County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing working to tackle homelessness SEE PAGE 4



Road woes San Jose's maintenance backlog growing despite major efforts SEE PAGE 8 *The Thunder Shots* promote importance of soccer, community, and a healthy lifestyle **SEE PAGE 16** 



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# APRIL 16 – APRIL 29, 2021 = VOL. 34, NO. 8 ADDIALO ADD



## Gifts for Teens already gearing up for December holiday celebrations

By Cheryl Markman Gifts for Teens s always, and maybe even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic, low-income teens do and will need some holiday cheer. Through your gen-

erosity, Gifts for Teens will again be able to provide holiday gifts for the neediest



local teenagers, the homeless and kids in foster-care group homes. Duffel bags for the boys and sturdy totes for the girls are filled to the brim with popular items, both practical and fun. Each bag and tote includes warm clothes, personal care items, school supplies, \$25 store gift cards, jewelry and cosmetics for the girls, games and sturdy Bombas socks for the boys, plus many more fun and useful gifts. Be assured that the teens really appreciate these festive holiday gifts, often the only ones they receive.

Cash donations received now allow us to take advantage of the many spring sales promotions. Please contact Jan Giroux, jgiroux603@aol.com, to help.

# New organization showcases young voices post-pandemic

Startup 'futureofus' founded by two Leland students now international By William Bellou

Publisher

ounders and presidents Riya Shukla and Hrishi Koushik, students at Leland High School, are on a daunting journey in the creation of "futureofus," an upstart organization that showcases the voices of the younger generation and explores the future of our world post-pandemic.

The startup is showing great success. Just after only its first year of service, "futureofus" is now an international movement with more than 250 contributors.

With article writers located everywhere from Costa Rica to Poland, and England to India, this ever-growing organization is taking youth empowerment to the next level.

Student-run organization

While completely student-run, "futureofus" has article writers, poets, media and marketing teams, graphic designers, website creators and more. Not to mention their recently launched podcast available on all streaming platforms, "our future, our time" currently has upwards of a thousand listeners.

The "futureofus" podcast goes into great depth as hosts Riya Shukla and Hrishi Koushik engage warm conversations with change-makers around the world in their departments to break down and understand the future from the perspective of influential types. Their guests range from Master Chef Champion Beni Cwiakala, to

Times staff report

rink Monday through Friday has a

The Aloha Roller Rink vaccina-

tion site, a partnership between

Santa Clara County and Stanford

Health Care, has a secret "No Show"

secret.

policy.

COVID-19 vaccination site

that opened at the Eastridge

Shopping Center in a roller



Founders and presidents **Riya Shukla** and **Hrishi Koushik**, students at Leland High School, began a daunting journey in the creation of "futureofus," an upstart organization that showcases the voices of the younger generation and explores the future of our world post-pandemic.

author of "Mom's Don't Have Time to: A Quarantine Anthology," Zibby Owens and young creators like Natalie Shell.

Director of Events at "futureofus" Daria Wilk shares that "Being a young person with innovative ideas today is hard. As a 21-year-old activist, I found myself multiple times in a room with a group of middle-aged men who assumed that my youth meant I didn't have a voice. Convinced that their life experience gave them all the answers, I was often ignored. The frustration I felt in those meetings is the frustration I share with many young people in the United *See FUTUREOFUS, page 20* 

# Possible walk up for Covid-19 vaccine without appointment

*The secret 'No-Show'* ments change with the vaccine supply the center receives over time and the demand each day

and the demand each day, the secret "No Show" opportunity is available on weekdays with no

guarantee about a half hour before closing. **How it works** 

The vaccination site closes at 6 p.m., so often there can be some "No-Shows" who do not arrive at their appointment day or time. This means that one might be able to ask at 5:30 p.m. at the front entrance, if it's possible to receive a "No Show" vaccine. **Vaccines in use** 

The Aloha roller rink site at Eastridge Shopping Center receives vaccines sent to them and the shipments can vary depending on current supplies from the man-

ufacturers. The site currently injects Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson. State officials issued a report on April 13 encouraging sites to temporarily stop using the

Johnson and Johnson vaccine (federal sites) and are urging states to do so as well while they examine the safety issues. Vaccination requirements

What are the requirements needed for vaccination at Stanford Health Care?

Their website states they can vaccinate people who live or work in Santa Clara County AND are:

- Health care workers
- Age 50 or older

• Age 18-64 with a severe health condition.

• Working or residing in highrisk group settings

• Experiencing homelessness and may move to group settings at short notice

- Emergency services workers
- Food or agriculture workers
- Education or childcare workers See VACCINE, page 20

 ux603@aol.com, to help.
 Although availability of appoint one might be able to ask at 5:30
 ine the safety issues.
 See VACCINE, pag

 SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER
 See VACCINE, pag



### 1838 Redwood Creek \$1,999,000 | 5 Bed | 4 Bath | 2484 Sq Ft

Brookside Estates Community of Almaden Valley nestled between the Santa Teresa foothills and Santa Cruz Mountains. Stunning twolevel home features high ceilings, open floor plan, dual zone central air conditioning, dual pane windows, 2-car attached garage, TurboCord EV Charger, plus more. Peaceful, friendly neighborhood directly across from Guadalupe Creek.



### 6008 Majorca Court \$1,599,000 | 4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1958 Sq Ft

Almaden Valley home with views of the hills. This home has beautiful Brazilian cherry wood flooring, granite slab kitchen counters, maple cabinetry, stainless appliances and large windows providing lots of natural light. Backyard has a concrete patio with a pergola and builtin bench seating at one end. There is a storage shed and fruit trees consisting of pomegranate, tangerine and more.



### 1126 Zinfandel Way \$1,699,000 | 4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 2290 Sg Ft

Almaden Valley home, open floor plan, light and bright. 2 master suites, 1 on main level. Kitchen has granite slab counters, hardwood cabinetry, a walk-in pantry with shelves, a stainless sink plus a window with views of the backyard and the hills. 2 central air conditioning units, 2 furnaces, plantation shutters, newer roof and gutters, sprinkler system front and back, plus much more.



### 5641 Bergamo Court \$1,650,000 | 4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2362 Sq Ft

This desirable home is located in the Vineland area of the Almaden Winery neighborhood. The home boasts a renovated kitchen with new granite slab counters, new oven, new microwave and new 4-burner gas cook top. New luxury vinyl tile floors extend through much of the living area. Backyard has a new paver patio with a bordering plant for low maintenance and new fencing. No HOA.



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 12 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2020 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.

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

Therese Swan 408.656.8240 tswan@tswan.com AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com DRE 01355719







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6582 Crystal Springs Sold over list with multiple offers 4/3 / 2328 SF / 13,055 SQFT lot List price: \$2,325,000





793 Coffeewood Court Sold over list with multiple offers 3/2 / 1,780 SF / 8,180 Sq Ft lot List price: \$1,450,000



Sold over list with multiple offers List price: \$1,485,000



Sold over list with multiple offers 4/3 / 2614 SF / 9,230 Sq Ft lot List price: \$1,843,000

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**Copperwood Townhomes 1128 Hearth Court** Updated end unit: 3/2 | 1,354 SF



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# Valley Currents

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

# Working together to tackle homelessness

By Lorraine Gabbert Senior Staff Writer espite efforts by Santa Clara County and the City of San Jose to battle homelessness, systemic obstacles such as income inequality and the lack of affordable housing continue to exacerbate the crisis.

Kathryn Kaminski, deputy director of the County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing, said for every household housed over the last five years, two or three more became homeless for the first time.

"Since 2000 we've seen the wealth gap grow," Kaminski said. "At the same time, we have a severe shortage of affordable and available rental homes. If we aren't able to prevent more people from becoming homeless, we aren't going to be able to get ahead of the problem."

