

San Jose chef starts meal program to help restaurants, hungry residents
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District 3 team named
Supervisor Otto Lee hires 'strong mix of talent'
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Acclaimed Russian pianist Anna Fedorova performs virtually through Steinway Society
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California to administer COVID-19 vaccine to next tiers of recipients

Phase IA and Phase IB explained

By William Bellou
Publisher

California's mass vaccination plan is behind schedule with only 650,000 injections reportedly taking place of the two million distributed so far, according to the latest data from the California Department of Public Health.

To expand access in order amidst rising criticism, officials are now moving to expand access by offering vaccines to the next two tiers of eligible recipients by engaging non-hospital staffers to individuals working in specialty clinics, dental clinics and pharmacies.

See VACCINE, page 2

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East San Jose's political power is rising

A movement years in the making

By Lorraine Gabbert
Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

East San Jose's political power reached new heights in 2020 — and it keeps rising. Local leaders harnessed that power to fight for immigration reform, grow their base in local politics and convince Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint California Secretary of State Alex Padilla to fill Kamala Harris' Senate seat last month. Padilla is the first Latino senator for the state.

"When representation matters and you see someone like you in that position, it gives you a sense that we're doing something right," said Lennies Gutierrez, chair of the Latino Leadership Alliance. "And we need to keep going."

Gutierrez said COVID-19's disproportionate effect on minority communities and the fight for racial justice highlighted the need for communities of color to make their voices heard.

San Jose Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco and the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley joined other Latinx leaders at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in November to lobby Newsom to choose a Latino for the seat. "It made a huge statement... because of the activation of people in the area," Gutierrez said.

Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley President Gabby Chavez-Lopez and Gutierrez also joined a Zoom call with the governor, along with 32 other Latinx organizations statewide, to make the push.

"I haven't really seen or experienced anything like that before, so it was really exciting," Chavez-Lopez said. "It proves not only externally, but even to ourselves that we can work together to get things done. I see a lot of promise."



The Latino/Latina community, from government officials to heads of nonprofits, came together in East San Jose to urge Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint a Latino/Latina to the U.S. Senate. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

Despite this progress, East San Jose has not traditionally had a seat at the table.

One collective decided to create its own table
Four East San Jose community

nonprofits came together in 2018 to form the Si Se Puede Collective.
See POWER, page 2

Device made to look like explosive device found near Thompson Creek Bridge

A potentially lethal bomb discovered by a passerby on Thompson Creek Bridge in Evergreen on Friday morning, January 7 turned out to be a wire protruding from a piece of wood connected to a battery.

The San Jose Police Department (SJPd) sent in the bomb squad and subsequently deployed WALL-E Robot on the Thompson Creek Bridge located on San Felipe Rd. between Fowler and Delta at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Using the robot, residents reported seeing police locate what looked like a stick of dynamite attached to a battery powered detonator located next to a large tree on the north side of the bridge that connects directly to San Felipe Road with eleven homes on Thompson Creek Court.

"I saw the robot was holding what looked like dynamite, but it was from a distance," said an



Police use WALL-E Robot to detect and extricate a bomb on Thompson Creek Bridge.

Evergreen resident who lives on Thompson Creek Court. "Police arrived at the scene before noon and roped off the area shortly in both directions. They decided to

deploy the robot about 90 minutes later. If this was a response to any kind of disagreement of any kind, it is completely unacceptable and scary."

Residents living on Thompson Creek Court are obviously concerned as they have no idea who or why somebody would place a possible destructive device near their homes.

Police on the scene stated that there was no indication of any relationship between the riots in Washington D.C. and the placement of the fake device near the bridge.

"As I drove toward San Felipe Rd. from my home at about noon, I saw a police car and a grey SUV with the driver's door ajar, blocking our Thompson Court street entrance," said an Evergreen resident. "The police car faced towards me on the left of our street

See DEVICE, page 3

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF EVERGREEN AREA MEETINGS, PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

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

It includes groups like Amigos De Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment, Grail Family Services, School of Arts and Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza and SOMOS Mayfair.

"We tried to claw our way to that table in the past and nothing happened," said Maritza Maldonado, Executive Director of Amigos de Guadalupe. "Having people from the community speak their truth — that's how we're going to change things. We are the experts of our own community. We understand the issues because we live those issues. In the next three to five years, you're going to see a different East San Jose. We're not going to settle for anything less than equity."

Maldonado said progress takes grassroots community organizing and coalition building from the bottom up. This, she said, is how leaders can solve multi-generational issues keeping East San Jose families in poverty.

The Si Se Puede Collective joined forces with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren in November to demand support for immigration reform from the new Biden administration. It demanded local officials sign a list of demands, including creating a pathway to citizenship for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, ending ICE raids, reuniting families of children being held in cages at the U.S.-Mexico border and providing COVID-19 relief funding.

"Our moment is now to rise up as one community," said Camille Llanes-Fontanilla, executive director of SOMOS Mayfair at the news conference. "Together, we demand policies that recognize people as full human beings with dignity and self-determination."

The rise in East San Jose's political power has been building for years.

For the first time in history, the San Jose City Council has five Latinx councilmembers — commonly called the Latino Caucus — and they have advocated for policies such as creating an equity fund to boost

vulnerable neighborhoods, stronger sick leave policies and ensuring equity in the city's redistricting process.

The Latino Caucus also voted against putting a strong mayor measure on the 2020 ballot, which would have granted Mayor Sam Liccardo more powers and extended his term by two years.

Three of the five Latinx members, Carrasco and Councilmembers Sylvia Arenas and Maya Esparza, represent parts of East San Jose. The growth in power and representation comes from years of preparation. Gutierrez said neighborhood Latinx organizations have trained community leaders for years — and now it's coming to fruition.

"There's a pipeline and what you're seeing is the pipeline is starting to work," Gutierrez said. The Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley's leadership program teaches young Latinas between the ages of 19-29 leadership and civic engagement skills. The Latino Leadership Alliance's leadership training includes navigating political policy and coalition building.

Another local nonprofit, The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley, trains Latinos to serve on nonprofit boards. "Part of our job is to elevate those voices," Gutierrez added. "And now you see these emerging leaders that have had this training through nonprofits and through life." And this is just the beginning for East San Jose and its political prowess. There are many big fights on the horizon, including the end of an eviction moratorium that could force renters to lose their homes and the continued rise in COVID-19 cases, particularly in East San Jose neighborhoods. Gutierrez said immigration, COVID-19 and education will be future issues taken up by the Latinx community.

"Just because we have representation doesn't mean our work ends," Gutierrez said. "We have to keep going and keep pushing even harder. Just because a person of color is in the U.S. Senate doesn't mean he's off the hook."

Vaccine*Continued from page 1*

This week, dentists will be offered a four-hour online training course on how to administer the vaccine.

Currently the State is in **Phase 1A**, providing the vaccine to health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities with its three tiers; counties are moving through these tiers at different speeds, depending on local supply and demand.

Tier 1: Acute care, psychiatric & correctional facility hospitals; staff and residents of skilled nursing & assisted living facilities; paramedics, emergency medical technicians and dialysis centers.

Tier 2: Consists of intermediate care facilities; home health care; community health workers; public health workers; primary care clinics; correctional facility clinics, rural clinics, and urgent care facilities.

Tier 3: Includes health care workers, specialty clinics, lab workers, dental and oral health clinics and pharmacy staff who weren't covered in higher tiers.

The next step is **Phase 1B**, which will likely start in early next month. The hope is for everyone in this phase to be offered at least one dose by late March.

Phase 1B has two tiers:

Tier 1: Anyone age 75 and older; workers in education and child care; emergency services workers (fire, police and corrections officials); workers in food and agriculture, including grocery store workers.

Tier 2: Anyone age 65 and older; workers in transportation and logistics; industrial, residential, & commercial sheltering facilities /services; critical manufacturing; incarcerated individuals; and the homeless.

These groups will most likely be administered the vaccine by doctors and health plans, primary care clinics, pharmacies, and some workplaces and special vaccination sites run by the county, as well as public health and other community partners.

