

Silicon Valley  
Leadership Group  
launches new racial  
diversity program  
**SEE PAGE 4**



**Vaccine approved**  
County greenlights previously  
paused Moderna vaccine  
**SEE PAGE 4**

VTa plans to run more  
buses on seven routes  
so it doesn't leave so  
many people behind  
**SEE PAGE 11**



JAN. 29 – FEB. 11, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 3

# EvergreenTimes

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## St. Francis of Assisi of Evergreen to sponsor Stanford Blood Drive: February 13

St. Francis of Assisi of Evergreen will sponsor a Stanford Blood Drive on Saturday, Feb. 13 starting at 8 a.m. at the St. Francis Community Center located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. in Evergreen.

The event is open to the public and any and all eligible donors are encouraged to stop by and become a blood donor. Be sure to wear a mask.

Due to the large number of companies shut down, there is a  
*See BLOOD DRIVE, page 2*

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## DISTRICT 8 COMMUNITY ROUND TABLE

### Mayor Liccardo to discuss concerns with Evergreen Neighborhood Associations at Zoom meeting

*Everyone welcome to  
join the ZOOM meeting*

The District 8 Community Round Table has invited Mayor Sam Liccardo and Evergreen Neighborhood Associations to meet on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. during a Zoom virtual meeting to discuss neighborhood issues and concerns and also receive citywide updates from Mayor Liccardo.

Evergreen's diverse Neighborhood Associations which have confirmed their participation as of press time include: Evergreen Leadership Group, Brahms/Edge-

view, Norwood, Thompson Creek and Silver Oaks Estates.

Jeremy Barousse, President of the District 8 Community Round Table said, "The virtual meeting is a great opportunity to hear some new updates from our city officials on timely issues and in turn for them to hear about the issues that are impacting our neighborhood associations."

Prior to the Meeting the District 8 Community Round Table will submit to the mayor a number of issues and concerns brought forth by Evergreen Neighborhood Associations so that he will be better

*See ZOOM MEETING, page 2*

## ISSUES IMPACTING D8



Residents of District 8 are invited to join Mayor Sam Liccardo and Evergreen Neighborhood Associations for a Zoom meeting on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.

## State announces lifting of regional stay at home order, returning Santa Clara county to purple tier

*Outdoor dining, personal care services, sports programs may resume with required modifications; mandatory travel quarantine remains in place*

On Monday, January 25, the State of California announced the lifting of its Regional Stay at Home Order for all regions statewide, including the Bay Area. Effective today, Santa Clara County has returned to the Purple Tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, with some additional local restrictions remaining in place.

Outdoor dining may resume today, as well as personal care services and professional, collegiate, and adult and youth sports. The

County's mandatory travel quarantine remains in place, requiring a 10-day quarantine for most people who travel into the county from more than 150 miles away. As always, businesses and individuals must follow both the State and County Health Officer orders, and where there is a conflict between the two, the stricter rules must be followed.

"Santa Clara County continues to experience very high rates of COVID-19 transmission," said Dr. Sara Cody, Health Officer and Director of Public Health for the County of Santa Clara. "Our collective actions to date have saved lives and helped protect our health-care system from collapse. I encourage all residents to remain vigilant, wear a mask

anytime you leave your home, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from anyone outside your household, and get vaccinated when it is your turn."

**Below is a summary of changes:**

- **Outdoor dining** may resume, subject to the Mandatory Directive for Dining. Indoor dining remains prohibited. Bars, breweries, distilleries, and pubs may serve alcohol only outdoors and only in the same transaction as a meal.

- **Personal care services** may resume indoors and outdoors, subject to the Mandatory Directive for Personal Care Services.

- **Professional and collegiate sports** may resume, subject to the updated Mandatory Directive for Collegiate and Professional Sports.

- **Adult recreational sports activities** may resume subject to the updated Mandatory Directive for Gatherings, including specific rules in Section 9 of that Directive.

*See ORDER LIFTED, page 2*

**"Santa Clara County  
continues to  
experience very high  
rates of COVID-19  
transmission...  
I encourage all  
residents to remain  
vigilant."**

*Dr. Sara Cody, Health Officer  
and Director of Public Health  
for the County of Santa Clara*

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



Times **Community News****Order lifted***Continued from page 1*

- **Youth sports** may resume subject to the State's guidance applicable to those activities, as well as the County's Mandatory Directive for Programs Serving Children and Youth.

- **Most businesses that are allowed to open indoor operations** to the public must limit capacity of their publicly accessible space to 20%. The County's Mandatory Directive on Capacity Limitations has been updated to reflect current openings and closings.

- **Outdoor gatherings with up to three households** are now allowed for any purpose. Larger outdoor gatherings with up to 200 people are allowed only for political, religious, or ceremonial purposes, or as otherwise specifically allowed by the State. Indoor gatherings of any kind remain prohibited. All allowed gatherings must comply with the County's updated Mandatory Directive for Gatherings.

- **The County's Mandatory Directive on Travel**, which requires most people who travel into the county from more than 150 miles away to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival, is still in effect.

- **The County's Mandatory Directive for Lodging Facilities** is still in effect. Lodging facilities may not provide lodging services for non-essential purposes, such as tourism, recreational, or leisure purposes. Non-essential travel should be avoided, especially in light of new variants of COVID-19 that are circulating globally and in the United States.

**Key rules remain in effect and applicable to all businesses:**

- **Telework:** All businesses must continue to require workers to do their jobs from

home whenever possible. Workers can go into work only to complete the job duties they can't complete from home.

- **Social Distancing Protocol** requirements: All businesses must complete and submit a Revised Social Distancing Protocol for each of their facilities on the County's website at [COVID19Prepared.org](http://COVID19Prepared.org). Social Distancing Protocols submitted prior to October 11, 2020 are no longer valid. The Revised Social Distancing Protocols must be filled out using an updated template for the Social Distancing Protocol at [COVID19Prepared.org](http://COVID19Prepared.org).

- **Positive case reporting:** All businesses (and governmental entities) are legally required to report to the Public Health Department within 4 hours if they learn that any of their workers are confirmed to be positive for COVID-19. They must also ensure workers alert them if they test positive.

- **Capacity Limitation and Metering:** All businesses must comply with applicable capacity limitations. All businesses (except for acute care hospitals) with indoor facilities open to the public must establish a "metering system" to ensure that the applicable capacity limits are not exceeded by, for example, posting an employee at the facility entrance to track the number of people entering and exiting.

- **Indoor Breakroom Closure:** All businesses (except acute care hospitals) must limit employees' access to indoor workplace breakrooms as described in section 3 of the Mandatory Directive on Capacity Limitations.

*For more updates and information, the public may visit the county's website. Information regarding COVID-19 testing is available at [www.sccfreetest.org](http://www.sccfreetest.org), and information about vaccine eligibility and distribution is available at [www.sccfreevax.org](http://www.sccfreevax.org).*

**Zoom meeting***Continued from page 1*

prepared to address local community concerns.

Each of the Evergreen Neighborhood Associations will be able to ask the Mayor a question after his talk. Time permitting; community members will also be able to ask questions of Mayor Liccardo.

Janet Holt of the Ruby/Norwood neighborhood shared that she's "looking for-

ward to hearing Mayor Liccardo address the important issues our D8 Neighborhood Association Presidents have identified as top concerns in our district."

All Evergreen residents and Evergreen Neighborhood Associations are welcome to attend by registering in advance for the Zoom Virtual Meeting by using the following link: [zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tjMq-fuyppqTgqEtL386kr6SYW5PmY5Ihyzd3F](https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tjMq-fuyppqTgqEtL386kr6SYW5PmY5Ihyzd3F)

Feel free to email [info@d8crt.org](mailto:info@d8crt.org) with your questions or visit the District 8 Community Roundtable website: [www.d8crt.org](http://www.d8crt.org).

**Blood drive***Continued from page 1*

big shortage of blood types, so it is important for the community to make a positive impact by making the event a success.

Residents are encouraged to sign-up in advance in order to minimize wait times.

The event will conclude at 2 p.m.

To register, call Tom at (408) 476-6104 or visit: [bcdonor.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/9054](http://bcdonor.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/9054) to learn more.



Pictured above: **Brian Edwards** became a milestone donor this month celebrating his 500th blood donation. When asked what inspired him to give blood, he answered, "My parents instilling in me the value of contributing to community. Also I have some close connections to patients who needed my blood which is needed due to the current number of limited donors. Finally, there's my physical ease of donation and subsequent person sense of well-being!"