For every 100 extremely low-

income houses, only 34 units are available and affordable, she said. And some people are spending 60-90% of their income on rent.

Reducing and preventing homelessness was the focus of an Almaden Valley Community Asso-

"We have a severe shortage of affordable and available rental homes. If we aren't able to prevent more people from becoming homeless, we aren't going to be able to get ahead of the problem."

-Kathryn Kaminski, deputy director, County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing ciation meeting on March 8. Both Kaminski and Kelly Hemphill, a homelessness response manager for the City of San Jose housing department, addressed this issue.

Kaminski said from 2015-2019, 8884 households representing 14,132 people were housed and through the All the Way Home campaign for veterans, 1,672 veterans obtained housing.

The county worked to double the number of supportive housing units, temporary housing and emergency shelter capacity. In addition, about 96% of people in permanent supportive housing remained stably housed for at least 12 months.

Also, on the positive side, the county launched a new preventive system serving about 1,000 households annually. Funding from the 2016 Measure A Affordable Housing Bond enabled \$950 million for the development of affordable housing for extremely low income



**Kathryn Kaminski**, deputy director of the County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing.

families. And another \$100M was raised through private contributions to support the implementation of a community plan.

Kaminski said the development of affordable housing is critical. Through the Affordable Housing bond, she said the county has committed \$533M to 34 housing development ts which include 2,969 new apartments across seven cities.

"Yet despite all of that progress, we saw the homelessness crisis continue to grow," Kaminski said. "In 2019, we counted more than *See HOMELESSNESS, page 18*  Almaden **Times** 

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#### Times Community News

# Matt Mahan informs residents at Chat with Matt

ouncilmember Matt Mahan is determined to be transparent, accessible and accountable.

Representing these principles, twice a month he informs the community on local issues through his Chat with Matt Zoom meetings. Homeless encampments, street racing and utility costs were main focuses of his April 8 update. As part of his regular spotlight on a local business, he featured Hub's Coffee.

#### **Homeless encampments**

During COVID, Mahan said the management of encampments has been much less hands on. He said he had some concerns about abatement, which is when the city tries to move and clean up an encampment.

"It's a very temporary fix, shuffling people from neighborhood to neighborhood," Mahan said.

As the city council's annual priority setting session, Mahan put forward a proposal for managing encampments with setbacks from schools and creeks, increasing sanitation and hygiene services and outreach.

Mahan's proposal was voted by councilmembers as the number one new priority in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, which starts in July. Staff was also instructed to study a pilot for setbacks around schools.

"I'm pushing very hard, and some of my colleagues agree, to get more resources...for providing basic services for people living on our streets today," Mahan said. "We need to build more housing. We need more treatment options. In the meantime, we need to better manage the problems we see on our streets every day."

Resident Steve Brock mentioned his concern with a large homeless encampment on the shoulder of Highway 85 near Almaden Expressway.

"This is such a hard problem," Mahan said. "Even during COVID, the city has been doing abatement of specific encampments...when there's a clear public health, public safety risk. I think if people are right next to a freeway and distracting drivers...there may be rationale for the city to ask and even require that encampment to move."

Mahan said he will direct city staff to investigate this. He said staff is discussing consolidating encampments with services to improve living conditions, but it is a "tough conversation" at City Hall.

"It's controversial, it's complicated and there isn't agreement among council, or staff," Mahan said. "Legally sanctioning an encampment is tricky. Ultimately, we're going to need to narrow the places where encampments can exist. We're going to need to increase the service levels to increase the impact on the broader community and improve conditions for the people living in encampments. This whole idea of shuffling people back and forth is a waste."

The city is spending \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year just to move the homeless from one spot to another, Mahan said.

"We have to be smarter how we're



Councilmember **Matt Mahan** holds Chat with Matt Zoom meetings twice a month to keep residents informed. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.* 

approaching this," Mahan said. Street racing and sideshows

Mahan acknowledged street racing is an ongoing local problem and citizen concern. He said the city council recently took action, directing the city attorney to investigate creating a promotor ordinance, which would hold online promoters of street racing legally accountable. Other considerations include increasing policing and utilizing automatic license plate readers as well as building infrastructure to deter racing.

Mahan said San Jose is a hot spot, with people coming from Los Angeles and San Diego to participate in street racing. He said more officers are needed to respond when it happens.

"We can now impound a vehicle that participated in a street race for 30 days," Mahan said. "That's a real deterrent. We have to get tough on enforcing," Mahan said.

### PG&E and San Jose Clean Energy

The city has opted for an energy program combining PG&E and San Jose Clean Energy. Charges will be increasing. San Jose residents have been automatically placed in San Jose Clean Energy's middle tier, the GreenSource plan, with mid-level costs and up to 55% renewable energy content. However, residents may opt out of San Jose Clean Energy entirely or pay less for the Green-Source service plan, which uses 36% renewable energy, or pay more for the TotalGreen plan, which uses 100% renewable energy.

Costs for the least expensive GreenValue plan will increase 12 cents a month. The costs for the mid-level GreenSource service will increase about \$4 a month, as will the TotalGreen service option.

San Jose Water Company

During a city council hearing on San Jose Water Company's proposed 9% rate increase, Mahan said he requested more expenditure transparency and information on how it will protect residents struggling to pay its bills. Mahan said he also asked the public advocate to slowly increase rates over time.

### Working Groups

Community driven working groups brings together concerned community members to tackle local issues. City staff are assigned to each group of five or more members to help with networking, promoting and writing *See CHAT, page 19* 



ALMADEN TIMES APRIL 16 – APRIL 29, 2021 PAGE 5

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### Times Community News

## Homeless encampments a common concern for District 10 residents

### **By Matt Mahan**

Special to the Times ur team is diving deeper into the issue of homeless encampments, which continues to be a common topic in the conversations my staff and I have been having with residents.

This week, we returned to the encampment at Monterey Rd. and Branham Ln. in the Deer Run neighborhood to meet with the BeautifySJ team as they completed their weekly trash removal. We also happened to run into an outreach team from HomeFirst, a local nonprofit that provides shelter and services to unhoused residents, and had an opportunity to speak with one encampment resident.

Most of our conversations centered on barriers to placing unhoused residents in shelter, even when it is available.

According to City staff, approximately 85% of our available shelter beds are used on any given night. Why not 100%? There are many reasons people might refuse a shelter bed in our current shelter system, including a lack of storage for personal belongings, no pet policies, uncertainty about how long they can stay, and lack of privacy and personal

staff how addiction and mental illness also contribute to service resistance. However, years' worth of high-quality research tells us that safe and stable shelter is a prerequisite for successfully treating behavioral disorders. Therefore, we need to get unhoused residents into shelter that works for them (i.e., safe, stable, sufficiently flexible) to have any chance at helping them overcome the other challenges in their lives, which may range from addiction and depression to

Our team has scheduled follow up con-

the many barriers to placing people in shelter and to find ways of reducing those barriers so that more of our unhoused residents can take advantage of existing shelter options

> solving homelessness will require our entire region to build significantly more housing and invest more resources into inand out-patient mental health and addiction treatment programs (and mandate their use, when necessary). Over 80% of our unhoused residents last lived at a residential address in our county; they may face myriad personal challenges that contributed to or have been exacerbated by homelessness, but their housing status is largely a function of housing availability and cost.

That said, we also know that it will take years and billions of additional, currently-unidentified dollars to provide housing and services at the scale required (there are over 10,000 homeless individuals in our county and permanent supportive housing currently costs about \$700,000 per unit to build, not to mention the cost of ongoing services for those who need them). Even the 15% of shelter beds that are available on any given night are a mere fraction of the need (i.e., a couple of hundred beds vs. the roughly 10,000 housing placements we would need to end street homelessness).