Phase 1C comes next which is expected to begin in late April for those age 50 or older and anyone age 16 to 49 at high risk due to disability or underlying medical conditions or those with disabilities.

This group also includes workers in water and waste management; defense; energy; communication and information technology; financial services; chemicals/hazardous materials; government operations or community service.

For specific questions, call the state's COVID-19 hotline: 1-833-422-4255 (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday – Friday; 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday).



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Times **Community News****One killed in traffic crash
on South White Rd.**

San Jose Police officers responded to the 400 block of S. White Road to investigate a single vehicle collision on Sunday, Jan. 10 at approximately 4:40 p.m.

A 1997 Dodge Dakota truck was traveling northbound on S. White Road when the adult male driver appeared to have lost control of the vehicle.

The truck side swiped seven parked cars and then swerved off the roadway and collided with the front wall of a vacant residence. The driver was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

The identity of the victim has not been released by the Santa Clara County Coroner's Office after they confirm the victim's identity and notify next of kin.

This is the 1st fatal traffic collision and 1st victim of 2021.

Anyone with information on this investigation is urged to contact Detective Malvido #4206 of the San Jose Police Department's Traffic Investigations Unit at (408) 277-4654.

**Education sector offered the
COVID-19 vaccine as part of
California's Phase 1B**

Teachers, childcare workers, and support staff members in the education sector will be offered the COVID-19 vaccine as part of the state of California's Phase 1B, Tier 1.

Like other counties, the County of Santa Clara follows the required sequence for vaccination laid out by the federal government and state. Currently, the state has authorized the vaccination of individuals in all three

tiers of Phase 1A.

When the state allows vaccination of people in Phase 1B, vaccine providers in Santa Clara County will do so. When they are eligible for the vaccine, individuals who are patients of large health systems will be directed to obtain vaccination from those systems, including Kaiser Permanente, Sutter/Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Stanford, and El Camino Health.

**Three service project ideas for
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Jan. 18**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, celebrated as a day of service by many Americans, will be observed on January 18.

If you'd like to volunteer, but would prefer to do so in a socially-distant way, here are three ideas.

• **Plant a tree:** Trees help clean the air and are natural carbon absorbers. You can help offset your carbon footprint by planting a tree on your own property, or with permission, in a local park or public space.

• **Promote job readiness:** Connect virtually with fellow community members to boost their job readiness. Conduct a mock interview over video chat and assist with resume and job application preparation.

• **Deliver meals:** Arrange for contactless drop-off and deliver meals to the elderly, infirm or otherwise homebound.

While volunteer efforts may look a bit different this year, there are still many safe ways to give back.

Editor's note: In 1989, our founder President George H.W. Bush signed the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission Extension Act, accompanied by Mrs. Coretta Scott King. In honoring Dr. King's legacy each year on MLK Day, everyone has a unique opportunity to reflect on the King's work for non-violent protests. MLK the gains society. #MLKDAY (SPM WIRE)

Device

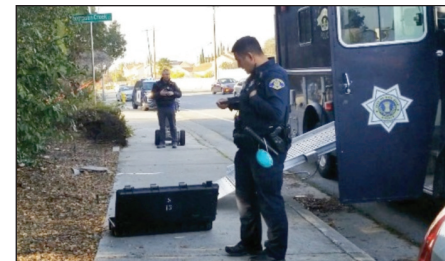
Continued from page 1

while the grey SUV with the driver's door ajar was on the right facing the exit. A policeman closed the door and I managed to squeeze by between the police car on my left and the grey SUV on my right, on my way to my appointment. Police were questioning a man in his 60's near the car who was a non-resident of Thompson Creek Court who was the person who may have alerted the police. There were a couple other police cars parked on San Felipe Rd. Finally, a policeman closed the SUV door and told me not to return for about three hours as the street was closed off."

The resident continued her observations, "On my way home after my appointment, I drove past Thompson Creek Court which was still blocked off with red tape. I stopped and spoke with police officer Yamamoto, who said he was still working on the problem. There were the bomb squad officers too. I asked Yamamoto where the bomb was located and he pointed to the vicinity of the second tree at the end of the right concrete wall entering Thompson

Creek Court. Officer Yamamoto asked me if there were any surveillance cameras on the street. I checked with the neighbors to see if there were any videos. There was camera footage, but it didn't capture the area where the bomb was located.

San Jose Police spokesperson



Bomb Squad gets ready to deploy WLL-E Robot to extricate bomb in Evergreen.

Christian Camarillo said the wood and battery was placed in a "render safe" barrel of water and detonated later in the day. Residents said they smelled sulfur following the "pop" at approximately 3:20 p.m. The home closest to the "render safe" operation shook and the resident's dog went crazy according to the resident.

Anyone with credible information regarding the bomb incident should direct their calls to the San Jose Police Department by calling 311.

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Clockwise, from top: **Nicole Lai** - Grade 8 - First Place; **Sahan Prem** - Grade 4 - Third Place; and **Hahn Doan** - Grade 1 - Third Place.

Silver Creek Academy's Tenth Annual Winter Creative Writing Contest huge success with 150 submissions

Silver Creek Academy received over 150 submissions for its Tenth Annual Winter Creative Writing Contest held last month.

The contest was open for students from first through eighth grade, and required students to submit original short stories with a winter theme.

"The judges truly enjoyed reading all of the short stories, and it was great to see students' creativity flourish despite such a unique holiday season," Silver Creek Academy's founder Shelley Swircek said.

"I really enjoyed having the chance to participate in this contest, and I was able to use my experiences

See CONTEST, next page

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Valley Currents

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

San Jose chef starts meal program to help restaurants, hungry residents

By Lloyd Alaban

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

When Chef Rodney Baca and his wife Madelyn saw how the COVID-19 pandemic was ravaging their community and small business owners, the philanthropic duo decided to help fellow restaurateurs, restaurant workers and food suppliers.

"The inspiration came from not allowing any more of us to go down if I could help it," said Chef Rodney Baca, who co-owns The Shop by Chef Baca in San Jose with his wife. "To see our brothers and sisters in the hospitality industry that are decimated, for me, we had to do something."

The Bacas created Chef's Market through their nonprofit, Baca Systems, to support restaurants struggling to stay open during the pandemic.

Chef's Market brought together five local restaurants — including Baca's own restaurant, The Shop by Chef Baca — in a parking lot in Downtown San Jose. The five restaurants launched a drive-thru meal pickup near South First Street to be staffed by onsite employees from the restaurants.

For every meal that was ordered, a second meal was prepared, at no cost to the patron, and donated to San Jose Ship Kits or Hunger at Home, two charities that support unemployed, underemployed and unhoused families due to the pandemic.

"It's a win-win-win-win," said Baca.

Customers were able to order from one of the participating restaurants online, ranging from sushi to pastrami sandwiches and Mexican food, and choose their pickup time. Once the order was received, the pop-up made and packaged the order, and the customer could pick it up at a socially-distanced line in the parking lot of Downtown San Jose nonprofit Urban Community.

Orders ranged from \$25 for individual meals to \$100 for family-style meals that can feed a family of four.

"It's a great innovative project with a very passionate group of individuals supporting local businesses and those facing food insecurity," said Ewell Sterner, chief executive officer of Hunger at Home.



A photo of **Rodney Baca** of Chef's Kitchen standing in front of the operation's mobile kitchen. Photo by Lloyd Alaban.

According to Baca, the restaurants served roughly 50 meals a day early in the first week, with a peak of more than 100 during the middle and end of the week.

After Chef's Market closes at 6 p.m. each night, Baca totals the number of orders for that day to give to the two charities involved. First thing in the morning, he delivers the same amount of meals to either San Jose Ship Kits or Hunger at Home.

And each time, Baca said, he's floored by how thankful people at the charities are.

"Every morning I get to drop off (meals) at Hunger at Home is probably one of the most humbling and amazing feelings I can have," Baca said.

Should the pop-up prove successful, Baca said there might be the possibility of inviting more restaurants to participate in the future, including working with the city and the county

to make the event more widespread.

"So many of us (hospitality workers) are on the verge of bankruptcy — I can't watch that," he added. "I know that these guys will be there for me to get this off the ground and the least I could do is help them through this and get them as much buzz as I can."

