

Retail investment  
firm purchases  
Canyon Creek  
Plaza for \$27.9M  
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**Unhoused workforce**  
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Aashna Parsa  
places first in  
National Math  
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contest **SEE PAGE 4**



SEPT. 24 – OCT. 7, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 20

# EvergreenTimes

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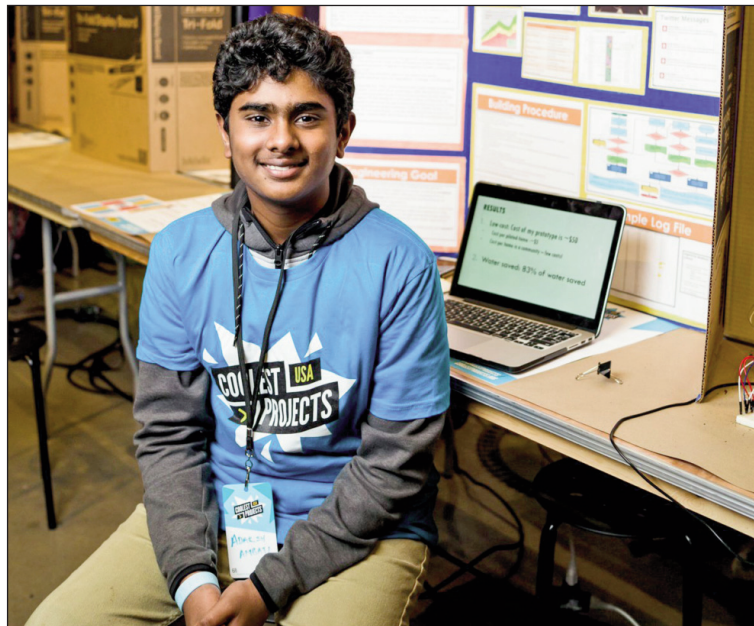
## SJECCD seeks public input for Trustee Area Redistricting

The San José - Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) is currently conducting its decennial redistricting of the seven trustee area boundaries in accordance with the demographic results from the 2020 U.S. Census. The District invites input and support for the adjustments of these trustee area boundaries from community members during upcoming Board meetings.

Public input can be shared via the following scheduled Board meetings: October 12, 2021; November 9, 2021; December 14, 2021; January 25, 2022; and February 8, 2022 (if necessary).

These meetings begin at 6:15 p.m. in the District Board Room located at 40 S. Market St., San Jose, CA 95113 (because of operational changes due to COVID-19, SJECCD Board meetings currently have a Zoom option as well. Please check [www.sjeccd.edu](http://www.sjeccd.edu) for up-to-date information).

This redistricting is required  
*See REDISTRICTING, page 7*



Davidson Fellow Scholarships were awarded to **Adarsh Ambati** (left) and **Apoorva Panidapu** for math and science projects.



## Davidson Fellow Scholarships awarded to Evergreen teens for math, science projects

*Apoorva Panidapu: \$50,000 Scholarship recipient; Adarsh Ambati: \$10,000 Scholarship recipient*

**By William Bellou**  
*Publisher*

Two teens from Evergreen Valley have been awarded Davidson Fellows Scholarships for 2021.

Among the honorees are 16-year-old Apoorva Panidapu, the winner of the \$50,000 schol-

arship and named Laureate for her research in number theory (math), and 16-year old Adarsh Ambati who won the \$10,000 scholarship for his science project. Only 20 students in the U.S. are recognized as scholarship winners each year.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship program

offers college scholarships to students 18 or younger, who have completed significant projects that have the potential to benefit society in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and music.

"Being a Fellow is such an enormous honor  
*See SCHOLARSHIPS, page 17*

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**Frank "Rufus" Deats** unveils the new Francis J. Smith landmark plaque located at Oakmont of Silver Creek Senior Living Center community.

## Francis J. Smith was the very first, last and only Postmaster in Evergreen Valley in the 1800's

*Historic home located at  
Oakmont Silver Creek  
Senior Living community*

**By Kevin Larsen**  
*Times staff writer*

Pioneer and settler, Francis J. Smith, was the first, last and only Postmaster in Evergreen in the 1800's.

Smith's preserved home was dedicated as an official landmark in San Jose earlier this year and is

located at the entrance of Oakmont of Silver Creek Senior Living Center located at 3544 San Felipe Rd. in Evergreen.

Smith built this home in 1874 on land originally part of the Chaboya Mexican land grant, Rancho Yerba Buena.

The village of Evergreen's commercial center stood near the home site, where Francis and his brother Charles opened a general  
*See POSTMASTER, page 18*

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## Groundbreaking collaborative Child Well-Being Plan presented by Councilwoman Sylvia Arenas

*City and County hold historic  
special joint meeting for kid-health*

By Kevin Larsen  
Times Staff Writer

Councilwoman Arenas helped bring stakeholders together for a Joint Special Meeting on Child Well-Being held on Sept. 9th via Zoom.

Actively participating were the City of San José Neighborhood Services and Education Committee and Committee of the Whole, the County of Santa Clara Children Seniors and Family Committee and many other agencies including the Santa Clara Office of Education, Grail Family Services and other esteemed leaders in child welfare and oversight.

This historic first meeting brought together great minds to work collaboratively on the issue of child well-being in Santa Clara County.

This Joint Special Meeting was the first of its kind to bring together the city, county and community stakeholders in a collaborative discussion to identify recommendations which promote equitable access to childcare, early education and overall child and youth well-being programs. The meeting is a step in the direction of combining the City, the County, and many key organizations to work together on tasks rather than separately, which will allow for the creation of new thinking structures with combined goals and efforts to achieve agreed upon visions for the entire Santa Clara County.

### 'Care for children in our community'

Arenas stated: "I want to welcome everyone to City of San Jose's Neighborhood Services and Education Committee along with Santa Clara County Children and Seniors Family Committee on the topic of child well-being. Today we said this topic was going to be around child care, but I'd like to frame it as 'Care for our children in our community.' As you know child care was often inaccessible to many of our families even before this pandemic which aggravated the situation. We all know that families continue to struggle to address this disruption of their own child care caused by the pandemic."

