

Funk hopes the district will be able to offer additional in-person instruction for the last six weeks of school as well as summer and fall.

"That's all contingent on educators ... from teachers to counselors to custodians getting the vaccine," Funk said.

Such calls are being echoed around the state and nation.

With many students struggling with distance learning at risk of falling behind, the California Teachers Association is urging Gov. Gavin Newsom to prioritize educators for the vaccine.

Likewise, American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten asked federal review panels to include teachers and staff in a top tier of those due to receive vaccinations.

Maddox said it's in the best interest of SJUSD students to return to in-person learning as soon as it's safe to do so.

"We really hope that everyone in the community continues to do everything they can: wear face coverings, keep socially distanced, avoid gatherings," Maddox said. "We would certainly like to bring the kids back. We know a lot of families are really wanting to have the kids back. The sooner we can slow the spread again ... the sooner we'll be able to do that."

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Santa Clara County Public Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody is pictured during a news conference in this file photo.

Here's how COVID-19 vaccines in Santa Clara County will be distributed and tracked

By Mauricio La Plante
Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

With the FDA's approval of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccination on Dec. 11, thousands of health care workers may soon receive immunization shots in Santa Clara County within the next week.

Health officials expect 17,550 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and 39,300 doses of the Moderna vaccine to be available in the county over the next few weeks.

However, only a fraction of health care workers will have access to the vaccine.

Doses are so scarce that state health officials have broken down their first phase of vaccine distribution into multiple tiers. In the first tier are health care workers at acute care and skilled nursing facilities and hospitals within jails and prisons.

"The first bit of vaccine coming to our county will not even be enough to get us through the first two bullets in tier one," said Public Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody.

"That's a very large group of individuals that fall into tier one."

COVID-19 Testing Officer Dr. Marty Fenstersheib said the county will receive about 6,000 of the 17,550 Pfizer doses by mid-December, which will all go to acute care and skilled nursing staff. Fenstersheib said the county has about 75,000 acute care hospital workers, and the first round will only be available for 10% to 12% of them.

Urgent care workers and community health workers will be in the second tier of the first phase. Health officials expect the general public won't have access to COVID-19 vaccines for several months.

How will the county track who receives the vaccine and any adverse reactions to it

County health officials encourage private and public health care providers to collect data on people's

immunizations, vaccination dates and inventory to share with the state.

Vaccine providers can transmit data to the California Immunization Registry – a database tracking immunizations of California residents – via electronic health records or software that tracks the immunization of patients, according to the county's vaccination plan.

Hospitals may use software such as PrepMod – online software that tracks when people are vaccinated – to alert patients when they need to receive a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine 28 days after the first. Both vaccines require a second booster shot and patients will be notified via email and texts. The state's immunization registry is confidential and can only be accessed by authorized medical staff and health officials.

Reactions to the vaccine

California requires every provider to report reactions from the vaccine to the federal Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS).

VAERS is a database and early warning system run by the FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to detect possible safety problems with U.S. licensed vaccines.

While the FDA has approved the vaccines under emergency authorization, three patients in the United Kingdom reported severe allergic reactions to the vaccine. British health officials said any person with a history of anaphylaxis or severe allergies to vaccines, medicine or food should not be immunized.

However, they noted those conditions are rare.

The county will update its website to provide instructions on how health care providers should report any incidents to VAERS, though no guidance was listed as of Dec. 13.

Patients can report reactions to the vaccine directly to VAERS as well.

County leaders said they may come up with more requirements for private health care providers to prevent "hoarding" of vaccinations and to ensure they're immunizing sufficient numbers of people within the county. It's unclear how the county will ensure hospitals are distributing proper amounts of vaccinations.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian last week said he lacks confidence in private health care providers after they failed to conduct enough COVID-19 tests.

"The hope and expectation is that responsibility will be undertaken by folks in the health care arena, who are in the private (and) non-profit sector outside the governmental sphere," Simitian said. "But we had that hope and expectation with testing only to be disappointed, frankly."

County Executive Jeff Smith said the county could impose vaccination requirements on private companies or take legal action against them for not complying with state and county vaccine regulations. However, county leaders said collecting too much data could spark

Op Ed

What gives us humans our dignity?

By Srujal Shah

Special to the Times

What gives us humans our dignity? Is it our income? Our education? The company we work for? Our job titles? Our status in society?

The 100th birthday of Reverend Pandurang Shastri Athavale was celebrated on Oct. 19 around the world by millions as Human Dignity Day. But why would someone's birthday be celebrated as Human Dignity Day?

Rev. Pandurang Shastri Athavale taught a simple but powerful notion that we all have dignity because we are human and the Universal Power is within us irrespective of our religious beliefs: "The supreme power within me is my dignity. The supreme power within you is your dignity. The supreme power within all of us is human dignity."

We are the only creation on the planet capable of expressing gratitude to this Universal Power and of becoming anything we envision. Human beings have the power if they choose, to become evil or good. This is one of the marvels of our existence. Could not the realization of this universal human divinity help to bring about the equality our society needs today?

In a time when groups are

being galvanized and polarized because of race, nationalism, religion, and socio-economic status, Pandurang Shastri Athavale (known as Dadaji meaning "elder brother" in Marathi) inspired millions of people to acknowledge their divinity, the part of their identity that unifies them.

This compelling idea brought tens of millions of people together under the umbrella of a global family founded by Rev. Athavale, known as the Swadhyaya family. One of this group's most remarkable feats is its vast presence in six continents without soliciting a single donation. The work is based on absolute faith in divinity and the principles of gratefulness and selfless work (bhakti) described in an ancient Indian text, the Bhagavad Gita.