Chef's Market is located in the parking lot of nonprofit Urban Community in San Jose at 300 South First Street. It began Dec. 30 and ran every day until Jan. 12, though it is expected to continue through the end of January. The participating restaurants included Hyland House of Sushi, Jora Peruvian, Loteria Taco Bar and Robee's Falafel. For more information and a current schedule, visit <https://chefsmarket1.square.site>

Contact Lloyd Alaban at lloyd.b.alaban@gmail.com or follow @lloydalaban on Twitter.



Brisket plate is one of the meals offered by Chef's Kitchen. Photo by Lloyd Alaban.

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Times **Community News****VTA first in nation to submit application for expedited Project Delivery Pilot Program**

VTA also receives \$100 million funding allocation for Bart Silicon Valley phase 2 project

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced that the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) has submitted the first application in the nation under the newly established Expedited Project Delivery (EPD) Pilot Program.

In addition to VTA completing this important step, FTA announced the allocation of \$100 million to VTA for the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Silicon Valley Phase II project. This is the second funding allocation to VTA under the EPD Pilot Program. FTA previously announced a \$125 million funding allocation to VTA in August 2019. With today's announcement, FTA has allocated a total of \$225 million to VTA for the project.

"I am so pleased that \$100 million dollars will be allocated to the first Expedited Project Delivery Pilot Program project in the country to Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority in San Jose, California. Cutting red tape and streamlining federal review processes will help advance the completion of infrastructure projects on a faster timeline for the benefit of the community," said former U. S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao.

FTA's Expedited Project Delivery Pilot Program is a discretionary program aimed at expediting delivery of new transit infrastructure projects that utilize public-private partnerships, are planned to be operated and maintained by employees of an existing public transportation provider, and have a federal share not exceeding 25 percent of the project cost.

"We are pleased to receive VTA's formal application – the first in the nation – and announce an additional \$100 million dollar funding allocation to VTA as part of FTA's newly established Expedited Project Delivery Pilot Program," said FTA Deputy Administrator K. Jane Williams. "FTA is proud

to provide this federal investment and partner with VTA to create jobs and help communities continue to recover from the COVID-19 public health emergency."

The project is a 6.5-mile extension of the BART system from the Berryessa Station through downtown San Jose to the City of Santa Clara. The total estimated project cost is \$6.86 billion and VTA has requested \$1.715 billion in federal funding through FTA's Pilot Program.



FTA announced the allocation of \$100 million to VTA for the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Silicon Valley Phase II project.



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**Contest**

Continued from previous page
during this pandemic to add to my creative story," said Abigail Kim, first place winner in the seventh grade division.

First, second, and third place winners were declared across each division in late December, and students received their awards in the following weeks. Swircek said as a special thank you, the Academy provided prizes, books, and goodie bags to all who entered.

When receiving her second place award in the sixth grade division Sana Patil commented, "I really enjoyed it because I never knew that I could write so well and I had a lot of fun!"

"We loved seeing all the hard work and effort that students put into their short stories, and we look forward to reading future submissions in our upcoming events," Swircek said.

For more information about Silver Creek Academy, call (408) 839-5905 or visit SCAASanJose.com.

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Times **Community News****Let's work together in the New Year**

By Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

January is always a special time of year; it signals new beginnings and brings opportunities to think positively about the year ahead of us.

Let's embark on this new year by working together to build the future we want for our youth.

We may experience increased stress during this pandemic. The health and safety of our community must remain top of mind. Now more than ever, it is important to practice self-care and reach out to others with acts of kindness and appreciation.

California's continued surge in COVID-19 cases leaves Santa Clara County in deep purple-tier status. It is essential that we strengthen our resolve and



School News
By Mary Ann Dewan, PhD
County Superintendent of Schools

choose to stand with one another, as a community, to do our part to stop the transmission of COVID-19. Please observe the stay-at-home order and other risk-reduction practices. As we face the future together, remain vigilant and practice the four (4) Ws:

- Wear a mask
- Wash your hands

frequently

- Watch your distance (stay more than 6 feet from others)
- Wait to gather

Now, as we embark on 2021, we do so with great anticipation and hope for a healthier, safer, prosperous and COVID-19-free future.

Remember, we are stronger together.

Northern California PGA Announces 2020 Section Award Recipients; Matt Flenniken named 'Teacher of the Year'

The Northern California Section of the PGA of America (NCPGA) has announced its 2020 Section Awards, honoring PGA Professionals and golf industry executives who have excelled in the game and business of golf.

Among the 2020 award recipients was Matt Flenniken, PGA, of San Jose who was named 2020 NCPGA Teacher of the Year. Flenniken is Director of Instruction at Los Lagos Golf Course. He was honored for his outstanding services as a golf teacher, innovator and coach.

For 35 years, Flenniken has taught the game at a rate of 2,000 lessons per year or an astonishing 66,000 lessons to date. His dedication to the advancement of all things that are good with golf helped him to develop the value of the sport for others. Inspiring individuals contributed to building the sport and creating lifelong valuable golf experiences for those he tutored.



Matt Flenniken named NCPGA Teacher of the Year.

NCPGA stated, "Flenniken's long standing mastery of teaching and first-class club fitting combine for a best of breed PGA best practice. His on course advantage is designed to teach how to conduct business golf enabling the use of the game as a tool to improve business."

During the pandemic, Matt opened an online teaching portal for remote learning and started a YouTube channel to offer free instruction. He is a huge supporter and contributor for Section events such as the Player-Teacher Forum. He has also participated on many national teaching forums.

Alumni



"Evergreen Valley College was so impactful for me as a student with disabilities. I was shown so much empathy and compassion."

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Times **Feature**

Collins: How does the 2021 housing market look?

By Neil Collins

Nine months ago when our world was turned upside down with a countywide stay-at-home order, none of us could have predicted the robust housing market we have been experiencing.



It is those top wage earners who are continuing to drive the housing market while the rest of the community falls further behind. And for that reason, we need to continue looking for equitable solutions that lift up our entire community.

Neil Collins is CEO of the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors, a trade association representing more than 6,000 real estate professionals in Santa Clara County and surrounding areas. Contact Neil at neil@sccaor.com or follow @neilvcollins on Twitter. Watch for Neil's column in the Times community newspapers and San José Spotlight.



Realtor.com's housing forecast predicts the San Jose metro market will grow by 10.8% in both sales and price year over year. Lack of inventory continues to be the main factor driving up housing prices.
File photo by Carly Wipf

Many of us were assuming similar outcomes as we experienced during the last great recession, but plummeting prices and mass foreclosures never materialized. In fact, sale prices for homes increased and so did sales. So what do the experts think the 2021 housing market will look like?

Jordan Levine, the deputy chief economist for the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.), gave his 2021 forecast earlier this month and expects the housing market to grow at 3.3% for next year with prices increasing by 4.4%.

Most expect interest rates to remain virtually unchanged next year and that the 30-year fixed mortgage rate will hover around 3%. Levine based his forecast on several assumptions including a successful vaccine distribution, improved GDP and foreclosure rates being single digits.

Locally, despite unprecedented pressure on the economy, housing is still likely to be one of the bright spots of the recovery. Realtor.com's housing forecast predicts the San Jose metro market will grow by 10.8% in both sales and price year over year. Lack of inventory continues to be the main factor driving up housing prices.

Dave Walsh, 2021 C.A.R. president and San Jose Compass manager, is predicting a banner year for housing in Santa Clara County, which could see sales rising at 5.4% or more if the inventory is there to support it.

However, Walsh continues to see weakness in the condo market with the latest inventory numbers showing a 50%+ increase over last year.

If the vaccine renews optimism that we are getting closer to moving beyond COVID-19, the increased supply of condos and low interest rates could offer a unique opportunity for first-time buyers in Santa Clara County.

According to Levine's market forecast, "the share of first-time buyers reached the highest level in 10 years this past summer, with nearly two of five homes being sold to buyers who purchased for the first time."

Despite the rosy outlook to the housing market there are still major headwinds.

This pandemic has contributed greatly to the ongoing wealth gap in our community. The "K" shape nature of the economic recovery that we are experiencing is likely to continue into 2021.