It was explained that disruptions for care for children varies depending on demographics of residents. It is believed that families earning less than \$40,000 in California can only go so far with that income and in a survey, 69% stated someone in their family lost a job, had reduced hours or lost wages during the pandemic. The 5% of top income categories were able to shift from work to home location but experienced imbalances of work and home life, the majority being women.

### 'Fearless' women band together

The group was touted as being com-

posed of many "Fearless" women. Also, this kind of collaboration is special and perhaps as in our historical record of time, women do have special skills to band together, lead in meaningful ways and collaborate to move forward innovative practices for the welfare of children and

adults. They have that special something that nourishes our society. Such was the case of this historic meeting.

"We have this great opportunity to support a predominately female dominated field which is our child care providers," Arenas said. "They're the folks who really earn a lot less but really should be rewarded with the most. I have

to point out that the last time we had a very significant child care investment was back in World War II when men left for the war and women took up some of the work that the men had left behind, so there was child care for all. It hasn't happened again. There have been a number of attempts to provide child care for all but it hasn't happened. And now, with this tragic pandemic, it's created an opportunity for us as a City and a County and County Office of Education, and all of those non-profits that are in this ecosystem in caring for our children, whether it's indirectly or directly, this is an opportunity for us to begin to discuss or continue to discuss how our systems coordinate with one another and how do we maximize our resources and move towards a regionally coordinated system of care that is centered around families," Arenas stated.

### Chavez breaks meeting into 'chunks'

Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez strategically explained that the meeting would first go over many federal, state and local funding opportunities to support child care, early learning and other services for children. She also stated that the second part of the meeting was to focus on taking, "A deep dive into an updated snapshot of what's happening here in our county with the idea that we're going to learn what the gaps are and where we're going to make future investments, where there are opportunities to do so."

Superintendent of Alum Rock School District, Dr. Hilaria Bauer passionately reviewed the need for the importance of coming up with creative solutions and the importance of having the spirit of being solution oriented with creativity in filling funding gaps of learning and other needs for children.

### Incredible funding opportunities available due to pandemic

Supervisor Susan Ellenberg stated, "What I would really pause it for everybody, on this screen as a baseline, is that we are all committed to the health and

See CHILD PLAN, page 8



Arenas



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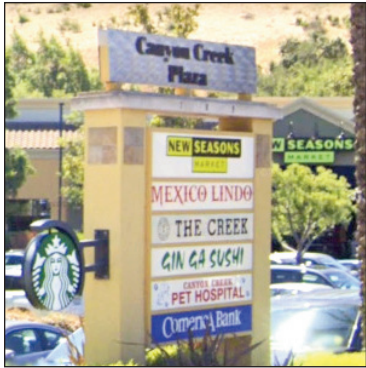
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Google Maps

## Retail investment firm focused on 'necessity-based' centers purchases Canyon Creek Plaza for \$27.9M

Canyon Creek Plaza, a retail and office complex at 5601 Silver Creek Valley Road in south San Jose has been sold.

The shopping center in the affluent section of Evergreen Valley was purchased by San Diego based real estate firm Retail Opportunity Investments Corporation for \$27.9 million. The real estate firm focuses its resources on "necessity-based" tenants that have become popular in the COVID era.

Retail Opportunity Investments says its mission statement is to buy community and neighborhood centers anchored by "necessity-based tenants" such as "national or regional supermarkets and drugstores," according to the real estate firm's website.

Canyon Creek Plaza, which totals about 65,000 square feet, includes the center's anchor store, New Seasons Market, part of a family-owned food store chain that boasts it's "the friendliest store in town." Other tenants include Mexico Lindo restaurant, Comerica Bank and Orangetheory Fitness.

See CANYON CREEK, page 8

# Valley Currents

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

## Aashna Parsa places first in National Math Kangaroo 2021 contest

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Aashna Parsa, a fourth grade student, is among the First Place National Winners list in Math Kangaroo 2021.

Math Kangaroo is the largest international math competition in the world with more than six million participants across 77 countries. The contest was founded in the 1980's by Peter O'Halloran, an Australian mathematician and teacher. Besides basic computational skills, and problem solving, the Math Kangaroo competition requires analytical thinking, creativity, and imagination.

Aashna Parsa, a math-loving student, participated in Level 3 (offered to third and fourth graders). Aashna scored the maximum available points, placing her in the prestigious National 1st Place Winners list.

### Thinking harder

"I love math because I love to solve problems, especially when they make me think harder," Aashna said. "Math also helps me with programming in Scratch and Python which I enjoy a lot in my free time! I am very thankful to my teachers Mrs. Maté, Mrs. Mathur, Mrs. Vanderpool, and Principal Mrs. Harper, for always encouraging us students to explore our interests and do our best. For the competition, what helped me most is the advice of my teachers that as math students we should always show our work and review before submitting."

### Grand Honors

Aashna Parsa previously received the Grand Honors award from the highly renowned Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) while attending second grade, having achieved scores among the highest in the na-



tion in CTY's SCAT (The School and College Ability Test). The CTY program helps nurture gifted children through advanced courses in various subjects. Aashna enjoys studying at Challenger Almaden as well as taking courses through CTY. Aashna previously received the Grand Honors award from Johns Hopkins Center of Talented Youth.

Aside from her accomplishments in Math, Aashna loves computer science, writing, painting, and dancing.

Aashna has been a Challenger Almaden student since first-grade, a scholarship recipient, and has won several awards as a Young Author and Computer Fair and Art competitions.