Rev. Athavale revived from ancient texts of the Vedas, the true meaning of bhakti as "devotion based on indwelling God." By explaining that God lives in all of us, he inspired and provided the framework for millions of people, both rich and poor, to consistently devote a portion of their time and skills to put this outlook into practice by building selfless relationships with complete strangers and engaging in other constructive projects.

See *DIGNITY*, page 11

distrust among immigrant communities. A federal data sharing plan drew the ire of Smith, who said the plan could dissuade people from getting vaccinated if they are undocumented.

"We're very concerned about the fact that any information transfer may discourage people from participating in the vaccine program," Smith said.



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

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

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Dignity

Continued from page 9

Over time a very transformed society became visible in communities around the world—one characterized by love, self-respect, and a positive attitude toward life.

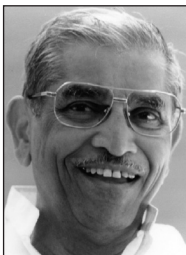
Rev. Pandurang Shastri Athavale lived to uplift others and did not desire even his own birthday to carry his name. He was the recipient of many prestigious awards and recognitions, including The Templeton Prize, The Magsaysay Award and invitations to the Vatican by the Holy Pope. Rev. Athavale explained that you can only achieve peace within a society by finding peace within the individual first.

To celebrate the selfless life of this great soul who has changed the lives of tens of millions of people around the world, can we take some time today to remember what really gives us our own dignity and to consider how our actions guide us to this end? This will make Human Dignity Day meaningful to each one of us and lead to a greater understanding of humankind.

Revered Pandurang

Shastri Athavale

(19 October 1920 – 25 October 2003), also known as Dadaji, which literally translates as "elder brother" in Marathi, was an Indian activist, philosopher, spiritual leader, social revolutionary, and religion reformist.



Opera San José rings in 2021 with The Parting Glass, a free virtual New Year's celebration

Eager to bid adieu, farewell, and even good riddance to 2020, Opera San José has announced it will present The Parting Glass, an online celebration for music-lovers on New Year's Eve.

Set in a pub, this jovial program of drinking songs spanning centuries and countries was conceived and curated by OSJ Resident Bass-baritone Nathan Stark, and directed by OSJ Resident Director Tara Branham.

Conductor Christopher James Ray, baritone Eugene Brancoveanu, mezzo-soprano Ashley Dixon, soprano Maya Kherani, tenor Carlos Enrique Santelli, and baritone Efraín Solís join their fellow OSJ Resident Artists, taking on the roles of the pub piano player, a French wine lover, a Russian drunkard, an Italian opera singer, a British professor, and the pub's German regular.

Produced and captured in the Heiman Digital Media Studio, this celebratory event will be available to stream at 6:30 p.m. (PST), Thursday, December 31.

For more information and to RSVP, the public may visit operasj.org/the-parting-glass. While access to The Parting Glass is free



Opera San José has announced it will present "The Parting Glass," an online celebration for music-lovers on New Year's Eve. While access to the event is FREE, patrons are given the opportunity to purchase exclusive add-ons to enhance their experience and raise funds for Opera San José. Pictured: OSJ Resident Artists **Christopher James Ray** (left) and **Efraín Solís**. Photo Courtesy of Opera San José

of charge, patrons are given the opportunity to purchase exclusive add-ons for this one-night-only event to enhance their experience and raise funds for Opera San José. VIP Experience options include: \$150 (delivery of an Opera San José goodie bag that includes party favors and keepsakes), \$500 (delivery of Bird Dog meal for two from Chef Robbie Wilson's

lauded Palo Alto eatery with a pairing of the award-winning whiskeys from 10th Street Distillery and goodie bag), \$1,000* (delivery of Bird Dog meal for four from Chef Robbie Wilson's lauded Palo Alto eatery with pairings of award-winning whiskeys from 10th Street Distillery, two goodie bags, and a commemorative Three Decembers DVD). A silent auction of unique Opera San José experiences, raffle drawings, and paddle raise will be included in the evening's celebration. *May be delivered to two households.

For this production, Opera San José has assembled an outstanding team to create a safe performance space, operating under the strictest safety protocols. The participating artists quarantined, allowing them to safely interact

during the process. Editor's note: All cast and crew underwent frequent COVID testing and temperature checks and adhered to strict masking and social distancing protocols.

To RSVP, the public may visit: operasj.org/the-parting-glass or call (408) 437-4450 (Monday through Friday, 9:00am–5:00pm).



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Times **Community News**



Holiday Laptop Donation Drive with HP thru Jan. 9

In partnership with HP Inc., San José Public Library, and the Library Foundation are hosting a donation drive to refresh and repurpose used Windows laptops.

Laptop donations provide students, families, and other Library program participants with access to the technology they need to thrive during the pandemic.

As we approach the holiday season, if you're thinking of upgrad-

ing your devices, please consider paying it forward by dropping off your used device thru January 9, 2021. You will receive an acknowledgement receipt for your gift-in-kind tax-deductible donation.

Donations can be made at any of our Express Pickup locations, Monday – Saturday from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Please, do not drop off donations at the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Library.

Editor's note: Windows-equipped laptops or tablets are preferred. The donation drive cannot repurpose Apple devices. Please don't forget to include any power cords and other device accessories!

Sarah Starke of Almaden awarded one of the highest Scholarships at Biola University

Sarah Starke (pictured), a freshman at Biola University and resident of Almaden Valley has received one of the college's highest scholarships - the President's or Provost's scholarship - for the 2020/2021 academic year.