In the meantime, we can't wait to address the immense human suffering that exists on our streets and the broader impact of unmanaged encampments on our community. Our team is also working to identify opportunities to better manage encampments, help more people transition out of our streets and creeks faster and more cost-effectively, and keep our entire community safe.

Speaking of which, last week City Council See MAHAN, next page

**District 10** Report <u>Ma</u>tt Mahan

District 10

safety. We also heard from front-line outreach

unemployment and low income.

versations with City staff to better understand



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Matt Mahan's team happened to run into an outreach team from HomeFirst, a local nonprofit that provides shelter and services to unhoused residents, and had an opportunity to speak with one encampment resident.



when they are available. As I think most of us understand, truly

## **REAL ESTATE** Who's exempt from parcel taxes?

**By Johnny Khamis** Special to the Times

If you're a homeowner, you probably just sent in the second installment of property taxes on your home.

This assessment continues to grow longer, costlier, and more confusing every year. This year my assessment has 18 taxes that are NOT the actual property tax. Many of the taxes include vague names like "CO Retirement Levy", "Comm College Bonds", and "SCVWD Safe, Clean Water." These parcel taxes for schools, coun-



ty retirement bonds, housing, and hospital bonds get tacked on to our assessment after voters approve them.

Here are just a few of the tax measures in Santa Clara County from last November's election that now exist on your tax assessment: Measure R (Cambrian School District), Proposition RR (Caltrain Rail Service Tax), Measure L (Campbell Union High School District Parcel Tax), Measure P (Evergreen Elementary School District Bond), Measure K (Franklin-McKinley School District Parcel Tax), Measure A (Los Gatos Create Finance Commission Initiative), and Measure J (San Jose-Evergreen Community College District Bond).

Adding to the confusion, many of these taxes are not calculated for us anymore. This leaves the taxpayer to try to figure out the amount they need to pay for each of these subcategories of taxes. These complex new taxes – coupled with consistent new legislation – make it difficult for homeowners and housing providers to manage their property without professional assistance. This again creates another expense as a barrier to homeownership and exacerbates the Bay Area's wealth gap.



Encampment abatements simply shift people from neighborhood to neighborhood without offering a real solution.

## Mahan

Continued from previous page

voted to proceed with a pilot program of the encampment setback ordinance I put forward during our Priority Setting process in March. To start, this program will focus on creating a setback or buffer around schools, which has taken on new urgency as many of our local schools are resuming in-person instruction. Just this week, City staff began clearing the area immediately around Gunderson High School, which has been a major concern for families in the neighborhood. We expect staff to return to Council with a fuller proposal for setbacks in the coming months.

Of course, encampment abatements simply shift people from neighborhood to neighborhood without offering a real solution. The other half of my "setbacks and services" proposal will be taken up by Council through the budget process next month. I and others, including the Mayor, are pushing to dedicate more resources to routine trash removal and hygienic services for encampments, which should be a winwin for our entire community.

Thanks to everyone who has reached out with questions, concerns, and feedback related to homelessness and other pressing issues. Keep it coming; we appreciate hearing from you and will continue working hard to represent you at City Hall.

Editor's note: To contact District 10 Councilmember Matt Mahan, email: matt. mahasanjoseca.gov or call the District 10 office at: 408-535-4910. Rising taxes are a big factor in making the cost of living higher in the Bay Area. California has one of the highest income, gasoline, and sales tax rates in the United States. What most people don't know is that property taxes raise the cost and difficulty of homeownership, which makes it harder to qualify for home loans. To qualify for a loan, most lenders require buyers to have a salary that is three times the monthly mortgage, tax, insurance payment, and sometimes HOA fees. Rising property taxes are also forcing businesses to raise prices on their products and housing providers to raise rents to cover the rise in their costs.

Times Community News

Many people do not know that they may be exempt from some

of these burdens. Some of these bonds (parcel taxes) exempt Seniors because they recognize that Seniors live on a limited income. These bonds also pass easier because seniors will not oppose them at the ballot box if they are exempt from paying them.

Unfortunately, the process to find and apply for these exemptions is often difficult and confusing.

Thankfully the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors has created a web page to help our seniors find and apply for these exemptions so they can more easily afford to stay in their homes. Find out if you qualify for these tax exemptions and how to

apply for them by visiting www.sccaor.com/parceltax



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## San Jose's maintenance backlog growing despite major efforts

By Madelyn Reesedents appeased.Article courtesy ofIn 2007, the cit

San José Spotlight

buildings and other capital

improvements, but it's not fast

enough to keep rapidly-rising costs

at bay nor to keep frustrated resi-

an Jose is scrambling to keep

up with a massive backlog of

paving roads, maintaining

In 2007, the city's infrastructure and maintenance backlog stood at about \$900 million. Since then, the backlog has ballooned to \$1.7 billion as of this year, an \$800 million increase in 14 years.

The city's transportation infrastructure, which includes roads, roadway lighting and right-of-way landscaping, has the largest unfunded need in the city, totaling \$845 million in deferred work. While the roadway backlog slightly improved over the last year, the city has only made a small dent — bringing the total down from \$870 million to \$845 million to date.

On top of that, city officials estimated an additional \$92.8 million





While more than 120 miles of San Jose roads have been repaved using Measure T funds as of October, the effort will not likely be completed until 2028. *Photo by Travis Wise.* 

is needed annually to maintain all the city's infrastructure, with \$12 million of that needed for the roadways alone.

Residents are frustrated. James Hamilton, a resident of the Willow Glen neighborhood, said he's watched local roads near his home, including Mackey Avenue and Cross Way, deteriorate after surface-level repairs.

"(The roads) were repaved in 2015 as part of the sewer replacement," Hamilton said. "They didn't address the problems of the roadbed itself and the new surface is already failing in many places."

According to the city's website, Hamilton's problem streets won't be addressed through at least 2023. City officials expect it will take until 2028 for all of the city's repaying projects to be completed.

San Jose Councilmember Matt Mahan said the top complaints he fielded from residents on the campaign trail last year dealt with public safety and homelessness, followed by the condition of local

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"I think people want to take pride in the community in which they live, and the physical environment is a big part of it," Mahan said. "There's the aesthetic piece, as well as the efficiency and usability of infrastructure."

Mahan was a co-chair of the Measure T bond campaign, a disaster-preparedness bond that raises more than \$650 million for fixing roads, fire stations, improving flood prevention and building out communication infrastructure, among other projects.

More than \$300 million in Measure T funds will be dedicated to road repair alone. Bridge and road repairs funded by Measure T also draw from the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's 2016 Measure B, a half-cent countywide sales tax.

The next three years might be the turning point for San Jose, presenting an opportunity to get a jump on paving. The city began a threeyear maintenance program this winter, which aims to repave 686 miles of city streets. In 2021 alone, the plan covers 216 miles, according to the city, with major streets making up 80 miles of that total, and local, neighborhood streets accounting for the rest.

"The best thing our Department of Transportation has done is create the three-year paving plan and the GIS (geographic information system) map," Mahan said. However, he admitted, it's frustrating thinking about how far behind the city still is.

San Jose resident Christi Kennedy has watched in envy as roads in Willow Glen were updated this past year, but not on her side of the freeway.

"Pretty much the whole area between Highway 87, Alma, Willow and Almaden have horrible streets," said Kennedy, who lives east of Highway 87 across from Willow Glen. "I drive through this neighborhood on a daily basis. I have only lived here for five years, but have never seen these streets updated."