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Times **Community News**

## Which states had highest number of people eating out at restaurants before and during COVID?

Americans love to dine out, it's part of our culture, but the COVID-19 pandemic has put a serious crimp in our style.

According to the restaurant data guru Zenreach — the leader in walk-through marketing — restaurant visits across the nation are down significantly, particularly in some tried and true restaurant types like

American food (down 277,000 visits between Jan. 2020 and Dec. 2020) and pizza places (down 113,000 visits during the same time frame).

Before the pandemic California was the state most likely to dine out with 437,000 restaurant visits in the month of January. By December, that number was just 71,000. Good enough to retain the second spot on the list but less than half of Florida's December numbers of 149,000 restaurant visits.

Arizona and Texas moved up one spot each between January and December, supplanting New York as the third and fourth

most popular state for restaurant goers. New York slipped to 5th place in December with an almost 150,000 diner drop off between the two months.

Make no mistake, none of these states have numbers that remotely compare with their pre-COVID levels, but it is interesting that all five top states are COVID hot spots in the U.S.

## Valley Medical Center Foundation set to receive generous PPE donation

In the midst of working to ensure swift vaccination roll outs to all Santa Clara

County residents, Supervisor Otto Lee acknowledged and celebrated a generous donation of Personal Protective Equipment to the Valley Medical Center (VMC) Foundation from the Bridge Road International (BRI) Foundation.

"I did not want to let the opportunity pass to recognize the kind and helpful gift from BRI which will go a long way to protect our nurses and front-line workers," Super-

visor Lee said.

The donation, which includes 1,000 personal protective disposable hooded coveralls, was presented to the VMC Foundation on Jan. 21 at the VMC office.

"We are delighted," VMC Foundation CEO Chris Wilder said. "This donation adds to the Foundation's county-wide donation effort to fight COVID-19. Together, we will prevail."

"Together we will see the end of this pandemic," Lee said. "Please continue to maintain social distance, wear a mask whenever you leave your home, and stay home except for essential activities. I thank the community for your strength and collective action to protect your neighbors and yourselves."



Photo: <https://vmcfoundation.org/>

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CITY BEAT

City requests community input on what to ask San Jose Police Chief finalists

As San Jose steps closer to selecting a new police chief, the call is out for the community to let officials know what to ask the finalists. The city will host a forum Jan. 30 to ask the candidates these questions.

The city has been searching for a new police chief since former Chief Eddie Garcia announced his retirement in August after serving for 28 years. Garcia has accepted the position as Dallas' first Latino police chief.

San Jose residents can submit questions by filling out an online survey available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. The city will review the questions posed by residents and select ones that encapsulate the most common themes and queries.

Candidates' names and backgrounds are expected to be released by the City Manager's office later this month. Candidates will make brief opening remarks before answering questions. A series of community interview panels will take place after the forum. These will include members of community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, neighborhood associations, and racial equity and civil rights organizations.

The Jan. 30 candidate forum will begin at 10 a.m. and will be broadcast live on San Jose's YouTube page and video streaming site. Search: San Jose's YouTube page.

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PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM D. BELLOU  
willamb@timesmediainc.com

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: WILLIAM D. BELLOU  
willamb@timesmediainc.com

ADVERTISING SALES: WILLIAM D. BELLOU  
408-494-7000

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: DIANE BLUM,  
SUNAY SANGHANI, SEAN EASTWOOD,  
KEVIN LARSEN, NIRBAN SINGH,  
FRANK SHORTT, JUDY LY, EUGENE LUU,  
APOORVA PANIDAPU

ART DIRECTOR: JEFF BAHAM  
graphics@timesmediainc.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: SANDY BELLOU

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Valley Currents

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

Silicon Valley Leadership Group launches new racial diversity program

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) is launching a major push to urge Bay Area companies to institute racial diversity in their executive ranks.

Under the direction of new Chief Executive Officer Ahmad Thomas, the new racial diversity initiative, named 25×25, will help ensure that more members of under-represented groups become executives at Silicon Valley companies.

"We want to do something that will catalyze change with a measurable impact on corporate diversity in Silicon Valley and also generate revenue for our companies," Thomas said. "Our goal is to fill 25% of executive positions with hires from under-represent-



Chief Executive Officer **Ahmad Thomas** (left) and **Angelica Cortez**, vice president of racial justice and equity (right).



350 company members, has appointed Angelica Cortez as vice president of racial justice and equity. She said the leadership group is planning to unveil its 25×25 initiative at the organization's Diversity Summit on Feb. 19.

Cortez said, "25×25 is a chance to act now to create lasting change that reaches every part of our industries by starting at the top."

The leadership group was the only prominent business organization to back legislation that required public companies with executive offices in California to appoint board members from under-represented communities, according to Jed York, chairman of the group's board and CEO of the San Francisco 49ers.

ed groups by 2025."

SVLG is encouraging companies that have already reached the 25% to increase the number of people from under-represented groups from their current levels.

The organization, which includes more than

Santa Clara County gives green light for previously paused Moderna vaccine

By Madelyn Reese  
Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

County health officials are now instructing local hospitals to begin administering a lot of Moderna vaccines paused earlier this week due to a potential increased risk of allergic reactions.

Santa Clara County received about 21,800 doses of the Moderna Lot 41L20A distributed at the beginning of January, and more than 330,000 of these doses were distributed across the state. Health officials paused adminis-

tration of the lot after several individuals experienced allergic reactions at a San Diego vaccination site last week.

Local hospitals earlier this week said they had either not administered any vaccines from the lot or had administered some before the pause, but had not recorded any allergic reactions.

"These findings confirm that the systems put in place to ensure vaccine safety are working just as they should," said Santa Clara County Public Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody. "This latest rigorous, scientific review of possi-

Local hospitals earlier this week said they had either not administered any vaccines from the lot or had administered some before the pause, but had not recorded any allergic reactions.



A 'vaccines only' sign is displayed outside the room where health care workers are receiving the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose, Calif. (San José Spotlight / Vicente Vera, Pool)

ble allergic reactions once again confirmed that the vaccine is safe ... People in Santa Clara County can feel confident that vaccinating our community against COVID-19 will save lives and serve as our path out of the pandemic."

California State Epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan said the decision to resume vaccinations from the lot was made after convening a scientific safety review group, along with additional allergy and immunology specialists across the state.

"These findings should contin-

ue to give Californians confidence that vaccines are safe and effective, and that the systems put in place to ensure vaccine safety are rigorous and science-based," Pan said. "Members of my family who have qualified to receive the vaccine as health care workers or because of their age have already received the COVID-19 vaccine, and I encourage every Californian to get the vaccine when it's their turn."

As of Jan. 21, the county has reported 94,905 cumulative COVID-19 cases and 1,129 deaths.

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**Tech Jargon of the Week**

# Predictive Analytics

Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this “techie” word – and even after you’ve broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there’s no need to sweat it. Let us teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

**Predictive Analytics**

No one today has the ability to capture and analyze data from the future. However, there is a way to predict the future using data from the past. It is called predictive analytics. Today it is used in insurance, banking, marketing, financial services, telecommunications, retail, travel, healthcare, and other industries.

Predictive analytics is the branch of the advanced analytics which is used to make predictions about unknown future events. It uses techniques like data mining, statistics, modeling, machine learning, and artificial intelligence to analyze current data to make predictions about future. Now this requires a high level of expertise with statistical methods and the ability to build predictive data models. As a result, it’s typically the domain of data scientists, statisticians and other skills data analysts. They’re supported by data engineers, who help to gather relevant data and prepare it for analysis, and by software developers and business analysts, who help with data visualization dashboards and reports.

Data scientists use predictive models to look for correlations between different data elements in website clickstream data, patient health records and other types of datasets. Once the data collection has occurred, a statistical model is formulated, trained and modified as needed to produce accurate results. The model is then run against the selected data to generate predictions.

Predictive analytics allows organizations to become proactive, forward looking, anticipating outcomes and behaviors based upon the data and not on a hunch or assumptions. It goes further and suggests actions to benefit the predictions and also provide decision options to benefit from the predictions and its implications.

It’s pretty amazing that we can use analytics to predict the future. All we have to do is gather the right data, do the right type of statistical model, and be careful of assumptions. Accurate predictive models can help organizations make intelligent decisions.

*Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at shub.saxen@gmail.com. Shubhi Asthana works as a Research Senior Software Engineer at the IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose.*

## California makes several legislative changes for businesses in 2021

California has made some legislative changes for businesses in 2021. Here are the following new labor law changes for employers that may require immediate action.

- SB 1383 – Expanded employee access to CFRA (California Family Rights Act) to companies with just 5 employees or more.
- AB 685 – Requires employers to provide written notices to employees within one business day after receiving notice of

potential COVID-19 exposure.