Starke, who is studying Sociology (BA) at Biola, said: "I am committed to excellence and execution, thoughtful planning, and I care about the people around me. I am committed to continuous learning and self-improvement."

Starke held a number of leadership roles including manager of a high school football team, editor of high school yearbook, camp counselor, and service at non-profit organizations.



Students who receive either scholarship have achieved a high level of academic excellence. Freshmen students are eligible for the President's and Provost's scholarship - \$20,000 and \$19,000 per year respectively - if upon entering the university, they meet the requirements of the scholarship.

Students are considered for this scholarship upon admission to the university based on the combination of their GPA and SAT, both math and English, scores. According to Biola's admissions department, recipients of the President's scholarship have a minimum GPA of 3.88 and an SAT composite score of 1340. Recipients of the Provost's

scholarship have a minimum GPA of 3.87 and an SAT composite score of 1120.

Biola students attended classes remotely this fall through "Biola at Home" - Biola's new digital experience of a Biola education. The core strengths of Biola's excellent education has been made available in new ways as Biola provides the same services students enjoy on campus in a new format. The faculty interaction, small class sizes and faith integration that make a Biola education distinct were still available to students virtually.

Biola University is a nationally ranked Christian university in the heart of Southern California. It was recently recognized as one of the nation's top 10 "up and coming" national universities by the U.S. News & World Report. Founded in 1908, Biola is committed to the mission of biblically centered education, scholarship and service - equipping men and women in mind and character to impact the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Times **Community News**

San Jose looks at ways to increase housing for middle-income workers

By **Lorraine Gabbert**

Article courtesy of *San José Spotlight*

Middle-income wage earners, such as firefighters and teachers who often are left out of San Jose’s housing equation, are the focus of a new effort being discussed at City Hall.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis said the city becoming a member of the California Community Housing Agency (CalCHA), which issues government purpose bonds to finance affordable housing, might be the solution for middle-income earners.

“It’s a win for the people who are looking for affordable homes and a win for the city,” Khamis said, “because the city hasn’t built a single new low-income housing unit for a couple of years. Not a single one.”

Although the city has approved housing for people in very-low income brackets, such as seniors and the homeless, Khamis said the city has fallen short in producing workforce housing for people earning 80% to 120% of the area median income (AMI).

“This program is exactly what we need and in the right time,” Khamis told San José Spotlight. “We see a lot of homelessness and everybody wants to solve that issue. Teachers, mechanics and restaurant workers get sidelined because they’re making a gainful living. They have been neglected.”

CalCHA helps those who earn too much to qualify for traditional affordable housing yet not enough to live comfortably in the communities in which they work, said Scott Carper, program administrator for CalCHA.

Vince Rocha, senior director of housing and community development of Silicon Valley Leadership Group, said CalCHA offers another tool in the toolshed of affordable housing, which is needed because San Jose isn’t meeting housing demands.

“Otherwise, we’re leaving a whole segment of our workforce and residents out of the equation when we’re talking about affordability,” Rocha said. By issuing governmental purpose bonds, CalCHA finances projects that provide, preserve and support affordable housing. Private investors buy California tax-free municipal bonds at favorable rates.

The money comes from private investment that is paid back over 30 years. At the end of the cycle, when the bonds are paid off, the city inherits the property. After 15 years, the city could opt to purchase the property, with a cost based on how many bonds are outstanding. Once all the debt obligations are paid, surplus funds would revert back to the city.

“There’s no risk to the city as investors are on the hook and the city is not,” Khamis said. “This frees up money that would have gone to low-income housing development and allows us to use more money towards helping the homeless.”

Detractors have raised the concern that once the bonds are paid off, the city may get a property that’s dilapidated. “It’s possible, but the city still gets a free property,” Khamis said.

Jacky Morales-Ferrand, San Jose’s director of housing, said although the proposal offers an interesting opportunity, the city needs more time to fully understand the financial, legal and economic implications,

risks, benefits and costs.

“It has some potential, but we want to make sure the entity we join and support issuing this is really a partner ... because if there are ever any issues with properties, people will come back to the city and want us to hold somebody responsible,” Morales-Ferrand said.

She said another option is California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA), which also issues tax-

exempt bonds to acquire affordable housing for middle-income workers. CSCDA was created in 1988 and services more than 530 cities, counties and special districts. San Jose has been a member since 1990.

As CalCHA purchases housing that already exists — from apartment units to apartment buildings — no development is needed. As soon as property is purchased, the housing becomes immediately available.

See *HOUSING*, page 17



Teachers, mechanics, restaurant workers and others who make reasonable wages could benefit through the California Community Housing Agency. Photo courtesy Santa Clara County Association of Realtors.



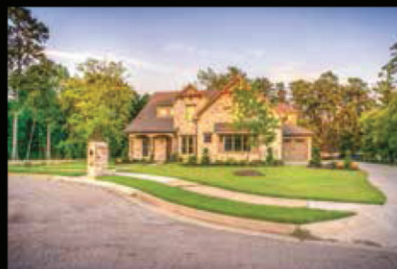
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Times **Community News**

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San Jose-based physician **Dr. Daljeet Rai**, 62, waits to receive the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at O'Connor hospital in San Jose, Calif on Thursday. (San José Spotlight / Vicente Vera, Pool)

More than 200 get first COVID-19 vaccines in Santa Clara County

By **Mauricio La Plante**

Article courtesy of *San José Spotlight*

Standing in front of the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds on a gloomy morning, Dr. Sara Cody delivered a bright message: The county administered its first COVID-19 vaccines.

