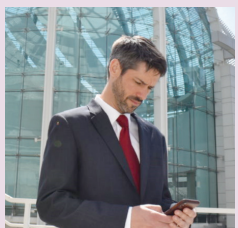
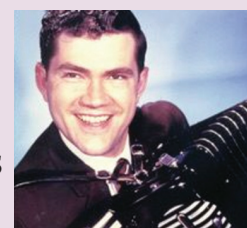


First 100 days: Has Councilmember Matt Mahan kept his campaign promises?
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Back to class
How to help students return to the classroom after the pandemic
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How Don Lee's *Echo, Echo, Echo* became a big hit selling 700,000 copies
SEE PAGE 8



APRIL 30 – MAY 13, 2021 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 9

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Almaden Times

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Almaden Women's Club awards scholarships

Two students and two big ambitions to help those in need

By Beth Swartz

This year's Almaden Valley Women's Club Scholarship recipients looked at those around them and worked to fill an immediate need within their own communities.

The women's club is pleased to award scholarships to two local area high school seniors.

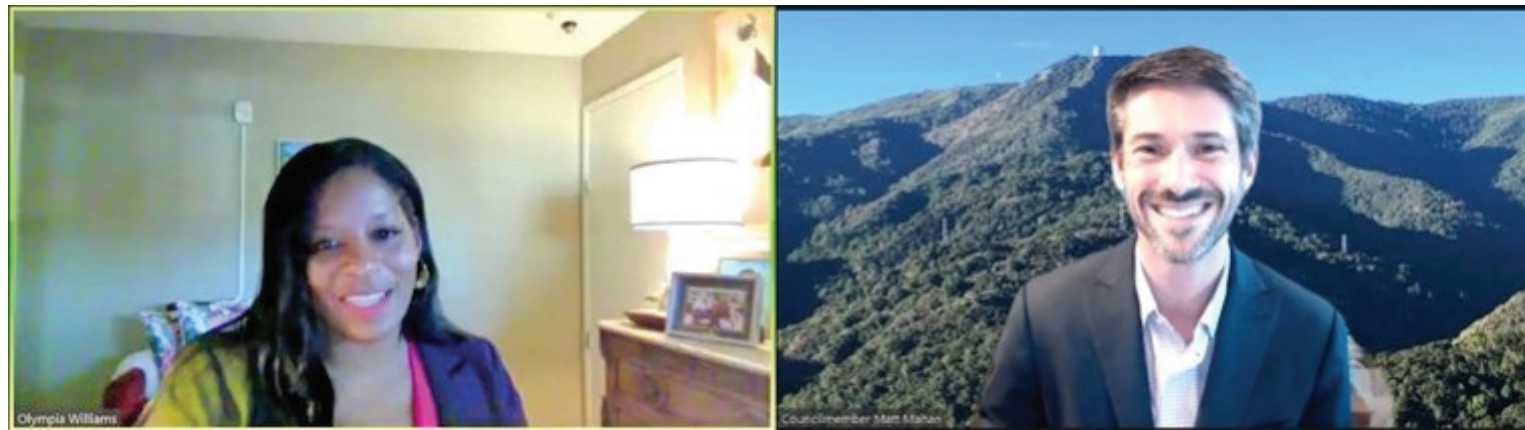


Trenton Jiang

Senior at Leland High School

A year ago Jiang was watching the community struggle with the first effects of the pandemic including PPE shortages at local area hospitals. Jiang, along with his sister Capriana, realized that their family's skills with sewing could help by making non-medical grade hand-sewn masks and surgical caps. He and his sister met with Valley Medical Center Foundation to assess the needs of the medical staff. Then they brought their own resources of individuals who could sew together via a Facebook group to communicate needs for materials, to pick up the completed masks and caps,

See SCHOLARSHIPS, page 21



Olympia Williams, program manager of BeautifySJ, shared strategies for blight reduction during Councilmember Matt Mahan's Inside City Hall series on April 19.

Help in beautifying District 10 is just a phone call away

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Graffiti, trash and abandoned vehicles can negatively impact communities. But there is a city department focused on its removal.

Olympia Williams, program manager of BeautifySJ, shared strategies for blight reduction during Councilmember Matt Mahan's Inside City Hall series on April 19.

"We really look at what we can do to improve the quality of life and neighborhood livability," Williams said.

A large part of BeautifySJ's efforts is graffiti removal. Williams said it abates 2.2 million square feet of graffiti, including 300,000 square feet in District 10. Williams said the department's goal is to remove gang-related, offensive or hate speech within 24 hours and other graffiti within 72 hours. About 85% of the city's graffiti is removed within 36 hours, she said.

In addition to Dumpster Days, BeautifySJ works to improve communities through its Removing and Preventing Illegal Dumping (RAPID) program, free junk pickup, anti-litter and anti-graffiti efforts and park and trail cleanups.

As BeautifySJ has a small staff, Williams said it appreciates its 23,000 volunteers who contribute more than 55,000 hours of service annually. Residents keeping the street clean in front of their homes is also helpful, Williams said, and a role model for others.

Mahan said he would like residents to adopt their own streets in a grassroots effort of keeping the community clean. Williams said BeautifySJ will distribute litter pickup kits and custom paint to residents and neighborhood associations interested in beautifying their com-

munities.

Williams said about 6,000 unhoused people live in about 220 encampments along creeks, trails, parks, streets and sidewalks in San Jose. To encourage unhoused residents to help with trash cleanup, the city offers cash for trash. The city also does cleanups at some homeless encampments and abatements at others.

Mahan said residents want the city to manage trash at homeless encampments and pro-

vide better living conditions. His encampment management strategy includes the city providing porta potties and sinks for people living there and scheduling regular trash pickups, as well as caseworker visits. Mahan also recommends buffer zones around schools, day care facilities and creeks.

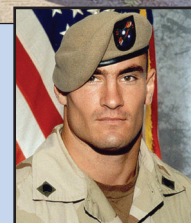
Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the city did regular abatements, but this proved ineffective