Meanwhile, Mahan worries about maintenance costs for the city that are even further down the line. See STREETS, page 10

# My first 100th days of service to District 3 and Santa Clara County

**By Otto Lee** Special to the Times

Special to the Times ince 1933 and FDR's "New Deal," the first one hundred days has become a measure for new leadership. As Santa Clara County continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and address the housing crisis, we are working towards a brighter future.

We have a lot of work to do over these next 3.5 years, but it's important to take a moment and look back at the success of our first 100 days. We sit at the intersection of possibility, and I'm ready to take on future challenges.

Your D3 Team is committed to the work. We are humbled and honored to serve our community. Here's a brieflook back on our first 100 Days, our reflection of where we are today and a roadmap of possibilities.

My colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and I are working together to make real, positive changes and support to the community. Here are some of the biggest highlights from our meetings in the first 100 days of my term:

### **COVID-19 Relief Efforts**

Dec. 15: Temporary cap on commissions and fees charged by third-party food delivery services to local restaurants and/or their customers Jan. 26: Hazard Pay in Santa Clara County for

Jan. 26: Hazard Pay in Santa Clara County for Grocery Workers

Jan. 26: Urgency ordinance temporarily banning evictions

Feb. 9: Prioritize extremely low-income households for federal emergency rental assistance

Feb. 9: Reducing or waiving fees charged to small business establishments for the calendar year 2021 due to COVID-19

**County Services, Reforms & Policies** 

Jan. 12: Review County (Environmental) Sustainability Master Plan

Feb. 9: Development moratorium in unincorporated Coyote Valley and Climate Change Overlay Zone reviews

Feb. 23: Consider recommendations relating to a Santa Clara County Correctional System Master Plan and commissioning a Department of Corrections Needs Assessment Study

Feb. 23: Allocation of \$100 million Measure A Funds for five new affordable housing projects in San José

### **Equity and Inclusion**

Dec. 15: Resolution establishing a hate crimes task force

Mar. 9: Resolution denouncing ongoing anti-Asian sentiment and violence against Asian American community members

#### 100 Days - Helping The Unhoused

One of the biggest issues we have worked on so far, but has not directly been a Board vote, is addressing homelessness and supporting our unhoused neighbors.We shared a D3 Focus On newsletter with you about all of our efforts (https://bit.ly/3tfpdsQ) but we would like to share an incredibly uplifting story. Thanks to a coalition of partners working together, our neighbors at Fair Oaks Parks were secured temporary housing, and are working on the next step in their transition to stable housing. Here is the link for the video about Fair Oaks Park: https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcWejN4BtgQ

#### 100 Days - Partners In Service Deliver PPE Donations and More

We hit the ground running on day one and kept moving forward. One initiative that we are looking forward to is our Partners In Service Program. A value deeply instilled within me is my duty to serve my community. Silicon Valley is full of the energy, interest and availability necessary focus to tackle our challenges. This program enables us to help guide partners to the needs within our community and how they can best help give back. This is for the community, by the community. We will be focusing on three main fields - public health, education, and homelessness. We will be rolling out more information this spring, and we are excited by the work we have already achieved with



Times Feature

Report By Otto Lee pervisor District 3 our current partners in service, such as Broadcom, Bridge Foundation, Nanjing Chamber of Commerce and Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of SF Bay Area.

### 100 Days - Staying Connected

Of course, our success is only possible with you. Please follow us on social media Twitter @SupOttLee or Facebook.com/SupervisorOttoLee, or visit us online at SupervisorLee.org. So far, we have attended more than 20 neighborhood association meetings and hosted more than 150 online meetings with community leaders, organizations and residents. Our community network is growing and if we can connect and share with one another, we'll do great things together.

Thank you. Gracias. Cảm ơn bạn. 謝謝你. Salamat. Getting to be your Supervisor means a lot to me, and I am honored to serve you and our community. We are working to embrace a future of inclusion and diversity, where our neighbors are thriving--not merely surviving. We are caring for our planet and for each other, and doing so safely. We'll do it together. Thank you for giving me these past 100 days to serve you, I look forward to the hundreds more ahead.



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COMPASS

PAGE 10 ALMADEN TIMES APRIL 16 – APRIL 29, 2021

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City of San Jose map showing planned, in-progress, and completed roadway paving projects for 2021. *City of San Jose.* 

## **Streets**

Continued from page 8

"I think we have historically underestimated the true cost of maintaining infrastructure," Mahan said. "I think this is a national issue... Historically, Americans have been excited about building brand new, shiny infrastructure and have not planned ahead for ongoing maintenance, which is actually quite expensive."

Contact Madelyn Reese at reese.madelyn@gmail.com or follow @MadelynGReese on Twitter.

### **KUDOS** YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley honors women leaders at 37th Annual Tribute to Women Awards

WCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley is proud to announce the outstanding women leaders who will be honored at the 37th Annual Tribute to Women Awards, presented by Cisco.

More than 40 executive and emerging leaders will be recognized during a virtual event Thursday, May 13, 2021, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. (PST). Registration to the event is free at bit.ly/Tribute2021 and viewers can join from anywhere.

The Awards recognize the achievements of women who have excelled in their fields and have made significant contributions to the Silicon Valley through their dedication and leadership. "We're so excited to recognize the 43 Honorees who have been selected to receive the Tribute to Women Award this year," said Adriana Caldera Boroffice, Interim CEO, YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley. "Celebrating these women is going to be such a special moment following the challenges we've all SEE AWARDS, page 12

Times Feature



The Thunder Shots organization promotes importance of soccer, community bonding, and leading a healthy lifestyle under the leadership of its founders (left to right) Yoshi Wang, Nori Wang, Matthew Li, and Arnay Jain.

## *Thunder Shots* organization promotes importance of soccer, community bonding, and leading a healthy lifestyle

By Trevor Knotts Special to the Times s the world's largest and most influential sport, soccer, has played a significant role in the past century in bringing peoples from all nations and backgrounds together.

In 2018, over 3.5 billion viewers worldwide tuned into TV coverage to watch the World Cup be played in Russia, raking in an astounding \$6 billion of generated revenue. That's more than over 38 times the number of viewers that watched the Superbowl in 2020, and 12 times the gross income.

The level of outreach and popularity that soccer has become is vital in forming lasting bonds at the community level, as well as creating international connections between fans and players. Despite this, soccer ranks an underwhelming 5th in terms of overall popularity in the United States compared to other sports, in stark disparity with the global community.

That's where *The Thunder Shots* organization steps in. Founded in 2020 by Arnav Jain, Matthew Li, and brothers Yoshi and Nori Wang in San Jose, California, *The Thunder Shots* was established as a joint mission endeavor to promote the importance of soccer, community bonding, and leading a healthy lifestyle.

"Soccer is my passion and I have been playing this sport ever since I was 6. I started *The Thunder Shots* with my friends to help athletes discover their passion and reach their highest potential while teaching them leadership skills and giving them a good experience," commented Arnav Jain.

Since its establishment, *The Thunder Shots* has set up its mission in Cupertino, California, and offers free twice-a-week soccer practices to kids of all experience and ages as a certified non-profit organization.

"We noticed a lack of low-cost sports and community bonding programs in our area and thought the best way to remedy the situation would be to set up our own," explained Andrew Qin, a director and senior member of the program. "We hope our program serves as an accessible option for kids to exercise, have fun, and form connections with others."

Due to COVID-19, practices have been taking place with all necessary precautions including mask-wearing, temperature checks, sanitization, and social distancing when possible.

"What we usually do is after starting off with

a short warm-up, we go straight into several drills including dribbling and passing patterns. We make sure each player gets the technique and drill down before moving onto the next exercise," said Matthew Li, a Co-Founder of the organization. "We then conclude our practices with a small scrimmage or possession drill."