### Avid Dancer

Aashna hopes to continue her love for both STEM and Language Arts in the years to come. Aside from academics, Aashna is an avid dancer, learning and performing Kathak, a traditional Indian dance form, since the age of six, under the guidance of

## CLEAN ENERGY

## Building electrification workforce training to be launched at SJECC

*Eligible workers in Santa Clara County receive \$500 for completing online course*

To meet growing demand in the marketplace, Silicon Valley Clean Energy and the San José - Evergreen Community College District Workforce Institute have launched 'FutureFit Fundamentals,' a new online course focused on all-electric building practices.

### Transitioning to clean all-electric future

The training is designed to familiarize local contractors, apprentices, and journeypersons with the latest in all-electric building systems and appliances, and rapidly evolving building policies as communities transition to a clean, all-electric future.

Eligible participants will receive a \$500 stipend for course completion and may qualify to receive up to \$5,000 for installing selected electric appliances in their home or business. Training includes all-electric HVAC, heat pump water heating, high-efficiency electric appliances and home solar+battery storage.

"As a residential solar installer and electrician serving the region for more than two decades, I know that there is tremendous opportunity for local contractors to learn about new, electric technologies that customers are now requesting more often," said Barry Cinnamon, CEO of Cinnamon Energy. "This training helps prepare installers to be able to guide customers towards technologies that will help them save energy, money and the climate."

Demand for clean, non-polluting electric technologies has created new opportunities for building professionals, but past policies and California's historical reliance on gas have created a gap in education for tradespeople. FutureFit Fundamentals provides a good introduction to the concepts and knowledge tradespeople need to meet growing customer demand for all-electric installations and upgrades.

### Many cities instituting new all-electric building codes

Many cities throughout Silicon Valley have recently instituted all-electric building codes, now in effect, via 'reach codes' that transition new building construction away from systems or appliances that require fossil fuel use. Further, the California Energy Commission recently adopted the most ambitious building codes in the country to prevent fossil fuel pollution from buildings and further the fight against climate change. The codes will require new buildings to include solar and battery storage, and pre-wiring that prepares for the transition to an all-electric future with efficient, electric appliances, particularly heat pump technology. These sweeping changes will go into effect in 2023.

"As we make major investments in clean energy and move towards meeting our climate goals as set forth in SB 100, we cannot afford to leave anyone behind. We must invest in workforce training and education to ensure that we create a just clean energy transition," said Margaret Abe-Koga, SVCE board chair and City of Mountain View councilmember.

the highly accomplished Mrs. Meenakshi Kulkarni in Almaden, and is in a pre-competitive swim program at the DACA swim school."

Aashna's family credits her teachers and Principal Mrs. Harper for creating a nurturing environment fostering independent thinking in students.

# EvergreenTimes

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Times **Local News**

## Redistricting

*Continued from page 1*

under California Education Code 5019.5 (a), which reads, in part,

"Following each decennial federal census, and using population figures as validated by the Population Research Unit of the Department of Finance as a basis, the governing board of each school district or community college district in which trustee areas have been established, and in which each trustee is elected by the residents of the area he or she represents, shall adjust the boundaries of any or all of the trustee areas of the district..."

Currently, SJECCD is a trustee-area elections District, in which the trustees live in a specific area and are elected only by voters residing in that area. The District is required to adjust the boundaries of trustee areas and must ensure that the redistricting method does not deny or abridge the voting rights of a protected racial or language minority group consistent with the Federal Voting Rights Act and the California Voting Rights Act.

SJECCD's process of re-drawing the boundaries of the trustee areas for the board of trustees following the 2020 federal census will be guided by the following board-approved principles:

1. The new trustee areas should maximize the ability of minority racial and

ethnic communities to elect trustees of their own choosing, thereby producing a diverse board representative for the community it serves;

2. The trustee areas should be as nearly equal in total population as practicable, given consideration of all criteria;

3. To the extent that trustee areas deviate from equality of population, consideration should be given to areas which in the past decade have grown disproportionate to other trustee areas;

4. Changes in trustee area boundaries should be made with the maximum possible community involvement and participation;

5. In determining boundaries of trustee areas, boundaries should follow natural and man-made features whenever possible, consistent with other criteria; and

6. Trustee areas should have contiguous territory, be functionally cohesive, and honor communities of interest whenever possible, consistent with other criteria.

Updates of progress in this redistricting process, including trustee area maps, will be provided to the public through the SJECCD website. In addition to the above-referenced Board meetings, feedback can be submitted in writing by emailing Mr. Sam Ho, SJECCD's Director of Communications, Community Relations, and Diversity at [sam.ho@sjeccd.edu](mailto:sam.ho@sjeccd.edu).



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Times Community News

Child plan

*Continued from page 2*

wellbeing of children, and particularly the support and care for the very youngest children in our County. So, with that as a given, what we are looking at, what has changed right now is this incredible funding opportunity. So, we have an opportunity before us to make long term systemic changes, we could make investments that would be short term stimulus which is exciting but I'm hoping we can really look at a new journey together. Dr. Dewan (Superintendent of the Santa Clara Office of Education) I thought did of course an excellent job laying out the partners in the first panel of funding. What I think is another critical piece and that perhaps the second panelists will be addressing, is what funds go to what entities because that's going to be critical in determining our roles. From what I heard in the first part and in the homework that I did learning about the second panel, before it happened, is that if we go into this thinking about perhaps four lanes, we can get to a strategic place where all of us here have a role. We're moving toward this unified whole but we know that we need to work with our funding streams and actually the purview each of us have."

Ellenberg also stated, "We hear a lot about work force. If the ultimate goal as Dr. Dewan showed in her bucket, is more seats for kids, for sure, in order to provide those seats, we need to expand our work-

force, and I see here that we have an opportunity for First 5 to lead, for the county to support through Bridge to Recovery, in order to create a lot of new good jobs."

**The importance of being action driven**

According to Ellenberg, "Kind of pre-gaming what I am hoping comes out of the end of this, whether it's this vision or a different one, always happy to have things come out better, but that we all understand that by taking different pieces of this, working on it, having specific goals and outcomes and then coming back together to share what we're doing, how we're moving and where we need support, we can really be very very action driven and that is my personal hope for today so I wanted to share it and put it on all your minds."