- AB 1963 – Requires employers with 5 or more employees to provide Mandated Reporter training to HR professionals and supervisors who manage minors.
- AB 2017 – revised the law to clarify that the employee has the right to designate sick leave as kin care.
- AB 2992 – expanded the prohibition on discrimination and retaliation against employees who are victims of crime or abuse.

• AB 1947 – extends the time an individual can file a complaint of discrimination or retaliation with the DLSE (Labor Commissioner).

• SB 1384 – Expands the Labor Commissioner’s ability to represent claimants under certain circumstances.

• SB 973 – Requires businesses with 100 or more employees to file an annual Employer Information Report (EEO-1) to California’s Department of Fair Employment and Housing by March 31, 2021.

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## Times Community News

# Enjoy this seafood boil by Tammy Brown

Courtesy of [cookingwithtammy](http://cookingwithtammy.com)  
[@tambrown2015](http://cookingwithtammy.recipes)

Put the fun back into cooking with quick, easy, delicious and healthy recipes from Tammy Brown. For more recipes, visit [cookingwithtammy.recipes](http://cookingwithtammy.recipes).



### SEAFOOD BOIL OVEN RECIPE

Seafood Boil Oven Recipe: King Crab Legs, Snow Crab, Jumbo Shrimp, Sausage, Corn and Potatoes. This scrumptious boil is seasoned with over nine Creole seasonings in order to bring out the best flavors in any seafood boil. This Seafood Boil Foil Packet Recipe is universal. Place it in the oven or grill and enjoy!

#### Seafood Boil in the oven recipe

##### Ingredients

- lobster tails
- king crab legs
- snow crab legs
- jumbo shrimp
- sausage
- corn
- potatoes
- onion powder
- garlic powder
- paprika
- lemon pepper
- cedar plank salmon seasoning mix
- roasted herb and garlic seasoning
- creole seasoning



- ranch dip dry mix
- Sauce
- garlic minced
- butter melted
- parsley

#### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350F

1. Taking cleaned seafood, sausage, corn, and, potatoes, add onion powder, garlic powder, paprika, lemon pepper, salmon seasoning, roasted garlic & herb, creole seasoning, ranch seasoning and combine.

2. To the melted butter add minced garlic, parsley, and combine. Add seafood to a pan, drizzle melted butter garlic mixture on the seafood.

3. Cover with aluminum foil and place it in the oven.

4. Cooking time depends on the amount of seafood, but Cook it on 350F until the seafood changes color. Lobster tails meat turn white, the shells turn red and the shrimp turns pink. The king crabs and snow crabs should already be cooked. Also, partially cook the potatoes so they are not crunchy. Be sure to check on it periodically while it's in the oven.

5. Serve and Enjoy!

san josé evergreen  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

# NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

**FOR THE Evergreen Valley College Facilities Master Plan**  
**To: Public Agencies and Concerned Citizens/Interested Parties**  
**From: San José Evergreen Community College District**  
**40 S. Market Street**  
**San José, CA 95113**  
**Lead Agency/Project Proponent:**  
**San José Evergreen Community College District**

**Notice:** Notice is hereby given that the San José Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD), acting as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Vision 2030 Evergreen Valley College Facilities Master Plan (EVC FMP) and other actions and transactions associated with the proposed project. Written comments regarding the issues that should be covered in the EIR, including potential alternatives to the proposed project and the scope of the analysis, are invited. This Notice of Preparation (NOP), and Initial Study, are available on the SJECCD website at: <http://cboc.sjebond.com/program-documents/>

The EIR is being prepared in compliance with CEQA. Under CEQA, upon deciding to prepare an EIR, the SJECCD must issue a NOP to inform trustee agencies, responsible agencies, and the public of that decision. The purpose of the NOP is to provide information describing the project and its potential environmental effects to those who may wish to comment regarding the scope and content of the information to be included in the EIR. Agencies should comment on such information as it relates to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the project.

The EIR will provide an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with development of the proposed project. The proposed project description, location, and environmental issue areas that may be affected by development of the proposed project are described below. The EIR will evaluate the potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposed project, on both a direct and cumulative basis, identify mitigation measures that may be feasible to lessen or avoid such impacts, and identify alternatives to the proposed project.

**Project Location:** The project site is located at:  
Evergreen Valley College  
3095 Yerba Buena Road, San José, CA 95128

The Evergreen Valley College campus is located in a developed suburban/rural setting within east-central San José, regionally accessible from Interstate 101. It is surrounded by a variety of uses, including residential uses and Falls Creek Park to the north; residential uses, Evergreen Park, and a church to the south; Montgomery Hill Park and undeveloped lands to the east; and residential uses and an assisted-living facility to the west.

**Project Description:** The San José Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) proposes to construct and implement the Vision 2030 Evergreen Valley College Facilities Master Plan (EVC FMP), which includes

renovations throughout the EVC campus, demolition of aging structures, construction of new structures, and upgrades to existing transportation and circulation facilities. A detailed project description is included in the Initial Study referenced in this notice.

**Scoping Meeting:** SJECCD is hosting a public scoping meeting on February 10, 2021 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Please join virtually from your PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android devices:  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/98666023692>

**Environmental Effects and the Scope of the EIR:** The EIR will analyze potentially significant impacts that result from implementation of the proposed project.

As indicated above, the SJECCD has prepared an Initial Study to describe the project and identify any potentially significant project-specific or cumulative environmental effects, as well as, identify any mitigation measures or alternatives that may avoid or mitigate the identified effects, if any, to a less-than-significant level. Based on the findings of the Initial Study, it is anticipated that the following topics could have potentially significant impacts:

- Air Quality
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems

In addition, the EIR will describe and evaluate project alternatives that may reduce or avoid any identified significant adverse impacts of the project. Unless new information is presented during the NOP comment process, the following topics are expected to have less-than-significant impacts and will be discussed only in the Initial Study: aesthetics; archaeological resources; agriculture and forestry resources; biological resources; cultural resources; geology and soils; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; mineral resources; population and housing; public services; recreation; tribal cultural resources; and wild-fire.

**Address Where Written Comments May be Sent:** Comments and suggestions as to the appropriate scope of analysis in the EIR are invited from all interested parties. Written comments or questions concerning the EIR for the proposed project should be directed to the SJECCD at the following address, in writing, by the end of the scoping period, Monday, February 22, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Submit comments by U.S. Mail or E-mail to:

**Terrance DeGray, Associate Vice Chancellor,**  
**Physical Plant Development and Operations**  
**San José Evergreen Community College District**  
**40 S. Market Street**  
**San José, CA 95113**

Email: [Terrance.DeGray@sjeccd.edu](mailto:Terrance.DeGray@sjeccd.edu) | Telephone: (408) 274-6401



Times Feature

New year, new me?

Survey reveals many Californians are reducing their alcohol intake in 2021

A new survey shows that one in three Californians have or are planning on reducing their alcohol intake in 2021.

Although many Californian’s plan to cut back on their alcohol intake, 80% say they would drink the same or more in the event of another lockdown in 2021. The survey also revealed that there is more of a concern about a loved one struggling with alcohol dependency, than COVID-19.

AlcoholRehab.com, a leading provider of alcohol and drug addiction treatment resources, surveyed 3,000 adults (aged 21+) and found that over 1 in 3 (37%) Californians plan on reducing their alcohol intake, not just for the month of January, but for 2021.

‘Dryuary’ (Dry January)

Dry January, or Dryuary, the month where many people opt to drink less, has become an annual ritual. Some participate as part of a New Year’s resolution, some use it as a vehicle to save money, and others claim it’s a way to ‘detox’ from excessive drinking over the holidays. However, following a challenging year in which many turned to alcohol as a coping mechanism for a multitude of situations, this month’s attempt at sobriety has added significance.

According to the survey results, the most abstemious state is Louisiana, with nearly 70% saying they plan on drinking less this year. Comparatively, only 16% of those in Iowa say they will cut down on their drinking this upcoming year.

In the spirit of ‘New Year, New Me,’ the survey showed that 1 in 10 reassess their drinking habits every January to make some changes (usually for the better!). When quizzed on their primary reasons for cutting their alcohol in 2021, 62% want to create healthier habits for themselves, 17% say it’s to save money, 12% say it’s to avoid hangovers, and 10% want to cut down as they’re worried about becoming too dependent on alcohol.

More will drink if lockdowned

The survey also revealed a concerning statistic: more than 80% of respondents say in the event of further lockdowns in 2021, they would drink the same or more alcohol than they did in the first wave.