Although recently established, *The Thunder Shots* organization has set its aims high and has already achieved a global impact.

"In an effort to spread the mission of *The Thunder Shots*, we partnered with two organizations called LACES (who support people across the globe through sports) and Paper Bridges (who help orphanages around the world) to work on an educational virtual soccer webinar for more than 70 orphans in Peru," said Arnav. "We conducted many soccer drills for the kids and it was so satisfying to see how delighted they were. Then, we had a professional speaker who came and discussed the global impact of soccer while also teaching the players leadership and how they could create impact in their communities."

In addition to their global impact, *The Thunder Shots* have made a substantial effort to improve situations in their own local community.

"We were recently able to partner with the Special Olympics foundation to host virtual fitness practices for over 200 kids with disabilities," Andrew said. "This is all part of our mission to help promote inclusivity as well as the love for sports and exercise wherever we can."

Since its inception, *The Thunder Shots* has hosted a total of more than 50 training sessions and has seen its community grow over time as well as raising more than \$2,000 in donations for other organizations.

"As the only person in the organization not in high school, it's been fantastic to see a group of talented youths come together to accomplish something so big," said Nori Wang, the eldest member of *The Thunder Shots* team. "I'm going to stick around to see what amazing projects we'll work on in the future and to keep being a part of the effort to support communities globally. Our next step is to strengthen existing ties to communities and build new ones."

To learn more about *The Thunder Shots* organization and support their mission, visit them online at www.thethundershots.org or on Instagram @thethundershots.



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## **Awards**

Continued from page 10

experienced in 2020. We know that between work and home life, women—especially mothers, senior-level and BIPOC women have been experiencing distinct challenges due to COVID-19, so we're looking forward to honoring their fortitude and resilience."

Although workplaces have been making progress in women's leadership, American women still lag substantially behind men in terms of their representation in leadership positions. Tribute to Women salutes corporations whose policies and practices encourage women's leadership and promote equal advancement opportunities for women of diverse backgrounds. "Cisco is delighted to sponsor the 37th Annual Tribute to Women Awards" said Shari Slate, Chief Inclusion and Collaboration Officer. "In a year of global crises, these extraordinary women have answered a higher call of transformational leadership. They are not only creating positive impact in the Silicon Valley – they are creating a new future for diverse talent – now and for generations to come."

"In a year of global crises, these extraordinary women have answered a higher call of transformational leadership." -Shari Slate, Chief Inclusion and Collaboration Officer

YWCA's goal is to promote gender equality for women and girls in the workplace, community, and and ensure diverse representation at all levels, including the highest ranking leadership positions. YWCA programs provide pathways to well-paying, growth careers through youth engagement in STEM and removing barriers for families in accessing quality early learning and school age opportunities.

The Tribute to Women Awards has been shining a powerful light on women leaders and the companies that employ them, to date over 1,400 women have been recognized for their outstanding achievements in the workplace and beyond.



Times Photo Op



## Mayor Sam Liccardo presents high school diploma to 90-year-old Korean War Veteran

San José Mayor Sam Liccardo presented 90-year-old Korean War veteran Dan Fish his high school diploma on Saturday, April 10.

Fish was born and raised in New Bedford, MA, but moved to San José in 1956. He was initially set to graduate in 1950 before joining the Navy to defend his country during the Korean War. Due to this service, Fish never received his diploma.

Fish went to New Bedford High in Massachusetts. While Governor of MA, Mitt Romney signed a provision allowing war veterans to receive high school diplomas if they permanently withdrew from high school to serve as members of the armed forces in World War II, the Korean Conflict, or Vietnam, and did not receive their original diplomas.

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### ALMADEN TIMES APRIL 16 – APRIL 29, 2021 PAGE 13



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Times Feature

# Local artists liven local businesses struggling amid COVID-19

By Lorraine Gabbert Article courtesy of San José Spotlight s San Jose businesses struggle during the coronavirus pandemic, artists are finding new ways to help them survive.

Safely Social San Jose, a grassroots campaign to empower businesses, is partnering with the School of Visual Philosophy on the Alameda, San Jose Jazz in the SoFA District and San Jose Taiko in Japantown to create economic recovery and development in their districts.

The idea is to use visual art like murals and window displays to stimulate foot traffic into local businesses. So far, it's been launched on the Alameda with floral tapestries adorning the windows of Crema Coffee, a mural of a paper airplanes set in flight at Cafe Rosalina and a charming woodland scene in the window of Recycle Books.



School of Visual Philosophy co-owner **Dana Harris Seeger** hopes the arts can revitalize businesses along the Alameda. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.* 

Dana Harris Seeger and Yori Seeger, co-owners of the School of Visual Philosophy, came up with the idea after participating in Councilmember Raul Peralez's downtown recovery task force. Now, they're piloting the initiative with businesses on the Alameda and about \$10,000 in funding from the Knight Foundation for materials,

staff and marketing.

"A year ago, during a time when there was so much divisiveness...my office was eager to bring people together through the task

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force to explore ways to support our businesses," Peralez told San José Spotlight. "To hear that this has now evolved in an organic way for the community to come together and continually support one another reaffirms the importance of why I had started the task force in the first place."

Wanting to draw customers but not crowds, the group decided to hold window design competitions and an interactive scavenger hunt. Working in partnership with the Alameda Business Association and the Shasta/Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association, 10 businesses were paired with 10 artists to create storefront window displays to attract visitors and showcase local talent.

The window displays will be up through April 16.

The winner of the competition will receive a solo show at the School of Visual Philosophy. The scavenger hunt was designed to get people out, spending money and getting to know the Alameda as a neighborhood, Harris Seeger said.

Although the events are lighthearted, their purpose is to bring people back safely to patronize local businesses. "During this time ... we as business owners are faced with the challenge of offering a safe environment for our customers and employees, while still trying to stay afloat," Harris Seeger said.

*Safely Social* San Jose leverages artists' and arts organizations' relationships with their communities to help their respective neighborhoods think collectively, make socially responsible choices and feel safe in shared space, said Wisa Uemura, executive director of San Jose Taiko.

Harris Seeger said she hopes the campaign will be a confidence booster for customers and businesses alike in understanding how businesses can safely reopen.

Cindy Ahola, co-founder of Community Cycles of California, a bike shop on the Alameda which provides vocational training to people facing barriers to employment, said involving the arts, with everything from music to visual arts, creates a fun environment that motivates people to come back again.

Residents can access GPS coordinates and business-related clues for the scavenger hunt through the Eventzee App, joining with code: SSSJ. Points are earned by taking selfies and artistic photos inside the businesses. Stickers can be collected at participating stores and prizes include a "Visit the Alameda" T-shirt and gift certificates. Times Community News

# The ups and downs of learning through the use of the internet

The pros and cons of student virtual learning

**By Ananya Patel** Special to the Times

Since March of 2020, students have been plunged into an unknown world of virtual learning, where they have had to navigate new learning methods. This has sparked debate over whether virtual learning is truly beneficial to students with various facets contributing to the understanding of the efficiency of online school. **Pros** 

Virtual learning has gained a significant amount of backlash pertaining to the social detriments while simultaneously attaining praise for making school easier. One of the most prominent arguments for virtual learning is centered around the increased time that students now have. This leisure time is now utilized both during school time and outside of class.

Students often find themselves in a large time crunch when attempting to reach classes scattered throughout campus. Additionally, homework and the standard six and a half hour school day, excluding clubs and outside activities, tend to take up students' free time.

A mother of two states her view, describing how "commute times for activities and school are now diminished, allowing for more free time for children to manage their work."