See BEAUTIFICATION, page 19

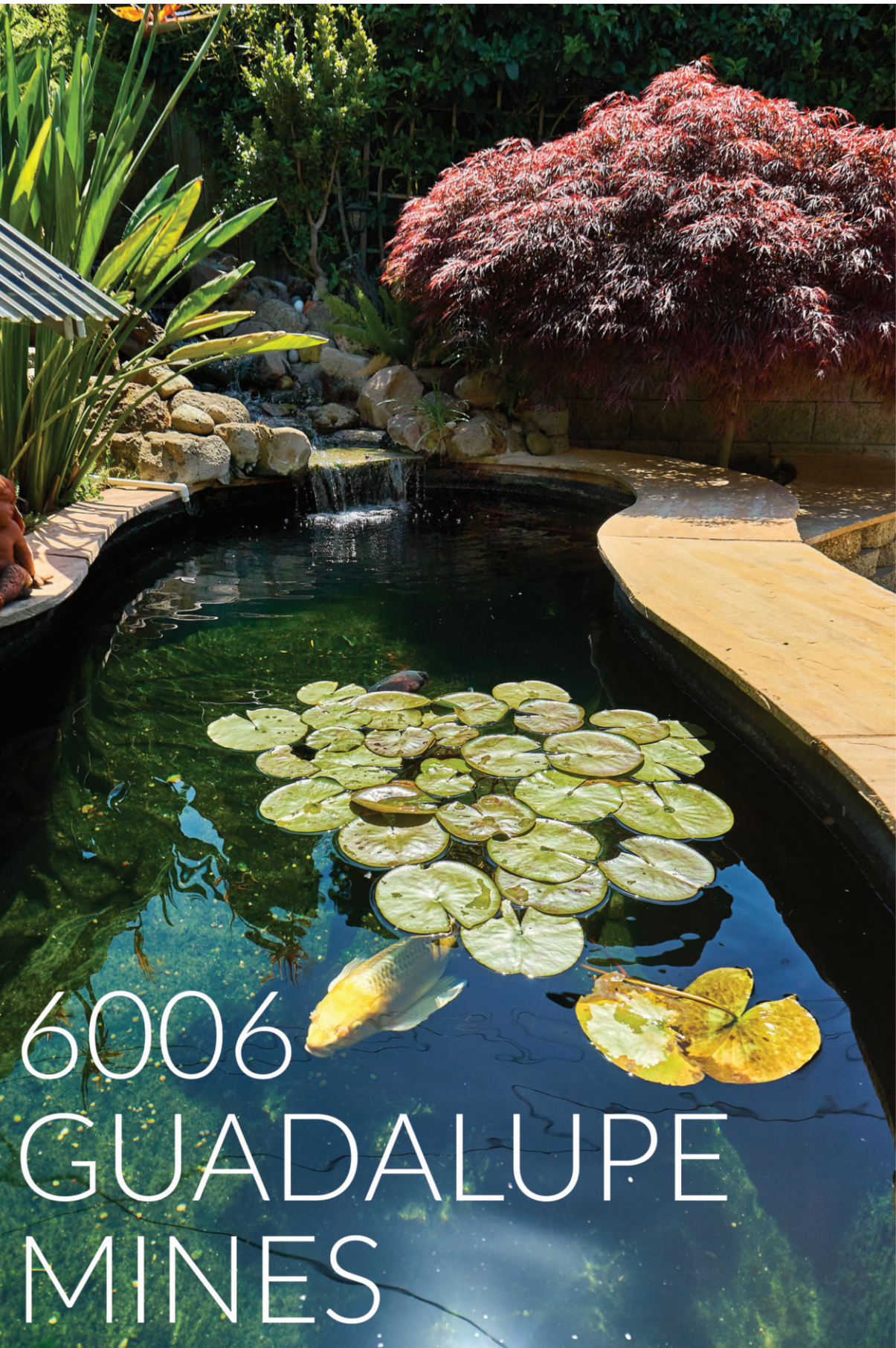
New Almaden flags honor Pat Tillman



New Almaden is currently lined with American Flags to honor **Pat Tillman** (inset, right). Every year since his death in the line of duty on April 22, 2004, friends of the Tillman family have lined New Almaden Road with American Flags. The flags are flown in remembrance of Pat from April 22 through the 4th of July. Take a drive to New Almaden and reflect upon why residents are flying the flag.



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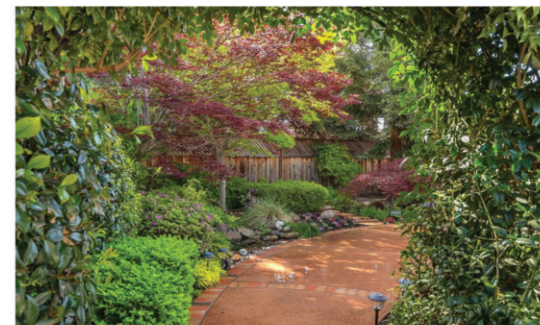




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First 100 days: Has San Jose Councilmember Matt Mahan kept his campaign promises?

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

On the campaign trail last year, San Jose Councilmember Matt Mahan pledged to make City Hall more transparent, accountable and to bring a data-driven approach to local government. After about 100 days in office, he is still striving to achieve this.

Mahan recently proposed the city set measurable goals when it comes to things like reducing crime, clearing blight or filling pot holes and report their success to the public. This KPI data dashboard — measuring key performance indicators in those core areas — would help the public see how their tax dollars are being spent.

“I think it matters because if we do that and we’re radically more transparent with the public about where we’re spending their dollars and how we’re performing as a city, I think we’ll start to rebuild trust,” Mahan said in February.

But the council chose not to prioritize this system, and Mahan is still looking for ways to make city government move faster and more efficiently — much like the private sector.

San José Spotlight sat down with Mahan to ask about his first 100 days on the City Council.

Q: What has been the most challenging part of the job?

A: Unlike the private sector where you can propose ideas, people can agree they’re worth trying, and you can try them in a light-weight way and experiment and see how they go, government moves incredibly

slowly. The biggest change for me, going from a company where everyone is more or less aligned around the same goal and we have a common language around our goals and how we measure success... is that government is much more decentralized, there are many more competing interests and there’s a lot less consensus.

Q: What has surprised you the most?

A: It’s amazing to me how long it takes to make decisions and actually implement them and how much of that is driven by a very slow annual budgeting cycle and once you’ve budgeted, it’s kind of locked in.

City bureaucracy is very slow to change. Even an idea that gets near unanimous support like encampment management strategy...takes a very long time to implement. You can have an idea, council can agree and city staff can say it’s promis-

ing, but it can take a very long time to even do a small test. We need to be faster, more reactive, flexible and experiment more. That’s what I’m bringing from the private sector. We cannot wait for an annual budget cycle to decide that something isn’t working.

Q: What are some of your longer-term goals for your first term?

A: I’m advocating for focused goals in our core service areas. The top three I’ve heard loud and clear from the community are public safety, homelessness and housing, and maintaining core infrastructure maintenance like roads and parks. We’ve got to set goals, measure them, report back and focus all the energy of this bureaucracy on hitting measurable targets. What are our targets and growth goals? What are we currently doing to achieve those goals? For the priority-setting process, I put forward



Councilmember **Matt Mahan** is looking to make City Hall more transparent and accountable. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

two proposals. One was the KPI (Key Performance Indicator) dashboard. I put forward one on encampment management because that’s been a growing issue. Encampment management was voted the top priority for next year as a new project. The KPI dashboard came in 14th out of 40 and got a few votes. The mayor mentioned it in his March budget message and the city manager referenced it. It’s certainly getting some interest.

Q: What is the biggest challenge facing your district so far?

A: Crime and homelessness are the two biggest challenges facing the community. When people don’t feel safe, nothing else matters. If your car’s been broken into, or your neighbors’ car or home have been

broken into, if there’s package theft in the neighborhood, you feel threatened and violated. It really shakes you.

The second thing people are concerned about is homelessness. The idea that in one of the wealthiest places on earth we have thousands of people living on our streets in really terrible conditions upsets everybody. The real long-term solution is housing of all kinds, more shelter beds, more mental health facility beds, drug treatment programs and...permanent supportive housing.

We’re going to need some emergency housing, maybe tiny homes... we’re going to have to get more creative and more cost effective.

We have 6,000 people living on our streets right now and we’ve been not managing it, especially during COVID, it’s been very hands off and it’s caused real problems like fires and trash. Then there’s building the housing we need, and the question is always location and that’s hard. Then there’s the ongoing cost of providing all the services.

Third, was infrastructure, specifically roads. I had people walk me from their front doors out into the street and point to potholes. Other infrastructure issues are parks and trails. We have what could be the best urban park and trail network, but people don’t feel comfortable with them because they’re not maintained. There’s graffiti, trash and encampments. It’s a missed opportunity.



Almaden Valley Women’s Club announces logo contest winners

By Beth Swartz
Special to the Times

This week, the Almaden Valley Women’s Club announced the winner and two runners-up of their annual logo contest.

The winning logo will be displayed on wine glasses used at the club’s various fundraising activities as well as on a t-shirt and in other promotional materials. The club was pleased to receive 120 submissions from local area schools and art schools.

The winning logo was created by **Anoushka Shah** (above left), a junior at Leland High School.

Shah noted that she finds inspiration for her art in observing nature and her surroundings. In her spare time, Shah likes to sketch and paint and she hopes to pursue a career in graphic design.

The club also recognizes two runners-up with awards. The second runner-up is **Miranda Lu** (above center), a sophomore at Leland High School. Miranda enjoys hiking, drawing and sewing and is a member of the Leland American Red Cross and Leland Business Association. She enjoys using watercolor and finding ways to repurpose and upcycle old items, drawing artistic inspiration from everyday objects in her surroundings.

The third runner-up is **Kavya Desai** (above right) who enjoys archery as well as relaxing by creating her art. Desai is a Freshman at Leland High School and enjoys working in charcoal and oil pastels for her drawings. Her artwork was submitted through Lord of the Light art school located here in Almaden Valley.

Each winner receives a monetary award as well as recognition at an upcoming general meeting for the women’s club.

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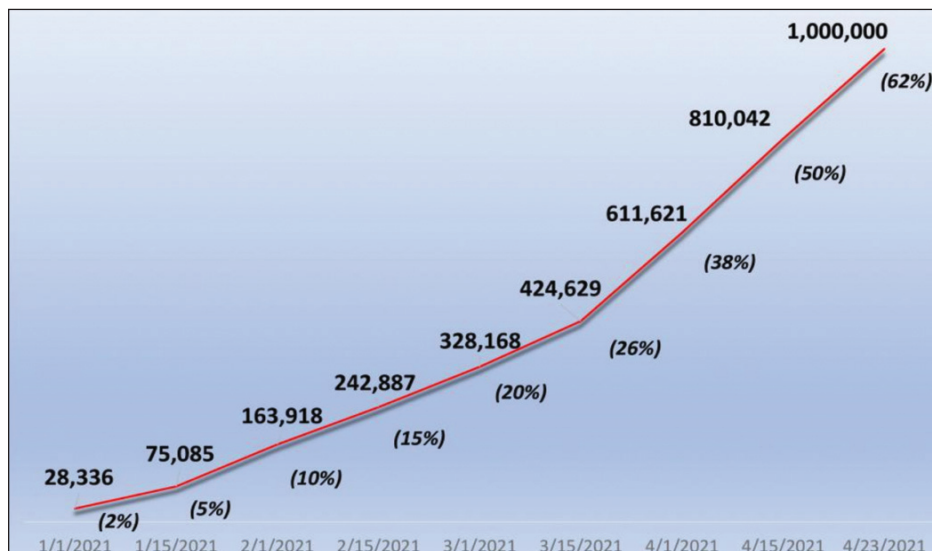
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Times **Community News**

One million first doses in Santa Clara County

By Mike Wasserman
County Supervisor

I was proud to announce that we just gave our 1 millionth first vaccine dose!