The study also found that nearly 2 in 3 (63%) respondents say they would be more concerned about a loved one struggling with alcohol dependency, than COVID-19, during the pandemic.

William Florentino of Evergreen Valley named to Dean’s List of College Of William & Mary

William Florentino of Evergreen Valley has been name to College Of William & Mary Dean’s List.

In order to achieve Dean’s List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

Florentino, who is earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science, served as a Commissioner of Public Service for Bellarmine’s student government. He worked with several service clubs and non-

profits both within Bellarmine and around the Bay Area in order to create service projects and events.

William & Mary, the second oldest institution of higher education in the nation, is a cutting-edge research university offering world-class education without the high costs associated with other universities. William & Mary is located in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Ricardo Miranda named to the Gettysburg College Dean’s Honor List

Ricardo Miranda of Evergreen Valley has been placed on the Gettysburg College Dean’s

Honor list for outstanding academic achievement in the Spring 2020 semester.

Students with a quality point average of 3.60 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) for a semester’s work are placed on the College’s Dean’s Honor List.

“My course load this semester consists of computational physics, math, and other STEM courses that contribute to my mathematics major and physics and computer science double minor,” Miranda said. “I spend ample time during the day either in the library, the Junction, or attending office hours for these classes to stay on top of the demands of the cours-

es. I’m a STEM Scholar, so I feel fortunate for the academic and financial opportunities offered that allowed me the chance to travel across the country for my undergraduate studies.”

Founded in 1832, Gettysburg College is a highly selective four-year residential college of liberal arts and sciences with a strong academic tradition that includes Rhodes Scholars, a Nobel laureate and other distinguished scholars among its alumni. The college enrolls 2,600 undergraduate students and is located on a 200-acre campus adjacent to the Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.



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## Report: 66% of nursing homes say they won't make it another year

Key findings of a recent survey from the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) of nursing home providers across the U.S. include:

- Two-thirds (66%) of nursing homes say they won't make it another year given current operating pace due to increased COVID costs.
- 90% of nursing homes are currently operating at a profit margin of 3% or less. (65% of nursing homes are currently operating at a loss).
- Staffing has been the top cost in response to COVID with nine out of 10 nursing homes hiring additional staff and/or paying staff overtime.

- 58% of nursing homes said additional staff pay and hiring new staff were their top cost incurred due to COVID.

- 70% of nursing homes have hired additional staff and nine out of 10 have asked current staff to work overtime and provided hero pay.

In a statement from Mark Parkinson, President and CEO, AHCA/NCAL on the survey he said, "Our nursing home providers are facing the worst financial crisis in the history of the industry due to increased costs related to COVID (testing, personal protective equipment, staffing) and chronic Medicaid underfunding. Without adequate resources, the U.S. will repeat the same mistakes made during the initial outbreak last spring. We need Congress to prioritize our vulnerable seniors and their caregivers in long term care facilities, by passing another COVID relief package right away."

## Op Ed California may be losing its business mojo

By Dan Walters

The timing could not have been more ironic.

As veteran Democratic operative Dee Dee Myers — she was Bill Clinton's press secretary at one point in her lengthy career — became Gov. Gavin Newsom's new ambassador to business this month, three of California's biggest and best known corporate entities announced moves to arch-rival Texas.

The splashiest émigré is Elon Musk, founder of the Tesla electric car company and other high-technology firms, who had already chosen Texas for expansions of his automobile and space businesses.

Musk revealed his personal move at a busi-

ness conference and compared California to a sports team with a long winning streak, saying, "they do tend to get a little complacent, a little entitled, and then they don't win the championship anymore." California, he said, "has been winning for a long time. And I think they're taking them for granted a little bit."

Very quickly, two other stalwarts of the San Francisco Bay Area's high-tech community also announced departures to Texas, Hewlett-Packard Enterprise Co. and software giant Oracle.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise is building a "state-of-the-art" campus near Houston for 2,600 workers and said, "HPE's largest U.S. employment hub, Houston, is an attractive market to recruit and retain future diverse talent."

Oracle, which is moving its headquarters to Austin, said, "We believe these moves best position Oracle for growth and provide our personnel with more flexibility about where and how they work."

The three announcements — and Musk's comments especially — renew a question that has hovered over California for several years: Do the state's high taxes, high operating and living costs and a political drift to the left make it hostile to business? And, parenthetically, does Texas, which has no personal income tax and is a reliably conservative, pro-business state, benefit from that perceived hostility?

"Anyone who doesn't believe that this latest departure isn't a threat to California's economy is a business climate denier," Jim Wunderman, president and CEO of the Bay Area Council, said in a statement. "We are watching the unraveling on one of the world's mightiest economies and the consequences will be devastating. California for too long has willfully ignored our awful business climate, even as we've enjoyed incredible success and prosperity."

Wunderman added, "We can't afford to dither any longer or California will permanently lose hundreds of thousands if not millions of jobs to states like Texas that place value on business and investment."

Clearly the COVID-19 pandemic has had an effect on corporate attitudes. Many employers are now embracing work-at-home arrangements that make physical location less important and the Bay Area has been seeing an outward migration to communities, such as Sacramento, with less congestion and lower housing costs as a result. In that sense, moving headquarters staff to low-cost Texas buys more bang for the buck and makes perfect sense.

But there are other recent developments that may have a cumulative effect. They include state legislators' calls for higher personal and corporate taxes, political efforts to help unions organize workers in the high-tech sector, legislation to dictate corporate board memberships, and direct slaps such as San Francisco's new tax on corporations whose chief executives are paid over 100 times more than their rank-and-file workers.

We may have reached a tipping point in which the disadvantages of doing business in California outweigh the advantages. We should remember what happened to Detroit, which was the Silicon Valley of its day a century ago, but took its prosperity for granted and paid a heavy financial and social price for its complacency.

Good luck, Dee Dee. You'll need it.

*Editor's note: Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers.*

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## Times Feature

# VTA plans to run more buses on seven routes so it doesn't leave so many people behind

By Nicholas Chan

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

**S**anta Clara Valley Transit Authority is going to run some bus lines more frequently so fewer passengers get left behind.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the transit agency has been requiring passengers to be spaced six feet apart on its buses and light rail cars. Doing so, though, has limited the capacity of its vehicles, and some have been unable to accommodate passengers waiting to board as they have no space available.

VTA vehicles leave behind about 650 customers a day, agency officials estimate.

Seven bus routes account for the majority of passengers left behind: 23, 25, 64, 66, 68, 71 and 77. Starting Feb. 8, the agency will run buses more frequently on those routes and adjust schedules of nearly all routes in the system.

"We want to provide as much service as we can," VTA spokesman Ken Blackstone said. "That's the business that we're in."

Thanks to the changes, VTA service will increase to 80 percent of pre-pandemic lev-

els from 74 percent, Blackstone said.

The VTA's plan is long overdue, said public transit advocate Monica Mallon.

"It's really exciting," said Mallon, who is the founder of Turnout4Transit, a campaign to preserve transit services. "This is something that has needed to happen for a while and has been suggested for over six months."

VTA buses passed up more than 17,700 people in October alone, according to an analysis by the Silicon Valley Transit Users of VTA data. Some of those left behind arrived late to work or to doctors' appointments, said Eugene Bradley, founder and CEO of the advocacy and watchdog group. Others were forced to use rideshare services instead.

VTA's plan to increase bus frequencies on the seven routes is a step in the right direction, Bradley said. "This is something that our group has fought for," he said. "We were just frankly flabbergasted that people were being left behind."

Bradley is concerned about one consequence of VTA's plan — the agency will discontinue certain early morning and late-



Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority is going to run some bus lines more frequently so fewer passengers get left behind. Pictured: VTA's Proterra Catalyst 40 ft. bus.

night light rail runs. Those changes will negatively affect riders like security guards and janitors who work graveyard shifts, he said.

VTA has seen a decline in riders and resources during the pandemic and is trying to adapt as best it can, Blackstone said. The agency proposed deep service cuts of up to 30% in November to reduce costs, but postponed the cuts after cries from the community to save transit.

But without additional federal government assistance, VTA could face up to an \$80 million budget deficit for the fiscal years of 2022 and 2023, Blackstone said.

"We — like everyone else — are having to make adjustments," he said. "We are trying to make those adjustments as inclusive as we can."

The transit system is a lifeline for people coping with financial difficulties, especially during the pandemic, Mallon said.

"Everybody doesn't have enough money to buy a car and to pay for gas and insurance," she said. "This is the kind of time when people want to cut costs and look into things like transit, if they are struggling financially."

