

Former council member Johnny Khamis is back to work in the private sector **SEE PAGE 7**



Shell shocked
Local man charged with pre-school break-in and tortoise stabbing in freakish attack **SEE PAGE 8**

San Jose Youth Symphony to present free interactive and virtual masterclass for brass musicians: Feb. 27 **SEE PAGE 8**



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Jim Johnson: a man with a higher purpose

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Jim Johnson is always ready to lend a helping hand. But after suffering a bad fall, he could use a little assistance himself.

From supporting at-risk youth to providing food for fire victims and the homeless, Johnson is always thinking of others. When he was in high school, he played taps at military funerals—sometimes in subzero weather—and continues to honor servicemen with his bugle today.

Like his father and grandfather before him, Johnson was a pastor. He was also a youth minister and ministry leader. He follows a family philosophy of “helping others improve their lives to make the world a better place.”

“I feel our purpose living on earth is bigger than ourselves,” Johnson said. “Helping others one person at a time can help society.”

Johnson, a mild-mannered man, with a steady gaze and ready smile, said he tries to lead by example. By providing food for those in need, he not only helps the homeless, but also tries to prevent people from becoming homeless by leaving them funds for rent and utilities.

Johnson realizes that some homeless people need more than



Jim Johnson has dedicated his life to helping others. Now he could use a little support of his own. *Photo courtesy of Jim Johnson*

he can provide, like rehabilitation, counseling or mental health care.

“I can’t do all of that, but I can give them hope and groceries,” he said.

In 2008, in response to the devastating Summit Hill fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Johnson organized 190 volunteers to help fire victims, including many who were camping on their properties after losing their homes. They helped residents clean up their properties, cut and plant thousands of trees and rebuild houses. He also

brought them food. Out of that effort, grew nonprofit Fishnet Care and Share, which now feeds about 1,000 people in need.

“The number of people and families in our community experiencing a shortage of food is alarming,” Johnson said on the website. “Fishnet Care and Share has responded to this need and feeds hundreds of individuals and families every month with the support from grocery outlets and volunteers.”

One rainy night, he brought
See JOHNSON, page 20

Scholarship applications now available from Almaden Women’s Club

Area high school seniors encouraged to apply before March 31; Logo Contest entries deadline March 18

By Beth Swartz

Special to the Times

Eligible high school seniors are invited to apply for a scholarship which will be awarded by the Almaden Valley Women’s Club. Each year the Almaden Women’s Club produces the Art & Wine Festival held in September at Almaden Lake Park.

While the Festival was not held in 2020, the club still held a fundraising event over the summer.

Proceeds from that event were awarded to area charities and money was also set aside for scholarships for local high school seniors.

The deadline to submit an application is March 31, 2021. The scholarship application can be found at www.almadenwomen.org/scholarships



Kyle Lai, 2020 logo contest winner

ships

The Almaden Valley Women’s Club has a motto: “Friendship through Service.” Community service is very important to the membership and is one of the criteria for the scholarship.

Students are asked to present an essay detailing projects or volunteer hours which helped improve their communities. High school seniors graduating in the current academic year and who reside in the
See SCHOLARSHIPS, page 21

2021 Leland Bridge Night to celebrate 20th anniversary February 20

It’s Leland Bridge Night again!

This year’s Leland Bridge Night celebrating the 20th anniversary of the organization will be streamed online Saturday, Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

The online event will feature live hosting by MCs, student-produced musical and cultural performances, and raffle.

Leland Bridge Night is the annual fundraising event hosted by Leland Bridge, a nonprofit organization of Chinese American parents dedicated to promoting communication between Leland High School and more than 300 Chinese American families. The organization is committed to promoting parent involvement in

school-wide activities in the Almaden Leland community.

Since 2018, funds raised through Leland Bridge Night are used to renovate school facilities, update its equipment, and assist Leland’s landscaping and recycling efforts and the installation of the electronic sign. Funds additionally contribute toward programs including Speech & Debate, Music, Journalism, Robotics, and college application essay reviews, and subsidizing computer science instructors.

To purchase tickets, visit: <https://rb.gy/ikerft>

For more information, contact Christine Li by email, chrtli2@gmail.com



Traditional Chinese Dunhuang Apsaras Dance from the 2019 Leland Bridge Night event.

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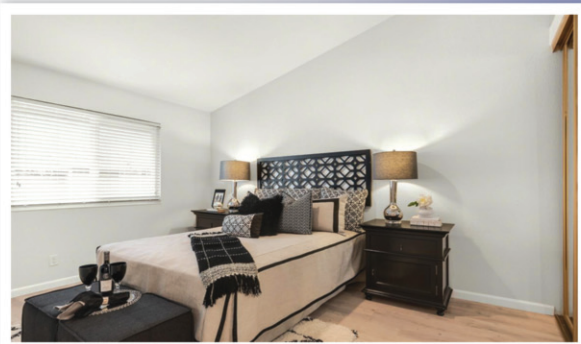
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Valley Currents

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

Reopening schools requires data-driven approach

Dear Editor,
No one wants to be back in the classroom more than educators. I want to welcome every one of my students back to my classrooms in a way that keeps everyone safe: students, their families and staff.

As California continues to struggle to control the pandemic, which is still impacting many communities disproportionately, a phased-in approach that responds to local conditions and transmission rates has to be part of a responsible return to in-person instruction.

Any path to bringing students back to campuses will require implementing multi-layered mitigation strategies that consider community conditions and include robust cleaning and updated ventilation systems, asymptomatic testing of students and school employees, six-foot social distancing and enforcement.

To reopen schools for in-person instruction, the state must ensure

all employees required to report in person have been provided the opportunity to be vaccinated before students return to campus. The vaccine distribution should prioritize educators in schools already open and schools in communities with high transmission rates.

We must take a comprehensive and data-driven approach to reopening schools that includes addressing community spread. After all, no matter how safe of a bubble we put around our schools, the students and staff inside go home at the end of the day. If mitigation efforts are inadequate in the community, the risk of it being brought back to school increases significantly.

Taunya Jaco

To open schools, vaccinate teachers

Dear Editor,

There is a ton of talk about opening schools for in-person instruction while the pandemic is widespread in our community and new, more contagious, variants are showing up. If



people want schools opened up, then the pressure needs to be on the government to get vaccines into the arms of teachers. The government could do this quickly, if schools were really a priority.

We all know that reopening our schools for in-person instruction is a priority for many of our students and parents. However, before doing so, shouldn't the state ensure that school employees required to report to their classrooms have been given every opportunity to be vaccinated before students return to their campus? We should acknowledge the importance of prioritizing vaccine distributions for our educators, not only in schools already open, but for schools in communities reporting high Covid transmission rates!

When students are brought back,

there must be several layers of mitigation strategies tied to community conditions which includes professional cleaning with updated ventilation systems, asymptomatic testing of teachers and students.

If mitigation efforts are inadequate in the community, the risk of it being brought back to school has significant risks. So, we need a comprehensive and data-driven approach to reopening schools that includes addressing the rate of infection in the community surrounding each reopened school.