With 2 million residents, Santa Clara County is one of the largest and most diverse counties in the nation. Creating an infrastructure — practically overnight — to vaccinate this many people was a herculean task. But through a vast network of partnerships like the one with the 49ers, we achieved this very significant milestone of 1 million first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine given!

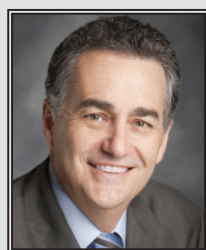
I am a numbers guy, but celebrating this 1 million number is about celebrating and acknowledging people. It's about our front-line heroes who for more

than a year have been giving up days off, much-needed sleep and their own well-being to care for complete strangers.

Today is a good opportunity to thank and acknowledge all of the people who have helped us get to 1 million doses and set us on our healing course. And we also want to thank the community members who have done their part and already received their vaccines.

We are far from done. Many appointments are available to receive the vaccine. I appeal to the community members who haven't already, to please schedule your vaccination as soon as

you can by visiting www.SCCFreeVax.org. Help us get to the next milestone and restoration of normalcy in Santa Clara County.



County Report
Mike Wasserman,
County Supervisor

How to help students return to the classroom

By Lorraine Gabbert
Times senior staff writer

After a year of distance learning, students began returning to their classrooms.

Some students may experience anxiety and insecurity. What can parents do to help?

According to Dane Caldwell-Holden, director of student services for San Jose Unified School District, being back at school is going to look and feel different during the coronavirus pandemic.

"This is not typical school," Caldwell-Holden said. "Kids are going to be six feet apart. They're going to be in masks all day...it's not like the first day of school where you pop back on campus, give hugs to everybody, play and have fun. We're still in COVID."

Parents aren't going to be allowed on campus, he said. But at elementary schools, the staff is meeting students at drop-off so they feel safe. Students can mingle with each other during recess and lunch as long as they're six feet apart and wear a mask, Caldwell-Holden said.

For students attending a new school, a campus tour can help alleviate stress. In February, 400 students who struggled with distance learning attended school in-person in



Members of Leland High School's 4K dance team practice their moves. Students returned to school on April 21.

Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

small groups. "They got to know new kids," Caldwell-Holden said. "That's what we anticipate for the students returning. It will be a little awkward the first day or two, but by the end of the day on Friday, it won't be smooth sailing, but it will be good. We're all excited."

District spokesperson Jennifer Maddox said students who returned to campus seemed happy to be there. "Whatever anxiety they had receded when they saw it was still a school day," Maddox said. "Although they can't get close, they can still see their friends."

Although school capacity is limited to 50 percent, the district was able to accommodate about 98% of families who wanted their students to return with their current teacher. Counselors will be deployed the first couple of weeks of school, and parents can request meetings for their children. "Sometimes just a single conversation or two is enough to

let them express what they're feeling and get it out," Maddox said, "and accept reassurance that it really is going to be okay."

Michelle Humke, executive director of Almaden Valley Counseling Services, said it's important to acknowledge the transition back to the classroom. She advises telling children, "This will be a big change, like moving from in-person school to distant learning was." Humke said parents should ask their children what their thoughts, concerns and fears are, and try to address them. Kids might feel anxious about reconnecting. Humke suggests having children verbalize how they made friends in the past to remind themselves how they did it.

"Help the child recognize some of the skills they've already learned," Humke said. "Ask them how they handled returning to school after Christmas or summer vacation."

Another transition for students is staying seated in a classroom for long periods of time. Unlike remote learning, they won't be able to wander away to get a snack or take a break to play a video game. "There will not be the same freedom," Humke said. "There will be an adjustment to the expectations and restrictions of being in the classroom."

Jocelynn Logan, a marriage and family therapist trainee at Almaden Valley Counseling Services, suggested parents help children focus on the positive, reminding them they will get to socialize and see their friends. She suggests having elementary students write down what they miss about attending class in person to help them look forward to being there. Middle and high school students can be reminded that they will get to socialize, see favorite teachers, get out of the house and have a little independence.

Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo, a San Jose Unified School District

See RETURN, page 7

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Times **Community News**



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Budget being studied at City Hall

By Matt Mahan

Special to the Times

Every year, City Council hosts a series of study sessions in May to discuss the budget of each city department, review our capital investments, and identify spending priorities for the next fiscal year, which starts on July 1st.

This year, Council will have to close a nearly \$38 million shortfall due to COVID-19's impact on sales tax, transient occupancy tax, and other revenue sources. On the other hand, the City will also have access to one-time federal stimulus funding that can fill certain gaps and fund qualifying one-off projects.

The City Manager has released a preliminary budget and the Council adopted Mayor Sam Liccardo's March budget message, which gives high-level guidance for next year's budget.

In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings, I had the pleasure of chatting about the City budget with Jim Shannon, San José's Budget Director, dur-

ing last month's episode of Inside City Hall. You can view the recording of our discussion here. Our discussion illuminated both the need for City leadership to have measurable goals to strive for and for the community to play a major role in how the budget is shaped.

If you want to try your hand at making the tradeoffs Council and City staff are currently weighing to balance San José's budget, check out Balancing Act! Balancing Act is an interactive budget tool that allows you to play around with San José's General Fund's budget.

Whether or not you get a chance to use the Balancing Act tool, I welcome your input to ensure that the City Council represents your interests in the budget process as we dive deeper into the details and make difficult tradeoffs.

For your context, here is an overview of the key dates and steps remaining in our budget planning process:



District 10 Report

Matt Mahan
Councilmember,
District 10

May 3	Proposed Operating Budget Released
May 7	Proposed Fees and Charges Report Released
May 12-17	Council Study Sessions: Proposed Budgets and Proposed Fees and Charges Report
May 18	Initial Public Hearing: Proposed Capital/Operating Budgets and Proposed Fees and Charges Report
May 26, 5:00 p.m.	Deadline for Budget Document Proposals
June 7	Mayor's June Budget Message Released
June 14	Final Public Hearing: Proposed Capital/Operating Budgets and Proposed Fees and Charges Report
June 15	Mayor's June Budget Message: Final Review/Approval by City Council; Proposed Capital/Operating Budgets and Proposed Fees and Charges Report: Approved by City Council
June 22	Capital/Operating Budgets and Fees and Charges Report: Adopted by City Council

As always, please reach out to me with any questions or comments about our neighborhoods. Our office's mission is to improve the quality of life in each of our District 10 neighborhoods and we always want to hear how we can better serve you.

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

High School student Meha Kavoori creates exciting after school STEAM clubs for Elementary schools

Winning praise in bringing fun to science and math

By William Bellou

Publisher

Meha Kavoori, a High School Junior, is conducting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Labs as after school clubs for elementary schools in San Jose.

Meha started the program in her sophomore year with a mission to make Science and Math fun for underprivileged kids so they can pursue STEM based education and careers in their life.

The after school program involves teaching kids science concepts utilizing fun experiments that they can do with items found

See KAVOORI, page 13



Times **Community News**

Los Gatos Vice Mayor Rob Rennie jumps into supervisorial race

By William Bellou
Publisher

It's official, Los Gatos Vice Mayor Rob Rennie is jumping into the race to replace Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman who terms out next year.

Rennie is running for District 1, which includes parts of San Jose, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Gilroy and county unincorporated areas. An engineer for 25 years, Rennie has served six years on the Los Gatos Town Council.

"I bring critical thinking to solving problems by looking at things from all sides," Rennie said. "I think someone who looks at issues critically before making a decision would be an advantage to the board."

Rennie will face off next year with former San Jose Councilmember Johnny Khamis, who declared his intent to run for the seat in December, and Santa Clara County Board of Education president Claudia Rossi who entered the race in March.

Rennie said his number one priority is helping families and small businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ic. "I am concerned when the eviction moratorium ends, people will still owe a lot of money and may end up homeless."

Rennie is also passionate about climate change and preventing wildfires. While serving as councilmember and mayor, Rennie focused on transit and climate change, congestion management, sustainable economy and equitable housing solutions.

With a background in engineering in renewable energy, Rennie said he wants to promote fossil fuel alternatives for vehicles, buildings and the grid.



Los Gatos Vice Mayor **Rob Rennie** speaks to a graduating class of students. *Photo courtesy of Rob Rennie*

4 Cheese Gnocchi



Cobb Salad



Wearing masks, hand sanitizing and keeping six feet apart are required for returning San Jose Unified School District students. *Photo courtesy of SJUSD*

Return

Continued from page 5

board member and former special education preschool teacher, suggested reviewing the schedule, safety precautions and rules in advance. "Teachers are there to help kids transition, be safe and learn," she said.