“At last we have a ray of hope as we are starting to vaccinate,” said Cody, the county’s public health officer, as cars whirled past the busy street nearby. “The vaccine arrived in our county earlier this week. We cannot normalize the devastation around us but we have hope... this pandemic will not last forever.”

Inside the building, around 210 staffers of skilled nursing facilities were receiving the first doses of the Pfizer vaccine in Santa Clara County.

Cliff Roperez, a nurse at Canyon Springs Post-Acute nursing home in San Jose, was the first person to receive the vaccine after being recommended by his workplace. He told San José Spotlight he arrived an hour early.

Roperez said he walked up to the fairgrounds around 8 a.m. and was so early that security guards questioned why he was there.

“I was the first guy at the fairgrounds,” he said. “I was approached by three security guards and for some reason, I wasn’t on the list. They’re like ‘Who are you?’ ”

He said another worker was able to sort out the issue, ensuring that Roperez was first to receive the highly-sought vaccine.

At the nursing home, Roperez swabs residents to check for COVID-19.

“I believe that it’s a risky task because we don’t know. We don’t see the virus,” he said. “But all we have to just rely on are our (personal protective equipment) and making sure that we’re washing our hands and doing the proper care so everyone in the facility are safe and well protected.”

Health officials opened the first vaccine clinic at the fairgrounds — which also serves as a COVID-19 testing facility — on Dec. 17 and began vaccinating people who are in the highest priority group. They represent 5% of all COVID-19 cases in the county, but 45% of the deaths.

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, O’Connor Hospital and St. Louise Regional Hospital received 3,900 doses of the Pfizer vac-

cine on Dec. 17 and began giving the shots to ICU and emergency room workers.

Daljeet Rai, 62, a Stanford Health Care physician directing the COVID-19 response at O’Connor hospital, was one of the first people vaccinated at the facility.

“I would encourage everyone to get this vaccine,” Rai said. “When I walk the wards of the hospital, people are hesitant, they’re reluctant, there’s a lot of conspiracy theories, things that are on people’s minds. In reality, we have to trust the science on this.”

The physician said ultimately the vaccine prevents the spread of the virus.

Alexandra Murdough, a registered nurse at the COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit at O’Connor Hospital, said she received the vaccine because of the toll she’s seen firsthand.

“We’ve seen more on the front lines obviously,” Murdough said. “We have to deal with family and their grief and with the patients not being able to be with their families in their last moments. It’s very hard. That definitely encouraged me to get the vaccine today.”

Santa Clara County received 5,850 doses of the Pfizer vaccine out of 17,500 allotted for it by state officials. Only a fraction of health care workers will have access to the vaccine.

Brian Weaver, a facility administrator at the Forum at Rancho San Antonio senior living home in Cupertino, was one of them. He goes back for the second dose Jan. 7.

“The process went nice and smoothly. I mean, I expected it to go well and it did,” said Weaver, 56, standing in front of the county fairgrounds. “I’m still taking as many precautions as I can since it’s not a sure thing until you get the second dose. But I feel great now that I’ve got this first one down.”

COVID-19 Testing Officer Dr. Marty Fensterseib said 6,000 people will be vaccinated in the county over the next few weeks.

“This is certainly a bright light at the end of a very dark tunnel,” Fensterseib said.

So far, the county is the only health care provider vaccinating people. Private hospitals will receive vaccine doses by next week and Fensterseib said more providers will have access in the next few months.

It will take immunizing 70-80% of Santa Clara County to reach herd immunity, *See VACCINATIONS, page 21*

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Christmas lights in Almaden Valley



Almaden Valley is ablaze with the festive brilliance of Christmas lights adorning many local homes. Christmas lights (also known as fairy lights, festive lights or string lights) are lights often used for decoration in celebration of Christmas, often on display throughout the Christmas season. The custom goes back to when Christmas trees were decorated with candles, which symbolized Christ being the light of the world. This custom was borrowed from yule rituals that celebrate the return of the light of the sun as the days grow longer after solstice: the evergreen trees symbolising the renewal and continuance of life in dark times. The Christmas trees were brought by Christians into their homes in early modern Germany.

Christmas trees displayed publicly and illuminated with electric lights became popular in the early 20th century. By the mid-20th century, it became customary to display strings of electric lights along streets and on buildings; Christmas decorations detached from the Christmas tree itself. In the United States, it became popular to outline private homes with such Christmas lights in tract housing beginning in the 1960s. By the late 20th century, the custom had also been adopted in other nations. *Source: Wikipedia. Photos by Lorraine Gabbert*

Silicon Valley leaders ask for help solving the 'poverty pandemic'

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Santa Clara County elected officials, business and faith leaders are asking the community to help low-income people hit hardest by the pandemic.

Through the new United Against the Poverty Pandemic coalition, formed during the pandemic by Brett Bymaster, executive director of Healing Grove Health Center, the group is working to find solutions for low-income families struggling with job loss and paying rent.

The coalition, which includes the city of San Jose, Health Grove Health Center, Cathedral of Faith, work2future, Westgate Church, Cicuro and CityTeam, announced a goal of raising \$1 million in private funds before Jan. 31 for rent relief and to fund a work program.

Mayor Sam Liccardo said Dec. 7 there is a growing divide between those who are able to survive living in Silicon Valley and those who are struggling to keep their heads above water.

"This pandemic has widened that chasm and government can't do it alone," he said.