Another facet to this is the fact that leisure time outside of school has increased as well. Not only are students finding themselves expanding their interests to other activities such as joining more clubs, but they are also finding it easier to manage their workload, as "all of the assignments are visible in one place online," a junior in high school states. With this boost in efficiency and productivity, sleep schedules and time management skills have improved considerably, resulting in profound, positive effects on students' mental health.

Cons

While virtual learning has had various benefits to students, it has also had its fair share of disadvantages, prompting the question of whether it is an adequate method for students' learning. Virtual learning creates isolation and prevents face-to-face interaction, one that many students require for a strong social life. Middle schoolers and elementary schoolers entering new schools have found it extremely difficult not only to make friends but also to develop that necessary teacher-student understanding as well.

A student in sixth grade explained his viewpoint on the issue, claiming that "I think students would find it easier to learn in a classroom setting because everyone can learn alongside one another and work together." Teachers often adapt their method of teaching to the way students receive their information. Whether they are verbal or visual learners affects how well they retain information. Consequently, without a teacher-student understanding, this communication is prevented.

While the social aspects have proven to be obstacles for students, the general consensus has been that virtual learning continues to remain easier. This can be attributed to students now adapting to online school and building comfort with long zoom sessions and formulating new methods to communicate among peers and teachers. Nevertheless, as schooling systems shift, students can be expected to adjust alongside them.



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# San José recyclable trash collection now unlimited

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white bags and set them out next to your recycle bin!

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Extra Recyclables

San José Environmental Services continues to provide essential services to residents including garbage and recycling collection in response to COVID-19. For the safety of drivers picking up your recyclables, please fit all recyclable items, including cardboard, in your recycling cart or save any extra for next week's collection.

In San José, collection of recyclables is unlimited.

• Set out extra recyclables in paper bags or clear plastic bags on the curb near the recycling cart.

• Use bags to secure loose material prone to blowing or scattering such as shredded office paper, packing peanuts, and plastic bags. Tie bags securely and do not overfill paper bags containing extra recyclables. Place all bags on the curb near the carts to prevent accidental spills.

### Extra Cardboard

• Flatten and cut cardboard so it fits loosely inside your cart.

• If you have more cardboard than your cart will hold, flatten and cut it into pieces no larger than 4' by 4' and lean them against the cart.

### Extra Garbage

Place extra garbage in a 32-gallon plastic garbage bag labeled with an extra garbage sticker on the curb near the garbage cart.

During this time, extra garbage stickers may be purchased at Lucky or Safeway only. Libraries and City Hall are closed due to COVID-19 and are unable to sell extra garbage stickers, but should return to selling the stickers in the future.

Extra garbage stickers may be purchased for \$6.25. A portion of the sales from stickers sold at San José libraries (when they start selling them again) supports library programs. Cash, check, and credit card are accepted at all locations (libraries are cash/check only).

If you frequently have extra garbage, you may need to order a larger garbage cart.

Editor's Note: Often the supermarkets do not stock the large-trash can size- white plastic bags but they can be found in hardware stores such as Ace Hardware. Times Feature

## **Report: Best states for working from home**

which are struggling in this pandemic economy.

To identify which states are most conducive to working from home, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 12 key metrics.

The data set ranges from the share of workers working from home before COVID-19 to internet cost and cybersecurity.

In preparing the report, WalletHub also considered factors like how large and how crowded homes are in the state. Together, these metrics show how feasible working from home is in terms of cost, comfort and safety. Below, you can see highlights from the report, along with a WalletHub Q&A.

Working from Home in California (1=Best, 25=Avg.):

• 12th – Share of Population Working from Home (pre-COVID-19)

- 36th Share of Potential Telecommuters
- 12th Households' Internet Access
- 31st Average Home Square Footage
- 51st Cybersecurity
- 47th Average Retail Price of Electricity
- 1st Internet Cost **Q&A with WalletHub**

What do you make of the fact that the majority of people who can work from

majority of people who can work from home would like to do so even after the pandemic ends?

"It makes sense that the majority of people who can work from home would like to

continue doing so after the pandemic for many reasons, such as the fact that it eliminates a daily commute and can offer a quieter workspace," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "But working from home could also create increased job competition. People can be hired by companies across the world, but also have to stand out among a worldwide field of applicants."

#### How should people approach working at home in order to be as productive as possible?

"People who work from home should treat it the same way as they would go to their place of work normally. They should continue to follow their daily work routine, just without the commute," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "It's important for workers to be punctual and minimize the number of distractions around them from things in their house that wouldn't be at work, such as a TV. However, workers could consider getting a little extra sleep or having a better breakfast in the time they normally would have spent commuting."

Should companies continue to allow their employees to work from home even after the pandemic?

"Yes, companies should allow their employees to work from home even after the pandemic, if possible. Having at least some employees work from home creates a more hygienic and less chaotic work environment, and would help minimize the economic damage of future crises like the COVID-19 pandemic," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "Letting employees work from home could lead to a general boost in worker morale, too, considering the majority of people who currently work from home want to continue doing so."

For the full report, visit: www.wallethub. com/edu/best-states-for-working-fromhome/72801



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Among its Housing Program outcomes, the county aims to house 20,000 homeless by 2025.

## Homelessness

*Continued from page 4* 9,700 people experiencing homelessness, both in shelters and unsheltered, living outside in their cars or places not meant for human habitation."

Kaminski said people of color are experiencing homelessness at much higher rates than their white counterparts with Hispanic/Latinx making up 43.7% and Black people making up 16.9% of the homeless population.

The 2020-2025 Santa Clara County Community Plan to End Homelessness aims to house more people than are becoming homeless. In addition to receiving input from the community and those with lived experience, it is focusing on policies and programs that reduce racial inequities. It is also striving to improve the quality of life for unsheltered individuals.

In 2020, 3,209 unhoused people were provided with housing. The county's goal is to house 20,000 people by 2025 and achieve a 30% reduction in the annual number of people becoming homeless.

Plans are underway to expand the Homeless Prevention System and other early interventions. Another goal is to double temporary housing and shelter capacity, Kaminski said, "so more people have a warm safe place to sleep at night."

The Homelessness Prevention System focuses on those at imminent risk of homelessness, providing temporary financial assistance for rent or utilities to low-income families or individuals struggling to maintain their housing.

Through partnering with Destination Home, the county has helped more than 7,399 individuals from 2,437 families who were at imminent risk of homelessness. Of these, 96% of families remained stably housed while receiving services and one year after leaving the program, only 2% of households became homeless.

Overall, Kaminski said the county believes housing comes first before addressing physical and mental health, addiction recovery, employment and more.

"We believe in order to address some of the challenges people are facing and the causes that led them into homelessness in the first place, the answer is to house them first and provide supportive services to maximize their housing stability and prevent their return to homelessness," she said.

Different types of housing and support is provided as needed. Those living with dis-

abilities receive long term subsidies and support services. Youth, victims of domestic violence and veterans are placed in transitional housing for up to two years. Rapid rehousing offers financial assistance and support services for 6-24 months and is intended to help someone become self-sufficient and exit the supportive housing program.

Although some services are offered to those living outdoors, Kaminski said for most individuals experiencing homelessness, meeting those basic needs, housing, safety and food is critical to being able to address some of the other challenges unhoused people are facing.

Together, the county and city worked to help the homeless during the coronavirus pandemic. More than \$31M in financial aid was distributed by 70 agencies to 14,000 families, Hemphill said. The unsheltered at 16 encampments were provided with case management, clinicians, meals, water, clothing, garbage bags, storage, personal protective equipment, tents, tarps, hygiene stations with portable toilets and sinks, mobile laundry and showers and cell phone chargers. Emergency shelters increased their capacity by 800 beds in hotels and the addition of five new temporary housing communities will assist more than 500 households at a time.