Janelle Bull, marriage and family therapist and founder of Anchor Psychology, said it's okay to be honest with children about uncertainty. "This is an uncertain time, and we don't have all the answers," Bull said. "Being okay with not knowing is key for transitioning." Parents also need to "embrace the strange" and prepare kids for what to expect, including everyone wearing masks and tape on the ground showing where to stand. Bull said to remind children the pandemic is temporary.

"It's important to tell kids it will not be like this forever," she said. "Ask them to see how long they can be flexible." Children like routine, and Bull said it will help lower anxiety if parents act consistently and predictably. "We all need to validate that we're all doing the best we can with what we have, including teachers and administrators," Bull said. "We need to give each other some grace."



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Times **Feature**

My dad Don Lee and his music

'Echo, Echo, Echo' became a big hit selling 700,000 copies

By Doug Bloomquist
Almaden Valley resident
Special to the Times

Growing up my Dad was into two things - and two things only. Music and electronics.

He was recognized at age 18 as one of the best accordion players in the country; hence his picture on the cover of Accordion World magazine.

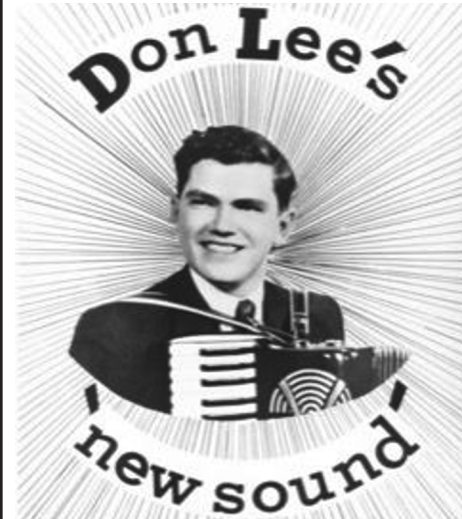
As background for you, accordion during

the 50's was a fad every bit as big as guitar was in the 60's. In the 50's you weren't "cool" unless you played accordion, just like in the 60's you weren't "cool" unless you played guitar.

Around 1952 dad began using "Don Lee" as his professional name instead of Don Bloomquist (Lee was his middle name).

In 1957, Don released a 45 rpm record with two songs on it. In today's world you would call that a single. That 45 included a cover of "Charmaine" and an original song titled "ECHO, Echo, echo."

The songs were unique as they were some



of the first multiple recordings ever released -- at a time when multi-track recorders were in their infancy. My Dad played and recorded all of the instruments on that record himself. As a result of this unique sound, "ECHO, Echo, echo" became a pretty big hit for back then ultimately selling about 700,000 copies.

After touring the country (which is what you did back then after you had a hit), my Dad released an album titled "Crazy Rhythm" in 1958 which also did quite well. Crazy Rhythm included "ECHO, Echo, echo" and "Charmaine" along with one other original and nine other covers (all instrumentals). Available now on Apple Music if you want to take a listen <https://music.apple.com/us/album/crazy-rhythm/436863115> (Continued...)

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Times Feature



As a result of his album’s success, Dad played shows all over the country and had some TV appearances as well - including one with Jackie Gleason (pictured above).

During all of this, Dad had opened a chain of teaching/recording studios. As part of my birthday present I began taking accordion lessons at age 4. My Dad even used a picture of me that year in his Yellow Pages ad for the studio.

The pattern continued and for my fifth birthday I started piano lessons and for my seventh birthday guitar lessons and this led to my lifelong interest in music.

When I was 13 I began teaching accordion, guitar, piano and drums in my Dad’s studio. Back then it was a great gig as I was making \$15/hour and my friends were bagging groceries for minimum wage which was \$1.29/hour. This opened up unique opportunities as I was able to work as a recording engineer for many sessions with some pretty talented artists.

I always admired my Dad for putting out an album in which he played all of the instruments. I really never dreamed that I would be able to put one out myself where I did all of the instrumentation, but honestly my partner Lynn made that all possible.

With my experience working as a recording engineer in my Dad’s studio combined with the technical expertise I acquired working at Apple for many years, we have been able to put together a very well equipped recording studio in our Almaden home. Lynn and I (as Second Story Duo) recorded our debut album in that studio during 2020 and have since finished several singles.

With today’s technology, I’ve been able to



record all of the instrumentation myself in our home studio without us having to venture out to a commercial studio. You can learn more about Second Story Duo at [secondstoryduo.rocks](#) and listen to our music on your streaming platform of choice.

I’ll forever be grateful to my Dad for providing me the musical and recording foundation that has enabled Second Story Duo to thrive.

Editor’s note: Crazy Rhythm included both ECHO, Echo, echo and Charmaine along with one other original and nine other covers, all instrumentals, are available on Apple Music: [music.apple.com/us/album/crazy-rhythm/436863115](#) or use this shortened link: [https://tinyurl.com/3jpfbd5](#)

THIS WEEK	TITLE	LAST WEEK	WEEKS ON CHART
1.	TEDDY BEAR	6	6
2.	IT'S NOT FOR ME TO SAY	8	8
3.	RAINBOW	6	6
4.	I'M GONNA SIT RIGHT DOWN AND		
5.	WHITE SILVER SANDS		
6.	TAMMY		
7.	STARDUST		
8.	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 D		
9.	BYE BYE LOVE		
10.	SEARCHIN'		
11.	SHANGRI LA		
12.	SUZY Q		
13.	LOVE LETTERS IN THE SAND		
14.	WONDERFUL WONDERFUL		
15.	JENNY JENNY		
16.	OLD CAPE COD		
17.	SO RARE		
18.	WHITE SPORT COAT		
19.	SEND FOR ME		
20.	ECHO ECHO ECHO		
21.	IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ISLAND		
22.	MOONLIGHT LOVE		
23.	SONG OF THE BAREFOOT MAILMAN		
24.	GOTTA GET TO YOUR HOUSE		
25.	I LIKE YOUR KIND OF LOVE		
26.	WITH ALL MY HEART		
27.	CLOSE YOUR EYES		

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Proposed new law allows bicyclists to run stop signs

California's proposed "Safety Stop Bill" makes it legal for bicyclists to treat stop signs as yields. If other traffic is already at the intersection such as a pedestrian crossing then bike riders must yield the right-of-way. However, if the intersection is clear, people riding bikes (including electric e-bikes) can now just ride through the red light without stopping.

Most Democrats and two Republicans supported the bill. The bill

will replace the requirement that people on bikes stop at stop signs with a requirement to yield and slow and stop if necessary for safety, including to yield the right of way to pedestrians. More than 75 organizations across the state signed a letter in support of the bill.

"To cut down on car emissions, promote healthy living, and improve equity, we need neighborhoods that encourage safe bicycle riding, said Assemblymember

Tasha Boerner Horvath, the bill's original author. We know from the example of other states that when riders are allowed to yield at stop signs, they choose safer streets and will spend less time in dangerous intersections. It's time for California to live up to its values and start encouraging -- not penalizing -- smart riding in our state."

"Bicycling is good for California in so many ways: it improves our health, our economy, and our envi-

ronment. We're grateful to our thousands of members who agree with that and contacted their assembly members to ask them to remove this nonsensical obstacle to safe and reasonable biking," said Dave Snyder, Executive Director of CalBike.

The Bicycle Safety Stop Bill doesn't change existing right-of-way laws. Instead, AB 122 reforms the rules of the road to conform to safe and logical bike riding. It will



improve predictability at intersections and mutual respect among road users.

If AB 122 becomes law, California will join the list of states that have implemented the safety stop: Idaho, Delaware, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Delaware, Arkansas, Utah, and North Dakota. None of those states has reported any safety problems with the new rule. A recent study in Delaware found that collisions involving bicycles at intersections decreased by 23% since the safety stop became legal. CalBike has created a video to explain how the bicycle safety stop works.

After unsuccessful attempts at passing this legislation in the past, CalBike pursued the issue this year in an environment of growing support for reducing the police role in traffic enforcement. Unnecessary laws that are difficult to follow pose a risk of traffic stops that too often have tragic endings, especially for Black and Latinx people.



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South San Jose schools reopened, but most students stayed home

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Schools in Santa Clara County recently reopened after much anticipation, but most students opted to stay home.

Reasons for choosing to continue remote learning ranged from concerns of catching COVID-19 to abbreviated days making transportation difficult for parents.

Chris Funk, superintendent for East Side Union High School District and a San José Spotlight columnist, said all 22,500 students had the opportunity to come back to campus. Only about 2,500 actually did.

"We had four ZIP codes in Santa Clara County with the highest number of cases," he said. "Our Latino communities were hit very hard. I think they're hesitant to come back without vaccinations."

About 80% of district teachers received vaccinations, Funk said, but the district couldn't inform families which teachers got inoculated due to confidentiality.