It is time to put pressure on the county and state to make vaccines available for teachers and put real safety measures into place. There is no acceptable number of school employee deaths. Anything less than fully vaccinating teachers is immoral if you want to reopen schools.

Robert Prola

Trail entrance causes parking, neighborhood woes

Dear Editor,

I live on Whispering Pines Drive near the Quicksilver entrance. It's become San Jose's number one trail and there is no parking.

Our street has become a parking lot which has led to being a safety hazard.

All of the curbs in the neighborhood are marked red by the city and yet we

still have people parking in them and totally ignoring the parking regulations.

The trail also brings a bunch of other problems such as car break-ins, marijuana smoking, littering, used masks, no social distancing, etc.

This park is remaining open without environmental review or traffic studies. You'll find 500-900 cars on the surrounding streets every weekend.

We want the county to solve the parking issues in our neighborhood and the chaos it is causing for residents.

Sameer Sharma
Almaden Valley

See related op-ed, page 14

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Times **Feature**

The light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel

By **Matt Mahan**

District 10 Councilmember

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations decline from their recent peak, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Still, the months ahead remain high risk. I hope you'll continue to be vigilant by wearing a mask and practicing social distancing in public.

Last week, City Council had a tough debate over "hazard pay" for grocery store workers. The Council ultimately voted

7-3 (with one recusal) to mandate a \$3/hour pay increase for all food retail workers at stores with more than 300 employees. While I deeply appreciate the workers' heroic efforts and the good intentions of this policy, I'm concerned that this mandate—which has been legally challenged in other cities—fails to take into account significant unintended consequences, including a reduction in jobs and hours for grocery store workers, increased incentives to automate away grocery jobs, and higher food prices for everyone.



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District 10 Report

Matt Mahan
Councilmember,
District 10

Every policy that we implement, no matter how well-intended, creates tradeoffs. This is especially so in an industry that, like the restaurant business, is highly fragmented and tends to operate on thin margins. In fact, the average profit margin in the grocery business is a razor thin 1-2%, which means that this immediate increase--representing roughly a 20% increase in labor costs--will be largely passed on to consumers and workers. In the worst-case scenario, a store that is currently operating close to breakeven in a traditionally underserved neighborhood might be closed.

Given my concerns, and in the spirit of compromise (knowing that the Council was inclined to pass this policy), I proposed an alternative hazard pay policy that sought to benefit most grocery store workers while minimizing the downside. My proposal sought to draw the line at publicly-traded companies, rather than a headcount of 300 employees, because publicly traded grocers tend to be the ones that experience the largest profit margins and they have greater access to capital.

Second, I proposed making the pay increase flexible, so that employers could pay it as a bonus rather than an increase in base salary (the latter of which triggers other cost escalation, including recalculating benefits, union dues and overtime pay). Finally, I recommended tying the conclusion of the program to the vaccination of food retail workers, rather than the rigid 120-day rule that Council ultimately passed.

While my compromise was not successful, I wanted to share my approach with you and welcome your feedback. My goal is to represent you in a transparent and thoughtful manner as I attempt to put forward policies that benefit the common good. This was a hard debate to engage in, but I did my best to put forth a centrist policy that might have balanced many competing interests.

Next week, City Council will hold a special "Priority Setting" meeting to review our existing roadmap and consider adjustments. Each Councilmember will have an opportunity to propose two new priorities for consideration for the 2021-2022 roadmap (the City's fiscal year starts July 1st). The first priority I plan to introduce is the development of a publicly-available dashboard that reflects our top citywide goals and performance measures. You deserve a government that is clear about its priorities, allocates resources accordingly, and regularly updates you on its performance.

The second proposal I'll put forth is a comprehensive homeless encampment management strategy. We've gone far too long without actively managing encampments, to the detriment of both our unhoused neighbors and the wider community. I'm advocating that City Hall study recently adopted encampment management plans in other cities, which restrict where encampments can exist, but provide basic sanitation and social services to those areas to reduce the human suffering, trash, and environmental degradation we're witnessing today.

For either of my proposals to move forward, a majority of the City Council will have to support them and we'll have to identify sufficient staff resources. I'll be sure to update you on the process in my next update. As always, I appreciate your feedback on my policy positions and the work of our office.

Happy Lunar New Year to everyone celebrating the beginning of the Year of the Ox! May this year of the Ox bring you harmony, peace, happiness, and prosperity. The Ox symbolizes hard work and movement, two values I hope we're able to embrace this year as we seek to move through and hopefully out of one of the most arduous periods in recent history.

Editor's note: To contact Matt Mahan, Councilmember, District 10 email: matt.mahan@sanjoseca.gov or call the District 10 office at: 408 408-535-4910.

Former San Jose lawmaker has a new gig in real estate

Former District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis is back at work

By Carly Wipf

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

After getting a bit of rest, former San Jose Councilmember Johnny Khamis is back at work.

Not at San Jose City Hall. He just accepted a job as a part-time public relations consultant for the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors (SCCAOR).

SCCAOR provides educational and networking opportunities to more than 6,000 Realtors across the county. Khamis will write articles to help SCCAOR explain complex housing policies to news outlets and the public.

"I'm excited to stay involved in issues that I'm passionate about like homeownership," Khamis told San José Spotlight. He said homeownership provided stability to his family after they immigrated to the United States from war-torn Beirut, Lebanon, in 1976. "Ownership was the way we worked our way out of poverty and I think that opportunity should be more easily attained here in Santa Clara County."

Khamis has a one-year contract with SCCAOR and is just starting to look for future gigs post-council service. He served on the San Jose City Council for eight years, and is now mounting a run for county supervisor in 2022.

The former District 10 representative said he had a restful January where he slept in until 8 a.m. — two hours more than usual — and binged shows on Amazon Prime. He also set a goal to walk 12,000 steps a day now that he doesn't have to sit in front of a screen for hours for Zoom council meetings.

"I relaxed like I've never relaxed before," Khamis said.

Shortly before he left office, Khamis announced he would run to succeed Mike Wasserman on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, representing District 1. He said working with SCCAOR will give him the opportunity to analyze housing policies at the county level so he can offer suggestions to the board on how to address the local housing shortage, if elected.

Neil Collins, SCCAOR's CEO, said Khamis will bolster the organization's mission to provide housing opportunities and protect private property rights in Santa Clara County. Collins writes a monthly column about real estate for this news organization.

"We haven't always been the best at telling our story. With his housing policy background and years of public service, Johnny will be a tremendous help on improving our public outreach," Collins said.

Khamis is a homeowner, housing provider and a small business owner. During his time on the City Council, he was a staunch advocate for San Jose property owners. He voted against raising property taxes, voted in favor of making accessory dwelling units — or "granny units" — easier to build and sought new ways to provide more affordable housing opportunities for low-income and middle-income families.

He took heat from fellow lawmakers for voting against a rent freeze in April shortly after the pandemic began. Khamis worried the rent freeze would hurt landlords who are

struggling due to COVID-19.

