



# Happy Easter

from the staff of the Willow Glen Times

APRIL 2021 ■ VOL. 17, NO. 4

# Willow Glen Times

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Girl Scouts of Willow Glen and Cambrian installed a temporary pinwheel display on the lawn of Willow Glen Elementary School in honor of "World Thinking Day" The Scouts handmade the pinwheels and decorated them with messages and designs related to peace. Photo courtesy of the Girl Scouts.

## Willow Glen, Cambrian Girl Scouts celebrate peace with style

Local residents who drove past the intersection of Lincoln and Minnesota avenues in Willow Glen likely spotted the handy-work of local Girl Scouts recently.

Girl Scouts of Willow Glen and Cambrian installed a temporary pinwheel display on the lawn of Willow Glen Elementary School in honor of "World Thinking Day."

The Scouts handmade the pinwheels and decorated them with messages and designs related to peace.

## San Jose Public Library Express Pickup Service hours now back to normal

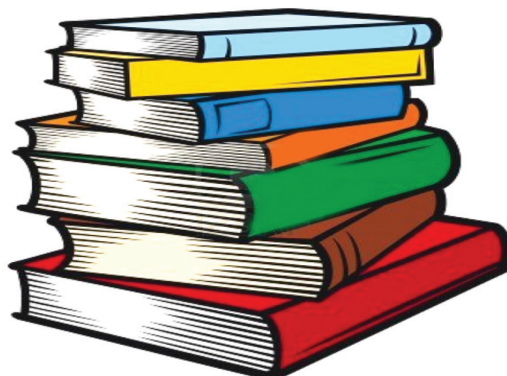
With Santa Clara County returning to the Red Tier, the San José Public Library (SJPL) has resumed its original Express Pickup hours.

The hours of operation will be Monday to Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Library customers will now also be able to place up to 30 holds per account.

SJPL Express Pickup offers an easy, contactless, and convenient way to access the Library's physical collection, while the interior of the library remains closed.

For more information, visit: [sjpl.org/ExpressPickup](http://sjpl.org/ExpressPickup).



## Fatal solo motorcycle accident reported on Hillsdale Avenue

San Jose Police Officers responded to the area of Hillsdale Avenue and Ross Avenue in Willow Glen for a solo motorcyclist traffic collision, at approximately 5:11 p.m., March 28.

An adult male, who was riding a motorcycle westbound on Hillsdale Avenue, veered off the roadway onto the sidewalk. The motorcyclist then struck a parked vehicle that was located in a parking lot. Following the initial impact the motorcyclist struck a tree.

The motorcyclist was trans-

ported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

The identity of the victim will be released by the Santa Clara County Coroner's Office after they confirm the victim's identity and notify next of kin.

This is the 9th fatal traffic collision for 2021.

Anyone with information on this investigation is urged to contact Detective Garcia #3931 of the San Jose Police Department's Traffic Investigations Unit at 408-277-4654.

## Krispy Kreme offering a free daily donut all year long – just show your vaccination card

Here's an additional reason to get your COVID-19 vaccination.

Krispy Kreme is offering a sweet deal - it's giving free doughnuts to anyone with valid vaccination card, all year long. A vaccine sticker is not valid.

Any customer with a valid COVID-19 vaccination card will receive a free Original Glazed doughnut at participating locations nationwide. In San Jose, Krispy Kreme is located at: 121 Curtner Ave, Suite 40, San Jose, CA 95125.

The iconic doughnut shop specifies that any guests who have received at least one of the two shots of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, or one shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine qualify for the promotion.

Vaccinated individuals can go back every single day and continue getting free doughnuts throughout 2021.

Krispy Kreme says they are supporting health care workers and volunteers who are administering vaccines by delivering free doughnuts to vaccination centers across the country in the coming weeks.

"We all want to get COVID-19 behind us as fast as possible and we want to support everyone doing their part to make the country safe by getting vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available to them," Chief Marketing Officer Dave Skena said in a statement.







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### Pedestrian killed while walking against a red 'Do Not Walk' signal on Meridian Ave.

On February 24th, 2021 at approximately 4:10 PM, Officers responded to the area of Meridian Avenue and Parkmoor Avenue to investigate an auto versus pedestrian collision. The preliminary investigation revealed the following:

An adult male pedestrian was walking across Meridian Avenue in a westbound direction against a red - "Do not Walk" signal when he was struck by a black 2011 Jeep Cherokee, operated by an adult male, that was traveling in a northbound direction.