"There is a sense that things are a lot safer," he said, "but for some families, if we couldn't guarantee their teacher was vaccinated, that might have given them hesitancy to come back."

East Side Union High School District formed cohorts—small groups focused on students struggling the most—for 90 minutes of in-person instruction up to three days a week. Funk said there's only about six weeks of school left, so families might not want to disrupt their schedules. And there's less incentive to change to in-person instruction for students doing well with distance learning.

"Maybe some who would've come back if it was all in-person said, 'for a single cohort or two, it's not really worth my time,'" Funk said. "I think it was a combination of issues."

In an Alum Rock Union School District survey of families, about 1,800 of 8,500 students opted to return to the classroom.

"Considering Alum Rock has seen one of the highest contagion rates in the county for almost a year, I don't think 1,800 students coming back is a low number," said Superintendent Hilaria Bauer. "We're ecstatic to welcome our teachers and students back."

Bauer said fall was a difficult time for Alum Rock families who lost family members to COVID-19, as well as jobs. Some families who initially opted in changed their minds when they saw the class schedule for in-person instruction, which offers 90 minutes of class Monday through Thursday afternoons.

For Evergreen School District's 9,800 students, about half returned for in-person instruction, said Johanna Villareal, director of board and administrative services.

Education leaders say families are leery of public spaces due to the pandemic.

"We've had quite a few families that had a family member who tested positive and families where the whole family tested positive," said Kevin Armstrong, principal of Katherine Smith Elementary School in the district.

Logistics of a three-hour school day was another factor, Armstrong said, as some families had all-day childcare providers they relied on for work.

"It doesn't mean they don't want to come back," he said. "It means they can't make it work for their family right now."

At the San Jose Unified School District, about 10,000 of 28,000 students opted to return to school, said spokesperson Jennifer Maddox. Unlike the other districts, San

See REOPENED, page 20



Leland High School, part of the San Jose Unified School District. Students returned to in-person instruction on April 21. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

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Times News

Bay Area facing three threats: drought, wildfires and unhealthy air quality

The lack of rain is causing some Bay Area water districts to already implement water restrictions and Governor Newsom to declare a drought conditions state of emergency in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties which could lead to increased fuel for wildfires.

Santa Clara County is now preparing for the drought, wildland fires and unhealthy air.

Wildfires can last for many days and fill the air with unhealthy smoke miles away from Santa Clara County and can still impact our residents' ability to safely go outdoors.

To help address this issue, Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, Chair of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Board of Directors, is working with cities and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to form a county-wide grant program.

Federal and state funds will be used to provide indoor health protection equi-

tably prioritizing small businesses and non-profit organizations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved the initial steps last week.

Almaden resident is named to Dean's List

Jeffrey Wu of Almaden Valley is named to the winter 2021 quarter Dean's List



at Palmer College of Chiropractic's West campus in San Jose.

Wu served as a volunteer running Western blots, RNA extraction, Protein extraction, PCR, RT-PCR, and learned the use of confocal microscopes and SimpleWES. He also assists in other projects and shadowed the Head of Pediatrics for the hospital.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, Calif.; and Port Orange, Fla.

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Times **Feature****Kavoori***Continued from page 6*

around the house. The program is winning praise as the activities are especially essential for teachers and kids during the pandemic year.

"Kids at this age are easily impacted and it's important that they receive proper education and guidance necessary to reach their full potential. By teaching kids STEM based topics in a fun and hands-on way, they are given the opportunity to explore their interests and pursue STEM based education and careers," says Meha.

Meha began this program in her sophomore year at Silver Creek high school with Tom Matsumoto elementary children. After seeing their enthusiastic engagement during the sessions and how it was positively impacting them, she wanted to extend it to more schools by founding a club and recruiting a team to help her with that mission. She was joined by Rutaa Patel (11th grade) who worked with Meha to create the outline and help run the club. Together they picked the officer board as Meha continued to reach out to various elementary schools in the area. As of right now, the officer board consists of Ananya Raman, James Trinh, Suhas Yarra, Shivani Patel, Richa Basarkar, and Achyut Chebiyam.

Currently STEAM Lab is working with a total of 150 students from Tom Matsumoto, James Franklin Smith, and Montgomery Elementary schools and they plan to add more. Each school is offered a bi-weekly ses-

Meha hopes for other high schools in the Bay Area to join the STEAM lab movement and create their own chapters to offer labs to kids in their area.

sion per month with labs designed specifically for upper and lower graders. During the pandemic, the labs are conducted remotely on Zoom. The club designs experiments using materials commonly found in the house. The sessions are offered free to children.

Once in-person sessions begin later this year, the club plans to raise funds in order to supply material so it continues to be free.

Meha hopes for other high schools in the Bay Area to join the STEAM lab movement and create their own chapters to offer labs to kids in their area. Her dream is to create a nonprofit organization that coaches and guides high school students to conduct STEAM labs for all elementary school children.

For information on bringing this club to your elementary school, starting a chapter at your high school, donating to the club, business sponsorships and other general enquiries - please contact: schssteamlab@gmail.com.



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Times **Feature**

Bellarmino College Prep named Green Ribbon School in recognition of sustainability programs

The California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, has officially announced that Bellarmine College Preparatory is recognized as a 2021 California Green Ribbon School Gold Level honoree.

The honor indicates that Bellarmine demonstrates exemplary achievement in three “pillars” as follows: Pillar I: reduce environmental impact and costs; Pillar II: improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and Pillar III: provide effective environmental education that teaches many disciplines and is especially good at effectively incorporating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, civic skills, and green career pathways.

Among the many examples of Bellarmine’s sustainability programs are its unique garden (pictured above), which is used for out-



door course instruction that include Botany, Marine Biology, and California History; use of biodegradable and environmentally friendly products in the kitchen; use of refillable water bottles instead of single use, disposable plastic; installation of rooftop solar panel systems; use of a co-generator for electrical power for the main cam-

pus and, as a byproduct, heating of the 600,000 gallon swimming pool.

“I hope that we can all take a moment to appreciate how far we have come as a school toward our goal of becoming a more sustainable institution,” said Patrick Adams, Bellarmine instructor and the school’s Green Initiatives coord-

inator who has been instrumental in the school’s ongoing environmental sustainability efforts. “None of this would have been possible without the vision and commitment of Bellarmine president, Chris Meyercord, and principal, Kristina Luscher, and I want to be sure that their contribution is recognized as we celebrate this wonderful achievement.”

Principal Kristina Luscher notes that the recognition is in-line with the school’s Mission of Environmental Sustainability, which was adopted by the Board of Trustees in February 2017 and reads, in part: “As a Catholic high school in the Jesuit tradition, Bellarmine College Preparatory is committed to serving God by educating our community about ecological stewardship and solidarity with creation, and by modeling that stewardship and solidarity in the day-to-day operations of our school.”

San Jose City Council Updates

Residential Recycling & Garbage Services – Council held a study session on Senate Bill 1383, a state mandate requiring cities to divert organic waste from landfills (without additional state funding), and projected garbage rate increases (up to 17% next year), which are being driven by increased residential use, recycling contamination, and labor costs. There was a focus on recycling contamination, which accounts for 30% of next year’s projected rate increase and appears to be the best option for reducing costs.

Police Department Duty Manual Updates – Council adopted updates to the Police Department’s Duty Manual to improve outreach to and support for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The updates include requirements related to investigation and reporting, information sharing, and inquiries about firearm ownership.

Continued Hearing with Valley Water (VW) – Council and VW continued a joint hearing on water supply, wholesale costs, and a proposed water purification plant. VW reported an intention to increase wholesale rates significantly (8.5-9.6% annual increases over the next decade) to cover capital investments in water supply resources. Both parties agreed to continue negotiating a proposed water purification plant that would be located at the City’s wastewater treatment facility.

Questions for the Prospective Planning, Building and Code Enforcement (PBCE) Department Director – Council voted on a set of questions to ask candidates for the position. A number of those questions focused on streamlining processes to cut down on wait times and improve customer service.

Campaign Finance Regulations – Council instructed City staff to research a range of possible campaign finance reforms, including increased transparency about campaign expenditures, tighter regulation of contributions made directly to candidates, and public financing of elections.

Actions Relating to the 2020 Internet Crimes Against Children Award – Council voted to accept a grant that would reimburse SJP’s personnel, operating, and equipment costs for responding to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and Internet crimes against children.

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

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Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco creates positive Zoom meeting to honor residents

Off-the-Chart World Class-Online-Interactive-Awards Ceremony

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer



Magdalena Carrasco

Some say Magdalena Carrasco's communications skills are legendary.

Whenever one hears her name or is lucky enough to see her speak, it is quickly understood she is captivating in how she conveys her ideas and thoughts to the audience; a simple, determinedly-earnest, joyfully-demanding, intelligently-keen quality that enchantingly impacts everyone.