The top wage earners in our community have been relatively unaffected as compared to the lower third of wage earners, many of whom have been devastated by reduced work hours and layoffs.



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COMPASS

Supervisor Lee announces first wave of district 3 team hires

Santa Clara County Supervisor **Otto Lee** (inset) has announced the first wave of staff hires for the District 3 Team.

On Sunday, December 6, 2020, Otto Lee took the administrative oath of office to become the next Supervisor for District 3 - North Sunnyvale, Milpitas,

and San José's Alviso, Berryessa, East Foothills, Evergreen and Rosemary Gardens neighborhoods.

Joining the District 3 Team will be Wendy Ho as Chief of Staff and Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto as Executive Assistant. They will join Mark Tiernan as Deputy Chief of Staff, Elica Rahdar, Sandy Runyan and Diego Martinez who all joined the District 3 Team earlier this month and have already been working with the community. Additionally, two of Supervisor Cortese's Team members that residents are familiar with, The-Vu Nguyen and Vanessa Connell Turner will continue their roles with Supervisor Lee.



"I am excited to bring a strong mix of talent, voices, and experiences to the District 3

Team. District 3 is a diverse community and as we step into 2021, I believe in leading by example and ensuring governance is a true reflection of the people. I feel very fortunate to have Wendy Ho leading the team, she has been one of the most outstanding leaders and voices in the county, and I know District 3 will find a strong advocate and champion in her to fulfill the services and needs of our community," announced Supervisor Lee.

Wendy Ho was the Chief Strategy & Policy Officer for the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits. She earned her MPA from Indiana University and two BAs from UCSD. She grew up in San José. Mark Tiernan was the Campaign Manager for the 2020 Supervisor campaign, he holds his J.D. from Lincoln Law School of San José and BA from UC

Berkeley. He lives in Milpitas with his wife and is the proud father of two children and seven grandchildren. Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto was the Senior Director of Social Justice for YWCA Silicon Valley. She has experience as a social worker and with executive management. She is from Sunnyvale where she raised three children with her husband.

"Supervisor Lee could not have selected a better Chief of Staff than Wendy Ho. Wendy has a deep and nuanced understanding of the human services needs of our community and is well-respected across the nonprofit sector for her policy and political savvy as well as her compassion," says Kyra Kazantzis, CEO of Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits.

Supervisor Lee is expected to add more staff to the District 3 Team in the New Year. For questions or to speak with members of the District 3 Team, please contact our office at Supervisor.Lee@bos.sccgov.org or call 408-299-5030.

Editor's note: There will be the formal swearing in ceremony for Supervisor Lee on Wed. December 30, 2020 at 4 pm. Live Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/34IM8Tb>

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California State Board of Equalization to hold meeting on implementation of Proposition 19

In conjunction with the Board's January 2021 Board Meeting

The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) at their January 14-15, 2021 Board Meeting is expected to discuss and take action on the implementation of Proposition 19.

The board is receiving updates from the agency's Legal and Property Tax Departments, and representatives from the California Assessors' Association (CAA) on the implementation of Proposition 19, The Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disasters Act.

The meeting will be available to view on Thursday, Jan. 14 and Friday, Jan. 15 beginning at 10 a.m. with remote access only via webcast (www.boe.ca.gov/meetings) or telephonically by dialing 1-877-336-4436 and entering conference access number 1231686#

On November 3, 2020, California voters approved Proposition 19. Beginning on Feb. 16, 2021, Proposition 19 will significantly change how property tax assessments are treated.

While the 58 County Assessors are responsible for assessing properties, the BOE's constitutional and statutory duties include the oversight of the County Assessors to ensure assessment practices are uniform and consistent. The BOE is tasked with issuing property tax rules and guidance to County Assessors.

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Times Feature

Mayor Liccardo Delivers 2020 'State of the City'

Mayor Liccardo delivered the State of the City address by video this year on Dec. 23.

At the outset, Liccardo described the “State of the City” bluntly, “Our city is suffering, as it has never suffered before. Between days filled with wildfire smoke, and nights of civil unrest, weeks of rising hospitalization, and months of unpaid bills, we have been bruised and we have been battered...but we remain unbowed.”

Yet Liccardo pointed to the community’s character—and specifically residents’ faith in themselves and their community—as a source of hope, “San Jose is a resilient city. Boundless hearts and creative spirits have enabled us to endure, to adapt, and to innovate.”

Liccardo pointed to several inspiring examples of residents stepping up amid the crisis to lift and support others, to innovate, adapt, and persevere, such as the more than 3,000 residents who volunteered to help distribute food after the launch of Silicon Valley Strong, a digital resources hub that also facilitated the raising of tens of millions of dollars and provides one-stop information to residents seeking to get or give help.



Mayor **Sam Liccardo** delivered the State of the City address by video this year on Dec. 23.

The mayor noted that these moments of the generosity and resilience of others, “Give us faith in our community. That faith strengthens our resilience in tough times—by forging our commitment to each other, and by emboldening us to adapt, try new methods, and to embrace risk. That is, our common faith...only allows us to not only survive in the moment, but to thrive after the crisis has passed.”

Liccardo emphasized ways in which City staff embraced the community’s faith, pivoting amid the pandemic to create a “better normal” with innovative solutions to enduring hardships exacerbated by the

pandemic, including:

- Bridging the digital divide for more than 100,000 residents with free broadband, helping tens of thousands of students engage in distance learning. In partnership with East Side Union High School District, the City has forged the path to digitally connect more than 300,000 residents, the size of the city of St. Louis, with free broadband by 2022.

- Providing immediate construction of emergency housing sites for more than 300 homeless residents at 1/5 of the cost of typical apartments, built in 4 months instead of the typical 4 years. In combina-

tion with other housing solutions such as rented motels and converted shelters, the City and County have worked with non-profit organizations since the pandemic to house more than 4,300 homeless individuals, and enable 1,533 people to obtain permanent housing.

- Managing the distribution of more than 2.5 million meals a week in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, and becoming the first city in the nation to propose an eviction moratorium.

In early 2021, after the current COVID-19 surge has abated, Liccardo said he will return with a more traditional articulation of policy proposals for the year ahead, but pointed to some specific efforts in improving police accountability and transparency, and expanding programs that address the intersection of racial, educational, and economic inequity.

In the year ahead, Liccardo declared, “San Jose will continue to adapt, innovate, and lead the way to a ‘better normal’--together.” Liccardo concluded by describing how history will describe our community’s toils through this pandemic, asserting that “It will tell our progeny about our common faith—one that inspired us to overcome our physical separation to act collaboratively, to give boldly, and to adapt courageously.”

He concluded, “This is our moment to write a new chapter for our City, to define our generation’s special place in history, and to lead a badly ailing nation on a path of healing.”

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Santa Clara County PUBLIC HEALTH

Featured artist acclaimed Russian pianist Anna Fedorova performs virtually through Steinway Society: Feb. 19-22

Popular artist returns in Steinway Society's online Home Concert Hall Series

Russian pianist Anna Fedorova, a superstar among next-generation classical pianists, will be the featured artist in the February concert of Steinway Society – The Bay Area’s Home Concert Hall virtual series.

These performances are recorded exclusively for Steinway Society and are not available anywhere else online.

This will be Ms. Fedorova’s third Steinway Society appearance. Her concert will be available during a four-day performance window, and patrons can view the recording as many times as they’d like during that period.

Ms. Fedorova will give a short talk before the performance about her pieces, while sharing information about her musical life and how she is faring during the pandemic. A recorded pre-concert lecture by a Bay Area classical music expert will also be available for viewers to watch at their leisure.

Anna Fedorova is one of the world’s leading young pianists who captivates audiences with her musical artistry. Born into a family of musicians in Kiev, Ukraine, she began piano studies at the age of five. She’s taken top prizes at the Rubinstein and Moscow International Frederick Chopin Competitions, and been mentored by world-renowned musicians Alfred Brendel and András Schiff.