The pedestrian was believed to be walking in or near the marked cross walk when he was struck by the vehicle. The pedestrian was subsequently transported to the hospital with major injuries.

On March 4th, 2021, the pedestrian succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased. The driver of the involved vehicle did not suffer any injuries.

This is the seventh traffic fatality for 2021 and the first fatal auto versus pedestrian collision of 2021.

The identity of the victim will be released by the Santa Clara County Coroner's Office.

Anyone with information on this investigation is urged to contact Detective Bowen #4461 of the San Jose Police Department's Traffic Investigations Unit at 408-277-4654.

## Silicon Valley Reads 2021

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Times **Community News**



## Post-pandemic future of senior living begins at Atria Almaden

Seniors have a new choice for a safer and more fulfilling future at Atria Almaden, a brand new senior living community located moments away from Almaden Lake Park.

The four-story community offers senior living and assisted living as well as memory care and features purposefully designed amenities for a lifestyle resembling condominium living.

“We know what’s most important for the well-being of older adults is a living environment that offers safety, support, social interaction and opportunities to stay healthier and happier longer,” said Mike Mejia, Atria’s Senior Vice President. “From modern, beautiful amenities to engaging social events and elevated culinary offerings, Atria Almaden is designed for older adults who wish to lead active and vibrant lives.”

Floorplans are available for spacious studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments, a full kitchen with quartz countertops, full height backsplash and soft close cabinets, stainless steel appliances, a washer and dryer and walk-in showers with solid quartz slab surrounds.

The community offers amenities including a fitness center, yoga studio, golf simulator, art studio, technology center, salon and spa, movie theater, billiards room and underground parking garage with electric vehicle charging stations. Outdoor features include a pool, hot tub, walking path adjacent to the Guadalupe River, bocce ball court, kitchen and fire pits. Chef-prepared meals are served at three dining venues: the full-service Vestal’s restaurant, The Summit lounge and The Willows bistro.

Amenities also include discreet care, concierge service, chauffeured town car service, a calendar of curated events and housekeeping service. Through Atria’s Engage Life® events program, residents enjoy meaningful daily experiences for continual learning, fitness, connection, personal growth and fulfillment, and programs have been adapted for safety.

Atria Almaden, located at 4610 Almaden Expressway, features 200 apartments: 170 for modern senior living and 30 in a dedicated memory care neighbor-

hood with specialized services for individuals living with the challenges of Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia.

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout at Atria Almaden is nearing completion with more than 90% of residents and staff now vaccinated. The senior living community conducted its first COVID-19 vaccine clinic for residents and staff on January 11 and a third clinic on February 22 through its national pharmacy partner CVS Health.

Alice Babcock, who is 74 years old and an Atria Almaden resident, said, “When we dine at our restaurant, go to the movies, or participate in happy hour, yoga, and exercise class, we are doing so safely in a community that has been largely inoculated. I am most excited to share everything chocolate with my family and my amazing husband, Ray, without a worry in the world.”

Atria, a leading senior living operator in the U.S. and Canada, opened Atria Almaden at the beginning of 2021 with aggressive infectious disease control measures under this health and safety initiative. The company vaccinated its first residents and staff on December 21st in Louisville, Ky, and has now vaccinated more than 30,000 residents and staff across the U.S.

“We warmly invite San Jose area seniors and their families to contact us about life at Atria Almaden. Here, you can enjoy a heightened living experience with the confidence of protection that Atria is famous for,” Mejia said.

Atria operates more than 200 communities across the U.S. and Canada, with 43 California communities that serve nearly 5,000 residents. Atria operates 18 other communities in Northern California, including Atria at Foster Square in Foster City; Atria Valley View and Atria Walnut Creek in Walnut Creek; Atria Sunnyvale, Atria Evergreen Valley and Atria Willow Glen in San Jose.

For more information, contact Executive Director Paul Shepodd at (669) 200-1475 or visit AtriaAlmaden.com. You can also follow the company on Facebook or Twitter. For career opportunities and more information about working for Atria, visit AtriaCareers.com.



### Help make public transit more accessible for everyone!

The Valley Transportation Authority is assessing its facilities and website, with the goal of eliminating barriers to access for people with disabilities. Whether that's bus stops, light rail platforms, or offices, everything will be under review.



We can't make these improvements without your help! Take our short survey, enter your email address, and you will be entered for a chance to win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card.