According to Liccardo, the city's food distribution operations have handed out more than 2.5 million meals a week to families in need and committed more than \$22 million in federal funding for struggling families through the Silicon Valley Strong Initiative. However, the mayor said this is just a drop in the bucket of what is needed.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg said local governments should extend loans to small businesses and provide financial support to low-income communities asked to stay home from work, especially those who test positive for COVID-19.

Ellenberg said she and Supervisor Cindy Chavez will propose extending and improving the isolation quarantine support program, which offers motel rooms for people who test positive for COVID-19 and cannot safely isolate at home, in addition to providing groceries, cleaning supplies, rent and other financial support.

She also recommends expanding partnerships with community-based organizations to support struggling residents and businesses.

Bymaster said a recent phone survey showed more than 14,600 county families, including 30,000 children, are at risk of becoming homeless when the state's eviction moratorium expires Jan. 31.

"We expect a wave of homelessness when the eviction moratorium expires," he said. "But we have the resources in Santa Clara County to do something about this. Let's unite together to make a difference."

The United Against the Poverty Pandemic



Homeless residents line up during a food and clothing drive at St. James Park in downtown San Jose. *File photo.*

coalition has provided more than 450,000 pounds of food to those who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and \$900,000 in financial aid through private donations and partnering with nonprofits. Now it's working to provide \$1.7 million in financial aid, employment and food aid by Dec. 31.

COVID-19 has especially affected low-income communities. At the Healing Grove clinic, Bymaster said the positivity rate among low-income Latinos was 28%, compared with the county average of 4.7%. The clinic has provided about 2,500 COVID-19 tests for low-income patients and treated 900 clients for COVID-19.

Councilmember Maya Esparza, who represents the hardest hit ZIP codes in the county, said COVID-19's resulting economic hardships hit low-income minority communities the hardest, in addition to disproportionately infecting and killing more Latinos.

"People are getting sick and dying at much higher rates than the rest of the city and county," Esparza said.

COVID-19 also stripped low-income jobs in hospitality, construction, services, trade and transportation. Bymaster said people working in these sectors saw their average annual income drop from \$27,566 a year to \$11,402 after the pandemic.

According to the coalition, about 36,200 Santa Clara County households have unpaid rent debt totaling \$117 million. This debt could be erased, he said, if the 160,000 families in Santa Clara County who earn more than \$200,000 a year donated \$730 each.

"Each of us has a role to play. I hope you will be with us pushing together against this poverty pandemic," Liccardo said.

To help the coalition, visit: <https://poverty-pandemic.org>

Times News

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Mahan

Continued from page 4

helping those in need locally at the outset of the epidemic and now is hopeful the COVID vaccine distribution will be safe and swift so that we can begin a renewal process.

Mahan has his first year of plans in place. He shared, "There are two driving forces that will shape my first year in office - infrastructure needs and the COVID response." While precinct walking as a candidate Councilmember Elect Mahan visited more than 20,000 households and spoke to more than 4,000 residents.

"What emerged from my conversations with residents were concerns about the core quality of life issues — within D10 and city-wide — such as public safety, city infrastructure (parks, street maintenance, weeds) and the homeless issue," Mahan said. "I intend to work with my colleagues and the community to ensure we do not lose sight of what matters."

The second issue, and most immediate by default, is the current COVID pandemic. Mahan reflected, "The pandemic showed our community the need for government assistance - with the distribution of food, providing security, and shelter and most importantly, government providing up to date information on how residents can keep themselves, their family and community safe."

The councilmember-elect also shared his concerns for small business - our economic backbone. Through his work with SPUR (a nonprofit public policy organization) he shared that it is estimated that at least 50% of small businesses in the Downtown of San Jose - specifically restaurants—will remain permanently closed. As a small business owner himself, Mahan is concerned about this recent phenomenon and plans to work to assist programs that will help the small business community.

Matt also sees working with the Federal and State governments as a necessity to provide for local assistance - albeit temporary and/or for the long term, a healthy relationship is needed. For example, there is much concern about keeping people in their homes - renters, homeowners who may have lost their jobs - at the same time as not bankrupting owners or causing inflation increases. San Jose cannot do this alone. As the third largest city in California and the tenth largest in the United States, it is important that San Jose is at the Federal and State tables participating in discussions for aid.

Mahan said he has begun reaching out to meet with city departments, fellow council members and others. He recently met with newly elected Councilmember-Elect David Cohen. Cohen will be representing District 4 beginning January 1, 2021. They took a walk along the Guadalupe River Trail discussing their goal sets.

Mahan shared that he feels that he and Cohen are similar in that they both support a pragmatic approach to governance — not an ideological one — with a focus on core services for the city. Further, he shared that he believes he will not cater to the divide on the council, but rather, work through issues with a sense of respect for fellow councilmembers. He also met with Mayor Liccardo regarding his placement on citywide committees. He's hopeful to serve on the Community Economic Development Committee and the Public Safety Finance and Strategic Support Committee.

Community events

As we experienced in 2020, many community events, including the Annual Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival and the Family Fun Festival and Firework Show were canceled. As new vaccines begin to emerge, hope for restoring community events for 2021 is high.

"While I was canvassing neighborhoods, one of the most asked questions (next to rebuilding San Jose's infrastructure) was regarding the firework show at Almaden Lake," stated Mahan. The organization and management of the firework show was done by Event Manager, Denelle Fedor who organized and managed the event for the past 5 years (of its 6 years) by creating and implementing the overall strategic plan - including creating and overseeing the security plans, producing a parking pass program, securing permits, vendor contracts and securing funding. The Art & Wine Festival is organized by the Almaden Valley Women's Club and it too requires extensive planning.