Most watched YouTube pianist for interpretation of Rachmaninoff Concerto

Ms. Fedorova has performed with esteemed orchestras in prestigious concert halls and music festivals of Europe, North and South America, Asia, and at highly regarded piano festivals in Switzerland, Poland, Greece, and New York. Her Rachmaninoff 2nd Piano Concerto recording is the most watched classical concerto on YouTube with nearly 30 million views.

“The excellent pianist Anna Fedorova savored the work’s wit with unbounded musical joy, excellent technique, percussive drive, pointed exuberance, and emotional key-stroking intimacy.” —l’Adige

For more information on season subscriptions, individual tickets, the artists, and Steinway Society, visit: www.SteinwaySociety.com or contact (408) 300-5635.



Popular pianist **Anna Fedorova** returns to the Steinway Society – The Bay Area with a Home Concert Hall performance of music by Schubert-Liszt, De Falla, and Chopin. The performance is available from February 19-22, 2021. Photo courtesy of Steinway Society

Update: Anderson Dam water levels drop to 3% capacity

New outlet tunnel construction to begin in 2021

Valley Water has gradually released water from Anderson Reservoir through the existing outlet which began Oct. 1, 2020.

Water levels in Anderson Reservoir have now dropped to 3% of capacity, the lowest level that can be reached through the existing outlet tunnel.

Because of the lack of early-season rain, Anderson reached the 3% level in less than three months. Valley Water may continue to release water from Anderson Reservoir once it begins capturing storm runoff from winter rains.

Valley Water will strive to maintain this 3% level moving forward as the organization works on projects designed to strengthen Anderson Dam.

Valley Water lowered the water levels in Anderson Reservoir in response to an order by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reduce the risk to the public should Anderson Dam fail during a major earthquake.

Valley Water released water at a rate of about 200-acre feet per day, or 65 million gallons a day.

The next step in the work of the organization at Anderson Dam is to build a 1,700-foot-long tunnel, up to 24-feet in diameter, on the left side of the dam looking towards the reservoir. The new tunnel will increase the amount of water that can be released from Anderson by five times when used in conjunction with the existing outlet, allowing Valley Water to better maintain water levels in the reservoir.

Work on the outlet tunnel is expected to begin in early



Anderson Dam photo courtesy ValleyWater.org

2021, and we estimate it will take two to three years to complete.

Valley Water will begin work on retrofitting the dam embankment and spillway once the tunnel is complete. That effort, known as the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, is estimated to start in 2024 and will last about seven years.

Mayor announces launch of #ShopLocalSJ

Silicon Valley Strong campaign activates community to support local businesses during stay-at-home order

Mayor Sam Liccardo recently announced the launch of #ShopLocalSJ campaign along with other initiatives aimed at helping struggling businesses impacted by the ongoing pandemic. These initiatives include a new fee cap on app delivery services passed by City Council, a virtual

local business directory, and digital resources for small businesses.

"Help for our struggling small businesses can't come soon enough," said Mayor Sam Liccardo. "Shopping local is an important way our community can leverage our collective buying power to keep our neighbors employed in these tough times. Throughout this pandemic, we've seen how San Jose grows stronger when we're pulling together."

As the current Stay-at-Home order went into effect region wide, residents were encouraged to stay and shop local to help financially burdened small businesses. New resources to help with this goal include:

- #ShopLocalSJ, a social media campaign encouraging residents to spend locally during the Stay-at-Home order to support small businesses and restaurants financially burdened by the pandemic. To join the movement, residents are invited to use #ShopLocalSJ on social media and share photos of their favorite businesses and restaurants;

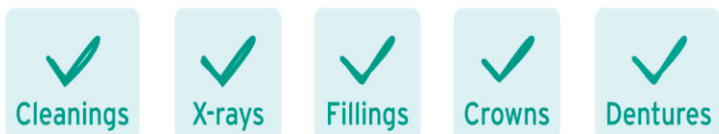
- Silicon Valley Strong recently launched a regional 'Shop Local' digital directory resource, for small business listings in the area. Community members who are not active on social media can help identify their favorite local businesses by visiting siliconvalleystrong.org/shoplocal and submit the businesses information for the online directory;

- Small businesses that are not digitally active can connect with Get Virtual for resources and guidance to establish their digital presence free of charge. Get Virtual will pair local businesses with college students trained in entrepreneurship, digital marketing, and web development to create an online presence. Businesses can contact 'Get Virtual' by visiting siliconvalleystrong.org/shoplocal and click on "I need help getting my business online";

- On Tuesday, Dec. 15, the San José City Council unanimously supported Mayor Liccardo and Councilmember Diep's proposal to cap third-party food delivery services fees at 15% per order. The proposal came as a pandemic response to help struggling businesses survive by regulating app-based delivery services from charging fees of up to 30% per order.

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Times **Feature**

Lester Scholarships is providing up to \$5,000 for high school seniors and college students

The Linda L. Lester Scholarships, a program of the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau, is providing up to \$5,000 for 2021 recipients in cooperation with American AgCredit.

Scholarships

The scholarships are for local high school seniors and college students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better and plan to major in agriculture, such as agricultural business, forestry, viticulture, animal science, crop science, environmental science, agricultural engineering, agricultural education, agricultural communications, food science, and others.

Recipients of the scholarship will receive annual payments determined by their length of time remaining in college, up to four years. In order to receive annual payments, recipients must provide transcripts from the previous school year and enrollment verification for the upcoming school year. A GPA of 2.5 must be maintained throughout payment schedule.

Applications include an instruction form, brief list of questions, transcripts, personal statement and two letters of recommendation. Once all applications have



Linda L. Lester

been received, students will be contacted by the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau to set up an interview with the Farm Bureau's scholarship committee. Scholarship recipients will be notified by phone or email following the interviews. Monetary awards will be mailed directly to the recipient's college or university once school begins.

The deadline for submitting applications for the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau Linda L. Lester Scholarships is: Friday, Jan. 29, 2021.

Applications are available on the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau website: www.santaclarafarmbureau.org/news/2021

Report: '2021's Best Places to Find a Job'

San Jose has the highest monthly average starting salary

With the unemployment rate at 6.7% due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2021's Best Places to Find a Job.

To determine the strongest local job markets in the U.S., WalletHub compared more than 180 cities across 32 key metrics. The data set ranges from job opportunities to employment growth to monthly average starting salary.

Best Cities for Jobs

1. South Burlington, VT
2. Columbia, MD
3. Virginia Beach, VA
4. Salt Lake City, UT
5. Boise, ID
6. Scottsdale, AZ
7. Chesapeake, VA
8. Seattle, WA
9. Colorado Springs, CO
10. Plano, TX

Worst Cities for Jobs

173. New Haven, CT
174. Cleveland, OH
175. Gulfport, MS
176. Bridgeport, CT
177. Las Cruces, NM
178. North Las Vegas, NV
179. Brownsville, TX

180. Detroit, MI
181. Shreveport, LA
182. Hialeah, FL

Best vs. Worst

• San Jose, California, has the highest monthly average starting salary, \$6,327, which is 3.1 times higher than in Laredo, Texas, the city with the lowest at \$2,058.

• Fremont, California, has the fewest part-time employees for every 100 full-time employees, 29.52, which is 3.9 times fewer than in Burlington, Vermont, the city with the most at 115.76.

• Gilbert, Arizona, has the highest median annual household income (adjusted by cost of living), \$97,934, which is 3.5 times higher than in Newark, New Jersey, the city with the lowest at \$28,227.

• Fargo, North Dakota, and Bismarck, North Dakota, have the lowest unemployment rate, 3.00 percent, which is 6.9 times lower than in Detroit, the city with the highest at 20.60 percent.

• Pearl City, Hawaii, has the lowest share of workers living in poverty, 1.35 percent, which is 14 times lower than in Huntington, West Virginia, the city with the highest at 18.96 percent.

To view the full report and your city's rank, visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-for-jobs/2173>

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Times **Feature**



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A quick thanks: Way to go EVERGREEN!

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'Cops Care Cancer Foundation' visits Bay Area families and patients

Cops Care Cancer Foundation made home visits to more than 55 Bay Area families and patients (who they call VIPs) and their siblings who receive Christmas presents specifically purchased for them last month.