[www.vta.org/accessibility](http://www.vta.org/accessibility)



(408) 321-2300 | TTY (408) 321-2330

**Location: Almaden Neighborhood Church**  
**Address: 19550 McKean Rd, San Jose-95120**  
**Date: April 12th - April 16th**  
**Morning Camp: 9AM - 12PM**  
**Afternoon Camp: 1PM - 4PM**

**Snapology**



OP-ED

# Homeownership is Equity

By Johnny Khamis  
Special to the Times

My family immigrated to the United States in 1976 seeking the American Dream.

Like many families before and after us, a major component of that dream was to become a homeowner. My parents worked hard and slowly built up their savings—my Mom worked as the Avon Lady and as a hair stylist at Regis and my Dad worked as the Culligan man. Finally in 1982 they put a downpayment on a fixer upper in Blossom Valley. This was their American Dream realized.



Homeownership is still widely considered the dream for many people today. It builds equity both literally and figuratively. According to the Federal Reserve, homeowners have an average net worth that is 40 times greater than renters. They build equity in their homes and can take advantage of tax incentives such as deducting mortgage interest and property taxes, all of which help build financial security.

Owners are also usually able to secure a fixed monthly mortgage payment. They don't have to worry about the uncertainty of rising rents outpacing their earnings. For many families, paying their mortgage is like forced savings. Each payment and every home improvement goes towards increasing equity in their home. Additionally, See EQUITY, next page

# Valley Currents

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



Almaden-Blossom Valley Chapter of National Charity League graduating class of 2021 on a recent Zoom meeting. Pictured top row (left to right) are: Top Row (left to right): **Ella Lau, Sammy Schweizer, Mahlia Gonzales, and Paige Rosckes**. Second Row (left to right): **Grace Harrison, Marisa Panella, Shelby Scott, and Ava Leonard**. Third Row (left to right): **Kayla Schnittker, Chloe Case, Charlotte Martinson, and Anna Ashe**. Bottom Row (left to right): **Natalie Clark, Madeleine Wing, Mariana Villalovoz, and Ally Suzuki**.

## Almaden-Blossom Valley Chapter of National Charity League recognizes its graduating class of 2021

Each year local mothers and daughters volunteer countless hours through the National Charity League (NCL), a nonprofit organization for mothers and daughters, grades 7 through 12, to improve the community around them.

The Almaden-Blossom Valley Chapter of NCL encourages community service, leadership development and cultural awareness and members can be found preparing food for the homeless, packing supplies for and writing letters to troops overseas, making signs to recognize the work of first responders, helping to care for farm animals and serving in many other capacities both prior to and during COVID-19.

The Almaden-Blossom Valley Chapter is proud to introduce its graduating Class of 2021, representing seven different high

schools including Branham, Leigh, Leland, Lincoln, Mitty, Notre Dame and Pioneer.

The 19 senior girls in this class are: Anna Ashe, Alyssa Blodgett, Chloe Case, Natalie Clark, Mahlia Gonzales, Grace Harrison, Ella Lau, Ava Leonard, Charlotte Martinson, Kaylee Ness, Marisa Panella, Madison Phan, Paige Rosckes, Kayla Schnittker, Sammy Schweizer, Shelby Scott, Ally Suzuki, Mariana Villalovoz and Madeleine Wing.

The senior class is required to complete a significant community service leadership project where they work together, using skills they have acquired over the past six years. This Class of 2021 has chosen the Heritage Home as its focus for this year's senior project.

### The Heritage Home

The Heritage Home provides housing, food and support to pregnant women in need of shelter. Residents of the Heritage Home are given the opportunity to participate in many different programs, such as life skills and parenting classes. The senior girls are working together to redesign a room, which will include a desk and sitting area, within the Heritage Home that will be used as a comfortable and quiet space for the women to relax in.

In keeping with NCL tradition and working within COVID-19 guidelines, the Class of 2021 will be honored at a Senior Recognition event in April. At this event they will be recognized for their years of service and celebrate the relationships and camaraderie they have built through NCL over the past six years.

### Willow Glen Times

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Times **Community News**

## Equity

*Continued from previous page*

home owners tend to put down roots in the community and take pride in it. Their children thrive in a more stable housing situation.

It has always been difficult to afford a house in the Bay Area and the dream of owning is getting harder and harder to achieve. This is especially true for our hard-working teachers, nurses, and service industry workers. The current median price in Santa Clara County for a Single Family Residence is \$1.49 million and a Condo/Townhouse is \$850,000.

There are many reasons for the sharp rise in the cost of housing, including the cost of labor, materials, and the often-abused state consumer protection and environmental laws. The most important factor, however, is that we are simply not producing enough housing supply. Further exacerbating the problem is the fact that what is being produced is often rental units.