"I would like to see events begin again as they rebuild our sense of community connection and help rid social isolation," Mahan said, "however, at this time, it is too soon to tell when in-person events will be allowed again." He sees more online events for at least the first part of 2021.

Neighborhood Associations

"I want the council office to assist in building up neighborhood associations but also to be careful and not overstep as my goal is to help residents help themselves," Mahan said. "I want my office to assist neighbors -

See MAHAN, next page



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Times **Feature****Housing***Continued from page 13*

Existing tenants of apartment buildings are not displaced as the units are converted from market-rate to the deed-restricted moderate category through attrition. CalCHA reserves one-third of the units for those earning 80% or less, one-third for those earning 80% to 100% and one-third for those earning 100% to 120% of AMI. It could take a few years to fully reach these goals. Rent increases are limited to no more than 4% annually.

According to the housing department, moderate-income households earn between 81% and 120% of AMI. In 2020, single people would fall into the moderate-income category if they earned \$78,550 to \$118,950 a year. A family of four earning \$112,150 to \$169,900 a year would also be considered moderate-income. About 5% of 16,000 income-restricted apartments qualify as

moderate-income. "Moderate-income housing remains very difficult to finance given the lack of subsidies and affordable housing funding programs for this income group," Morales-Ferrand said.

Khamis said CalCHA creates affordable housing without new taxes and purchases can be completed in a matter of months, making affordable housing quickly available rather than having to wait four to five years for development.

Since its inception in January 2019, CalCHA has acquired 1,180 units, representing private investment of \$594 million. Its acquisitions in the Bay Area include units in Santa Rosa, Fairfield, Larkspur and Livermore.

Rocha said the city having market-based solutions in addition to tax-revenue solutions is the only way to reach its goals of providing affordable housing.

"This gives the city options they don't currently have," Rocha said.

Mahan*Continued from previous page*

not do the work for them by providing healthy boundaries for involvement between his elected office and neighborhood groups."

Hoffman Via Monte

The neighborhood behind Whole Foods Market is the Hoffman Via Monte area. It was designated as a former Strong Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) in 2000 by former District 10 Councilmember and Vice Mayor Pat Dando. The SNI area received specific attention due to Pat's work which included the opening of an on-site community office with a full-time staff person to assist residents and owners, an assigned code enforcement officer, a community center/room within a future development and Pat established the Chris Hotts Park. Although the SNI program was dismantled in 2007, Councilmember Nancy Pyle continued Pat's work in supporting the neighborhood as has Councilmember Khamis. Councilmember-Elect Mahan is dedicated to continuing Pat's legacy in this area too.

In addition to community groups, Mahan looks forward to working with and possibly partnering with non-profit organizations. One group in particular, the Friends of the Winemakers, is looking forward to rehabilitating the California historic Winery Building into a Winery Museum. A partnership with the City would make this possible and is something Councilmember Elect Mahan is interested in developing. Mahan is also interested in offering help in organizing Neighborhood Watch Meetings for neighbors. "It's important to provide knowledge and helpful tips to residents on how they can help protect themselves, their family and community and the Neighborhood Watch Program is an excellent resource," shared Mahan.

The Councilmember-Elect has organized his D10 Team. Mathew Quevedo will lead the District 10 Team and support the councilmember in his role as the Chief of Staff. Mathew grew up in the district attending the local public schools. Mathew has been described as down to earth, approachable

In addition to community groups, Mahan looks forward to working with and possibly partnering with non-profit organizations.

with a great sense of humor. Mason Fong will serve as the D10 Legislative Director. Like his new boss, Mason is an elected official serving the City of Sunnyvale. Mason also worked in Vice Mayor Chappie Jones office and brings a plethora of experience to his role. Elizabeth Barcelos will serve as D10 Digital Strategist. Elizabeth worked with former candidate for District 6 Jake Tonkel and is described as a talented social media guru. Adrian Rafizadeh is a 2019 Leland graduate and has served as a D10 intern and will continue with the new team until he attends Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in August 2021. Michele Dexter provides continuity as she currently works for the D10 Office and will continue as a community relations coordinator. The D10 Team will work remotely for the first part of the year.

Mahan intends to continue being accessible and open to residents by holding office hours and his office will be responsive to constituent issues. His management style is bit different too – embracing new strategies, thinking out of the box, and doing more with less. One of his ideas is using Key Performance Indicators (KPI). KPI Dashboards which are common within many Customer Relationship Models (CRM) models such as Salesforce and other cloud-based programs used within the tech industry. He would like to see the City embrace this metric model to zero in on the needs of core services.

Councilmember Elect Mahan has a blog at mattmahan.medium.com where he shares his thoughts and ideas on local, state and federal issues.

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Times **Cover Story**



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Pat Dando sculpture unveiling by husband **Bob Dando**.

Dando

Continued from page 1

Library Foundation to fund children's programs. Dando was always a proponent of education. She began her career as a school-teacher in Schenectady, N.Y. and served as president of her children's school PTA in the Almaden Valley. So it makes perfect sense that a statue to memorialize Dando, who died of lung cancer at age 71 in 2017, would be placed at the entrance to the Almaden branch of the San Jose Public Library on Camden Avenue.

The sculpture depicts Dando sitting on a bench reading Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree" to two children. A separate pedestal next to the sculpture features a bronzed open book with details of Dando's life and career. The design originated with Pat Sunseri, a graphic artist at De Mattei Construction, and the sculpture itself was created by artist Mario Chiodo.

During Dando's lifetime of service to the community, she served on the San Jose City Council for a decade beginning in 1995, including two years as vice mayor, spending a year in the administration of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and several years as CEO of the San Jose/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce. She led the 1988 campaign to build San Jose Arena and co-founded both the Stroke Awareness Foundation and the Almaden Valley Youth Counseling Center.