Prior to the pandemic, the city created interim shelters, places for people to stabilize while looking for a long-term housing. Two Bridge Housing communities were created, each serving 40 individuals. Best Western's SureStay Hotel located downtown on North First Street was also purchased through Project Homekey to provide temporary housing.

Habitat for Humanity constructed three Emergency Interim housing projects during the coronavirus pandemic. These prefabricated modular units serve individuals, couples and families most vulnerable to COVID-19. A fourth site is planned.

"This has been a very successful concept and we've moved very quickly," Hemphill said, "So, we are definitely investing resources to expand it."

In addition, the county has provided temporary housing at the Civic Center and Casitas de Esperanza supports up to 25 families per night.

Kaminski said the county's Housing First strategy has worked to connect unhoused people with housing, health services and job training.

"The vast majority of people living outside do want help and housing," she said.

## SERVING ALMADEN VALLEY SINCE 1986 ONLINE: ALMADENTIMES.COM

Times Feature



An all-inclusive playground is planned for Almaden Lake Park. Photo courtesy of Matt Mahan.

Almaden Lake Park. The existing budget to

replace and upgrade the existing equipment is \$1.3 million. However, the Playgarden task

force set a goal of \$5 million for expanding

the playground with a hillside slide, musi-

cal elements and a nature play area. Please

The City of San Jose has received a match-

ing grant from Santa Clara County and Mahan

said the city is working to raise additional

funds, including working with Santa Clara

Valley Water District on a water feature or

educational piece on the water cycle. Mahan

said he would also like "the community to

get involved with raising funds." Donations

will be accepted up to Sept. 30, 2021. The

project will start construction in March 2023

During the meeting, residents also

expressed concerns ranging from late night

noise from trains and airplanes to lights

which will emanate from Breeze of Innova-

tion, the proposed San Jose iconic artwork,

The next Chat with Matt is scheduled for

creating a serious safety hazard to birds.

and be completed in the fall of 2023.

**Additional concerns** 

10 a.m. on April 24.

see: www.playgardenalp.org.

## Chat

Continued from page 5

ordinances. The group is responsible for researching and planning. Working groups have already formed around gas-powered leaf blowers, street racing and speeding, water rates, trash, clean creeks, residential zoning and Laura's Law, which allows for court-ordered outpatient treatment for people suffering mental crisis with a history of psychiatric hospitalizations, jailings or violent behavior.

#### **Sycamore Terrace**

Mahan shared a preliminary conceptual design and ideas for enhancing Sycamore Terrace. This ecologically sensitive area, on the corner of Almaden Expressway and Coleman Road, may be used as a mini-percolation pond. Mahan would like to see it include not only a walking trail and benches, but also interpretive signage and native plants, making it an appealing extension of Almaden Lake Park.

#### Almaden Lake Park Playgarden

An all-inclusive playground, usable by people of all ages and abilities, is planned for



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### Times Community News

## CAREER CORNER Spring rebirth brings new job prospects

### **By Angela Copeland** Special to the Times

After months of winter paired up with snow storms, and a long global pandemic, seeing flowers and clear skies brings much hope for the future. It's finally warm enough to spend time outside. With the vaccine rollout, we are beginning to look toward the future. And, the job market seems to agree.

In March, the US unemployment rate dropped to six percent. There were 916,000 new jobs created. This is the fastest we have seen jobs added since last summer. Job growth was across the board, with a larger increase in leisure, hospitality, public and private education, and construction. This is good news.

Many people have been putting all of their energy into holding onto their current jobs through the pandemic. And, it makes sense. It has been hard to know which way things would go or how long it would take to get back to normal life. It has been unclear what work will even look like in the future. Will we continue to be remote? Will we go back to the office full time? Or, will it be some combination of the two?

If you're like many people, you haven't had the energy to job search. Just getting through each day has been a larger task than we'd like to admit. We're worried about an array of new problems. Kids are doing school from home. We're working from home. We're either completely alone or with our entire family. And, medical risks seem to be around every corner – whether from the pandemic to mental health. It takes more effort than usual to keep moving ahead in a positive direction.

But, spring brings a new energy and an opportunity to take a deep breath. Companies are actively seeking out new candidates for interviews (even when they haven't applied to jobs). Companies are adding new jobs and for some jobs, it appears there may be fewer people looking than jobs available. Companies are working around the pandemic, interviewing candidates via Zoom and Skype. They are moving ahead with a look to our more normal future.

What does this all mean for you? If you've been wondering when to look, this may be the time to get started. If you do, you'll increase the chances that you beat other candidates who haven't yet started to think about looking.

Search for the latest job postings. When you apply, there are a few things to keep in mind. First, companies don't require you to meet every criteria in a job description. They're looking for the best candidate, not the perfect candidate. Second, if you have a desk job, consider looking outside your local area. Even if a job isn't listed as remote, the company may be open to remote work.

If you've been waiting for the right time to consider something new, the spring may give you just what you need.

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

## Vaccine

Continued from page 1 (including any staff involved in child and/or student care)

- Public transit, airport, or commercial airline workers
- No cost
- There is no cost to you to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccination is available to individuals regardless of insurance coverage status. You won't pay coinsurance, a deductible, or a copayment.

If you are insured, you are required to provide your insurance information at the time of your appointment. While the vaccination shot that is purchased and distrib-

## 'futureofus'

### Continued from page 1

States and worldwide. The future starts today, and it does not start with men sitting in a board-room; it begins with the next generation."

Students from around the world are joining this lively platform and submitting their articles, poems, and art using their launched website futureofus.info to voice their opinions on everything from the Future of Saving the Sea Turtles, to the Future of Fashion. Participants explore politics, environment & climate change, communication & society, and much more.

Director of Human Resources at "futureo-

copelandcoaching.com. uted by government agencies is free of charge, there is a cost to administer the vaccination. This cost will be billed and paid by

your insurance or government program. Do I need to bring anything to prove I'm eligible for the vaccine?

You do not need to bring documentation from your employer or doctor to receive the vaccine. You will be asked to confirm that you meet the current criteria.

If you have a form of identification, please bring it to your appointment. An ID, however, is not required to get the vaccine.

Editor's Note: To learn more about booking an appointment just web search; COVID-19 VACCINE SITE: ALOHA Roller Rink-Eastridge Mall. Also, perhaps other such sites have "No Show" opportunities if one asks a half hour before closing.

fus," Arnav Vyas says, "When I first heard about 'futureofus,' I was immediately interested. An organization that's getting teenagers across the world involved in our generation's future? No other organization is doing anything like this and reaching the levels of engagement that we're at right now."

One of "futureofus" senior writers Jeremy Elwell tells us, "I think that 'futureofus' is a wonderful outlet in which the voices of the future are able to express their views and opinions, and I could not be more grateful for the platform."

One thing's for sure, with the dedication of students, "futureofus" is not just a website, it's a brand, it's a lifestyle, and it's the future.

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Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com



### Times Community News



### Indoor event venues to reopen for those with proof of negative COVID-19 test or full vaccination

alifornia will allow indoor venues to host events like concerts, theater and conferences beginning in April 15, health officials said.

Many Californians will be able to gather at large indoor events for the first time in more than a year, but in order to attend indoor and outdoor venues, attendees must show proof either of a negative COVID- 19 test or a full vaccination.

"I'm hoping that most people will be honest, because vaccines are freely available," Tomás Aragón, director of the California Department of Public Health. "We anticipate that the majority of people will be able to do this and the barriers will be removed."