"SCCAOR has always endorsed Johnny during his time on the City Council," said SCCAOR board President Doug Goss. "And we are happy to get a chance to work with him to help spread our message."

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



San Jose Councilmember **Johnny Khamis** has accepted a job as a part-time public relations consultant for the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors (SCCAOR). File photo.



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Michelangelo is expected to survive a stabbing attack. Photo courtesy of SJPd.

Man charged in tortoise stabbing, preschool break-in

A 40-year-old man accused of breaking into a local preschool and stabbing a tortoise has been charged and jailed without bail.

Prosecutors say George Robles attacked the class pet named Michelangelo at Play 'n Learn's garden earlier this month.

The suspect stands accused of felony animal abuse, commercial burglary and vandalism and will likely face prison time if convicted.

Although the tortoise sustained serious injuries, Michelangelo continues to recover after receiving care from a local veterinarian.

"Our thoughts are with the children and teachers at Play 'n Learn," DA Jeff Rosen said in a statement. "We will work diligently to protect that preschool and get accountability for the innocent victims of a heartless and heartbreaking crime."

The crimes began on Jan. 27, when security footage caught Robles sneaking into the

preschool through an unlocked door at approximately 5 a.m. before making off with nearly \$2,000 worth of computers, iPad Minis and other electronics, according to authorities.

Robles' crime spree continued a few days later on Jan. 30 when a nearby resident called 9-1-1 to report hearing glass breaking at the school at 11:25 a.m. When the owner arrived, she reportedly found the tortoise impaled with a stick. Police found the defendant nearby.

An arresting officer filed a request for the magistrate to review bail, because the alleged crime was eligible under emergency Covid rules for immediate release. The request was denied, and the defendant was released.

The next day, Jan. 31 at approximately 7 p.m., Robles allegedly forced his way into the preschool again, this time pilfering another \$1,000 in computers and some groceries—all in full view of security cameras. When the owner arrived the next morning, Robles reportedly fled. San Jose police arrested Robles at about 4 p.m. near the school. "This time," the DA's announcement continued, "after a hearing, the defendant was remanded without bail."

San Jose Youth Symphony to present free interactive and virtual masterclass for brass musicians: Feb 27

Masterclass led by Adam Luftman, Principal Trumpet, SF Opera & Ballet

The San Jose Youth Symphony will present an exciting free interactive, virtual Zoom masterclass for all interested advanced musicians on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 3 p.m.

The free masterclass will feature performances by members of the most advanced and flagship group, the Philharmonic Orchestra, including trumpet and trombone players.

Participants will receive valuable tips on performance, practice and technique. These are all important topics for serious and aspiring student musicians. Additionally, a Q & A will be presented at the end of the presentation when online participants will have a chance to talk to a world-renowned musician.

The masterclass is led by **Adam Luftman** (inset), Principal Trumpet, San Francisco Opera & Ballet Orchestras. Luftman is a faculty Member of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, U.C. Berkeley & Stanford University.

Luftman has held positions with the Baltimore Symphony, the New World Symphony in Miami and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.



go. He has also been a guest artist with many of the country's finest orchestras, including The Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony and San Francisco Symphony. He has presented masterclasses all over the country including at the Curtis Institute of Music, New England Conservatory, Cleveland Institute of Music, New World Symphony and Tanglewood.

Registration for the free SJYS Interactive Zoom Masterclass is available at this special shortened link: prb.gy/fly537

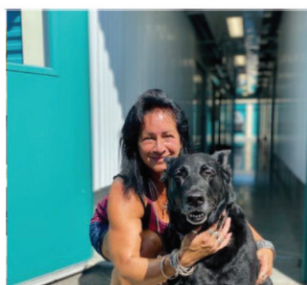
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Mayor Liccardo highlights Small Business Resources

Cautions impending deadline to submit insurance COVID-19 related insurance claims

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo was joined virtually by community partners and small business owners to highlight resources currently available to small business.

The objective is to encourage residents to continue to #ShopLocalSJ to help the backbone of the community weather the pandemic. The Mayor cautioned of the upcoming deadline to submit COVID related insurance claims, on March 16, 2021.

"COVID has devastated our small businesses—and they need our help, now," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "I'm grateful that Paul Caputo, Esq. has stepped up to help those businesses unable to receive the help they're owed by their insurance companies. We can all do our part, as

"COVID has devastated our small businesses—and they need our help, now," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo.

many San Jose residents have demonstrated through their commitment to #ShopLocal to help our neighborhood shops, restaurants, and salons keep their doors open."

Struggling small business owners who have unsuccessfully sought payment from their insurance companies for "business interruption," as described in their general commercial insurance policies have until March 16, 2021 to submit a claim with their insurance provider, per statute of limitations from the onset of the original Santa Clara County stay at home order. The City of San José does not have authority in this area, and can neither offer any legal advice, nor recommend any particular attorneys, however, the Mayor has reached out in his personal capacity to discuss this matter with a private attorney, Paul Caputo, Esq.

Business owners can take advantage of resources and opportunities at Silicon Valley Strong:

- **Outdoor dining/Al Fresco:** Due to recent changes in the state/county health orders, outdoor dining is allowed again. Thankfully, the weather is encouraging and we hope that businesses are taking advantage of San Jose's legendary weather to safely serve folks outdoors. If you didn't participate in the Al Fresco initiative before, you can still do it now. We are committed to making it easy and straightforward.

- **PPP Playbook:** The playbook, which is available on the SV Strong website, provides small businesses with a list of lenders and business resources to help them start their PPP application. We also recommend small businesses network with their fellow small business owners to spread the word.

- **#ShopLocalSJ:** a social media campaign encouraging residents to spend locally during the holiday season 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;

- **Shop Local Digital Directory Resource:** Silicon Valley Strong recently launched a regional 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;

- **Get Virtual:** Businesses who are not online 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 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."

- Offerings include:

- Website development or redesign with Wix, and Square-space

- E-Commerce with Shopify, Stripe, Square including delivery services

- Online marketing

- Business Support

- Only costs for businesses are software and any other hard cost.

San Jose Youth Symphony to hold general auditions for 2021-22 Season

The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) will be holding its annual general auditions for the 2021-2022 Season during the first two weeks of April.

The auditions will be held on two consecutive Thursday, Friday afternoons and all day on two Saturdays (April 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 & 17, 2021).

All student musicians are welcome, ages 8 and up, who play orchestral instruments (woodwinds, brass, percussion & strings) or who are interested in performing jazz.

Students who participate in their high school marching bands are also welcome to audition.

To submit an audition application, visit: www.sjys.org to join one of SJYS's 12 orchestras and instrumental ensembles.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2021.

About the San Jose Youth Symphony

The San Jose Youth Symphony is one of the oldest and finest youth orchestras on the West Coast of the US. Founded 69 years ago as part of the former San Jose Symphony, SJYS has a rich

tradition of musical performance and education.