**First of two such meetings**

Many leaders spoke as panelists. Presenters included: Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Superintendent of the County Office of Education, Dr. Jeff Smith, County Executive, Santa Clara County, Angel Rios, Deputy City Manager, Sara Zarate, Director of City Manager's Office, Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo, Chief Community Impact Officer, First 5 Santa Clara County, Veronica Goei, Executive Director, Grail Family Services, Kathleen King, Executive Director, Healthier Kids Foundation, among other community voices.

**Members of the public spoke**

The majority of the public comment was in favor of finding ways to increase funding in child wellness. There was one



Canyon Creek Plaza, a retail and office complex in south San Jose located at 5601 through 5687 Silver Creek Valley Road. Photo: Google Maps

Canyon Creek

*Continued from page 4*

According to a marketing brochure circulated by Retail Opportunity Investments. "The Evergreen Valley and Silver Creek neighborhood is an enclave of high-income households and beautiful homes in both planned and gated communities," Retail Op-

portunity stated on its website. The new owner described Canyon Creek Plaza as a "unique Silicon Valley property."

At Canyon Creek Plaza, Portland-based New Seasons Market provides those key products with a family- and community-oriented approach. New Seasons is a unit of Good Food Holdings which in turn is a unit of South Korea-based retailer Shinsegae Group.

anonymous member of the public which commented against the entire plan and stated, "Yea, this is great, I'm glad the taxpayers [are] gonna be footing the bill for all of this. It's ridiculous what you guys are proposing, what's going to happen when the money comes out, there's not enough monies to provide everybody everything and then all of a sudden you want the coun-

ty and city workers to be subsidized too. They're already getting paid fat salaries, it's like glorified welfare for you people, you don't understand it, you're not going to have enough money to do all of this, and you never ever think about the taxpayer, nor do you thank the taxpayer, ever, ever, ever, ever, it's just more, more, more from the taxpayer. It's disgusting and I am tired



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of having to hear the womb to tomb that everybody needs everything from the taxpayer. When do you people think the mon-  
eys gonna run out, you know it's gonna happen. There is no way you're gonna be able to sustain all of this, it sounds so feel good and everything, it is not, you people are going to bankrupt this county, the city the state and the federal government. It's already happening. Hey by the way, your buddy Joe Biden, how's he doing; how's that working out for you, look at what he's doing, he's gonna help you out now, I doubt it, he already has you guys hooked."

More than a dozen panelists expressed support for increased child care, some offering new funding opportunities for the action as well as other support from county, city and state.

The meeting is the first of two meetings. At the end of the meeting Councilwoman Arenas read the following motion for each side of the committee (County and City) which passed unanimously.

Arenas' Child Wellness motion passed with buy-in

Arenas stated, "I recommend to the city manager to utilize space to the American Rescue Plan funds as well as other funds that become available to expand the ROCK program as well as integrating tutoring and social emotional service strategies and partnerships. Additionally, develop a sustainably plan for the expansion of ROCK. (This recommendation changed after a friendly amendment was requested. Please see the full motion that passed below.) Recommend to the city manager collaborating with the County Office of Education and Santa Clara County on efforts needed to utilize federal and state funding to create additional scholarships and an alternative payment availability for children and families as well as potential regulatory changes, tutoring and social emotional service strategies, health and partnerships. Also, to create an immediate child and youth action plan drawn on the direction of the committee (September 9, 2021 meeting) including potential opportunities voiced and in developing a long range child and youth master plan and report on the progress to NSC committee. To also agenize the second meeting and have updated information on funding opportunities as well as system improvements, and coordinated approach including reporting on collaboration between Santa Clara County Office of Education and the city and partner agencies to explore a regional coordinated system for funding and wraparound services for children and youth beyond age 6."

Full motion passed

"Recommend to the City Manager to explore the utilization of Phase 2 American Rescue Plan funds, as well as other funds that become available, to expand the ROCK program and integrate tutoring, social emotional and health service strategies and partnerships. Additionally, develop a sustainability plan for the expansion of ROCK.

Recommend to the City Manager to collaborate with the Santa Clara County Office of Education and Santa Clara County on efforts to utilize federal and state funding to create additional scholarships and alternative payment program availability

for children and families, as well as advocating for regulatory changes.

Create an immediate Child and Youth Action Plan that draws on potential opportunities heard at the Joint Special Meeting on Child Well-Being, as well as develop a long-range Child and Youth Master Plan. Report on progress to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee.

Agendize a second meeting of the NSE Committee and Committee of the Whole and the County of Santa Clara's Children, Seniors and Families Committee to bring forward updated information on funding opportunities, system improvements and a coordinated approach: including reporting on collaboration between SCCOE, San-

ta Clara County, the City of San José, and partner agencies to explore a regional coordinated system for funding and wrap around services for children and youth beyond age 6."

Milestone meeting

Following the meeting, Arenas said that this Joint Special Meeting was the first meeting between the City, County and Community Stakeholders to identify recommendations that further promote equitable access to childcare, early education and overall child and youth well-being programs.

"It's important for our systems of care to be well-coordinated so that we can meet the needs of vulnerable families," said Arenas. "My intention in bringing together this

network of elected officials, service-providers, and the public was to discuss how we can work collaboratively to ensure a strong safety net for children and begin creating a plan to connect various funding sources for childcare and afterschool programs. This was an important step toward closing service gaps that have existed in our community for a long time, as well as addressing new challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm looking forward to a second part of this discussion."

Editor's note: To view this meeting go to YouTube and type in; SEP 9, 2021 | Special Joint Meeting: City NSE and County CSF Committees



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tioner of the faith founded  
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and learning. Sikhism is  
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Times **Local News****State Senator Cortese secures funding for lifesaving 'MOSES' Technologies for Wildfire Preparedness**

Senator Dave Cortese announced Sept. 16 that, thanks to a budget request he championed, the City of San Jose will be able to purchase a Mobile Operations Satellite Expeditionary Systems (MOSES) to communicate securely and effectively during a wildfire or natural disaster.