The new plan, which starts April 15, follows a similar loosening that kicked in last week, when outdoor sports stadiums, music and art locales and amusement parks got a green light to begin reopening.

Among the many venues in San Jose, Symphony Silicon Valley President Andrew Bales said, "At this stage we believe concertgoers could be returning for our full season beginning this Fall."

Bales emphasized that vaccination rates will determine when and how Syphony Silicon Valley will be able to start its season again. "With the singular exception of Zoom interviews we have not been doing any virtual content during this lock down cycle," Bales said.

# **DENTAL** Insurance

Medicare does not cover dental care<sup>1</sup>. That means if you need dental work done, it can cost you hundreds or even thousands of dollars out of your own pocket. Get Dental Insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It helps cover over 350 procedures – from cleanings and fillings to crowns and dentures.

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"Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020

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### PAGE 22 ALMADEN TIMES APRIL 16 – APRIL 29, 2021





CAMPBELL UNITED **CHURCH OF CHRIST** 400 W. Campbell Ave. Campbell, CA 95008 (408) 378-4418 Pastor: Rev. Naomi Schulz No Matter Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here! We are an Open and

Affirming Congregation. and celebrate members of the LGBTQ + Community. Joy-filled worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM. with communion open to all. Join Pastor Naomi for tea/coffee at Orchard Vallev cafe in Campbell during community drop-in office hours from 11 AM to 1 PM on most Tues-

days. Our ministries/activities include:

· Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6PM

· A Food Pantry serving anyone in need--open Tu/ Th/ Sa 10:00 AM to Noon

 Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thoughtprovoking theater productions, informative lec-

tures, and even an occasional karaoke night--all in

a wholesome environment Our activities flow from

our core values: · Extravagant Joy

· Passionate Faith · Loving Respect Deep Connectedness Intentional Growth · Shared Laughter

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

### CONGREGATIONAL

408.265.5837 CHURCH OF ALMADEN www.bibleroad.org VALLEY, UCC We strive to be a group of 6581 Camden Ave., San Christians that love and Jose, CA 95120, Pastor honor God and Jesus Rev. Marty Williams, 408 Christ in our daily lives 268 0243. We assemble each Sunwww.ccavucc.org. day to encourage each We are a welcoming other through singing, church with a progressive studving, praving and approach to faith, worship sharing in the Lord's supand giving to our local per. Simple-just like community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and what one reads about in the New Testament. Affirming (0&A) and wel-Bible class at 9:30 AM come members of the Worship at 10:30 AM LGBT community. We Located in south San support local LifeMoves Jose near Kooser Rd. and (formerly InnVision) Shel-Camden Ave. (behind the ter Feedings once a Almaden Valley Athletic month, San Francisco Club). Come make new Night Ministry, Second Christian friends!

THE EPISCOPAL Church World Service. **CHURCH IN ALMADEN** 6581 Camden Ave. San Responding to End Pover-Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Den-Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM ney, Rector Phone:408followed by fellowship 268-0243

and Communities

and refreshments. 1st

Communion

Sunday.

Sunday in Worship: Holy

2nd Sunday in Worship:

Folks Choir and Potluck

Tuesdays, AA Meetings

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM,

Women's Study Group

**CHURCH OF CHRIST** 

5351 Carter Ave., San

8:15 - 9:15 PM.

Jose 95118

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



**CENTER (EIC)** http://www.eicsanjose.org 2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148. (408) 239-6668 As-Śalaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you". 0) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran? A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayi-

latak"" the English meaning is " May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

#### **FIRST CHURCH** DOWNTOWN

Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music a message that is relevant to real life. based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and longterm, life-saving solutions food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference



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Sundav at 11.00 am Together let us build lives toward excellence! Music Institute (408) 791-7772 After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute PreSchool, Age 2-6 years. Caring for your child with God's love and affection.

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Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite vou to experience Holv Spirit Parish Community All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish

Office is open Monday -Thursday 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 3sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794

1 thepoint.church

THE POINT CHURCH 3695 Rose Terrasse Cir San Jose, CA 95148 (408) 270-7646 English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM Spanish Service: 11:00 AM Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM Mandarin Service: 11:00AM Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH the year and serves com-We invite you to become plementary vegetarian

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people in need and whereyou get to know peopleby name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m.,10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location

Our Parish Office is open

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and Tuesday thru Thurs-

day, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and

1 - 4 p.m. For more infor-

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Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor

God is One

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Rab lk Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA

San Jose, CA 95148 The

word Sikh (see-kh) means

"disciple" or "student." A

faith founded in the 15th

century by Guru Nanak in

Punjab of old British India.

A Guru who is a "teacher"

or "enlightener" completes

ing and learning. Sikhism

stresses the equality of all

believe in three basic prin-

ciples; meditating on the

earning a living by honest

name of God (praying),

means and sharing the

fruits of one's labor with

others. Currently there are

close to one million Sikhs

living in the USA and

Canada and 25 million

Sikhs living around the

largest religion in the

world. Sikhism is the 5th

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prosperity for everybody

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which is open 365 days of

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age you to enter our histo-

ry room on site and walk

(food) in our kitchen

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is monotheistic and

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3636 Gurdwara Ave.

mation, stop by the

Parish Office or call

our website at www.

growth, reaching out to

Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website: http://www. San-JoseGurdwara.org

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5111 San Felipe Rd. San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancis ofassisipreschool.org We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose, Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas, Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations: St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday11:00AM, Igbo Mass -Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM Mt. Hamilton Grange 2840 Aborn Road Sunday 9:30 AM The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditori um) Sunday 8:15 AM For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 . PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share vour presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kinadom!

For Worship listina ads, call 408.483-5458

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

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

 exercise classes for all levels of ability; lunches and other social programs

organized and run by members of the Association;

 book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes; • trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Muse-

um in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

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

#### Connected

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

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

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

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



ALMADEN TIMES APRIL 16 – APRIL 29, 2021 PAGE 23





### 1838 Redwood Creek \$1,999,000 | 5 Bed | 4 Bath | 2484 Sq Ft

### Brookside Estates Community of Almaden Valley nestled between the Santa Teresa foothills and Santa Cruz Mountains. Stunning twolevel home features high ceilings, open floor plan, dual zone central air conditioning, dual pane windows, 2-car attached garage, TurboCord EV Charger, plus more. Peaceful, friendly neighborhood directly across from Guadalupe Creek.



### 6008 Majorca Court \$1,599,000 | 4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1958 Sq Ft

Almaden Valley home with views of the hills. This home has beautiful Brazilian cherry wood flooring, granite slab kitchen counters, maple cabinetry, stainless appliances and large windows providing lots of natural light. Backyard has a concrete patio with a pergola and builtin bench seating at one end. There is a storage shed and fruit trees consisting of pomegranate, tangerine and more.



### 1126 Zinfandel Way \$1,699,000 | 4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 2290 Sq Ft

Almaden Valley home, open floor plan, light and bright. 2 master suites, 1 on main level. Kitchen has granite slab counters, hardwood cabinetry, a walk-in pantry with shelves, a stainless sink plus a window with views of the backyard and the hills. 2 central air conditioning units, 2 furnaces, plantation shutters, newer roof and gutters, sprinkler system front and back, plus much more.



### 5641 Bergamo Court \$1,650,000 | 4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2362 Sq Ft

This desirable home is located in the Vineland area of the Almaden Winery neighborhood. The home boasts a renovated kitchen with new granite slab counters, new oven, new microwave and new 4-burner gas cook top. New luxury vinyl tile floors extend through much of the living area. Backyard has a new paver patio with a bordering plant for low maintenance and new fencing. No HOA.



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 12 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2020 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.

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

Therese Swan 408.656.8240 tswan@tswan.com AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com DRE 01355719









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