SJYS member musicians, of ages 8 to 20, are selected from more than 650 applicants through our annual spring General Auditions. SJYS comprises 12 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras; a chamber orchestra; two flute choirs; concert winds, saxophone, percussion, jazz and harp ensembles; and two string ensembles. Each group rehearses weekly from September to May or early June and performs a scheduled series of concerts each season. In addition, member musicians participate in a weeklong summer camp and receive special coaching and participate in masterclasses from professional and renowned musicians in the Bay Area.

The premier group of SJYS is its Philharmonic Orchestra, led by SJYS Music Director and Conductor, Yair Samet. The orchestra performs its season subscription concerts at the historic and beautiful, California Theatre, in downtown San Jose, as well as in its annual Season of Hope Concerts in December at Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, now an over-25-year-long tradition. The orchestra also travels biannually on its International Concert Tours, and have performed in renowned concert halls in Japan, Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ireland, and most recently, in Argentina and Uruguay, in the summer of 2019.

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DF-CD-NP-Q121

Times OpEd

Opinion: An unfortunate COVID-19 vaccine policy experience

An Evergreen resident posted this on NEXTDOOR.COM (2-10-21)

Just sharing my experience: My friend, who is living at my house since the whole COVID started, set up an appointment for today to get the vaccine (he is over 65). His house is in Contra Costa County but he does not live there since the epidemic started. His appointment was

at 500 Tully Rd. (Valley Health Center). We got there and the person asked for his driver license. She looked at it and saw that his address was not in Santa Clara County. I was there with him, just in case that was a problem, and told her that he lived in my house since March. I showed my id. She said she needed to ask the supervisor for approval. She comes back saying that she could not give the vaccine! Reason: policy! What?! I am very upset with the whole thing! If this is a real policy (not a supervisor that does not know how to deal with "exceptions"), the policy is wrong! Here are several reasons why it is wrong:

1. The person did not trust me. Solution: If

trust is a problem in our area, have a document where I can sign that I certify that the person lives at my house - problem solved!

2. The goal is to get everyone vaccinated that is willing to get vaccinated. If the person is from USA and is in the age group allowed, just give the vaccine! People can be living somewhere that is a temporary residency, for several reasons. If trust is a problem, ask the owner of the resident where the person is living to sign a paper. At the end, things will balance out: people that have a driver license from here would take a vaccine at xxx; people from xxx might take here, and so on. Keep an eye on the goal: have most people vaccinated.

3. If you are homeless, how can you prove where you live? If you are saying we do not have enough vaccines, then think twice: lots of people that are eligible to get vaccinated are choosing not to get vaccinated (e.g. almost 50% of the county's sheriff office do not want to get the vaccine). The policy should aim for the goal: get as many people vaccinated as possible! Anyway, if this is a real policy, it is wrong! If you were the supervisor at Valley Health Center around 4:45, you made a bad decision.

Editor's Note: Nextdoor is a social networking service for neighborhoods. The company was founded in 2008 and is based in San Francisco, California.

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Times **Community News**

Recreation vehicle owners are the surprise financial success story amid COVID era

Unprecedented RV rental demand from cautious travelers has made owning an RV the go-to entrepreneurial venture of the year.

Millions of Americans who own an RV have it parked in their driveway or a storage facility for the better part of the year. With many families wary of airplanes and hotels these days, it may be time to consider renting your rig to make some serious cash.

According to peer-to-peer RV rental marketplace RVshare, RV bookings have reached unprecedented levels of demand, increasing more than 1,600% tripling 2019 figures. As a result, RV owners are poised to capitalize on the surge of families discovering the unique and adventurous nature of RV travel for the first time.

In fact, the average RV owner who rents on the RVshare platform can earn up to \$60,000 a year in rental income. The amount of money you can make from renting your RV can vary based on the type of vehicle you own.

The most in-demand rentals on RVshare are Class C vehicles, which strike a great balance between features and price, making them popular with first-time renters. Class C rentals have an earning potential of \$38,000 a year. Class B vehicles, or camper vans, are the fastest growing in popularity on RVshare. With demand skyrocketing for these units, Class B rentals can earn up to \$30,000 a year when listed on RVshare.

"During this time of financial instability, an RV can be converted into a significant money-making asset that many owners may not have



previously considered," said RVshare CEO Jon Gray. "For those who do not own an RV, now may be the time to invest. It's not just pocket change that RV rentals can bring in."

You can offset much or all of the cost of RV ownership from rental income. A survey of RV owners found that more than half (51%) are able to cover 76% or more of their RV's financing cost through renting to travelers, with more than a third (35%) covering all or more of their financing cost.

RVshare's Earnings Calculator can help evaluate the income potential of renting your RV, and to ease the minds of those new to the practice, RVshare provides owners with several tools and features to protect vehicles and their owners including:

- \$1,000,000 Liability Insurance
- User Verification
- Secure Payments
- One-on-One Rental Coaching
- 24/7 roadside assistance

Additional information on how to get started renting an RV can be found at rvshare.com/list-your-rv. Article courtesy of (NAPSI)

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Times **OpEd**

Opinion: Almaden Quicksilver Park entrance now a neighborhood 'Danger Zone'

By Sameer Sharma
Special to the Times

My family moved to the Pierce Ranch neighborhood in 1997, back when it used to be a safe and quiet residential neighborhood.

I remember playing basketball in the driveway and riding my bike up and down Whispering Pines Drive.

The Pierce Ranch neighborhood was an excellent place to be growing up. Unfortunately, this is not the case anymore.

The once obscure McAbee entrance of the Almaden Quicksilver County Park located in the neighborhood now brings close to 700 cars and more than 1500 visitors each day on the weekend.

Though the McAbee entrance has gradually risen in popularity over the years, ever since the shelter in place Covid-19 restrictions began, the entrance has become dangerous. Since there is no parking lot at the McAbee entrance, park users have to park on the street. This has led to a safety hazard in front of the residents' homes.

These streets were never intended for this kind of traffic; a Danger Zone! On the weekend, my neighbors and I counted more than 600 cars. We didn't get all the way down to adjacent streets, which would have added at least 50-100 additional cars. The traffic engulfs practically all of our streets, going down to Leyland Park Dr. and on McAbee, all the way to Castellero Middle School. With this amount of traffic, once non-existent issues such as blocked gates and driveways, trash being uncollected due to park visitors moving bins to park, public urination and defecation, littering, noise, vehicle break-ins and more, have become commonplace. The residents who live in the vicinity of the park routinely have to deal with these nuisances: we have to sweep broken glass from the streets after a car break-in; we have to pick up masks and plastic bottles left behind by park users.

The increase in traffic also created several hazardous visibility issues. If you have parked in the neighborhood after May 2020, you have probably noticed the red curbs. These curbs were not marked red by the homeowners, but the City of San Jose. We want people to follow the red curbs, but even those get ignored. Not only do they get ignored, but people fight over them. I myself have gotten into an altercation with an individual who wanted to park his entire vehicle in the red and rudely asked me "Are you the cops" when I asked him to not park there.

I currently have hundreds of photos of people parking in the red or blocking driveways. However, when we call parking compliance, they do not show up. I have seen parking compliance officers show up hours later and watch people go into their vehicle and not give them a ticket. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has not conducted a single traffic study, which would immediately showcase that a residential neighborhood such as Pierce Ranch is not designed for this kind of traffic. The response from the City and DOT has been slow and impractical.