The Senator's budget request was made with the support of his colleagues including Senate Majority Leader Robert M. Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) and Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley).

"Our recent historic wildfires have laid bare the vulnerabilities that exist in the current communication infrastructure used by our first responders during an emergency" said Senator Cortese. "I am confident that this funding will allow our community to

better fight wildfires and save countless lives. By using proven and state-of-the-art technology, we can minimize the risk of failure and ensure first responder and emergency communications to the general public is reliable."

The MOSES satellite communication unit has been successfully deployed – with Santa Clara County becoming the first County in the state to purchase the system - to provide cellular, WiFi and satellite service where it is needed the most to ensure that this community can withstand the challenges of a major disaster, including wildfires. The military grade system allows first responders to make voice calls, track and coordinate resources, support mutual aid resources and communicate with the general public regarding critical

evacuation information.

A MOSES satellite unit can be deployed at a moment's notice, has antenna coverage of 960 miles, can support 100,000 data users, and can operate at altitudes of up to 15,000 feet with wind conditions over 50 miles per hour.

A regional and statewide asset, a MOSES satellite can form an independent emergency communication system to ensure first responder and emergency communications are re-established should our existing communication infrastructure fail.

The capabilities MOSES will provide in the event of a large-scale disaster or wildfire has great potential to save lives," said San Jose Fire Chief Robert Sapient, Jr. "We know clear and timely communication is essential in keeping our firefighters safe as they

respond to emergencies and our ability to reach residents with critical safety alerts cannot be overstated."

"The staggering number of wildfires in recent years — as well as the increasing danger they pose to our courageous firefighters and California residents — make this investment in MOSES technology all the more necessary," said Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley). "I want to thank Senator Dave Cortese for his partnership in securing these vital communication tools to help San

Jose's emergency responders."

"We're fighting a two-front war when it comes to climate crises: on one hand we're advancing policies to reign in our carbon emissions in the long-term and on the other we're responding to impacts that are happening today," Senate Majority Leader Robert M. Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) said.

For more information, contact Tara Sreekrishnan, Office of Senator Dave Cortese, at 408-480-7833 or [tara.sreekrishnan@sen.ca.gov](mailto:tara.sreekrishnan@sen.ca.gov).

**Op-ed****Reflecting twenty years later**

By **Otto Lee**

*Santa Clara County Supervisor*

This past weekend, we remembered the horrific events of two decades ago. We mourned the victims of this attack and have eternal gratitude for those first responders who ran into the Twin Towers inferno to save lives. Many of these heroes are still suffering from toxic dust exposure near Ground Zero. The events of that day will live with us forever. I later discovered that one of the lives lost at the Pentagon was an old shipmate, Commander Bob Schlegel whom I had the honor to serve with on my first ship a decade prior.

For me, the events that stand in the forefront of my mind are the subsequent invasions that took place in the Middle East in response. As a Commander in the United States Navy Reserves, I figured that I would be recalled to serve on active duty in continental U.S. or on a ship someday, but didn't expect that I would be deployed to the Middle East. In 2003, I was first called to report to San Diego at the headquarters of the Naval Air Pacific to work with aviation logistics to support the deployed carriers in the Persian Gulf. However in late 2008, I received orders to serve one year boots on the ground in Baghdad, Iraq. At the time as a father of two young girls, departing overseas was truly one of the most difficult things I had to do.

While in Iraq, I was fortunate to work with dozens of local country nationals who served not only translators, but the invaluable local connections, logistics and local intelligence that is so crucial for carry-

ing out our missions, protecting our soldiers, every-single-day. Thanks to their help, I, along with my battle buddies, survived multiple IED attacks while closing hundreds of forward operating bases and helped bring our troops home.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan ended after twenty long years. Seeing the violence and chaos with people literally clinging to the planes leaving Kabul, I remain appalled by the lack of proper planning of this drawdown. Those who think we are now "done" with Afghanistan are misinformed. The work is far from over. For our country, our work has just begun. To that end, I joined my colleague, Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, on a referral that was passed at the September

14, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting to expand resources to support services that aid Afghan refugees' resettlement into our community. Many thousands of Afghans risked their lives, their family's safety, to support and protect American soldiers, doctors, nurses, teachers, in Afghanistan. They protected us, now we have the honor, duty, and moral responsibility to care for them and their families as they transition to new lives.

We are still living with the memories and impacts of 9/11/2001 in so many different ways. We must never forget the sacrifices of so many unsung heroes, and strive to work in solidarity with one another in our community so that we will create a better future for everyone.



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## Times Local News



Downtown Streets Team (above) and Goodwill Silicon Valley are the program's current partners and employ unhoused individuals as part of cleaning crews to combat blight. They both aim to support participants in the form of job training and good wages.

## San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo announces expansion for San Jose Bridge, doubling program capacity and service areas

'San José Bridge' connects unhoused participants with employers, services wages and path to self-sufficiency while beautifying the city. Mayor Sam Liccardo is expanding San José Bridge, a program that hires unhoused residents to clean and beautify San José, providing participants with services, wages, and a path to self-sufficiency.

The expansion, which will nearly double the current program, will employ 100 participants and dramatically increase the collection services of existing and new locations for two years. There is currently a Request for Proposal (RFP) due on October 1, 2021, seeking partner agencies to employ the program's unhoused participants.

Depending on the response to the RFP, SJ Bridge will be able to scale up to 140 service sites, doubling current service areas. The program will also have room for at least 100 positions, also doubling the current number of participants.

"We continue to do the hard work around expanding opportunities that will have the most profound and equitable impact for our unhoused neighbors through programs like SJ Bridge," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "Leveraging local partners, like Downtown Streets Team and Goodwill Silicon Valley--who already have the groundwork to help our most vulnerable population--and pairing them with career-sustaining and housing options allows participants to reclaim a path to self-sufficiency, all while beautifying our city."