This event was held in lieu of Fantasy Flight, due to Covid-19. The Cops Care Cancer Foundation was created in 2004.

Patients received arts & crafts supplies, blankets, stuffed animals, a movie themed gift basket with treats, gift cards for Netflix, and a Covid-19 basket containing masks, home cleaning products, and hand sanitizer. The parents received gift cards to Target and Safeway to help them celebrate their holiday without having to worry about money.

All officers, dispatchers, civilian PD employees, and other civilians donate their time. No one receives a salary, so that allows 100% of donations to go straight to the families and hospitals they support. CCCF's mission is simple: Try to raise as much money as possible for children who are battling cancer. The secondary goal is to help these children be as comfortable as possible while they are battling their illnesses. This comes in the form of; toys, clothing, school supplies, and recreational therapy trips.

To learn more about Cops Care Cancer Foundation, visit: www.copscarecancerfoundation.com



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Santa Clara County looking for its first youth poet laureate

By **Madelyn Reese**

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

In a time when the world is more difficult to make sense of than ever, Santa Clara County is opening the floor to local teens to make their meaning through poetry.

For the first time, the county will choose its own youth poet laureate. The idea by Santa Clara County's own poet laureate Janice Lobo Sapigao is to select a candidate to "represent and elevate youth voices from all over the county," according to the program description.

Candidates must be 13 to 18 years old, live in Santa Clara County and can't be enrolled in college throughout the term, which spans for one year starting in June. Citizenship is not required.

"My goal as poet laureate was not only to start this program," Sapigao said. "I want this program to continue past my tenure and I hope that someone will take it on and people will decide it's necessary for the county."

Sapigao said the program is important because society needs to do more to amplify youth voices.

"We live in an anti-youth society," Sapigao said. "They're told their voice will be heard only when they turn 18 and can vote."

Furthermore, Sapigao said, youth are economically disempowered because they can't work until their later teens.

"There's a sense that adults and politicians and rich people think youth will not

take care of them when, in fact, it's often the adults that don't take care of the young people," said Sapigao.

Poetry often can serve as an entryway to get young people involved politically and within their communities, she said. It also gives them a sense of agency that's otherwise hard to come by. Sapigao will mentor the chosen youth poet throughout the tenure, providing support and instruction.

Organizers of the competition want as many people to apply as possible, whether or not someone thinks they're "good enough." Six judges (Sapigao will not be one) will choose the finalist based on literary excellence, civic engagement and commitment to poetry as a craft.

Santa Clara County public libraries are helping administer the program by providing platforms to host events, as well as promoting it across social media.

"We're very excited about the program, and I think it's a great opportunity for teens to participate in a contest that will help them develop their language skills and help them express themselves, especially now when it's so difficult to do so," said Steve Fitzgerald, library services manager for the



Janice Sapigao (center), poet laureate for Santa Clara County, is seen with students from Kababayan Learning Community at Skyline College. *Photo courtesy of Janice Sapigao*

Santa Clara County Library District.

The program is funded through the year with money from Sapigao's own earnings through an Academy of American Poets fellowship that also funds her appointment as poet laureate in Santa Clara County.

An approximate \$15,000 budget includes paying judges, running workshops and hopefully paying the young laureate.

Fitzgerald said the library district is lucky to have Sapigao leading this project, which is important for the community.

"It's also an opportunity for teens to practice an art form that's been around for a long time and recognize that there are other things out there other than science and math," Fitzgerald said. "Language is important and this gives them an opportunity to fool around with a medium they might not otherwise have a chance to."

The deadline to apply is Feb. 26, 2021.

Contact **Madelyn Reese** at reese.madelyn@gmail.com or follow her @**MadelynGReese**.

Op Ed: Small businesses need better support during COVID-19 crisis

An insightful look at a small business owner's experience

By **Shannon Adams**

Special to the Times

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted to explore a \$100 million financial assistance package to help small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The County Administration is debating eligibility criteria and parameters of the financial assistance package. At this time, I would like to offer some insight into why this process is so important for our local businesses and why it is of the utmost importance that the County be thoughtful in how it determines eligibility. Here is the story of my own small business:

1. Urban Body San Jose received assistance from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which made us ineligible for many other grants. We received it early on when requirements included the funding be spent in 8 weeks, a line item which was later changed to 24 weeks. In the end, this was major part of the reason the PPP did not help our business at all. Due to federal restrictions, the money only covered payroll for 8 weeks, an action that did nothing to contribute to keeping our business afloat. By the time mistakes were realized and significant changes were made to the PPP, it was too late for those of us who applied early and now we are left with no assistance. Receiving PPP should not disqual-

ify businesses.

2. We were also not eligible for specific San Jose grants because of our personal household income. While myself and my business partner have been working overtime to stay afloat, due to PPP restrictions, we were only able to pay our employees and as owners, were not able to pay ourselves. In fact, neither of us have received any compensation since March. Because the income of our spouses (NOT us) was more than \$75K annually, our small business is not eligible for financial help locally, simply because we cannot prove what monthly expenses are personal. Especially in Silicon Valley, where cost of living is obscene, this doesn't even consider that most households need a dual income to survive. We are basically asking small business owners to use personal money to prop up their businesses. But how can we do that when we aren't making any money? As a small business with many employees, in the middle of the Bay Area, having a personal income over \$75K doesn't mean we can support an entire business. It's ridiculous and discouraging and puts us at risk of closing permanently. Personal income should not determine eligibility.

3. Our landlord refuses to work with us. Is

"Due to federal restrictions, the PPP money only covered payroll for 8 weeks, an action that did nothing to contribute to keeping our business afloat."

there any way to create incentives or financial assistance to motivate landlords to help tenants? The only offer from our landlord was rent deferment, which would put us thousands and thousands of dollars in debt. How is that helping? How can a

small business pay that back and make up for what they have lost and figure out rent? Small businesses cannot afford to take on debt right now. Period. And for many of us, our personal assets, our homes, are on the line if we can't pay. It is completely unacceptable in the middle of a pandemic. Right now, small business owners already worry about just being able to put food on their table. So, it has come to this. Since we cannot afford to hire an attorney and our landlord is not responding to us after multiple attempts, we are at a standstill. We have tried to negotiate out of the lease. We have asked to make the lease available for sublet. I have done everything I can to figure out a way for us to stay in business and it feels impossible. We have a \$1200 rent increase starting January 1. Yes, \$1200.

And I have no idea how we are going to come up with those dollars. Landlords should not be allowed to take advantage of small businesses during the pandemic.

Something needs to change. Our situation is not unique. Small businesses need help. More information needs to be considered when discussing eligibility for these grants. We all know winter will be tough on small businesses and that COVID-19 isn't going away. I'm not sure who decided on eligibility previously, but they did the city and small businesses a true disservice and that is one of the reasons why so many of us are going out of business. We hear all the talk about supporting small businesses, but now it's time for the County to do more than talk the talk.

Shannon Adams is founder and co-owner of Urban Body San Jose.



Times **Local News**

San Jose approves naming street after Barack Obama

Barack Obama Blvd. will soon intersect with Santa Clara Street

By Carly Wipf
Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

San Jose will join cities like Los Angeles and Milpitas in naming a street after Barack Obama, elected leaders unanimously decided Jan. 5.

The renamed boulevard will include portions of Bird Avenue, South Montgomery Street, South Autumn Street and North Autumn.

The plan has been more than three years in the making.

Community leader Alex Shoor started the movement to create Barack Obama Blvd. in San Jose in 2017 with an online petition that received more than 2,800 signatures. His effort raised more than \$9,000 for application fees and implementation.

Shoor said Barack Obama Blvd. will continually remind residents — especially youth — of the important moment in history when the United States elected its first president of color.

“It’s a message to every person in San Jose no matter who they are or where they come from that they too can achieve their dreams,” Shoor said during the council meeting.

Shoor said he was inspired by the popular Democratic president while campaigning for him in 2008. He said he saw the impact Obama had on children of color who saw themselves in the country’s future leader.

Vice Mayor Chappie Jones, who is Black, reflected on the election night when Obama was first elected.