Park users have no respect for the residents who live in the neighborhood. My neighbor's kids have almost been run over twice, since



The McAbee entrance of Quicksilver County Park now brings close to 700 cars and more than 1500 visitors each day on the weekend. Below: illegally parked cars are a common sight.



people like to pull in all the way into driveways to turn around for parking. No one should be coming into anyone's private driveway. Not only is parking an issue, but the park itself is a nuisance. People like to show up here at 5:00am when the park opens at 8:00am. The same is true for people violating park after-hours. Not only is this a violation of the ordinance code but a public nuisance for people who live here, but even the County Parks Department is unwilling to moderate the issue they created by their continuous inaction for the past two decades. We have had people sitting and stretching on our neighborhood walls and fences and walking onto our private property to wipe their muddy shoes on our grass. People have started using our private properties as part of a county park. The residents feel as if we are living in a County park parking lot which the County does not take care of.

This leads to another point: most parks and trails were shut down in the Bay Area due to the Covid-19 restrictions, but not Quicksilver. Hordes of people showed up in groups to hike. A majority of them don't wear masks or maintain social distancing. The trail itself is less than six feet wide for the most part and with people walking on both sides, you can imagine how "crowded" it can get. Furthermore, with hundreds of people using the public restrooms on the trail, this trail has definitely not helped in containing or curtailing this virus.

The negligence that both the County and City have shown to this neighborhood has led to a safety hazard and public nuisance for the residents of Pierce Ranch, which has been an ongoing issue since 1998 when the park department finalized the trail plan. The County has ignored this issue and neglected this neighborhood's problems for far too long. Mike Wasserman needs to address this and work with DOT and County Parks to come up with a solution. With a new District 10 council member and team we can hopefully call on the Board of Supervisors to fix the mess caused in our neighborhood.

Sameer Sharma is a resident of Almaden Valley.

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Report: States with the cheapest and most expensive car insurance

Since COVID-19 is causing drastic changes in people’s driving habits and personal finances, WalletHub has released a new report on the States with the Cheapest & Most Expensive Car Insurance, along with a review of California’s Best Cheap Car Insurance Companies.

“COVID-19 has had a significant impact on people’s car insurance choices, considering that 61 million Americans have already reduced their car insurance coverage because of the pandemic, according to WalletHub’s new car insurance survey,” said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. “This trend of reducing car insurance coverage seems likely to continue through 2021, given current sentiment. Roughly 105 million say they’re not getting their money’s worth from their car insurance right now.”

What’s the best way to save money on car insurance?

“The best way to save money on car insurance is to compare quotes from the cheapest car insurance companies and choose whichever provider offers the lowest rates,” Gonzales said. “The best cheap car insurance companies in California right now are Grange Insurance, Wawanesa and USAA, according to WalletHub’s editors, so they’re a good place to start.”

Based on WalletHub’s analysis, California was determined to be the 13th most expensive state for car insurance in 2021. The difference between the cheapest and most expensive car insurance companies in California is about \$1,177 per year.

You can find some additional highlights below.

Top 5 Cheap Car Insurance Companies in California

- 1. Grange Insurance
- 2. Wawanesa
- 3. USAA
- 4. Travelers
- 5. CSAA Insurance

Top 10 cheapest states for car insurance

Rank	State	Average Yearly Premium
1	Wyoming	\$274
2	South Dakota	\$326
3	Iowa	\$326
4	Vermont	\$341
5	North Dakota	\$370
6	Idaho	\$394
7	Ohio	\$414
8	Wisconsin	\$418
9	Nebraska	\$427
10	New Hampshire	\$438

Top 10 most expensive states for car insurance

Rank	State	Average Yearly Premium
50	Michigan	\$1,908
49	New York	\$1,828
48	New Jersey	\$1,287
47	Louisiana	\$1,263
46	Delaware	\$1,133
45	Nevada	\$1,108
44	Georgia	\$1,095
43	Maryland	\$1,069
42	Connecticut	\$1,027
40	Kentucky	\$931

Other Key Findings:

- Full coverage car insurance costs 198% more than minimum coverage in California, on average.
- 16-year-olds pay 246% more for car insurance than 55-year-olds in California, on average.
- Drivers with a DUI pay 144% more for car insurance than drivers with a clean record in California, on average.
- 61 million Americans have reduced their car insurance coverage due to COVID-19.
- 105 million Americans say they’re not getting their money’s worth from their car insurance.
- 55 million Americans have second thoughts about owning a car due to COVID-19.

To view the entire report, visit: www.wallethub.com/cheap-car-insurance

Reversal: Santa Clara County stands alone in banning indoor worship services

By William Bellou
Publisher

Following a new court order Wednesday night, Santa Clara County’s ban on indoor religious services was reinstated.

The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 Feb. 5 that Gov. Gavin Newsom’s strict order barring indoor religious services appeared to violate the Constitution’s protection of the free exercise of religion.

Churches and religious institutions across the state were immediately permitted to reopen for indoor services up to 25 percent of the building capacity. However singing and chanting could still be prohibited.

Santa Clara County, however, was the only county in the state arguing that the high court’s ruling did not apply to it. The reason: unlike the state, Santa Clara County prohibited all indoor gatherings rather than instituting a specific ban on indoor religious services.

On Monday, Feb. 8, five Santa Clara County churches filed a motion in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California to attempt to block the county’s ban. They argued that the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling must apply to the county, and a U.S. district court judge granted an injunction to temporarily block the county’s ban on indoor worship services.

On Wednesday night, Feb. 10, the U.S. District Court made a reversal, temporarily suspending its Monday order, concluding that the county’s prohibition on all indoor gatherings — including indoor religious services — could remain in place for the time being.

The Supreme Court is expected to make a final decision on this issue possibly this week, following a briefing and a hearing before the court. The decision stems from an ongoing lawsuit brought against Gov. Gavin Newsom, Santa Clara County and County Health Officer Sara Cody by a group of five county churches in late November. The churches are San Jose’s Gateway City Church and The Spectrum Church, Campbell’s The Home Church, Orchard Community Church and Morgan Hill’s Trinity Bible Church.

The new court ruling won’t change anything for Grace Baptist Church in San Jose, which has been holding services on Zoom instead of in-person since last March.



Jordyn Flora of Almaden named to UA Deans List

Jordyn McKenna Flora (inset) of Almaden Valley is named to The University of Alabama Deans List for fall 2020.

The University of Alabama Dean’s List requires academic records of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale), or the President’s List with academic records of 4.0 (all A’s).

Flora, who is a Bachelor of Science major in Psychology, Public Health, is a member of Gamma Phi Beta and SWIM (Women in Medicine). She graduated from Presentation High School in 2018. Flora served as a student volunteer for Sacred Heart University and Wings of Grace. She also served as a student tutor for Santa Maria Urban Ministry.

The University of Alabama, the state’s oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education.