To that end, we must look for ways to make homeownership more attainable. Thankfully there is legislation being proposed at the state level that could help increase the supply of for-sale housing units. In addition to supporting this proposed legislation, we must also change current laws that make it more expensive to build for-sale units. Onerous consumer protection laws have inadvertently caused

insurance rates for builders to go up astronomically. These same laws, while well intended, have made the financing of for-sale units production increasingly more difficult.

We also need more naturally affordable ownership opportunities in suburban neighborhoods for families that don't want to live in a downtown core. While mid-rise and high-rise for-sale developments are definitely needed, they are not the only type of naturally affordable ownership housing that can be built. Townhome communities can look and feel similar to a single-family home community and they are much cheaper. Low-rise to mid-rise condos also create opportunities for families to own properties in more suburban neighborhoods. Finally, lot splits can create a pathway for smaller, more affordable single-family homes. These additional ownership opportunities also take far less time than a high-rise development.

Taking these steps will help increase the housing supply and make the dream of homeowners more attainable for many. The Santa Clara County Association of Realtors (SCCAOR) is always looking for avenues to help bring the American Dream of ownership to Bay Area residents.

These are just a few of the ideas that SCCAOR will champion in the coming year. If you are interested in learning more or would like to stay up-to-date on upcoming housing legislation, please visit [www.sccaor.com/stayinformed](http://www.sccaor.com/stayinformed)



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Times **Feature**

# Children's Discovery Museum phased reopening: April 2

After a 13-month closure of the museum's inside, Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose will joyfully open the iconic 52,000 square foot purple building Friday, April 2.

After successfully operating the outdoor space, Bill's Backyard, for several months in 2020 and 2021, Children's Discovery Museum will open the interior with exhibit and space modifications and two play sessions per day every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

This latest phase of reopening is in accordance with the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

**#PURPLEPLAYDAYS**

All visitors are encouraged to celebrate the reopening and 30 years of Purple Play by wearing purple to the museum during the month of April. The museum asks the community to support the importance of play to children's healthy development by wearing and sharing purple. The Circle of Palms, Post Street and the San Jose Civic in downtown San Jose will be lit up in



purple, courtesy of San Jose Downtown Association and Team San Jose. All purple-inspired photos and videos should tag #purpleplaydays on social media to celebrate this grand reopening.

"We've been waiting and preparing for this incredible moment," said Marilee Jennings, executive director of Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. "It is gratifying that as a

county we have made tremendous progress and are now at a point in the pandemic where we can safely reopen the inside. So many families have expressed tremendous appreciation for our ability to successfully reopen Bill's Backyard and they are eagerly awaiting to visit their favorite spaces inside. But there are some exhibits we just can't open yet; however, we've worked hard to fig-

ure out how to safely open many of the favorites like Waterways, the Rainbow Market, and Bubbles, which we moved outside," added Jennings.

To prioritize visitor and staff safety, protocols have been put in place that meet and often exceed the county's mandates. The museum will initially open with 25% capacity and will grow to 50% over time

and in accordance with the county guidelines. Other protocols include online reservations for contactless ticketing, plexiglass shields at admissions for staff and visitors, a mask-requirement for anyone age two or older, and additional hand sanitizers.

**\$2 admission for those who qualify**

During the phased reopening, the museum remains committed to equity and inclusion with the continuation of the Museums for All program. This national initiative provides all families the opportunity to visit regardless of ability to pay. Admission is only \$2 per person (regular ticket price is \$15) with the presentation of an electronic benefit card or other specific documentation.

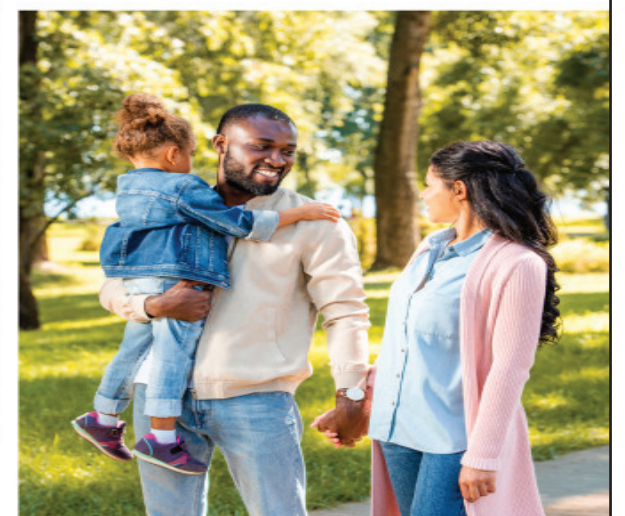
**TICKET INFORMATION:** Reservations are required for the two play sessions per day: 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 - 4:00 p.m., with an hour cleaning break between sessions. Ticket prices for the museum are \$15 per child or adult and seniors are \$14. Museum members are free.