Part of her vibrant communication skill-set is to make work fun and joyful. It is a gift and perhaps this is how ancient women leaders in all cultures once utilized this same power to lead.

Does she care deeply perhaps like that of the woman her parents named her for.

Her attention to presentation of ideas and thoughts is key to the way she reaches out to get everyone to work together, to care and respect one another. She is somewhat like a family friend for she radiates care to all.

Such was the case of the unbelievable groundbreaking Zoom meeting she and her TEAM created on Friday evening, March 26 to honor those in the community. These community members were nominated by the residents to honor their unselfish acts of devotion to others.

Carrasco shares special communication skills

Always Magdalena Carrasco is immaculately dressed. She's a role model and says without speaking that appearance is important in life for it too is part of communication. From presentation she adds a truly remarkable way of listening and hearing the views each person attempts to express. She makes communication look effortless but it is anything but that. She rapidly takes information into her mind and creates the most eloquent words to kindly and joyfully keep the conversation going in ways that add joy, pride, value, hope and intelligence to the people. This innate skill was refined by her life experiences and this too positively impacted the way the Zoom meeting was run, with clarity, purpose and fun.

Magdalena graduated from Independence High School in San José and worked in the local community for decades. Growing up the child of immigrant parents, Magdalena learned the value of hard work and community service at a young age, a value that has propelled her to serve families, children and community her entire life.

She was the first in her family to finish high school and she worked her way through college as a caregiver at home for youths transitioning between juvenile hall into the adult world. She taught them life skills, conflict resolution, anger management and how to respect themselves and their communities.

Magdalena led a ten-year career with the Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children Services. There, she served as a powerful advocate and spokesperson for the Foster Care and Adoptions Program. Magdalena also served as a Family and Child Advocate with First 5 Santa Clara. She helped rehabilitate perpetrators of violence and made sure their families got the help they needed to get back on their feet.

Although San Jose has ten unique district

boundary areas which are nurtured by individual councilmembers, Magdalena ensures her team reaches out beyond the boundaries of White road and Alum Rock to include all residents overlapping as well into the Almaden area and beyond.

Off-the-Chart World Class-Zoom Meeting

All who signed up for her newsletter were invited to her evening Zoom event. Many in attendance said it was the best Zoom meeting they had ever attended.

Carrasco decided to use high quality social media to communicate. Eventbrite.com kicked off the sign ups to attend the event with a special treat of the first 50 sign ups receiving goodie boxes. This was very classy and once again



The first 50 sign ups to Magdalena Carrasco's Zoom meeting received goodie boxes.

uplifted a community that had been battered down by so many difficult challenges over the

past year dealing with the pandemic and side issues. It was as though Carrasco and her TEAM said to all, you have the right to be happy and have fun even though we are confined to be currently connected by the inter-web.

Special uplifting music was played in the intro and ending of the special meeting. All of the Carrasco TEAM were working together during the meeting to help it function along with MC (Master of Ceremonies) Carrasco sharing the mic with so many. She kept it all going with that special quality of meaningful communication with love and care and joy! You could just tell by how all acted that Carrasco and her TEAM worked well together. Even if there

See CARRASCO, page 16

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Times **Feature****Carrasco***Continued from page 15*

were minor mix-ups here and there, there were no hang-ups for all worked together and that is the mark of solid management.

Carrasco stated, "It was an incredible year full of great challenges. We want to take time

to give everyone a minute just to celebrate. When we look back, we know that this is the time when we all came together to help the community. When we had heat-wave, we had a power outage, we came together, over a hundred people volunteered to knock on doors and we got people to sign up for things they needed. Once Covid hit we just knew that the East Side would be

most impacted. That means our families and those our children play with would be hit hard and you all stepped it up and we had to go back out with volunteers to help the community and we reached out to all including other districts and we never forgot about Gilroy too. Gilroy had rising numbers affected by Covid and Gilroy is part of the East Side, we never want to leave Gilroy out! We help all and continue to do so!"

Carrasco continued, "Tonight we want to take time to recognize all of our wonderful residents. These awards are all about the wonderful work and dedication to the East Side that you do. Love comes from every act you do and have given our community and beyond. I am grateful for the Task Force and leadership in our communities. I want to make sure you are recognized for all of your hard work. There are a lot of things we need to band together for recovery and resiliency. Students need to go back to school healthy and with safe families."

Attendees presented with award certificates

Eva Heredia: Champion of high-quality education. Supports all schools in attending weekly meetings and rallies to bring information to all.

Le Tran: Led efforts to ensure a free Vietnamese Dual Immersion elementary program opened and operated successfully.

Darlene Tenes: Created the grassroots 'Farmworker Caravan' which provides emergency supplies to farmworkers.

Myra Zamora Nava: Unsung hero for decades in helping folks on the East Side by creating safe spaces for displaced families, survivors of abuse. She hustled to garner resources to provide for underserved and empowers those who seem lost. She provides safety nets for those in need of the little help she wished she had when she was in the same situation long ago.

Aileen Villamiel: She put up a classified message board to provide help to those evicted, lost jobs, needed lawyers, SSI, IHSS, MediCal, CalFresh, etc. Every day, she used her small business as a "switchboard" for resources. Her leadership is by example and she has inspired the Fil/Am community to care for each other.

Angela Tirado: She has served selflessly with non-profits teaming up to meet the needs of the community. She has brought comfort and hope during these times of loss. She also sang at community events, among them hon-

oring our Veterans and fallen officers who serve our Country.

Barry Noll: Served as an associate in the Health Trust's Jerry Larson Food Basket, providing volunteer training and healthy groceries and meals to people living with HIV/AIDS and homebound seniors. Barry simply will not say no to someone in need...and we as a community are so fortunate.

Gustavo Cazall: Coach and inspiring consultant who has been a great impact to residents in teaching them how to build a better way of living and life. One student stated, "Your conferences and courses have taken me on roads I never thought I could walk upon because I did not go to the University. The classes

made me feel on a different level."

Shrobana Sengupta: "Shrobana Sengupta, a 16 year old junior in Presentation High School in San Jose is an extremely capable, talented and kind leader who has been relentlessly working throughout the pandemic to serve the severely impacted from the underserved sections of our local community. She sold macaroons and donated the proceeds to local senior homes in the summer of 2020 and also to St. Jude and Cure Alzheimers Fund. As the pandemic arrived, she started her biggest project so far.

Yolanda Araujo: A case manager in the Health Trust's Housing Services program, always sees the glass half full. She radiates positive energy, inspiring clients and coworkers with her enthusiasm. Overcoming generational and cultural gender expectations, Yolanda had the courage to pursue her education, completing STEM classes and exemplifying a "¡Si se Puede!" inner strength.

Judy Thompson: Led the Indivisible East San Jose group through the past four years with the purpose of fighting dangerous policies, and attacks on the local communities. She started with a committee, but ended up as the primary lead, secretary, communications coordinator, event coordinator and Zoom host with grace and panache.

Mary Valderrama: Chairperson for ARVAC, Alum Rock Village Action Committee. She keeps our organization running strong, ensuring that we are making a strong positive impact in our community, improving safety and bringing beauty to the community.

Daisy Barocio: Committed leader to the children and families, whether serving as a Rapid Responder, Human Services Commissioner, or educational leader within the East Side and Alum Rock community. She is always advocating for the needs of all families. Even during a global pandemic, she has worked directly with many families to ensure they have accurate bilingual information to obtain internet access, groceries, COVID-19 testing, and, most recently, vaccine appointments.

Louis Alberto Barocio: Insightful leader and role model whose impact goes beyond the school campus and into the community. As a site administrator at James Lick High School in East Side San Jose, he tirelessly leads his team to ensure their students have the resources they need to realize their full potential, all the while validating their experiences.

See CARRASCO, page 17

Times Feature

Carrasco

Continued from page 16

Annya Artigas: Coordinator of Mental Health and Wellness supports in the Alum Rock Union School District. Annya has been on the front lines to provide much needed family support during trying times for families faced with eviction, food insecurity, those whose families have lost loved ones to COVID, and those struggling to balance at home learning. In particular, she works with families who have children with special needs, mental and emotional challenges who rely on their schools for support and guidance.

Imelda Bautista: Amazing leader in her home and community. Her involvement in her children's education makes a huge difference in the education of her children and the rest of the children in the community. Her work as a community advocate during the COVID-19 pandemic has helped provide information and resources to those who need it most.

Livier Hernandez Orozco: A leader in SPARK of Alum Rock School District, as stated by a student, "An exemplary woman in our community. She represents each category of this recognition! Her motivation daily with a positive message inspires me every day. I can count on a message that will make me smile for the part of every day."

Edward and Theresa Ng: (7-11 store business owners) We are thankful for neighborhood business owners Edward and Theresa Ng. Our local 7-11 on Marten Ave is central to our residents, serving families and students as a hub for groceries or a snack. Edward and Theresa keep their business lot clean and welcoming; they partner with the neighborhood association, police, and city services to keep the area free from blight, litter, and unsafe activities. We appreciate the pride they take as responsible business owners in our residential neighborhood.