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Times **Feature**

Tom Brady is officially the oldest player to appear in a Super Bowl at age 43

How does he do it?

While the average career span for an NFL quarterback is three years, Brady has been playing for two decades and made his 10th Super Bowl appearance this year. In defying the aging process and achieving peak performance, he follows a rigorous daily routine and health regimen.

Dr. Myles Spar, Chief Medical Officer of Vault Health, is an integrative men's health specialist and has served as a medical consultant to professional sports leagues—educating players, coaches, and trainers on best practices and preventative measures.

“Any person – of any age, shape, or fitness level – can apply Tom Brady’s principles in their pursuit of health, wellness, and peak performance,” says Dr. Spar.

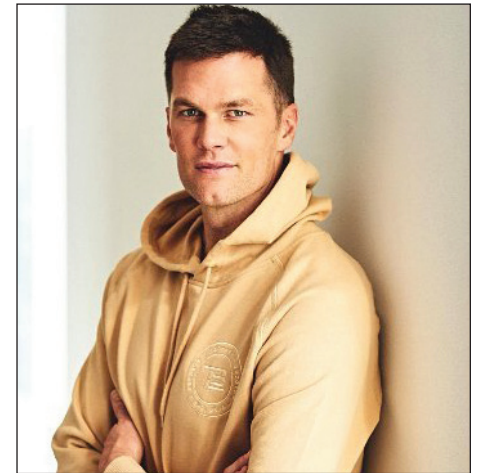
To illustrate this, he has taken the key principles of Brady's health regimen and adapted them into actionable tips to help men achieve optimal performance at any age.

Here are his tips to achieve optimal performance at any age, even if you're not Tom Brady:

1. Eat Nutritious, Well-Balanced Meals and Snacks.

Tom Brady micromanages everything that goes into his body; every calorie, every ingredient, and right down to the time he eats his meals. He's heavy on vegetables and lean protein and stays away from alcohol, caffeine, dairy, and sugar.

“Think about what you’re eating, and when. Sweat the details. If you’re making changes, make one small change today and another small change next week. They start to add up, but they have to be sustainable. Remem-



ber, garbage calories in, garbage training out. And for those who need extra help shedding body fat or gaining muscle mass, Vault has affordable, easily accessible personalized treatment plans and supplements to help men get the results they desire," says Dr. Spar.

2. Treat sleep like the priority it is.

Brady's in bed at 8:30 pm every night. He knows quality sleep can improve reaction time, increase overall health, increase focus and accuracy, and prevent mental errors. He naps. He solves a series of brain puzzles before bed to destimulate his brain, allowing him to get to sleep by 9 p.m. and wake up without an alarm.

FOR YOU – Get enough sleep! Besides the above-mentioned sleep benefits, late at night, people make poorer choices with food and alcohol. Shutting it down on the early side can reduce those temptations. Throughout the day, take time to rest when you can. Think about your craft, sport, or work – in



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A man and a woman are sitting on a grey couch in a modern living room. The man is holding a newspaper titled "Valley Currents" and "Evergreen Times". The woman is holding a tablet. They are both looking at the devices. The background shows a white shelving unit with various items and a green plant.

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Times **Feature**

a positive way – before going to bed.

“Consult your doctor if you’re still having trouble falling or staying asleep because there are many healthy, natural prescriptions that can help you. For example, the prescription peptide and natural formulation in Vault’s Brain Kit protects the brain from the toxic effects of the stress hormone cortisol and helps build new brain cells. This can improve memory, attention, and sleep,” says Dr. Spar.

3. Hydration is key.

After he hops out of bed at 6 a.m., the first thing Brady reaches for is a 20-ounce glass of water infused with electrolytes. Then he sips a smoothie, which typically contains blueberries, bananas, nuts, and seeds. Pretty normal. During his 8 a.m. workout, he drinks more electrolyte-infused water, followed by a post-workout protein shake. When all is said and done, Brady drinks anywhere between 12 to 25 glasses of water a day. (However, he trains a lot harder than the average human being, so the 25 glasses of water make sense for him.)

FOR YOU – In general, you should try to drink between half an ounce and an ounce of water for each pound you weigh, every day. “For example, if you weigh 150 pounds, that would be 75 to 150 ounces of water a day,” says Dr. Spar.

4. Strengthen your overall health with supplements.

Tom Brady has talked extensively about the supplements he takes in many inter-

views, which include whey protein powder, protein bars, multivitamins, probiotics, and a B complex, to name a few.

FOR YOU – “The best thing to do before starting to take any supplements is to consult your doctor, conduct a full self-audit of your mood, physical health, ability to focus, and overall well being throughout the day to properly assess the areas you’d like to improve and what your overall goals are. For example, guys who want to support their general health, increase their energy levels, and burn more fat would greatly benefit from Vault’s Vitamin B12 Mic Fat Burner,” says Dr. Spar.

5. Train your brain, not just your body.

Brady spends 15 minutes per day playing brain games, drilling his cognitive speed and pattern recognition. That prep, plus film study gives Brady the special edge he needs to outplay the opposing team’s defense at the line of scrimmage.

FOR YOU – “It’s natural for memory and cognitive function to decline with age, but there are many things you can do to rapidly slow down this process. For guys who want better focus and attention, memory, and mental energy, I usually recommend Vault’s Brain Kit, which includes prescription peptide and a naturally-formulated brain boost supplement that work together to increase cognitive functioning,” says Dr. Spar.

6. Focus on longevity.

Every season is predicted to be Tom’s last. Every summer the columnists and commentators declare he’s too old to perform at the top of the sport: He should retire, what else does he have to prove? He should exit on top, with his legacy intact.

FOR YOU – “Forget everyone else’s narrative for your life and your activities. If you still have a passion for your work or your sport, there is no reason to stop. It is also important to remember that once you stop it will be difficult to start back up or reach the level you have already achieved,” says Dr. Spar.

For more information about how men can live a long, healthy life and thwart the negative effects of aging as Tom Brady has successfully done over the years, visit vaulthealth.com/consumer-health.

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✓ GET PLENTY OF SLEEP

✓ CHOOSE HEALTHY FOODS



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Santa Clara County
PUBLIC HEALTH

Times Feature



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State Senator Cortese introduces bills to increase Family Finding Engagement and access to Juvenile Justice Diversion

California Judges Association thanks Senator Cortese

State Senator Dave Cortese (SD-15, San Jose) has introduced two new bills - SB 383 and SB 384 - sponsored by the California Judges Association (CJA) that are designed to expand rehabilitation opportunities and support systems for our youth.

SB 383 - The Juvenile Justice Diversion Act

With an aim of shifting the focus of our justice system from incarceration to rehabilitation, Senator Cortese has introduced SB 383, The Juvenile Justice

Diversion Act, which will increase access to diversion programs for youth that commit non-violent felonies.

Numerous peer-reviewed studies point to diversion as a more effective tool in reducing recidivism than conventional judicial interventions.

It has also been shown that factors exist to continually deny youth of color early diversion opportunities with a Brennan Center for Justice 2020 report indicating that justice system involvement leads to "profoundly unequal treatment" and "long-term economic disparity".