For ticket reservations or to make a donation, visit: [www.cdm.org](http://www.cdm.org)

## Are you ready for some fun?

Join us for our first annual:

# Virtual Charity 5k Fun Run/Walk



**May 20 to May 24**

This is a fun family event that will allow any community to participate. Follow a suggested route or go on your own over a 5-day duration. Runners, walkers, hikers can create their 5K anywhere, from an indoor treadmill to walking the dog, or choose to "Go for the Gold" and see where they rank on the leader board.

**\* All proceeds are donated back to the community as grants to non-profit organizations, local schools, and as merit-based scholarships for local students.**

**SIGN UP TODAY!**  
[www.AlmadenWomen.org](http://www.AlmadenWomen.org)





Times Feature

# We must unite to fight AAPI hate crimes and violence

By Supervisor Otto Lee  
*Special to the Times*

How much louder must we scream, yell, plead and cry against the hate crimes and violence against our Asian community?

We gathered at San José City Hall on March 13 to call for an end to acts of anti-Asian violence, only to have our nation rocked four days later by yet another horrific act of hate.

We stand in solidarity and grief for the lives lost to senseless murders in Atlanta. We say their names and we will fight for them. Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Delaina Ashley Yaun Gonzalez, Paul Andre Michels, Soon C. Park, Hyun J. Grant, Suncha Kim, and Yong A. Yue.

We must become extra vigilant to keep our communities safe, and not let hate and fear divide us. Enough IS enough!

We must unite and educate everyone to stand and fight violence and bigotry together. The violence against the AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) community is drastically increasing, while these crimes are seriously under-reported. Whether it be the "model minority" stereotypes, or the vicious murders in Atlanta, or assaults on the streets in Oakland or the Caltrain in San José - it's all rooted in the same ignorance and hate which needs to end. Silence will embolden the perpetrators and we must stand up to let them know that this will never be tolerated, and justice will be upheld.

We also must not let "what-aboutism" distract the conversation that needs to be had on systemic racism. We can no longer hide behind excuses and dismiss these acts of domestic terrorism as mental health breakdowns or expressions of free speech. There are real influences and dangerous rhetoric that has targeted the AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) community to be harassed, denigrated, murdered, harmed, intimidated and maligned. No more.

Santa Clara County is one of America's most thriving communities because of our diversity. Our county is home to over 750,000 Asian Americans, with deep roots for many generations, yet we still struggle to be seen and respected.

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors is taking concrete actions to address the spike in anti-Asian violence and will be considering a proposal I authored to develop an anti-hate community outreach and education campaign on March 23. The meeting will be streamed on the Board of Supervisors' YouTube channel: SCCgov chambers.

Outside of City Hall I said that we will not tolerate this hate and violence. We will never be silenced. I want to continue to extend my appreciation to our brothers and sisters

from the Black, Latinx, Jewish, Muslim, LGBTQ+ and other communities for standing with the AAPI community. We are in this together.

Hate against one is crime against us all. There is no place for hate crimes in our community, our country, or ever. Standing together and speaking up is how we will prevail.

In solidarity.

**Supervisor Otto Lee**

If you or someone you know has been a target or victim of violence or a hate crime, report this to our law enforcement immediately. Please visit [https:// stopaapihate.org/](https://stopaapihate.org/) for more information.



*"Hate against one is crime against us all. There is no place for hate crimes in our community, our country, or ever. Standing together and speaking up is how we will prevail."*  
-Supervisor Otto Lee



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Times **Community News**

FILM REVIEW

# Minari

Score: 9.5/10

By Joshua Kim  
*Special to the Times*

About a year and a half ago, I reviewed the movie *The Farewell*, which I called one of the best movies of 2019 and praised it for its smart and nuanced take on immigrant values and themes. *Minari* follows in its footsteps and delivers a deeply personal and engaging immigrant drama, albeit with its own refreshing take on the subject matter.

While previous Asian American films such as *The Farewell* primarily focused on exploring the differences between Eastern and Western values, *Minari* focuses on highlighting the similarities between them. While cultural differences and racial insensitivity are definitely not shied away from in this film, these issues seem to take a backseat to the elevation of universal themes such as family, faith, and hard work in pursuit of the American Dream.