Peter Ortiz: Proud member of the Latino / Chicano community and lifelong East San Jose native. Peter is able to bring a wide range of perspectives and experiences to his roles in leadership. As a survivor of gang violence, former systems-involved youth, and a successful community organizer, Peter is a direct product of the community he advocates for.

Fabio Gonzalez: Dr. Gonzalez published articles on Latino community college students' pathway to medical schools and serves on an advisory board to a UCLA Research initiative to explore Latino community college students' contributions in medicine. He was elected president of the California Community Colleges Extended Opportunity Programs & Services Association (CCCEOPSA) which acts as a communications network base among EOPS/CARE staff, students, statutory advisory committees, the Chancellor's Office and more at the 116 California community colleges.

Brenda Pinal: She started out as a caring parent who wanted to make a difference in her children's education. Now she has become one of District 5's most active residents, advocating on issues spanning from poverty alleviation, caring for our cities homeless, support for families impacted by Covid19, and partnering with our local neighbors to make sure our community is clean. Brenda is a fierce warrior for our East San Jose families.

Omar Torres: Through this work, he witnessed many challenges facing the community such as poverty, lack of access to education, gang problems and drug issues. In 2014, voters elected him to the Franklin-McKinley School Board, where he advocated closing the achievement gap, better pay for teachers, and created a Vietnamese Dual Immersion program. In 2020, voters elected him to the Board of Education to the San José-Evergreen Community College District, Trustee Area 7. He said, "It's an honor to serve the East Side, an amazing journey, I have so much gratitude."

Blanca Carbajal: In addition to teaching youth to dance, she inspires students to be advocates for their community. Together they have participated in many events for the city, Univision, and even Disneyland as well as participate in Beautification days, National night outs, Women's march, Cesar Chavez events and many other advocacy community events in San Jose every year! Throughout the years, she has been very inspired to see the new generations of dancers that are inspired to grow the little seed of culture and love for Mexico.

Jolene Smith: FIRST 5 visionary leader, was raised on the East Side and has never forgotten her roots. When the pandemic hit, she knew her beloved East Side would be hit the hardest and families with young children would be scrambling. She brought a coordinated approach in helping others. Jolene used this time of crises to bring joy, comfort and stability to ESJ families.

Sí Se Puede Collective: This is a collective of 5 nonprofits in Mayfair, a working-class neighborhood in East San José. Together they ensure our community has what they need to thrive in addition to helping others in surrounding communities. People in Evergreen also depend on these non-profits.

Music, Spinning Wheel, Bump and Spin
The event closed with the same way it began. There was so much happiness and everyone was connected. It

did not matter that Covid reared its ugly head a year ago. No one could stop the rejoicing among the people who were reaching out to help one another during a tremendous time of challenge.

Carrasco acted as the VOICE for all. She set the tempo and mood of the event. Her website states "I am committed to being a voice for all our wonderful neighborhoods and an advocate for city policies that will improve our quality of life." Many said that everyone worked so hard to help others.

This kind of event honors all and there is great energy in each person who was celebrated which in turn continues to inspire and amplify the voice of others.

An attendee said, "This was the most
See CARRASCO, page 18

Many said that everyone worked so hard to help others. This kind of event honors all and there is great energy in each person who was celebrated which in turn continues to inspire and amplify the voice of others.



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Times Feature

Carrasco

Continued from page 17

wonderful Zoom event ever.” There was the use of Eventbrite which expertly invited and reminded all of the upcoming event. The music was fun and uplifting. The Spinning of the raffle wheel created excitement to give out donated prizes from local businesses (Wheelofnames.com). The fun lighthearted invention of the Carrasco “Zoom bump” caused laughter and one must see it to believe it (it is a Zoom first where the person says, “I’m gonna bump you” and the other person reacts by getting bumped on their chair as seen on Zoom). Then too, another breakthrough at this “Stupendous-Off the Chart-World Class-Meeting,” was the “I’m gonna spin you.”

This may go viral as a Zoom first and occurs when a person picks another on screen and they say their name and that they are going to spin them. Then the person uses spinning motions with their index finger as if they have some special power in spinning them. That results in the person they choose to spin in their chair yelling out “wheeeeeee.” Now that may seem a bit juvenile but it was for some a first time in a long time of not holding back laughing in a group of people since the start of the dastardly pandemic. It mandatorily brought though some laughter which a year ago ran away as we all fought the bad times.

There were lots of smiles and some tears too for it was said that it was a truly challenging year but that The Carrasco TEAM and all other surrounding districts in San Jose banded together

to help everybody. There were no fences, no boundaries, just a reaching out of care for all. This is the Carrasco trademark. Even Assembly member Ash Kalra and Supervisor Cindy Chavez took time to attend and honor award winners.

“The Voice of San Jose,” heralded singer Angela Triado sang and was thanked for her God given talent. A talented poet and producer Jonathan Borca (See Facebook-The Francis Experience) read his poems which touched the heart in meaningful ways.

Magdalena Carrasco expertly composed a TEAM that created one of the best Zoom meetings in history. It was so fun and so good natured that many wished it just would never end. It was just the right mixture of seriousness and joyfulness. She uplifts everyone even if one doesn’t embrace her views and she honors her belief that

the true goal of a leader is not where you stand but who you bring with you.

Carrasco said, “It’s important we get together at such events. It is good to celebrate and to communicate to bring everyone into the loop of knowing what is going on and making all aware of the issues in San Jose. Having all of you here is the greatest gift! Thank you so much, I am so grateful to you all.”

Editor’s Note: The ten districts of San Jose all band together and vote in our city council chambers to help San Jose evolve in positive ways. Magdalena Carrasco works to lead District 5 which works with all other districts including Almaden. To better stay informed, one can join the District 5 Magdalena Carrasco monthly newsletter by going to her website.



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Times **Cover Story**

A homeless encampment at Branham and Monterey: Approximately 6,000 unhoused people live in about 220 encampments along creeks, trails, parks, streets and sidewalks in San Jose. To encourage unhoused residents to help with trash cleanup, the city offers *Cash for Trash*. The city also does cleanups at some homeless encampments and abatements at others.

Photos courtesy of Councilmember Matt Mahan.

Beautification

Continued from page 1

as residents soon returned, Williams said. Although the city suspended its abatement program during sheltering in place, it launched an encampment trash program with the goal of collecting trash at every encampment at least every other week.

Williams said the city wants people living outdoors to confine their belongings and living space to a 12' x12' space with no visible trash outside their living structure. When the trash exceeds that, the city does an escalated cleanup to scale it back. However, if an encampment creates health or safety risks, due to drug use, violence, fires or its location, it is quickly abated, she said. Williams asked residents to contact BeautifySJ and their councilmember with any related concerns. "We're committed to cleaning up blight," she said.

Mahan said although there is no easy solution to homelessness, additional services are needed.

"The lack of services and support is not only bad for the people living on the streets...but it's tough for the whole community," Mahan said. "While we're trying to identify longer term solutions like building more affordable housing, finding more placements for mental health and substance abuse treatment and helping people get the skills and jobs they need...we also have to...invest in managing the reality on the ground today."

Trash is an ongoing challenge, Williams said, both from the homeless and homeowners.

During one weekend, the BeautifySJ team collected more than 43,000 pounds of trash, she said, and much of it came from housed members of the community.

Your neighborhood can apply to win a mural grant.

Starting July 1, BeautifySJ will be offering neighborhood grants which can be used to paint a mural, clean up abandoned lots or build strong relationships with neighbors. "When people know their neighbors and build community, they have safer and more beautiful neighborhoods," Mahan said.

Williams said strong neighborhoods are the best way to improve quality of life. She urges residents to join neighborhood asso-

ciations, do monthly litter pickups and engage with the city council. "Whether a working-class neighborhood or the most affluent neighborhood, people tend to have the exact same complaints," Williams said. "Get involved, get engaged and let district leadership know your issues."

Mahan said issues like package theft, potholes and graffiti can affect how residents feel about their neighborhood. "We all want to take pride in our community," he said. "Getting involved is really important." Mahan said he is working with the District 10 Leadership Coalition to create neighborhood associations across the district. Residents can contact his team at: district10@sanjoseca.gov

"Our goal is to ensure every resident in District 10 has an active neighborhood they can participate in and serve their community through," Mahan said.

Editor's Note: The San Jose 311 app and website has links for reporting abandoned vehicles, graffiti, illegal dumping, potholes, street light outages, junk pickup, missed garbage or recycling collection and container issues. Residents can also report issues by calling 3-1-1, emailing BeautifySJ at: beautifysj@sanjoseca.gov; or tagging it on Facebook.