SB 383 will also remove the procedural barriers that exist today restricting diversion services for youth who commit a crime in a county that is not their county of residence.

"We must change the paradigm of our juvenile justice system to a 'care-first, jail-last' model deeply rooted in restorative justice and geared toward ending the incarceration of our minors," says Senator Cortese who created the first policy in the United States to end the incarceration of offenders under 13 years of age at Juvenile Hall. "More needs to be done to remove unnecessary barriers to diversion and rehabilitation programs for our youth as we move from a punitive to rehabilitative approach."

"The California Judges Association thanks Senator Cortese for his leadership on this important legislation that will help our youth avoid incarceration and further the goal of rehabilitation in our juvenile justice system," said Judge Thomas Delaney, President of CJA.

"The Association also appreciates the hard work of the Juvenile Court Judges of California, a section of CJA, which worked with Senator Cortese on the Juvenile Justice Diversion Act. CJA supports this legislation as a key piece of the ongoing process to improve California's juvenile justice system."

SB 384 - The Family Finding Act

Cortese has also introduced SB 384, The Family Finding Act, to require that counties implement family finding protocols, increasing the likelihood that a child removed from parental care, for instance as a result of parental neglect or abuse, be placed with relatives.

Family finding is considered a best practice and research demonstrates that a child placed with relatives will have better physical and emotional health outcomes long-term than a child placed in foster care or congregate care. A recent BMC Public Health study conducted over thirty years followed the lives of over 160,000 children who were placed in foster and congregate care and concluded that these children experienced worse health outcomes than children who grew up in a family environment.

Relative placement is in the best interest of a child for a variety of reasons, including increased stability for a child, preservation of cultural identity and connections to the community, and less school changes. Cortese, who launched the first program in the nation to provide universal basic income to young adults transitioning out of foster care, says placing a child with a relative can ensure they receive a stable support system.

"The Family Finding Act will provide more children a permanent home," says Senator Cortese.

"The California Judges Association very much appreciates the efforts of Senator Cortese in sponsoring this legislation that is in the best interest of our children in the juvenile court, which is critical to achieving positive outcomes for our California families. Both CJA and its Juvenile Court Judges of California Section thank Senator Cortese for bringing forward The Family Finding Act. We look forward to working with our dedicated social workers and other stakeholders on this legislation."

Senator Dave Cortese represents State Senate District 15 which encompasses most of Santa Clara County, including the cities of Campbell, Los Gatos, Cupertino, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, and much of San Jose, stretching from the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west and Mountain Hamilton Range to the east.

The California Judges Association was established in 1929 and is the professional association representing the interests of the judiciary of the State of California. Members include sitting and retired judges of the Superior Courts and Courts of Appeal, Commissioners of State courts and State Bar Court judges.

Times Feature



A view of San Jose from the East/ Evergreen side of the city. File photo.

Top questions about Opportunity Housing in San Jose answered

Almaden Valley Community Association hosted a panel of experts

By Carly Wipf

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Opportunity Housing is the city's latest strategy for solving San Jose's housing crisis — but critics fear the policy may plummet property values, increase traffic congestion and destroy single-family neighborhoods.

Supporters, however, say densifying those neighborhoods will boost San Jose's affordable housing stock — which is much-needed in a city where the median cost of a single-family home is \$1.2 million.

A city task force recommends lawmakers study adopting opportunity housing city-wide. If approved, single-family homes could coexist on the same block with duplexes, triplexes or even fourplexes.

But confusion over the measure lingers. A small poll found nearly half of San Jose residents surveyed oppose densifying neighborhoods. To address concerns about Opportunity Housing, the Almaden Valley Community Association hosted a panel of experts Monday, Feb. 8 to explain the proposal and how neighborhoods could weather potential change.

The discussion featured city Planning Director Rosalynn Hughey, Housing Director Jacky Morales-Ferrand, real estate broker Roberta Moore and consultant Jerry Strangis.

The panel came as a blog post from the Santa Clara County Republican Party opposing the measure ignited criticism. In the post, party officials warned Opportunity Housing could “nuke” single-family neighborhoods — words that were denounced by many on social media.

Party Chair Shane Patrick Connolly said San Jose should focus on existing projects before densifying single-family neighborhoods. “Let's do what we can to help meet our housing needs within those areas that the city has already made available for increased densification and increased height

in downtown and urban villages,” Connolly told San José Spotlight. “There's no reason to be going into these single-family neighborhoods at this point because we haven't even built out the urban villages.”

One thing is clear: People are divided about Opportunity Housing. Here are some of the top questions about the plan, as presented during Monday's forum.

Why is the city pushing Opportunity Housing?

Morales-Ferrand said San Jose is not producing anywhere near the affordable housing it needs to meet demand as jobs increase faster than housing.

To purchase a median-priced single-family home in San Jose, buyers need to earn more than \$200,000 per year or \$120 per hour, Morales-Ferrand said. But single family-neighborhoods make up 94% of the city and San Jose has strict zoning laws that prevent more units from being built in those neighborhoods.

Hughey said loosening the zoning law to allow for duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes would give developers and property owners the opportunity to create more middle-income and low-income housing. Opportunity Housing wouldn't be a mandate, she added, but an additional option for those who chose to build extra units.

Despite its benefits, Hughey said there's no “silver bullet” to solve the housing crisis. Accessory dwelling units and mixed-use urban village plans connected to transit centers, for example, have already been approved by the city.

What about parking, traffic congestion, infrastructure overload?

Unlike large high-rise developments, Hughey said a maximum of four units per site could be built under the plan. Traffic congestion would not likely be a problem. “I'm excited that the city really is focused on providing places for people to live versus spaces to park cars. Many of our residents will continue to drive and will need to drive,”

See HOUSING, page 21



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Times **Community News**


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Jim and Leisa Johnson founded nonprofit Fishnet Care and Share to provide food for those in need.
Photo courtesy of Jim and Leisa Johnson

Johnson

Continued from page 1

groceries to a nurse in the Los Gatos mountains. He drove up to find her and had to hike up the road when his vehicle became stuck in mud. Crying, she thanked him for his help. She hadn't eaten for days.

A veteran, who lost his home in a fire, was living in a small camper in a ravine. He was going hungry as he hadn't received his check from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Johnson brought him food as well. After hearing Johnson was there to help him, the veteran's hostility melted away and he hugged him and shared stories of his life.

"I was able to bring him encouragement and show him people care," Johnson said. "When you go out of your way to help people, it changes their lives and gives them hope. Especially during this pandemic, a lot of people are isolated and alone."

Johnson pitched in to help people after the 2017 Loma and recent Boulder Creek fires as well. He spoke with Assemblymember Mark Stone and Boulder Creek Fire Chief Mark Bingham, advocating for fire victims.

Self-employed, Johnson said he and his wife, Leisa, put many hours each week into bringing food to others. They don't get paid for their time, but he said the thanks, hug and tears of gratitude they receive make it all worthwhile.