*Minari* is the semi-autobiographical story of Korean American director Lee Issac Chung's childhood. The film takes place in rural Arkansas during the 1980's, where Jacob Yi (Steven Yeun) and his family have moved for better prospects, much to the behest of Jacob's wife Monica (Han Ye-ri). While Jacob and wife work as menial chicken sorters by day, after work Jacob pursues his dream of building a big garden, which he hopes can bring his family self sufficiency by growing and selling Korean vegetables.

*While cultural differences and racial insensitivity are definitely not shied away from in this film, these issues seem to take a backseat to the elevation of universal themes such as family, faith, and hard work in pursuit of the American Dream.*

In addition to the two Yi children, David and Anne, the cast of characters also includes the quirky but diligent Paul (Will Patton), who Jacob hires to help manage his garden, and Monica's mother (Youn Yuh-jung), who arrives from South Korea to help take care of the children. The film does not focus on any one member of the Yi family, but juggles between the different interfamilial relationships between them. Examples include the humorous relationship between David and his grandmother, who David resents for not fitting the mold of a "normal" American grandmother and the many times contentious relationship between Monica and Jacob, who Monica accused of putting the dream of his garden over their family's well-being. This exploration of the family builds a deep feeling of connection between the viewer and the Yi family, and invests viewers in the fortunes and misfortunes that they face in pursuit of the American Dream. As a Korean American myself, I also appreciated the highly accurate use of language and attitudes portrayed in the film that might be seen in a typical Korean American family. This for me built a heightened sense of realism and will give viewers an accurate window into Korean American life.

Overall, I highly recommend *Minari* for its unique and refreshing take on immigrant values and themes. Its exploration of universal values such as faith, family, and hard work makes this film highly engaging and relatable to any viewer. In addition, all the main leads give powerful, award worthy performances, which are supplemented by the film's stunning cinematography and score. It is my hope that *Minari* encourages the production of more films that address immigrant stories in new and interesting ways; *Minari* is currently out in limited release in theaters and also available on most streaming platforms for rental.



*Minari* focuses on highlighting the similarities between Eastern and Western values.

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Times **Opinion**

**Op-Ed**

# 'A clarion call to action'

*Let Willow Glen residents determine the fate of their own neighborhood*

By **Pierluigi Oliverio**  
*Special to the Times*

An extreme proposal is headed to the San Jose City Council in June that would allow a single-family house on your block to be demolished, without a community meeting or public hearing, and replaced with up to six housing units.

Proponents would have you think that eliminating your choice to live in a single-family homes neighborhood is sweeping the nation. This is just not true. In reality, this type of policy has only moved forward in two places: Oregon (2019) and Minneapolis (2020).

Portland's *Willamette Week* succinctly summed up the opinion of Oregon homeowners by printing a graphic of a large anvil — with this new state law inscribed on its side — falling from the sky about to demolish a house. This Wizard of Oz inspired graphic has motivated Oregon cities such as Lake Oswego to implement sizable demolition fees to dissuade speculative profit-seeking buyers before the law takes effect in June 2022.

In Minneapolis, this policy has achieved nothing but litigation. The Minnesota State Supreme Court ruled against the City of Minneapolis on 02/10/21 in a lawsuit brought forward by the Audubon Society and Minneapolis residents challenging the controversial policy. In Oregon and Minneapolis, it is simply impossible to know the consequences of this extreme policy and its impact on families who have sacrificed and saved to own their piece of the American Dream.

We learned that most of our fellow neighbors across San Jose are unaware of this proposal and have formed a grassroots organization called Families and Homes San Jose ([www.FamiliesHomesSJ.org](http://www.FamiliesHomesSJ.org)). We strongly support the current general plan with its smart-growth strategy to add significant housing to accommodate population growth from 1.1 million to 1.4 million by 2040. This plan simultaneously preserves single-family house neighborhoods. Smart growth has proven to be the best for



Oliverio

home affordability, environmental stewardship, and multi-modal transportation.

We support backyard ADU's that allow for additional housing without changing the street-view aesthetic of the neighborhood. We support completing Urban Village plans to expedite mixed-use development of underutilized/vacant shopping centers. We support construction of housing in wealthy under-housed cities that have historically resisted pulling their fair share of the weight exacerbating our region's housing needs.

**If City Council fails to act then "It should be placed on the ballot"**

We also believe in transparency and demand this proposal be placed on the City Council agenda as a stand-alone item, not bundled together with other initiatives. We stand firm in our belief that the City Council should reject such a proposal to avoid costly Minneapolis-style litigation, the irreversible destruction of neighborhood integrity, and a clear deviation from our city's General Plan. If the decision is made to move forward with this proposal despite the numerous pitfalls, then we feel strongly that it should be placed on the ballot. Let the outcome be determined by a majority of voting residents.