Now, the agency is shifting its focus to  
*See VTA, page 12*

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# Five easy ways to cut back on food waste

Food requires a lot of resources, including land, water and energy. It should come as no surprise then, that the food we waste accounts for a whopping six percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Fortunately, it's not hard to cut back on food waste. It can even be fun! Check out these five ideas for waste-prevention, emission-reducing inspiration.

## 1. Store food properly

How you store food makes a big difference in how long it lasts. Use this printable guide to learn how to properly store produce, and find out what parts of your fridge are best for storing different types of foods.

## 2. Freeze, dehydrate or pickle food that's about to go bad

If you have too much food sitting in your fridge, don't let it go to waste. Extra bananas can be peeled and frozen for future use in breads and smoothies. Other fruit like peaches and berries can be frozen and stored for smoothies, pies and other baked goods. Uncooked meat can be frozen for future meals, and cooked meals like soup can be frozen for an easy meal on a lazy day. To explore more food saving tips, tricks and recipes, visit [www.lovefoodnotwaste.org](http://www.lovefoodnotwaste.org).

If you have extra veggies like cabbage, carrots, cucumber or green beans, try pickling them to make them last. You don't have to learn canning, either — quick pickling works just as well.



## 3. Eat veggies without peeling

Not only will it save you a lot of work, it will cut down on food waste, increase your dish's flavor and give you more nutrients. The veggies you can stop peeling include beets, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, ginger, parsnips, potatoes and sweet potatoes. Worried about dirt? Soak your veggies in water for a few minutes to get most of it off, then use a vegetable brush to finish the job.

## 4. Find ways to eat the parts of your food you'd normally toss

If there's a part of some kind of food that you always toss, see if there's a way you could make it edible. Here are some of our ideas:

- Add carrot tops to pesto or

chimichurri.

- Make broccoli rice out of broccoli stalks.

- Wilt beet greens and add them to your beet dish, like in beet salad.

## 5. Put your food scraps to work

Not all food scraps are destined for the bin. Try out some of these fun ideas to give your scraps a second life:

- Make a broth out of carrot, celery and onion scraps.

- Make an exfoliating coffee scrub out of used coffee grounds. Simply add a little oil of your choice (like coconut or jojoba) to freshly brewed grounds and exfoliate away! Use a drain catcher to keep the grounds from clogging up your plumbing.

- Make potpourri from dried orange and other citrus peels.

- Grow new plants out of food scraps.

While reducing food waste is always best, there are times when you must dispose of some food. Add your food scraps to a backyard compost pile or bin if you have one. Otherwise, all food scraps belong in your black garbage cart. They will be removed for composting.

If you have leftovers in a recyclable container, be sure to empty and scrape any food into the garbage before recycling the container. If it is too soiled with food or liquid, place the container in the garbage as well. Food-soiled containers can contaminate otherwise clean recyclables, making them unrecyclable.

# VTA

*Continued from page 11*

some of its busiest bus routes. Riders should also expect additional adjustments to its services after February, Blackstone said.

"We will continue to adjust as necessary and have another set of adjustments in June and October this year," Blackstone said. "The changes for both are (to be decided) and will be based on conditions at that time and the pandemic."

The changes slated to take effect in February are positive steps forward, but they won't completely solve the problem of passengers being left behind, said John Courtney, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265, which represents roughly 1,500 VTA transit workers.

"It's a good faith effort. We're heading in the right direction," Courtney said. "But when you really delve into the look of the schedules, it's not really that much of an increase. The proposal they have on the table right now is still not nearly enough to pick up the people that are out there."

More buses are needed to fill in the gaps, Courtney said. For now, the agency will reduce time granted for operators' breaks, among other changes, to help increase the frequencies of bus routes, he said. But VTA is hiring new drivers, which will help relieve the workload of current ones.

"VTA is trying their very best. At every turn, there's a new challenge," he said.

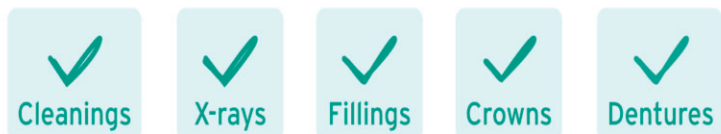
"The challenge now is not just [to] increase service hours, but to increase buses on the road in peak hours on all routes, and bring transit back. We just have to keep hiring, keep the buses rolling again to gain the trust of the public back and come back with a roar."

Visit the VTA website for the description of changes that will take effect on Feb. 8: [www.vta.org/blog/service-frequency-improvements-begin-feb-8](http://www.vta.org/blog/service-frequency-improvements-begin-feb-8)

Contact Nicholas Chan at [nicholas4b@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas4b@gmail.com) or follow @nicholaschanhk on Twitter.

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Times **Feature**

## Youth Poet Laureate speaks at inauguration of Joe Biden

**A**manda Gorman, 22, is the nation's first youth poet laureate. She delivered this poem, "The Hills We Climb," Wednesday, January 20 at the inauguration of President Joe Biden. (Photo: Facebook)

**California poet  
Amanda Gorman's  
"The Hills We Climb"**

When day comes we ask  
ourselves,  
where can we find light in this  
never-ending shade?

The loss we carry,  
a sea we must wade

We've braved the belly of the  
beast

We've learned that quiet isn't always peace

And the norms and notions

of what just is

Isn't always justice

And yet the dawn is ours

before we knew it

Somehow we do it

Somehow we've weathered and witnessed

a nation that isn't broken

but simply unfinished

We the successors of a country and a time

Where a skinny Black girl

descended from slaves and raised by a single  
mother

can dream of becoming president

only to find herself reciting for one

And yes we are far from polished

far from pristine

but that doesn't mean we are

striving to form a union that is perfect

We are striving to forge a union with purpose

To compose a country committed to all cultures,

colors, characters and

conditions of man

And so we lift our gazes not to what stands

between us but what stands before us

We close the divide because we know, to put our

future first,

we must first put our differences aside

We lay down our arms

so we can reach out our arms

to one another

We seek harm to none and harmony for all

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:

That even as we grieved, we grew

That even as we hurt, we hoped

That even as we tired, we tried

That we'll forever be tied together, victorious

Not because we will never again know defeat

but because we will never again sow division

Scripture tells us to envision

that everyone shall sit under their own vine and

fig tree

And no one shall make them afraid

If we're to live up to our own time

Then victory won't lie in the blade

But in all the bridges we've made

That is the promise to glade

The hill we climb

If only we dare

It's because being American is more than a pride

we inherit,



it's the past we step into and how  
we repair it

We've seen a force that would  
shatter our nation  
rather than share it

Would destroy our country if it  
meant delaying  
democracy

And this effort very nearly  
succeeded

But while democracy can be periodically delayed  
it can never be permanently defeated

In this truth

in this faith we trust

For while we have our eyes on the future

history has its eyes on us

This is the era of just redemption

We feared at its inception

We did not feel prepared to be the heirs

of such a terrifying hour

but within it we found the power

to author a new chapter

To offer hope and laughter to ourselves

So while once we asked, how could we possibly  
prevail over catastrophe?

Now we assert

How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?

We will not march back to what was

but move to what shall be

A country that is bruised but whole,

benevolent but bold, fierce and free

We will not be turned around

or interrupted by intimidation

because we know our inaction and inertia

will be the inheritance of the next generation

Our blunders become their burdens

But one thing is certain:

If we merge mercy with might,

and might with right,

then love becomes our legacy

and change our children's birthright

So let us leave behind a country

better than the one we were left with

Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest,

we will raise this wounded world into a

wondrous one

We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the

West,

we will rise from the windswept Northeast

where our forefathers first realized revolution

We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the

Midwestern states,

we will rise from the sunbaked South

We will rebuild, reconcile and recover

and every known nook of our nation and

every corner called our country,

our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,

battered and beautiful

When day comes we step out of the shade,

afire and unafraid

The new dawn blooms as we free it

For there is always light,

if only we're brave enough to see it

If only we're brave enough to be it.

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Times **Feature**

# San Jose's first all-inclusive play space reopens after 10 months of closure

A key asset of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens, the Rotary PlayGarden, reopens on Saturday, January 23 at 10:00AM. The beloved play space closed for 10 months due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Located at the southern end of the Guadalupe Gardens and the Mineta San Jose International Airport, the PlayGarden was a centennial gift to the city by the Rotary Club of San Jose, opening to the public on May 23, 2015. Prior to the pandemic, the PlayGarden saw 150,000 visitors a year.