"I feel like I'm doing some good," he said. "There are a lot of people who need a shoulder to cry on or a helping hand. When I'm dead and gone, people won't care how much money I made but they might care I went out of my way to help people who were hurting."

Michele Dexter, policy advisor for Councilmember Matt Mahan said Johnson is unwavering in helping those in need.

"He's first on the scene to try to help people," Dexter said, "but more importantly, he's there for years afterwards, when all the official agencies are gone. He's just the kind of guy, who whenever you have a need, will figure out how to get it met. He's always thinking about how he can give to others."

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Johnson was raised in Black River Falls, a small town in Wisconsin. He majored in theology and psychology at North Central University, a

private Christian university in Minneapolis. After wedding Leisa (whose maiden name was also Johnson!), he served as a youth pastor, working with school groups in Illinois and Colorado before moving to San Jose. The couple have been Almaden residents for more than 35 years.

Johnson encourages youth to think beyond themselves and be a positive influence in the world, creating and speaking at events with Teen Challenge (which has a better than 86% success rate of helping youth overcome substance abuse), House of Grace and local schools. He participates in "A Night of Peace" at schools, parks and civic centers to promote unity and non-violence.

Johnson is also involved in Youth Alliance's "Living above the Influence" programs, created to support young people battling the temptations of drugs, alcohol, gangs, abuse or depression.

"With 'Living Above the Influence,' we're trying to help young people before they get into trouble," Johnson said.

He has spoken at 13 high schools and has been invited to 10 more. At Andrew Hill High School, Johnson provided donated food and anti-drug/anti-gang youth speakers from Teen Challenge to deliver messages of hope. Johnson also supplied the audio/visual equipment and mentored youth in how to run it.

"He just wants to take care of people and give to those in need," said Andrew Hill High School teacher Wayland Shih. "He has a big heart for struggling youth and brings encouragement and hope to let them know they matter."


Hosac Sharp, a prior special education teacher at Oak Grove High School, said Johnson spoke about character building at his school.

"Jim is a rare man who loves unconditionally and does his best for his community," Sharp said.

Sharp said Johnson brought positivity to the classroom and "showed love" by providing food for students and their families. Sharp also appreciated Johnson showing the students older white men can be compassionate to those of other races.

"They could see...there are good white men out there who care and are doing this out of the kindness of their hearts," Sharp said.

See JOHNSON, next page



Want to submit a news item for the Almaden Times?

Press day: March 3, 2021
Deadline: Feb. 28, 2021

Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com

Almaden Times

Times **Community News**

Housing

Continued from page 19

Hughey said. "It's not about banning cars, or banning single-family homes, it's about providing options." When asked about impact on strained water and sewage systems, Hughey said the "gentle" housing increase wouldn't hurt the city's infrastructure any more than a new high-rise development.

Will it hurt the "character" of my neighborhood?

Hughey said the buildings would blend in with the single-family home landscape and the duplexes or triplexes built under the plan will not alter a neighborhood's character. The buildings would have similar height and size requirements, so a towering high-rise wouldn't suddenly rise in a single-family neighborhood.

What about decreasing property values?

When it came to property values, the panelists were divided. Morales-Ferrand said there's no evidence that values will be impacted by the introduction of duplexes, triplexes or fourplexes.

She said the demand for housing is so great that property values would fluctuate no matter what. "The fact that you pay over a mil-

lion dollars for a two bedroom-one-bath bungalow has nothing to do with the house sitting next to you," she said.

Moore said when she first started in real estate, nearby properties did not affect value much. That's not the case today. "If there were six-plexes around me right now, my property value would decline — unless they sold it to a developer to build six more units," Moore said.

Hughey said there is no clear answer. "It's speculative. This housing market is the craziest housing market that I've ever experienced," Hughey said. "I would be very surprised if neighboring housing values decrease in this market."

The recommendations for implementing Opportunity Housing are scheduled to come before the San Jose City Council sometime in spring 2021. Strangis said offering options to the development community is the best way to chip away at the housing crisis. "I applaud the effort. But it's a tough thing," he said. "Silicon Valley is the most expensive place in the world to live in and we're trying to fix a problem that has existed and has occurred over many, many, many years."

Contact Carly Wipf at carly@sanjose-spotlight.com or follow @CarlyChristineW on Twitter.

Scholarships

Continued from page 1

95118, 95120 or 95123 zip codes are welcome to submit an application.

Logo Contest

The Almaden Valley Women's Club also sponsors a logo contest and would like to invite students between the ages of 11-18 enrolled in a public, private, or home school program in the 95118, 95120 and 95123 zip code areas to participate in the 2021 annual Logo Contest. The logo contest is happening now and the winning artwork will be used on t-shirts and other promotional materials for the club's fundraising events in 2021.



The club will select one winner and four finalist logos from the submissions.

For more information on the logo contest, please visit: www.almadenwomen.org/logo-contest Entries are due on Thursday, March 18, 2021.



Above: 2020 Scholarship Recipients, **Zakk Teixeira** and **Lucas Coan**; left: 2020 Scholarship Recipient **Renee Boisser**.

Johnson

Continued from previous page

Through the years, Johnson has added 12 grocery stores and a warehouse in Haywood to his supply chain. Since 2008, he has given away over \$25 million in groceries. In addition to personal aid following his accident to pay medical bills, Johnson could use a larger truck to transport food as their current one is rundown and can't carry enough, causing him to make several trips. To donate funds or vehicles, please visit: www.fishnetcareandshare.org

Devastating fall

On Nov. 12, Johnson was putting a tarp on top of his motorhome to protect it from the rain when he fell off a ladder, landing on his right side, head and elbow. In severe pain, he laid there for about 10 minutes until his wife and a neighbor found him. He was taken by ambulance to Valley Medical Cen-

ter. It was hard for him to breathe as his right lung had partially collapsed and was filling with fluid. The EMT stuck a long needle in his right lung on the way to the hospital to relieve pressure. He was in the emergency room for five hours and had x-rays and a cat-scan. He had broken seven ribs.

Due to Johnson being self-employed and missing four to six weeks of work due to his long recovery, a friend started a GoFundMe account for him, trying to cover his hospital costs and expenses. Johnson's medical bills are close to \$85,000; the ambulance cost \$3,000 alone. **To help, please see: www.gofundme.com/f/help-jim-johnson-recover-from-his-fall. So far, the fund has raised \$8,288 of its \$15,000 goal.**

After dedicating his life to helping others, Johnson would appreciate some community support to help him get back on his feet. He is looking forward to continuing what he does best: helping the world, one person at a time.

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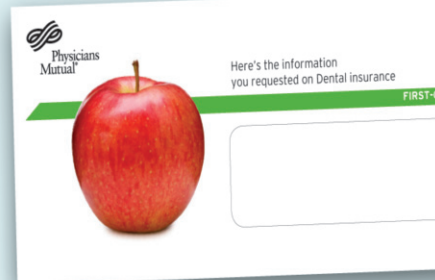
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Notice

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students

The Agape Schools admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

SJMN#6547945; January 28, 2021

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Therese Swan
408.656.8240
tswan@tswan.com
AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com
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