“I remember looking at my wife and my family, and just having the sense of just so much pride and hope of what was accomplished that night,” Jones said. “We’ve gone through a dark, four year period and even through all of that, that hope, those dreams, those aspirations that Barack Obama represented, are still alive.”

In a memo, Jones and Mayor Sam Liccardo said the boulevard will celebrate Obama’s legacy in supporting universal health insurance, climate action, marriage equality and economic inclusion.

The leaders said the new



Barack Obama Blvd. is official in San Jose. The renamed boulevard includes portions of Bird Avenue, South Montgomery Street, South Autumn Street and North Autumn. (“Obama” by dcblog is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0)

stretch of road will serve as a gateway to welcome visitors into the diverse and vibrant city.

Former Sen. Jim Beall was among the initiative’s supporters. He joined forces with Bill Melson, Hellen Sims, Joe Bass and Shoor to make up the Barack Obama Boulevard Committee. The committee will be responsible for all costs related to new street and highway signs.

The renaming plan was even embraced by Shane Patrick Connolly, chair of the Santa Clara County Republican Party. According to a memo by city Planning Director Rosalynn Hughey, the city received more than 70 letters from the public — the majority of which supported the new street name.

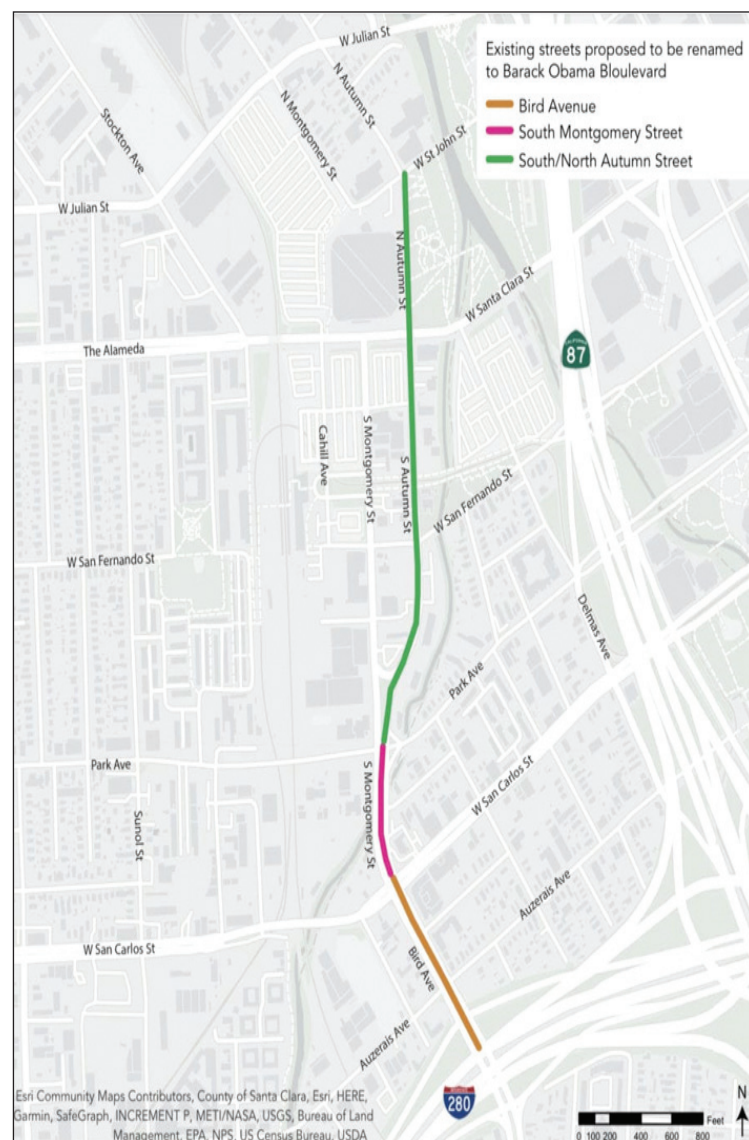
But the process faced a number of obstacles. San Jose’s strict approval process for major street renamings required written approval from half the affected property owners. The stringent rules allowed Milpitas and Los Angeles — cities that started petitions for a Barack Obama Blvd after San Jose — to approve their streets first.

Since the new San Jose street chosen for naming is considered a minor, the stringent approval process no longer applies.

In her memo, Hughey said Santa Clara County 911 communications office, the United States Post Office and San Jose’s fire and police departments assessed the impacts of renaming the four sections of San Jose streets and found no issues.

Only portions of existing streets are being renamed after Obama to preserve historic references to T.S. Montgomery and Calvert T. Bird, according to Liccardo and Jones.

Some San Jose residents said they’re concerned the street



choice catered to developers such as Google. The street is in close proximity to the tech giant’s proposed 80-acre megacampus near Diridon Station.

“It’s offensive for Barack Obama’s name to be associated with the most redlined, restricted, coveted areas in this city,” Paul Soto said. “This is the kind of stuff that Google wants to use to sanitize its reputation by having on all of its letterheads the word association between Barack Obama and Google.”

Shoor insisted the street location had nothing to do with Google. It was chosen based on its proximity to major San Jose landmarks, he said, such as SAP Center. It also intersects with Santa Clara Street — one of the city’s major thoroughfares.

“Barack Obama is a man who points to the future of this country and gives it a lot of hope and possibility,” Shoor said.

Contact Carly Wipf at carly@sanjosespotlight.com or follow @CarlyChristineW on Twitter.

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Times **Community News**

CAREER CORNER

Making lemonade

By Angela Copeland
Special to the Times

As the pandemic continues to rage on in the United States, many of us have felt locked indoors. We've felt isolated. It's been lonely. It's scary. This is especially true for anyone who is living



away from their loved ones. It can be hard to get help with things when you need it during the pandemic. It's difficult to travel home for a number of reasons. The entire experience can be isolating, especially in a big city.

With no end date to COVID in sight, many workers are trying something out of the ordinary. They're working from a new location. They're going where their loved ones are. Countless people are moving to their hometowns, near their parents, or to other cities where they have connections. Even if the move is temporary, it provides the

needed relief, and a reconnection to friends and family.

When I first witnessed this phenomenon, I was truly surprised. I wondered how in the world people were able to uproot themselves to work from another location. How were they able to make it happen logistically? Where did they stay? What did their company think about this extra remote work situation? What did the boss say about this request?

But, time and time again, it's working. Many companies have become very good at remote work. Employees are working from

vacation homes. They're working from other countries. They're working from the guest room at a family member's home. And, they're getting the same amount of work done that they were before.

If you've been wondering whether or not working from another city is right for you, I'd encourage you to explore your options. I've been surprised at just how understanding many employers are being towards their employees. Even some government workers have the option to apply to work from another location.

See CAREER, next page

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Times **Community News**

The pandemic has been awful. But, for remote workers, this time may be an opportunity.

Career

Continued from previous page

If you're finding yourself alone and in need of a change of scenery, now is the time. Before you do anything, have a conversation with your boss. Get the verbal okay to work from another location. Then, put your intension in writing in an email to confirm. From there, you can plot out your move.

If moving all of your things is not a viable option, look for a storage unit near where you currently live. For a small amount of money, you can store your current belongings until you return. Then, look for fur-

nished apartments in your destination city. Typical apartment rental websites and vacation websites like Airbnb are a great place to start. If you don't see good furnished options, there are companies that rent furniture month to month.

The pandemic has been awful. But, for remote workers, this time may be an opportunity. If you've thought of working from another location, your time to do it may be limited. Talk to your boss. Do your research. Make your move, and make some lemonade with these pandemic lemons.

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

East Side Union High School District seeks volunteers to serve on Audit Committee

The East Side Union High School District is seeking applications from persons interested in serving on the school district's Audit Committee.

Applicants must reside within the boundaries of the East Side Union High School District and meet other qualifications set forth in the Audit Committee Charter.

The Board of Trustees will be appointing three committee members with a two-year term from February 1, 2021, through January 31, 2023, and one alternate with a one-year term from February 1, 2021, through January 31, 2022. Committee members currently serving in these positions may apply to be reappointed.