"The Rotary PlayGarden was born from the belief that children of all abilities should have a clean, safe, and welcoming place to play and socialize" says Leslee Hamilton, Executive Director of the Rotary Club of San Jose. "The excitement behind the reopening reinforces the importance of recreation and play, particularly during the current pandemic."

Beginning Saturday, January

23, the PlayGarden will be open on a limited basis between Fridays through Sundays, 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Capacity of the PlayGarden is limited to 60 visitors at any given time, and in accordance with public health guidelines, visits are limited to 30 minutes maximum. Visitors are asked to sanitize their hands, maintain six-foot distance, and wear masks at all times.

"Our team is very excited to reopen the Rotary PlayGarden again and safely operate this community amenity to support play that transcends physical limitations," says Joe Salvato, Deputy Director of the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy.

Just prior to the closure, the PlayGarden celebrated its 750,000th visitor and the completion of a new shade structure at the end of 2019. Future plans include a \$2 million expansion, managed by the City of San Jose with funding from Santa Clara County. Construction is scheduled to begin at



the end of 2021.

"We have seen tremendous support and appreciation for what the Rotary PlayGarden provides to the residents of Santa Clara County in the last five years," says Supervisor Cindy Chavez. "Our community is looking forward to its reopening and expansion in the near future."

The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy actively manages the PlayGarden in partnership with the Rotary Club of San Jose, City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara, Hope Services, and community

volunteers and members to support maintenance, programs, and staffing of the play space. Additional details around safety practices while visiting the PlayGarden and other information around the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens are at [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org).



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Times **Feature**



# San Jose Dance Theatre costume recovery fund goal at 50%

More than \$10,000 has been raised for the costume recover fund for the San Jose Dance Theatre.

On January 6th, San Jose Dance Theatre’s costume storage facility was broken into and nearly 100 costumes stolen and corresponding head pieces, arm bands, etc. and even fabric!

Included in the theft were vintage and new Nutcracker costumes for Sugar Plum, Ribbon Candy, Snowflakes, Spanish, Flowers, and more of the scenes you love. Beyond Nutcracker, all of the newly created tutus for the upcoming digital performance of Sleeping Beauty, along with custom tutus from Swan Lake, La Bayadere, Paquita, and the Firebird are missing.

These costumes are part of the San Jose

Dance Theatre collective of over 55 years of history.

The estimated value of the labor and materials stolen is estimated to be between \$13,000 to \$20,000.

Because the tutus are so specialized, they have low resale value for a thief. To those at this nonprofit, they are priceless.

The San Jose Dance Theatre has been operating since 1965 and has the distinction of holding the longest-running performance of the Nutcracker in San Jose. Many of the costumes hold historical significance to their participants.

If you’d like to help, please consider donating to the San Jose Dance Theatre Costume Fund by visiting [gofundme.com/f/san-jose-dance-theatre-costumes](https://gofundme.com/f/san-jose-dance-theatre-costumes).



## Report: 2021's best and worst states to drive in

With U.S. traffic congestion costing U.S. drivers \$88 billion in 2019 but driving reduced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub

today released its report on “2021's Best & Worst States to Drive in.”

To determine the most driver-friendly states in the U.S., WalletHub compared the 50 states across 31 key metrics. The data set ranges from average gas prices to rush-hour traffic congestion to road quality.

**Driving in California (1=Best; 25=Avg.):**

- 50th – Share of Rush-Hour Traffic Congestion
- 45th – Car Theft Rate
- 49th – Avg. Gas Prices
- 34th – Auto-Maintenance Costs
- 48th – Road Quality



U.S. traffic congestion cost U.S. drivers \$88 billion in 2019.

## Top 25 Best and Worst Driving States

Overall Rank	State	Total Score	Cost of Ownership & Maintenance	Traffic & Infrastructure	Safety	Access to Vehicles & Maintenance
1	Texas	62.89	16	33	18	2
2	Indiana	62.17	2	22	33	19
3	North Carolina	61.84	3	31	23	9
4	Iowa	61.82	17	9	32	22
5	Tennessee	61.63	1	26	41	21
6	Kentucky	60.90	4	24	20	30
7	Maine	60.60	26	19	5	36
8	Idaho	60.59	25	7	15	45
9	South Dakota	60.49	9	2	48	37
10	Ohio	60.17	5	32	37	7
11	Wisconsin	60.11	10	20	40	17
12	Kansas	60.03	19	10	31	33
13	Nebraska	59.97	18	8	36	31
14	Illinois	58.98	34	37	6	5
15	North Dakota	58.93	24	3	39	46
16	Virginia	58.79	7	40	25	13
17	Georgia	58.74	12	41	27	8
18	Montana	58.52	14	1	49	43
19	New York	58.51	40	46	2	4
20	Oklahoma	58.37	20	15	35	26
21	Utah	57.86	28	18	12	32
22	Vermont	57.70	33	12	10	38
23	Alabama	57.69	8	17	44	25
24	Wyoming	57.57	22	4	42	48
25	Arizona	57.24	30	21	21	28

For the full report, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-to-drive-in/43012>

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Times Feature

GEMS IN STEM

Abac(us)kground

(Part 2)

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.

Today, we're continuing our exploration of the history of the abacus by creating a rough timeline of it!



**Where did it all start?**

We believe one of the earliest instances of the abacus (the counting board version) was in Mesopotamia in 2700–2300 BCE. As we talked about before, the abacus was born out of necessity! Farmers needed a way to keep track of the growing trade and economy, leading to the early abacus. However, as expected, it doesn't work similarly to the ones today! It followed their base 60 number system (which is responsible for the many measures of sixties in our everyday lives—seconds in minutes, minutes in hours, and so on). Furthermore, physically, they used simple flat surfaces, like stone tablets, as the base and placed stones in the five columns numbered 1, 10, 60, 600, 3600 to count. We think that they



Gems in STEM

By Apoorva Panidapu

eventually used the abacus for basic operations like addition and subtraction, but not for more complex operations like multiplication.



Greek abacus

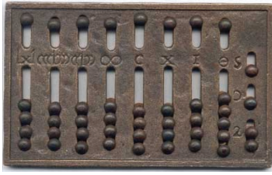
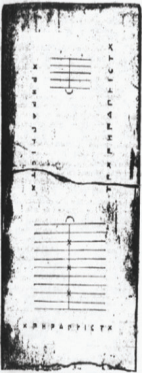
While we can conjecture about the earliest abacus, the oldest surviving counting board is the Salamis tablet, discovered in 1846 on the Greek island of Salamis (now kept in the Epigraphical Museum of Athens). Originally, researchers thought it was some sort of game board! It dates back to around 300 BCE.

On the other hand, the oldest surviving

written information about the abacus is also from the Greeks! In particular, it was mentioned by Greek historian Herodotus, who is indeed a Hero to Us (see what I did there?) as he mentioned that the ancient Egyptians used the abacus as well. Thank you Herodotus for the info! Herodotus also said that the Egyptians manipulated pebbles from right to left, in contrast to the Greek's method.

Roman abacus

In ancient Rome, they used a similar computation method to the Greeks: moving



Power Family Meals with Protein-Packed Peanuts

**Veggie Sammies with Peanut Butter Satay Sauce**

Prep time: 30 minutes

Servings: 2

- 4 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 3 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 tablespoons water
- 4 teaspoons hoisin sauce
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons sriracha
- 2 French baguette rolls (6 inches each)
- 1/2 cup cucumber, sliced
- 1/2 cup white onion, sliced into thin strips
- 1/2 cup red bell pepper, sliced into thin strips
- 1/2 cup purple cabbage
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro

In small bowl, combine peanut butter, lime juice, water, hoisin sauce, soy sauce and sriracha; mix well.

Spread sauce on both sides of each roll then layer with cucumber, onion and bell pepper. Top with cabbage and cilantro.

Veggie Sammies with Peanut Butter Satay Sauce

**FAMILY FEATURES**

Starting fresh with a new year is a chance to hit the reset button for many people, and your family can use this opportunity to rethink homemade meals while striving for nutritious (and still delicious) dishes. From snacks to the main course each evening, the options are nearly endless for planning a revamped menu with healthier ingredients.

Dinnertime can be a cinch with Peanut Butter Chicken, a simple dish that takes less than 20 minutes to make when busy evenings call for a quick solution. If a veggie-based option aligns better with your family's desires, try Veggie Sammies with Peanut Butter Satay Sauce or go full-on comfort food with Very Vegan Peanut Butter Jackfruit Chili. Snacking doesn't have to mean forgoing your dedication to nutritious choices either – these Peanut Granola Bars can be your made-at-home masterpiece for adults and children to enjoy.