Alternatively, we might consider a hyper-local zoning option where residents could vote for specific zoning for their individual block. This would be similar to a block requesting permit parking or establishing a business improvement district. City blocks have clear boundaries and do not impact the larger neighborhood. This is the most democratic option for residents who want greater density on their specific block. If they can convince a majority of their neighbors on the merits of this approach, then they would be permitted to go forward.

**The time to act is now**

We sincerely hope this will serve as a clarion call to action for residents previously unaware of this pending change. The time to act is now, before we reach the point of no return and our neighborhoods are irreversibly altered.

*Editor's note: Pierluigi Oliverio is a member of the San Jose Planning Commission and a former San Jose City Councilman.*

***"We sincerely hope this will serve as a clarion call to action for residents previously unaware of this pending change. The time to act is now, before we reach the point of no return and our neighborhoods are irreversibly altered."***



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Times **Community News**

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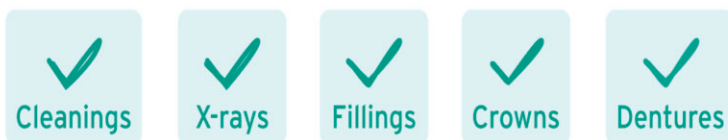
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South East North West: New Works from the Collection features artworks by 30 artists from 11 countries.

## San Jose Museum of Art opens with first hour reserved for seniors

*Free admission offered for essential and frontline workers*

San Jose Museum of Art (SJMA) has now reopened dedicating the first hour reserved for seniors, those who are pregnant, and those with underlying health concerns.

SJMA also announced that it is now offering free admission for essential and frontline workers with a current work ID or pay stub. This includes those that work in grocery stores, custodial staff, and transit workers.

People can reserve their tickets, visit [rb.gy/c8n2fe](http://rb.gy/c8n2fe) and enter code word TU\*ESSENTIALW during their online check-out to apply ticket discount. Please show current work ID or pay stub at front desk upon check-in. This offer is available through April 9, 2021. SJMA hours are Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Exhibitions**

Barring Freedom, co-organized by the UC Santa Cruz Institute of the Arts and Sciences,

brings together contemporary artists confronting the historical and structural racism embedded in the criminal justice and mass incarceration systems. This exhibit closes on April 25.

South East North West: New Works from the Collection features artworks by 30 artists from 11 countries, from internationally renowned figures to those working in California and the Bay Area as well as emerging practitioners. The exhibition highlights a dynamic array of paintings, sculptures, photographs, works on paper, and new media acquired by SJMA in the last five years, on view through September 19.

Pae White's Noisy Blushes (2020) is a meditation on movement and time, light and color, material presence and the elusiveness of form. Commissioned by SJMA, the sculpture soars within the Museum's thirty-foot high atrium and transforms its entrance into an experiential passageway, delivering a sublime experience for visitors.



Pae White's Noisy Blushes (2020) is a meditation on movement and time, light and color, material presence and the elusiveness of form.





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TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK  
Digital Twin

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 me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

Digital Twin

The concept of Digital Twin was introduced in 2003 at the University of Michigan in a published paper. Thanks to the evolution of Internet of Things (IoT), this concept is now becoming cost-effective to implement. Today, it is so imperative to the business that it was named one of Gartner's Top 10 Strategic Technology Trends for 2017.

So what is a Digital Twin?

A digital twin is a virtual model of a process, product or service. Let's take an example – Suppose you have a document or information you want to save for future use. Once the document is scanned and saved in a digital format on a computer, we can do two things with the original document – get rid of it or keep it, for instance for regulatory reasons. If we trash it, the paper-free dream, it's gone and all we have is that digital information, no copy. With a digital twin, we have two versions of a 'thing': the physical one and the digital twin one.

The digital twin concept is built on three pillars:

- A physical product in real space
- A virtual product in virtual space
- The connection of data and information

that ties the virtual and real products together.

First, smart components that use sensors to gather data about real-time status are integrated with the physical product. The components are connected to a virtual product that receives and processes all the data the sensors monitor. Using this setup, an engineer can understand how the product is performing, and how will they perform in the future. Analysis from the data collected through the sensors allow us to make better predictions.

Digital twins help manufacturers and engineers visualize products in use, in real-time. It helps to refine assumptions made on the product using predictive analytics and helps in troubleshooting. It also allows manufacturers to edit a virtual prototype throughout the production process.