In 2020, 71 participants, of whom 21 were offered full-time employment, serviced over 70 locations, collected nearly 8,000 trash bags, and removed 155 tons (or 310,000 pounds) of debris across 2.4 million square feet of sidewalks and streets. Currently, there are 50 participants in the program.

The program expansion will be funded through June 30, 2023, with \$1,600,000 in American Rescue Plan and local funds. SJ Bridge employees focus on litter clean-up and beautification projects, support, and training for living wage employment. The program combines employment with housing support by leveraging the City's emergency interim housing.

Downtown Streets Team and Goodwill Silicon Valley are the program's current partners and employ unhoused individuals as part of cleaning crews to combat blight. They both aim to support participants in the form of job training and good wages.

Participants in the expanded program will be paid \$23.31 per hour if health benefits are offered or \$24.56 per hour if health benefits are not offered.

Other expanded and innovative solutions being implemented to reclaim our public spaces and focused on engaging housed and unhoused residents to keep our community clean and safe:

- **BeautifySJ:** Launched in 2017 by Mayor Liccardo, BeautifySJ has worked with thousands of volunteers to clean up and help restore our community. Through their anti-litter program, encampment trash program, illegal dumping collection, and other beautification events, BeautifySJ has cleaned up over 5,500 tons, or 11 million pounds, of trash, litter, and debris in the last 12 months.

- **Cash for Trash:** Cash for Trash launched in November 2020, to help battle blight in San Jose by incentivizing unhoused residents to pick up trash at encampments in exchange for reloadable cards from MasterCard for up to \$40 a week. Since its inception, 294 unhoused residents have participated, removing over 243 tons, or 588,000 pounds, of trash at 22 locations. Mayor Liccardo expanded the program in his March 2021 Budget message to serve 500 unhoused residents and funding for two years to dramatically scale efforts.

- **Talking Trash:** Mayor Liccardo is hosting a series of clean-up town halls, providing residents opportunities to directly ask questions or discuss community issues while beautifying their neighborhoods.

- **Employing Unhoused Residents to Protect and Clean Public Restrooms:** Starting in December 2021, the city will launch a pilot program that builds on the success of SJ Bridge, by employing unhoused residents to protect and clean public restrooms.

Other resources residents can use to keep their homes clean include the city's Free Junk Pick Up and San Jose 311.

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Times **Feature**

# Carnatic Percussion Instruments

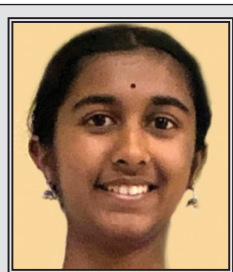
By **Veena Krishnan**

I have talked a lot about the melodic aspects of Carnatic Music, but another important part of Carnatic music is percussion!

Percussion has a very important role in Carnatic music and at its core, is made up of four syllables, tha, thi, thom, and nam. Its main purpose is to provide rhythmic accompaniment to Carnatic concerts although sometimes, percussionists get the spotlight with their own concerts. There are many percussion instruments but to name a few, there are the mridangam, ghatam, kanjira, thavil and morsing. Carnatic percussionists also may perform konnakol, or the reciting of syllables that are played.

The mridangam is the main Carnatic percussion instrument. This two-sided instrument will almost always be present in a concert. The ghatam, kanjira, and morsing are secondary percussion instruments. They add more flavor to the concert but are not always there. The thavil is also a two-sided instrument which is used a lot for the accompaniment of nadaswaram (South Indian double-reed wind instrument) concerts.

All accompaniment in a full-length Carnatic concert gets their own special time. For per-

**About  
Carnatic  
Music**By **Veena Krishnan**

cussion, this happens during the thani. The thani avarthanam is a solo time for percussionist(s) where they play complex patterns in a structured way. The mridangist plays the thani, but when there are other percussion artists, too they have a lively exchange of patterns on the stage. They end with a grand finish and the main performer (singer/violinist/etc.) picks up the song from where they left off. Thanis capture the audience. Everyone between a casual listener to a seasoned expert can be mesmer-

ized by a good thani.

There have been great Carnatic percussionists over the years. Sri. Palghat Mani Iyer and Sri. Palani Subramania Pillai were some of the great mridangists of the 20th century and are still revered today. Sri. T. H. Vinayakaram (commonly known as Vikku Vinayakaram) is a famous ghatam player. Sri. G. Harishankar (kanjira), Sri. Sri-rangam Kannan (morsing), and Sri. Valayapatti A. R. Subramaniam (thavil) were/are also very great percussionists.

Carnatic music wouldn't be the same without percussion, and I can say that I enjoy listening to these instruments.

*This is an image of some of the Carnatic percussion instruments. Mridangam: center, Kanjira: top left, Ghatam: top right, Thavil: bottom left, and Morsing: bottom right*



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### Times Feature

## BrainCycle: Working Out Elliptic Curves with Elliptical Cardio (Pt. 2)

By Apoorva Panidapu  
Special to the Times

Please visit [evergreentimes.com](http://evergreentimes.com), Sept. 10, 2021 edition to see part 1 of this series.

No slowing down – we're not done yet! We know  $1+1=2$ , but what about  $P+P$ ? In the previous pictures,  $P$  and  $Q$  were different points. Don't worry, the ever clever and comprehensive mathematicians have rules for that too!

To think about adding  $P$  to itself, we can imagine adding  $P$  to a point  $Q$  that is approaching  $P$ , getting closer and closer (just like we are getting to the end of this session). Then, we can see that the line  $L$  through the points eventually just becomes the tangent line to the elliptic curve  $E$  at  $P$ . Following the same process as before, we take the "third" intersection point  $R$  on  $E$ , and reflect it across the  $x$ -axis to get the point  $P+P$ , or  $2P$ .