These recipes from the Georgia Peanut Commission are powered by peanuts, a nutrient-rich superfood that delivers 19 vitamins and 7 grams of protein per serving for a health benefit punch in each bite.

Discover more nutritious recipe ideas at [gapeanuts.com](http://gapeanuts.com).



Very Vegan Peanut Butter Jackfruit Chili

Very Vegan Peanut Butter Jackfruit Chili

Recipe courtesy of the National Peanut Board

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 35 minutes

Servings: 8

- 2 teaspoons oil
- 1/2 large white onion, chopped
- 1/2 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 red bell pepper, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 can crushed tomatoes
- 1 can whole tomatoes
- 2 cups water
- 1 can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can green jackfruit, drained and chopped
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- cornbread (optional)
- tortilla chips (optional)
- cinnamon rolls (optional)

Heat large, heavy-bottomed pot over medium heat. Add oil, onion and peppers; cook 3 minutes, stirring often. Add garlic, salt, cumin, chili powder and tomato paste, stirring to coat. Cook 1-2 minutes, stirring constantly, then stir in crushed tomatoes, whole tomatoes, water, kidney beans and jackfruit; bring to boil then reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer 25-30 minutes. Stir in peanut butter and simmer 5 minutes.

Serve with cornbread, tortilla chips or cinnamon rolls, if desired.



## Times Feature

counters on a smooth surface. In terms of portability, there is evidence of hand abaci from this time period. They're exactly what they sound like! They are small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, and have grooves/slots with beads that can slide around as needed. They are similar to the modern abacus in their design, which is to say, they are similar to the soroban (Japanese abacus) and suanpan (Chinese abacus). This similarity may suggest that the abacus spread from Greece and Rome to the east to China, then further along to Japan and Russia.

However, during the Dark Ages in western Europe, the use of abacus kind of died out. But fear not, the Pope is here to give us hope! In particular, Pope Sylvester II, also known as Gerbert d'Aurillac, is credited with reintroducing the abacus to Europe. In fact, he popularized the Hindu-Arabic number system and applied this to the abacus. He had spent some time in Spain, and got this idea from the Spanish Arabs. This allowed him to compute quickly in comparison to others at the time (as they could only use Roman numerals), and this led to the popularity of the abacus (once again) in 11th century Western Europe.

During the Renaissance in Europe, the most common abacus used was called a reckoning table, a table with lines that marked off different decimal orders. It made addition and subtraction trivial, but it was more advanced for complex operations and thus harder to learn. This trouble incited some conflict between the abacists, who refused to let go of their traditional reckoning table, and the algorists, who supported the faster form of written computation. Mathematicians and scientists were part of the latter group and adopted it in their works, but the reckoning table continued to be used in business and finance.

This divide is wonderfully illustrated in the following art piece, *Typus Arithmeticae*, which depicts Dame Arithmetic (the figure in the middle) watching a competition between philosophers Pythagoras (yes, from the Pythagorean Theorem), who is using a counting board, and Boethius, who is performing written computation with Hindu-Arabic numerals. Dame Arithmetic is shown to look towards Boethius, indicating her preference.

Now, let's start our discussion of the modern abacus!

**Suanpan (Chinese abacus)**

The Chinese abacus is known as the suanpan, which means calculating tray, and dates back to 1200 CE. It is a  $\frac{2}{5}$  abacus, i.e. it has two beads on the upper deck and 5 beads on the lower deck.

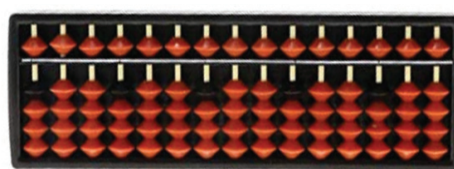
We believe that the Chinese used the earliest version of the abacus, the counting board, as early as 4th century BCE. It was a wooden surface/plate that was divided into columns with bamboo or ivory sticks, and used the base 10 system (our current number system). Some researchers believe that this was the first use of the decimal system!

The evolution of this abacus led to our mod-

ern abacus, the bead-frame abacus, which is more convenient and simpler to use. The first description of such an abacus was in the text *Supplementary Notes on the Art of Figures* by Chinese mathematician Xu Yue, which dates back to 190 CE. You might notice that the suanpan has two beads in the upper deck in contrast to the single bead in the more common, modern soroban. Though it is a bit redundant, this extra bead helps indicate numbers greater than 9 on a single rod which aids in faster division, but not particularly for other operations.

**Soroban (Japanese abacus)**

Now, onto the abacus I use (along with a lot of people nowadays)! The Japanese abacus, or the soroban, dates back to 1600 CE. Initially,



the suanpan evolved into a  $\frac{1}{5}$  abacus in the 14th century, before being adapted into the  $\frac{1}{4}$  design of the soroban (meaning one bead in the upper deck, four in the lower deck), first appearing in 1930. Nowadays,  $\frac{1}{5}$  abaci are rather rare and  $\frac{2}{5}$  abaci are scarce outside of China/Chinese communities, but  $\frac{1}{4}$  abaci are predominantly used today due to their efficiency in computation. There are even modern day competitions between abacists and calculators, and often abacists win!

**Schoty or счеты (Russian abacus)**

The final major abacus milestone is the Russian abacus, known as the schoty. Though not a lot is known about how it came to be, it was first mentioned in the 17th century in an inventory book! Its design is very different from what we've seen so far (though it is thought to be based on the suanpan) as it is based on our two hands: each row has 10 beads, one for



See GEMS in STEM, page 20

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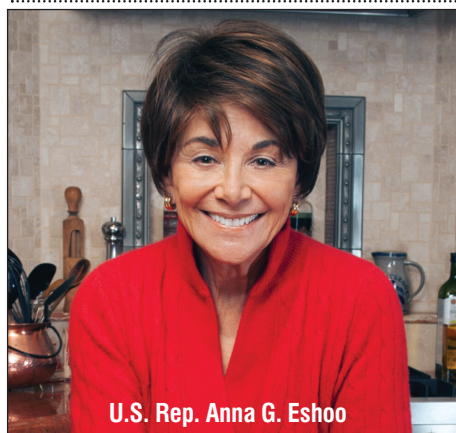
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Times **Community News**



U.S. Rep. Anna G. Eshoo

## Rep. Eshoo re-elected Chairwoman of Health Subcommittee

U.S. Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (CA-18) has been re-elected as Chairwoman of the Health Subcommittee by members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

"As COVID-19 surges nationwide and continues to expose drastic problems in our health care system, expanding health care coverage and lowering costs is more important than ever," Eshoo said. "I'm grateful to my colleagues for trusting me to lead efforts in the House and I look forward to working with the incoming Biden-Harris Administration and the

Senate to strengthen the Affordable Care Act, reduce the price of prescription drugs, and continue to make critically important investments in our public health system to crush the COVID-19 pandemic."

Rep. Eshoo was elected to the Energy and Commerce Committee in 1995, and has served on the Health Subcommittee for 18 of her 26 years on the Committee. Of the more than 50 bills and provisions she has authored that have been signed into law by four presidents, more than half have been health related.

*"As COVID-19 surges nationwide and continues to expose drastic problems in our health care system, expanding health care coverage and lowering costs is more important than ever." – Rep. Anna Eshoo*



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Times **Community News**

# How much do you need to earn to purchase a home in San Jose? More than \$240K a year

By Lloyd Alaban

*Article courtesy of San José Spotlight*

The housing market in Silicon Valley is notoriously expensive. But a new report from HSH.com shows just how much a resident needs to earn in San Jose to pay for a home.

According to the study, to afford the principal, interest, taxes and insurance payments on a median-priced home, a buyer in San Jose must earn \$243,303 a year to cover the \$5,600 monthly mortgage payment.

A typical family in San Jose makes around half that amount.

"While we are producing housing, it's also about what cost point we're producing that housing," said Noni Ramos, the chief executive officer of Housing Trust Silicon Valley, an affordable housing advocacy group. "We need to recognize that we have a spectrum of individuals who have a spectrum of income levels, and not every household will even be remotely able to come close to be able to buy something in that range."

That's priced out San Jose natives like John De Guzman, a procurement specialist for a Silicon Valley tech company. De Guzman and his fiancée, a nurse practitioner, both work in the area. They got a head start in their search for a single-family home before getting married,

but even with their combined incomes, they realized buying a home would be difficult.

"We looked at a few houses. It was kind of scary looking at prices and seeing what we could afford," De Guzman said. "We used Zillow just to browse but the down payment and mortgage looked too much for what we want to pay on a monthly basis."