Among the speakers at the event were: William Baron, Chairman, Pat Dando Legacy Committee; Eric Schoennauer, Former Chief of Staff, Vice Mayor Pat Dando, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo; Former San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery; Pat Dando's daughter Lesa Triolo; Sheryl Stroh, Friend of Pat Dando; District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis; Rich Crowley, Friend of Pat Dando; Dawn Coppin, Executive Director, San Jose Public Library Foundation; Mario Chiodo,

Sculptor-Chiodo Art; and Pat Dando's husband, Bob Dando.

"Pat was all about youth and community," said William Baron of Brandenburg Properties, a longtime friend of Dando's who spearheaded the Pat Dando Legacy Endowment Fund effort. "Her upbringing made children and children's learning really important to Pat personally. Being an elected official was one thing, but what Pat was really about was caring, compassion and community."

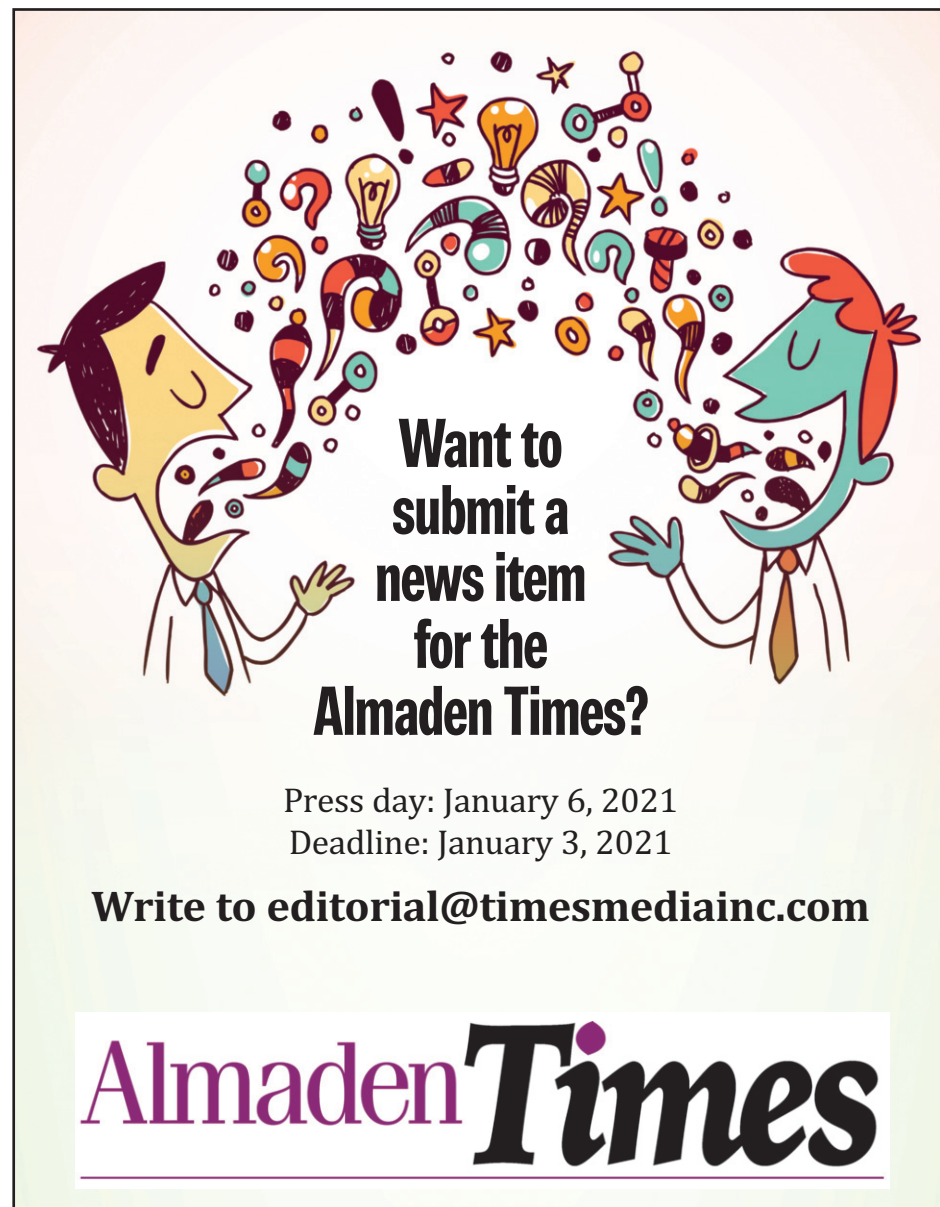
Mayor Liccardo, who participated in the dedication, said, "The community came together to honor Pat with this sculpture. I had the great pleasure of knowing Pat as a friend. She was the very first person I came to when I first decided to run for office, and I really appreciated her honesty, and when we disagreed we worked together because for Pat, it was always the community that mattered. I will always remember Pat fondly."

Former San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery said, "Pat always made first impressions well and she did not fail in the many things she did; she was always successful. When she worked in the Mayor's office, she was an irreplaceable person. The Arena campaign was successful because of Pat never taking her eye off the ball. I'm happy to remember Pat; she was a wonderful role model."

Bob Dando said, "We were able to take a 17-member family cruise to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary, just a few months before Pat passed away. She always had a heavy work schedule, but she always took quality time with her family. Our family grew so much because Pat was there."