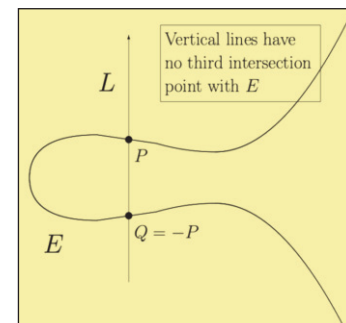


**Gems in STEM**

By Apoorva Panidapu



Oh no, the vertical line  $L$  through  $P$  and  $-P$  doesn't intersect the elliptic curve at a third point?



Our closure is broken! Are we doomed?! Of course not, pull yourself together and keep on cycling. This is exactly why we created our new point  $O$  at infinity, which we know is on every vertical line. So,  $L$  does in fact intersect the elliptic curve at a third point:  $O$ !

Finally, we can note that  $P + Q = Q + P$  (think about why). This is the commutative property!

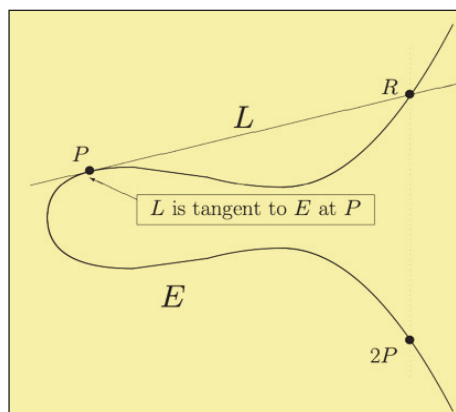
Now, let's slow down gradually and summarize what we've learned so far. We know that addition on an elliptic curve  $E$  satisfies the following properties:

1. (Associativity) For points  $P, Q$ , and  $R$  on  $E$ ,  $(P + Q) + R = P + (Q + R)$
2. (Identity element)  $P + O = P = O + P$
3. (Inverse element)  $P + (-P) = O$
4. (Commutativity)  $P + Q = Q + P$

Therefore, we have verified that the points on an elliptic curve (including the point at infinity) form a commutative group under our defined addition law, and we are done! That's right folks, you can stop cycling now and take some time to cool off. Amazing job today group—you all made it through this BrainCycle fully intact and, hopefully, have learned a little something along the way. I hope to see you and your brain again next session!

Until next time! If you found this interesting, make sure to check out the next column! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at [apoorvapwrites@gmail.com](mailto:apoorvapwrites@gmail.com).

Yellow Photo credits: Silverman, Joseph. "An Introduction to the Theory of Elliptic Curves." Lecture, University of Wyoming, Summer 2006.

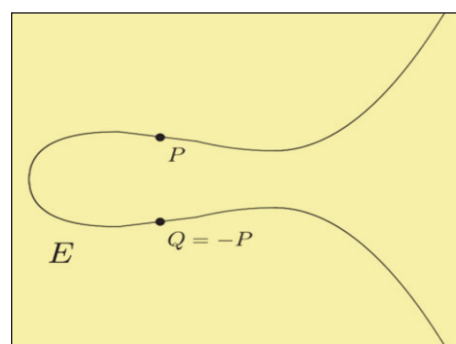


Thus, we have satisfied the first property: closure under a binary operation! Now, we have to check associativity and the existence of an identity element and inverse elements. Oops, associativity is a bit tedious and long to check and we're here for a quick high-intensity workout, so we're not going to do it, but it just boils down to some ugly computation.

Now, you might have noticed that we have been cycling around a certain special point: the point at infinity. Well, class, take a breather—the suspense ends here!

Recall that the identity element  $e$  must satisfy the property  $P + e = P = e + P$ . To satisfy this, we create an extra point  $O$  at infinity to be our identity element (which we can't see)! We define this point to follow the rule that  $O$  is a point on every vertical line. Why? The answer to this perfectly leads into our final check: the inverse element!

Let  $P=(x, y)$  be a point on the elliptic curve  $E$ . We reflect this point over the  $x$ -axis and denote this new point by  $-P=(x, -y)$ .



## September is National Literacy Month

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, reading proficiency by third grade is one of the most important predictors of whether a student will graduate high school and succeed in a career, yet according to a study by the U.S. Department of Education, 32 million adults in the U.S. still can't read.

Brainly, the world's leading online learning platform, shares tips from their parenting expert Patrick Quinn to help parents encourage their kids to read for fun more often, including:

1. **Reading rewards.** For every 10 books your child reads, allow him/her to choose a prize.
2. **Piggyback on their passions.** Pick books for your child that feature topics and themes he or she is already interested in.
3. **Make a themed reading nook.** Work with your child to make it an area where they'd want to hang out.
4. **Set a good example.** The best way for kids to become more voracious readers and to cultivate a love of reading is to learn by example from their parents.

For more information, please check out [brainly.com](http://brainly.com).



Times **Feature**

A large crowd assembles to remember and honor the lost. Photo by Danny B Acevedo, DBAPIX.

**REMEMBERING 9/11**

## Anniversary tribute to survivors, victims and local 9/11 heroes

**A**s Bay area residents woke up on Saturday, September 11, 2021, they rose to a perfectly beautiful day which for some may have been a rear view mirror of September 11 twenty years earlier.

The day was perfect for flying. A day, pilots would refer to as "severe clear." The day echoed the same kind of weather our country experienced on the east coast twenty years prior when four planes – American Airlines Flight 11, American Airlines Flight 77, United Airlines Flight 175 and United Airlines Flight 93, all departed their northeastern airports full of jet fuel headed for the west coast, none of which would make their intended destinations.

However, this September 11 was a day for reflection. A day to remember as community first responders, active and veteran military members, Disaster Response personnel, and citizens gathered to honor the 9/11 survivors, victims, and local heroes at The Flame of Liberty Memorial located in the Town of Los Gatos Civic Center. The Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation hosted the tribute.