Many industries are adopting the digital twin approach for product design, including construction and asset management of buildings and infrastructure. The 15-billion Crossrail project, for example has a digital twin model of the whole network. General Electric GE is using digital twinning to build and maintain its wind farms. Virtual models allow engineers to monitor and control the turbines, identifying problems before they occur.

Digital Twin is an excellent way to digitize the physical world for an industrial company. This will help make the full cycle of a product more efficient as well as cost-effective.

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

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Times **Community News**

**Adopt-A-Bench Public Art Project unveiled by Youth Commission**

Valley Water has announced the completion of the pilot Adopt-A-Bench project.

Two decades ago, Valley Water installed nearly 200 interpretive benches throughout Santa Clara County. Recently, the Valley Water Youth Commission worked alongside Paul J. Gonzalez, a San Jose artist and muralist, to repurpose and revitalize seven of these benches as part of a pilot program.

The revitalized benches have artwork that depict scenes of environmental stewardship, highlighting the importance of protecting plants and wildlife. These seven revitalized public art benches are along Uvas Creek in Gilroy, Saratoga Creek in



Santa Clara, Berryessa Creek in Milpitas, Los Alamitos Creek and Penitencia Creek in San Jose, Stevens Creek in Cupertino, and Permanente Creek in Los Altos.

"It is important for Valley Water to fulfill our role as a good neighbor to take responsible care of our creeks and waterways and create a better, more sustainable community," said Board of Directors Chair Tony Estremera.

Youth Commissioner Elise Mullen added, "I think this project did a fantastic job of combining art and interesting information about the local flora and fauna surrounding each of these benches."

A live-stream virtual event will be held to celebrate the completion of the seven public art benches in Santa Clara County.

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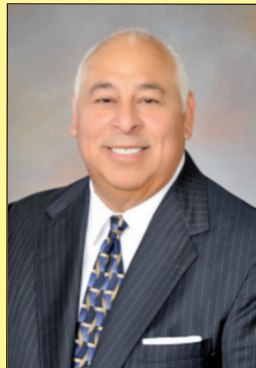
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Times **Feature**

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## Report: 2021's Happiest Cities in America listed

With March 20 being International Day of Happiness and the average American's stress level rising significantly for the first time since 2007 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2021's *Happiest Cities in America*.



In order to determine where people in America are most content with their lives, WalletHub compared more than 180 of the largest U.S. cities across 31 key indicators of happiness. The data set ranges from depression rate to income-growth rate to average leisure time spent per day.

### Happiness in San Jose (1=Happiest, 91=Avg.):

- 18th – Depression Rate
- 23rd – Adequate-Sleep Rate
- 13th – Suicide Rate
- 31st – Sports-Participation Rate
- 50th – Unemployment Rate
- 5th – Separation & Divorce Rate
- 65th – Hours Worked per Week
- 7th – Income Growth Rate

For the full report listing all states, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/happiest-places-to-live/32619>

### Top 9 Happiest Cities in the U.S.

Overall Rank	City	Total Score	Emotional & Physical Well-Being	Income & Employment	Community & Environment
1	Fremont, CA	73.66	1	46	5
2	Bismarck, ND	71.59	5	5	23
3	Fargo, ND	70.94	9	3	17
4	Madison, WI	70.14	13	6	14
5	San Jose, CA	69.47	2	21	75
6	South Burlington, VT	68.73	8	11	61
7	Lincoln, NE	68.35	14	10	20
8	Columbia, MD	67.73	4	95	102
9	Cedar Rapids, IA	67.64	11	74	19

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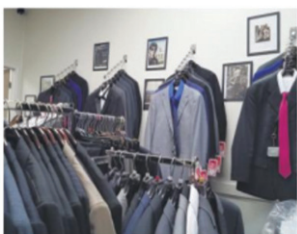
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A Shangri-la In the heart of Willow Glen is the perfect tonic for today's hectic lifestyle. This luxury residence is remarkable in design and exceedingly functional, situated in the back of the cul-de-sac thus, maximizing the privacy of this entertainer's dream home. Natural light fills the 3,936 square feet of living space and showcases an astounding level of quality and design offering 5 bedrooms and 3.5 baths plus an office, on 10,790 square feet of impeccably maintained grounds.

From the grand formal foyer that greets you upon arrival, to the backyard resort-like oasis, this one-of-a-kind home has it all and is a short walk to the Avenue with dining, entertainment, and a variety of private shops.

**Offered at \$2,950,000**



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