Instead, they've considered moving to places like Tracy or Manteca, even though the commute might put them an hour away from their workplaces.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated issues of housing affordability, leaving many people priced out of homes due to unemployment. That's despite the fact that the area has seen a "red-hot" market in recent months, with demand keeping single-family home prices high.

"That has resulted in increased prices and multiple offers, and homes selling over asking price," said Doug Goss, broker associate at Keller Williams Bay Area Estates and president of the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors. "Given the pandemic, it's surprising how well the housing market has really picked up, not only here, but nationwide."

By Goss's estimate, 75% to 80% of the homes he's worked with in San Jose are receiving multiple offers, making homes more likely

to be sold over asking price. Single-family homes, he said, are more likely to be sold over listing price, while condos are more likely to be sold near their listing price.

There are several reasons, Goss said, that prices in the area remain so high.

First, the region's position as the tech capital of the world means there is a high number of residents who want to live near where they work. That means — even with the exodus of big companies in search of cheaper land — people still want to live in Silicon Valley, which keeps demand high. Second, the supply of housing has not kept up with the demand, so there are more buyers than there are homes. Also, interest rates are at historic lows.

According to the study, the 30-year fixed mortgage rate dropped in all 50 of the largest metropolitan areas in the U.S. In San Jose, interest rates experienced a -0.27% change over the last quarter.

The study used a 20% down payment, a fixed-rate 30-year mortgage, local property

tax numbers and homeowner's insurance costs to calculate home costs. The numbers are based on data from the second quarter of 2020.

For comparison, the average income needed to buy a house nationally is \$60,770 — approximately a quarter of the income needed in San Jose. In the cheapest metro area, Pittsburgh, one must only earn around \$33,000 a year, with the median home price being \$177,250.

The median home price in San Jose is \$1.4 million, according to the study.

The prices might be overwhelming for some prospective buyers, but Helen Gardin, realtor at San Jose-based Pulse Real Estate, has some advice.

"They (homeowners) should watch their credit," Gardin said. "And find a lender to help them with that and to help them figure out what to pay off." She and Goss also recommended homebuyer assistance programs, such as Empower Homebuyers.

Still, the problem might be more long-term than that, according to Mathew Reed, spokesperson with Silicon Valley At Home, a local affordable housing advocacy group. He said the housing market, which has far outpaced the median incomes of people in the area, is "not sustainable." "It's not good for families and it's not good for the economy," said Reed.

For De Guzman, who is looking to also take care of his parents, it's near impossible — even with what they consider "well-paying jobs," to afford to live in San Jose. "We can't get a break and catch up with costs," he said.

Contact Lloyd Alaban at [lloyd.b.alaban@gmail.com](mailto:lloyd.b.alaban@gmail.com) or follow @lloydalaban on Twitter.



A single-family home in the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose. Photo courtesy Spencer High/Santa Clara County Association of Realtors.



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## Times Feature

### Gems in Stem

*Continued from page 17*

each finger. Furthermore, you use it by sliding the beads from left to right on horizontal wires, rather than up and down. It's actually still used today, especially in Russian shops and markets!

#### Yupana (Inca abacus)

The yupana is an abacus dating back to the time of the Incas that was used to carry out operations. It was a grid-based system of trays of various sizes that were carved on the top surface of rectangular boxes. To perform said operations, you would place things like seeds or pebbles into these trays. The existence of a precolonial yupana dating back to 6000

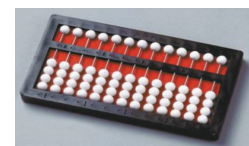
CE demonstrates that the indigenous people that made up the Inca empire in around 1400 CE were mathematically inclined prior to the 1532 Spanish arrival. The Spanish capitalized on the Inca's advanced mathematical capabilities through such devices to advance their own economy and growth in the 17th century.

Another such device is a quipus, which are colorful, knotted threads or strings that record concepts and numbers. Just like the yupana, they made quick computations possible and effortless for native workers. The following drawing was found in Quechua nobleman Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala's letter to the King of Spain. If you look closely, you can also see the yupana in the corner!

#### Cranmer abacus

The Cranmer abacus, named after its inventor Tim Cranmer, is commonly used and taught in many schools for the blind, usually

taught in early grades. It gives visually impaired students a tool that is essentially equivalent to written computation in both speed and skill required, and is adapted as necessary to ensure efficiency.



There are many other variations and designs of the abacus, but this article is already very long, so we'll draw the line for our timeline here!

To end this, we can ask the question: why is the abacus so ever-lasting and effective? Though the abacus sometimes seems like an ancient device that is just a cool thing to play within a museum, its influence can be seen almost everywhere we look — from computation machines to programs to pop culture! You may not have noticed, but there was an abacus-looking device in the new Pixar film, Soul, that was used by Terry to count the souls!



What's the difference between Terry and an abacus? You can count on an abacus to not lose the count! (He really took the whole movie to track down one dude causing havoc, and who was even keeping track while he was gone?!) But on the bright side, if you ever find yourself in the Great Beyond, you can now probably steal his job!

Anyways, 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 [apoorvap-writes@gmail.com](mailto:apoorvap-writes@gmail.com).



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Times **Feature**

# Connect with Silicon Valley Reads

## Virtual kickoff event featured theme of *CONNECTING*

For the past 18 years, Silicon Valley Reads has encouraged people of all ages in Santa Clara County to read books and join conversations relevant to a theme.

With the many challenges, hardships and life adjustments needed throughout 2020 and into 2021, the theme for this year is *CONNECTING*. An array of books was chosen to embody the importance of connecting with each other and with things that bring comfort.

The Silicon Valley Reads virtual kickoff event was January 28th in partnership with the Commonwealth Club of Silicon Valley. The featured panel included Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County Public Health Officer; Dr. James Doty, Clinical Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at Stanford University School of Medicine and Founder/ Director of the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education at Stanford University; and Usha Srinivasan, President of Mosaic Silicon Valley (formerly Sangam Arts) whose mission is to strengthen diverse communities through intercultural arts. These experts shared their perspectives on ways in which individuals and communities can find comfort and connection through difficult times.

There was also a special appearance from Dr. Vivek Murthy, author of *Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World* and former Surgeon General. The event was moderated by San Jose Mercury News Columnist Sal Pizarro.

The 2021 event features titles which address relationships, nature, art, music, food, and animals. The selection provides a variety of books to help people identify with what they connect with most. The adult books include:

■ *Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World* by U.S. Surgeon General nominee Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, who describes loneliness as a national epidemic and offers solutions to help people live more connected lives.

■ *Always Home* by Fanny Singer, an uplifting memoir of her unique childhood and special relationship with her mother, famed Chez Panisse restaurateur Alice Waters.

■ *Mutual Rescue* by Carol Novello, heartwarming stories about adopted rescue animals who ultimately were responsible for



The event featured a special appearance from **Dr. Vivek Murthy**, author of *Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World* and former Surgeon General.



The featured panel includes **Dr. Sara Cody**, Santa Clara County Public Health Officer.

"saving" their people.

■ *The Home Place* by J. Drew Lanham, a lyrical memoir about how his childhood connection with nature in the rural south established his path to become an ornithologist and ecology professor.

■ *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes, a historical novel about the Pack Horse Library Project in Kentucky in the 1930s and how books helped create strong community connections.

■ *The Music Shop* by Rachel Joyce, a charming novel about a record store owner in the 1980s with an uncanny skill at matching people with the music they needed to hear.

**The 2021 Silicon Valley Reads event features titles which address relationships, nature, art, music, food, and animals. The selection provides a variety of books to help people identify with what they connect with most.**



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

tions, informative lectures, and even an occasional karaoke night—all in a wholesome environment.

Our activities flow from our core values:

- Extravagant Joy
- Passionate Faith
- Loving Respect
- Deep Connectedness
- Intentional Growth
- Shared Laughter

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

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC

6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243.  
www.ccavucc.org.  
We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco

Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.  
Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments.  
1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion  
2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.  
Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM.  
Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

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Worship at 10:30 AM  
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

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6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243  
Web: www.eca-sj.org  
At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



### EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)

http://www.eicsanjosel.org  
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(408) 239-6668

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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!

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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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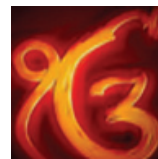
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### SAN JOSE GURDWARA

3636 Gurdwara Ave.  
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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

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5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135  
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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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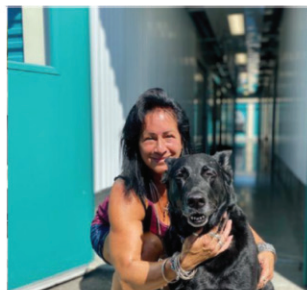
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