Interested community members may apply during the application period by submitting the following:

- An introductory cover letter summarizing why you should be considered for this appointment.
- A completed Audit Committee Membership Application
- The applicant/nominee will be re-

quired to provide written responses to the questions listed below:

1. Briefly describe any professional or community experience that you believe qualifies you to serve on the Audit Committee. You may attach a current resume.

2. Briefly describe any previous experience/involvement with the East Side Union High School District and/or other public schools.

3. Briefly state why you are interested in serving as a member of the Audit Committee for the East Side Union High School District.

4. Briefly describe your understanding of the role of the Audit Committee.

Applicants/nominees are invited to review the Audit Committee Charter by visiting: www.esuhd.org and clicking on the audit text under the announcements section. You may download the application by clicking the Charter link.

Deadline for submission of materials is 8 a.m., January 29, 2021

For questions, contact: Lorena Chavez, Board Trustee and Audit Committee Chair, via e-mail at ChavezL@esuhd.org

Send application materials by email (preferred), postal mail, or personal delivery (last resort) to: ESUHSU Audit Committee c/o Mary Guillen; East Side Union High School District ESUHSU Audit Committee; c/o Mary Guillen, East Side Union High School District 830 N. Capitol Avenue, San Jose, CA 95133. The email address is: guillenm@esuhd.org.



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Times Feature

Abac(us)kground (Part 1)

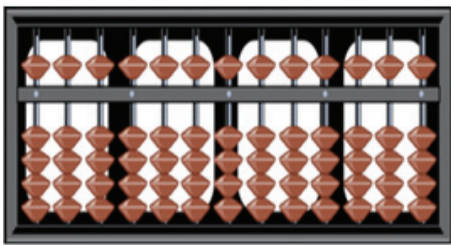
By Apoorva Panidapu
Special to the Times

Hi everyone! As a recap: this column, Gems in STEM, is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too.

This column will always be written to be fairly accessible, so you don't have to worry about not having background knowledge. However, it does occasionally get more advanced towards the end. Quick note: this week's topic is split into two articles given its length, so stay tuned for the next paper for the conclusion!

Unfortunately, during the pandemic, most of us are unable to enjoy the beaches. It's a shame we can't see the beautiful waves, feel the refreshing wind on our faces, and move pebbles between lines in the sand to painstakingly and meticulously count our cattle and goods. What? You don't do that? Oh, of course, of course, neither do I! Haha...

To clarify, today we're talking about the rich history of the abacus (and not my endeavors with sand on beaches, though there seems to be some strange overlap)!



Gems in
STEM
By Apoorva
Panidapu

In all seriousness, I'm especially excited about this article because it's about something very close to my heart. Since I was six years old, I've been learning how to use the abacus. Though I originally joined because I was jealous that my sister got to play with beads on frame while I didn't, I remember how my pudgy little fingers grabbed and fumbled around with the beads on my first soroban, i.e. the Japanese abacus (typically a ¼ abacus, which you will understand later!), with my eyes filled with wonder, and how I gradually came to understand numbers and calculations in ways I could've never imagined. Although most mathematics aren't concerned with the details of gritty calculation (despite the unfortunate popular notion that that's all it is), there is still beauty to be found within these computations, and evidently, the history of how we



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Times Feature

came to think and process with beads on a rod. It's hard to express how exactly and extensively learning the abacus has changed my life, but I can give you some examples. It's somewhat of a magical thing to be able to look at a number (that is sufficiently small) and see all these wonderful properties about it in just a few seconds, just because you've spent so much time with them.

As painfully nerdy as it sounds, they feel a bit like old friends (especially when I see some familiar, "nice" numbers pop up in various places)! And practically, it does make life a lot easier! But I swear I'll throw sand at anyone who asks me to calculate their tip again...just kidding (or not, try it!). There are also some technical neuroscientific benefits to learning the abacus, which is a nice bonus. Regardless, enough of my life story, and let's get to it!

How did it all start?

Imagine you're trying to count your sheep to fall asleep...except you have no numbers. Excuse me? Okay, it's fine, I still have my fingers and toes. That's probably enough...oh no, the sheep are increasing at an exponential rate! Let me gather all my pebbles, sea shells, and twigs, oh God there's too many of them, what do I do?!

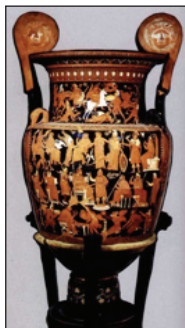
Enter: the abacus. Or rather, the early version, which was a **counting board**. We have to make a distinction between this and the modern abacus, also called the **bead-frame abacus**. Early abaci, or counting boards, were pieces of solid material, usually wood, stone or metal, that had grooves carved in or painted lines where small objects, like beads, pebbles, or metal discs, were moved between. The modern abacus is a computational device, typically made of plastic or wood nowadays, that has a frame consisting of several rods with sliding beads on them.

The counting board was born out of necessity. We can't be exactly sure what the first one was, because they were made out of perishable materials like wood, but we can make educated guesses about their construction and history. One way is by looking at the etymology of the word "abacus." The Latin word has ancient Greek origins, specifically the word "ἄβαξ" (abax), informally meaning a rectangular board (though it actually means something without a base). This word is conjectured to have originated from the Semetic word "abq," meaning "dust" or "sand." This is indicative of the theory that beginning versions of the abacus were simply drawing lines in sand and placing pebbles between them as place holders representing numbers. For example, three pebbles in the 100s column, one in the 10s column, and two in the units, or ones, column represents the number 302.

The reason it was born out of necessity is because people like merchants needed an efficient, easy way to keep track of their goods in trade (or at least this is thought to be the origin, it's not exactly well-known given its perishability). (Of course it wasn't the only calculating tool, but it was significant!) But, the big problem with our sand counting board/abacus: they aren't portable! But travelling merchants needed them to be. Thus, grooves were carved into wooden boards and little wooden discs were the place holders. As the abacus devel-

oped, the wooden boards evolved into metal and marble boards with metal markers. Ta-da!

In our efforts to unearth the abacus's history, it is natural to try and look towards literature and/or art for clues, since the actual abaci couldn't be preserved. However, this tool was primarily used by "lower" class people, like merchants, so they can't commonly be found in these mediums. This is a likely reason for why we don't hear much about the Greek and Roman history of the early abacus in contrast to its deep history in Asia. However, there is an ancient Greek artifact dating back to around 500 BCE, the Darius Vase that seems to have something that resembles an abacus. (We'll get more into the Greek history of the abacus in the next column!)



Additionally, the Etruscan cameo gives us an image of the Roman counting board, also called the **Roman hand-abacus**.

Disclaimer: I'm unsure of the accuracy of this image, but I still thought it was an interesting gem!



Now, we know the motivation for the creation of the abacus and the actual timeline of its evolution is fascinating, but quite extensive. However, we're going to attempt to create a rough timeline for it in the next column. Get ready; I'm *counting on* you to be there!

Calc you later! If you found this interesting, make sure to check out the next column! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at apoorvapwrites@gmail.com.

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



EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)

http://www.eicsanjosel.org
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose, CA 95148.
(408) 239-6668

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

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

A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine holy book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. Please visit our website to learn more.

Jazāk Allāhu Khayran!

FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com
Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction.

Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!



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www.GraceChurchSJ.net
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Christian Worship every Sunday at 11:00 am

Together let us build lives toward excellence!
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HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

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.



thepoint.church

THE POINT CHURCH

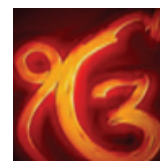
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(408) 270-7646
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Spanish Service:
11:00 AM
Cambodian Service:
11:00 AM
Cantonese Service:
11:00 AM
Mandarin Service:
11:00AM
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade):
Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual

NOTE: Due to the coronavirus, many religious institutions have services online.

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
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA

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

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.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!



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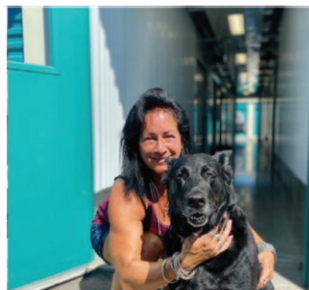


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