Pat's daughter Lesa Triolo said, "Mom was adamant that we could do anything we wanted in life; she encouraged us to think big and to shoot for the stars. There were no barriers, no restrictions, nothing that we could not accomplish with hard work. This is a powerful life philosophy.

See DANDO, next page



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Almaden Times

Times **Community News**

Vaccinations

Continued from page 14

Fenstersheib said, and allow residents to finally remove their masks and ease social distancing requirements.

Santa Clara County Public Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said the county administered the first COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 17.

Fenstersheib and Cody said they would not be taking the vaccine yet.

“I look forward to the day that I too can be vaccinated,” Cody said. “It’s not yet my turn. We are going in the order our colleagues have set for us.”

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for emergency use Dec. 11. People around the world participated in the vaccine trial, including from Santa Clara County.

Fenstersheib said the county expects to receive 68,000 vaccine doses by end of next week – which includes the first and second allocations of the Pfizer vaccine and first allocation of the Moderna vaccine, pending its approval.

The Moderna vaccine is expected to arrive next week.

However, county leaders urged people to continue social distancing, wearing masks and following the COVID-19 health order.

“I know it’s annoying to wear your mask and people are tired of socially distancing, you should never be tired of washing your hands by the way,” Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President County Supervisor Cindy Chavez said. “But this is a time for us to continue to double down, so we can see our way out.”

On Dec. 17, Santa Clara County reported 943 new COVID-19 cases and 8 new deaths from the past few days. The county has a cumulative total of 51,233 COVID-19 cases and 561 deaths.

Newly-elected Supervisor Otto Lee warned that hospitals are reaching capacity in Santa Clara County.

“This is not the time to let our feet off the gas pedal,” he said. “The numbers on ICU capacity are still very low – there’s only about 40 ICU beds available. Our hospitals are full. Please stay home. Stay safe with your family.”

Vicente Vera contributed to this report.

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

Dando

Continued from previous page

While Pat came from very humble beginnings, she knew that if she worked hard she would be successful. She took on some very big jobs; Vice Mayor, assistant to the governor, even CEO, but she was never afraid of these titles or of the roles. She knew that when she got there she would work hard and that she would be successful.” And Pat’s philosophy of family: “Family is not perfect, but it is everything!”

Close friend Sheryl Stroh said, “Pat was passionate about education and the role that parents play in supporting the school and the teachers. Under her leadership, several projects were successful; including building a friendship garden at Henderson, as well as a student designed mural. When Henderson closed, Pat continued her volunteer efforts at Greystone, Bret Harte and Leland. She was instrumental in working with San Jose Unified to reinstate the sixth period day and eliminate the smoking section at Leland High School. After San Jose Unified discontinued counselors at school campuses, Pat spearheaded the effort to establish the Almaden Counseling Service, which continues to this day to provide counselling services to individuals, couples and families. As an active member of the Almaden Women’s Club, she was on the founding committee for the Almaden Art and Wine Festival. This great event provides support to local non-profits and student scholarships. I was so blessed to have her as a cherished friend for more than 45 years. This sculpture that we dedicate today will forever honor her!”



Pat Dando was passionate about education.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis remembers how Pat and her husband Bob campaigned for him after 8 years of Pat leaving office. “When we walked the precincts, residents would respond, ‘Are you going to work as hard as Pat Dando?’ I learned a lot from Pat, and I asked her to help me to pick my first staff, because I wanted to follow in her footsteps; because she was so well respected by everyone who knew her. I’m truly thankful for this opportunity to honor her public service and her legacy this way, because I know she was so passionate about our library, our community centers; and she valued our educational system above all.”

Almaden resident Rich Crowley explained that over three years ago the Legacy Committee reached out to the community to come up with a “good concept that would help us remember to remember Pat, to honor her accomplishments, and to inspire others to follow in her footsteps.” The Legacy statue and the website fulfilled both the ‘remember and the honor’ of our motto (“Remember, Honor, Inspire”). But Pat was all about getting people involved; so in order to continue to inspire others, and especially the youth of Almaden and District 10, we added an endowment to enhance children’s programs here at the Almaden Library. Our goal was to raise an additional \$100,000 over and above the cost of the sculpture and website as seed money for the endowment, but in typical Pat Dando fashion, our enthusiastic fund raising committee, chaired by Mayor Liccardo and former Mayors McEnery and Reed, and thanks to our generous donors, we were able to raise nearly double the amount: \$192,500.”

To learn about contributing to the endowment, please visit the “Endowment” page on the Pat Dando Legacy website: www.PatDandoLegacy.org.

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 Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our Sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.

the point.church
 3695 Rose Terrasse Cir
 San Jose, CA 95148
 (408) 270-7646
 English Service:
 Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM
 Spanish Service:
 11:00 AM
 Cambodian Service:
 11:00 AM
 Cantonese Service:
 11:00 AM
 Mandarin Service:
 11:00AM
 Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade):
 Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH
 We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring commu-

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



God is One
 ਰਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ
 Rab Ik Hai

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

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
 5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
 408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfranciscatholic.org
 We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star - Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
 St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
 St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
 Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
 Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
 Sunday 9:30 AM
 The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
 For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458

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

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

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs organized and run by members of the Association;
- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

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

Connected

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

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

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

**For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org
 Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com**



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Happy Holidays from the staff of the Almaden Times!

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Singles

Almaden Valley (Senior) Singles

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

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

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

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



Happy Holidays

Yes, we are (Still) Home for The Holidays! But, whether alone or with family, we can't let that stop us from celebrating the joy of this time of year.

Wishing You a Very Healthy and Happy Holiday Season.



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