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Times **Community News**

CAREER COLUMN

Spring rebirth brings new job prospects

By **Angela Copeland**

How relieved are you that spring is here?

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 roll-out, 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.





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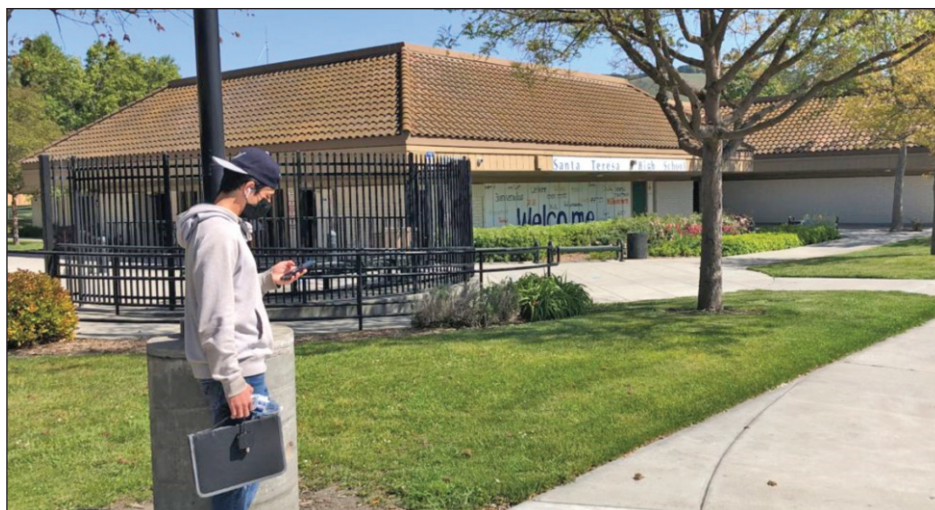


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Almaden Times



Santa Teresa High School student **Justin Jarvis** chose to continue with distance learning. Students in the East Side Union High School District had the option to attend part of the school day in-person. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

Reopened

Continued from page 11

Jose Unified offers a full day of school five days a week for in-person instruction and distance learning.

"One of the big things people didn't want was to lose instructional time in order to have kids in person," Maddox said.

Maddox said how well students responded to distance learning played a role in whether they chose to return for in-per-

son instruction. For others, it depended on if their friends returned to campus. Personal experience with COVID-19 also affected decisions.

"We see a much greater hesitancy from the Latino community, which was hit pretty hard by COVID-19," Maddox said. "If your lived experience is that you lost family members to COVID-19, you're a lot more reluctant to do anything that might expose you to COVID again. The decision is personal, as is any involving children."

Times **Community News****Cantwell declares local news outlets critical Infrastructure; urges congressional support**

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, yesterday came out strongly in favor of including local news as critical American infrastructure in need of support — highlighting the role of local broadcasters and newspapers as a trusted source of news and information during the pandemic.

“So I plan to, Mr. Chairman, push this issue as it relates to this critical infrastructure investment we’re making,” Senator Cantwell said at the subcommittee hearing. “I think news, local news particularly, a trusted source, is frayed beyond belief. And if we don’t shore it up, at least until the legal battles play out with the tech industry, that will be making a big mistake. So I continue to appreciate this hearing, because I think it was a good diagnosis of how important local journalism was and I think the critical infrastructure needs to be preserved.”

In October of last year, Senator Cantwell released a report about the impact of unfair practices by major technology companies on

local news outlets all across the country. “Local news across America creates competition and trusted information,” Senator Cantwell said in a statement released along with the report.

“We shouldn’t let regional and community news die as local newspapers and broadcasters adjust to digital delivery because online giants are unfairly leveraging the advertising market against them.”

That same month, Senator Cantwell pressed BigTech CEOs about the impact of their platforms on local news. “The message from today’s hearing is the free press needs to live and be supported by all of us,” Senator Cantwell said at that hearing. “We look forward to discussing how we can make sure that they get fair return on their value.”

Then, in December, Senator Cantwell successfully fought to expand Paycheck Protection Program eligibility for more local news outlets to receive PPP funding — providing a lifeline to local outlets all around the country.

Editor’s Note: To give opinion, Senator Cantwell’s Washington Office email is: cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email

**Scholarships**

Continued from page 1

and get them to Valley Medical Center.

Once the project was in motion Jiang and his sister named the group Mask-ER-Aid. In all the group collected and donated over 4800 pieces of personal protective equipment. When the hospital received enough PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) supplies for its staff, the foundation donated the completed masks to vulnerable community members.

In addition to this exceptional volunteer work, Jiang also has a passion for hockey. He’s played on the Leland High School Varsity Lacrosse team as well as participated in High School Club Hockey. He is also a member of Leland’s award winning Speech & Debate Team. Jiang plans to attend Dartmouth College in the fall studying quantitative social science on a pre-med track with a minor in Spanish.



Quinn Ruiz

Senior at Branham High School

Ruiz was just a sophomore when she realized that some of her fellow students were

struggling with the fees that come with participating in AP (Advanced Placement) courses as well as athletics. She brainstormed with her close friends on ways that they could help and eventually formed the AP & Athletics Club. Their purpose was to raise money to provide scholarships for students on the Branham High School campus who needed financial assistance. “These grants can be big or small and help provide school supplies, sports equipment and testing fees,” writes Ruiz in her essay. “Our club has a direct impact on the hardworking students on our campus by alleviating some of their expenses.”

Ruiz and her friends raised funds through bake sales and fundraisers at school events, local stores and farmers markets. In their first year of the club they raised more than \$1,000 and were able to grant nearly 40 scholarships. The club continues to grow and raise funds for the scholarships ensuring that the club will remain active even after Ruiz has graduated.

In addition to her volunteer work with the AP & Athletics Club, Ruiz is also involved in the Days for Girls Club, Acts of Random Kindness Club and also participated in Varsity Track & Field and Varsity Soccer. She plans to attend the University of Illinois Chicago in the fall to study Urban Planning and Public Policy where she hopes to be an International Urban Development and Non-profit Founder.

Each year the Almaden Valley Women’s Club hosts fundraising events with proceeds going toward scholarships and grants for local area charities. In 2020 the club was unable to host its annual Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival. Instead, a Wine Pull was held raising money which contributed to these scholarship awards.

For more information on the Almaden Valley Women’s Club, please visit: <https://almadenwomen.org>

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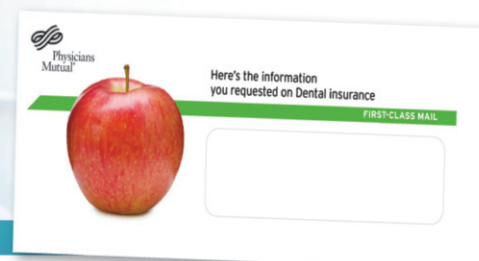
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We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, and celebrate members of the LGBTQ+ Community. Joy-filled worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM, with communion open to all. Join Pastor Naomi for tea/coffee at Orchard Valley cafe in Campbell during community drop-in office hours from 11 AM to 1 PM on most Tuesdays. 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, thought-provoking 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 CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC
6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243. www.ccvucc.org. We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST
5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118
408.265.5837
www.bibleroad.org
We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament. Bible class at 9:30 AM
Worship at 10:30 AM
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

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



EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)
<http://www.eicsanjosel.org>
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148.
(408) 239-6668
"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".
Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?
A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilatakm" 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 long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!



GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN
www.GraceChurchSJ.net
See you on Facebook
2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor
Christian Worship every

Sunday 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.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH
Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our Sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.



thepoint.church

THE POINT CHURCH
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
We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring commu-

nity, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and wherever you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



God is One
ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

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

the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.San-JoseGurdwara.org>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofoassisi.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:

St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing 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 Museum 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**



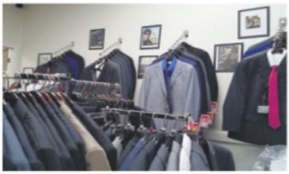
Notice

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students

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

SJMN#6547945; January 28, 2021

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Driving School



Advantage Driving School is the premier driving school in northern California. Advantage Driving School has trained more than 300,000 students to drive safely since 1994. We offer complete programs for both traditional classroom and online courses.

Driver Training is the behind the wheel training which prepares your child to pass the driving test at the DMV. We also offer complete programs for adults and senior citizens. If you have never driven or just need some supplemental instruction to improve your driving skills, we are just the school for you! We believe Advantage Driving School offers a great combination of experienced driving instructors and affordable prices!

Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;

Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email: info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com

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Please give us a call today and we'll be happy to
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The organization that
brings single residents of
Almaden Valley (95120)
over 65 to enjoy a social life
close to home and take part
in community service.

Come and join us for our
monthly breakfast which is
held at 9 a.m. on the third
Tuesday of each month at
Cup and Saucer,
Princeton Plaza Mall,
1375 Blossom Hill Road.

Notices

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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

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