Combine the ingredients of the Santa Clara County Fire Department Honor guard, a crystal clear and beautiful rendition of the National Anthem, a 21-gun salute, Taps from the bells of echoing buglers, vocalists accompanied by instruments, the 191st Army Band, children launching doves of peace, Town Council members past and present, leaders and dignitaries, poignant speeches combined with passion, a community of citizens, all set against the backdrop of a world class memorial – The Flame of Liberty, that honors veterans, first responders and two local 9/11 heroes, and one has the recipe for a perfect tribute to commemorate the heroism that brought America together twenty years ago.

Keynote speaker Santa Clara County Fire Chief Tony Bowden travelled east following 9/11 to assist with rescue efforts in the rubble at the scene of the Twin Towers as a young firefighter. He described the horrible feeling in the pits of stomachs of firefighters observing the events of 9/11 and helping in the aftermath. "As the cameras continued to roll and the dust cloud blew through the streets, all the firefighters in the fire station that day went silent. All we could hear was that sound... the piercing sound of alarms going off, signaling when a firefighter stopped moving. The alarms are triggered by personal de-

vices integrated into the air pass worn by every firefighter across our nation. Our hearts sank because all we could do was watch and listen, unable to help our fallen brothers and sisters. That day we lost 343 firefighters and 72 police officers. And many more later who have succumbed to their injuries."

"As we honor and remember all the first responders who lost their lives on September 11, I feel it is essential to focus on the many lives saved that day. There are countless stories of first responders making their way up stairwells and rescuing those trapped or struggling to make their way out of the Twin Towers. There are stories of law enforcement officers clearing the streets so emergency medical personnel can provide care to those who needed it." Chief Bowden cited that the actions of first responders evacuating those they could in the Twin Towers and surrounded areas are responsible for saving well over 4,000 lives on 9/11.

Hometown raised, Air Force Academy alum and Veterans Memorial Board Member Lieutenant Colonel Walker Pearce-Percy reflected on his 200+ combat missions from the war on terrorism resulting from 9/11. "By the time I was qualified to fly the C-5 in September 2003, the Iraq War was full-on. As aircrew, we were on the road for three weeks at a time, flying routes between the United States and multiple downrange locations, moving anything and everything: boats, tanks, helicopters, people, tires. You name it; we moved it."

And with emotional sentiment, Lt. Col. Pearce-Percy concluded with positive reflections on Los Gatos and two local 9/11 heroes – Todd Beamer and Mark Bingham – members of a four-person pickup team aboard United Flight 93 who attempted to take back cockpit control from terrorists. As a result of their actions, United Airlines Flight 93 crashed into Shanksville, Pennsylvania, rather than its intended target – the United States Capitol Building, thereby saving our government from being decimated at a time when it needed to act.

"Today is about remembering that twenty years ago, a bunch of heroes stood up out of their seats and took action to protect our team, the United States of America. I appreciate you allowing me time today to share my military story with you, the community that raised me. I have to say that we must be doing

See *TRIBUTE*, page 20



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Times Feature

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

Neural Networks

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

**Neural Networks**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is getting very good at identifying things: show it a million pictures, and it can tell you with uncanny accuracy which ones depict a pedestrian crossing a street. But AI is hopeless in generating images of pedestrians by itself. The problem is, creating something entirely

new requires imagination – and until now that has perplexed AIs.

The first solution came from Ian Goodfellow, then a PhD student at the University of Montreal, during an academic argument in a bar in 2014. The approach, known as a generative adversarial network, or GAN, takes two neural networks and pits them against each other in a digital cat-and-mouse game.

A neural network is a type of machine learning model which models itself after the human brain. This creates an artificial neural network that via an algorithm allows the computer to learn by incorporating new data.

Artificial neural networks use different layers of mathematical processing to make sense of the information it’s fed. Typically, an artificial neural network has anywhere from dozens to millions of artificial neurons—called units—arranged in a

series of layers. The input layer receives various forms of information from the outside world. This is the data that the network aims to process or learn about. From the input unit, the data goes through one or more hidden units. The hidden unit’s job is to transform the input into something the output unit can use.

Most neural networks are fully connected from one layer to another. These connections are weighted; the higher the number the greater influence one unit has on another, like a human brain. As the data goes through each unit the network is learning more about the data. On the other side of the network is the output units, and this is where the network responds to the data that it was given and processed.

So, in the earlier digital cat-and-mouse game, two neural networks are taken and trained on the same dataset. One, known as the generator, is

tasked with creating variations on images it’s already seen—perhaps a picture of a pedestrian with an extra arm. The second, known as the discriminator, is asked to identify whether the example it sees is like the images it has been trained on or a fake produced by the generator—basically, is that three-armed person likely to be real?

Over time, the generator can become so good at producing images that the discriminator can’t spot fakes.

The technology has become one of the most promising advances in AI in the past decade, able to help machines produce results that fool even humans.

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

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**Times Cover Story****Scholarships***Continued from page 1*

and opportunity. I can't believe I get to join this community of innovative and brilliant young mathematicians, scientists, authors, and more," Apoorva said. "The Davidson Fellow Scholarship Program is a valuable educational asset with their continuing support and dedication to cultivating young scholars for more than 20 years worldwide."

Apoorva, a regular writer for her column Gems in STEM in *Evergreen Times*, was awarded the \$50,000 scholarship for her mathematics project: Short-Interval Sector Problems for CM Elliptic Curves." Apoorva is one of four Laureates recognized for her graduate level research work nationwide.

**Apoorva's Project Description**

Apoorva's project, Short-Interval Sector Problems for CM Elliptic Curves," studies prime distribution in short intervals.

"Specifically, I am looking at the fine-tuned behavior of primes in extremely zoomed-in settings, like the distribution of primes represented by binary quadratic forms," explained Apoorva. "The study of prime distribution has led to some of the greatest problems in all of mathematics, like the Riemann Hypothesis. Despite the hundreds of years of literature surrounding my research problem, there is really no such paper that clearly outlines the relationship between the prime distribution I study, algebraic number theory, and combinatorics, and I wanted to bridge this gap."

Panidapu stated, "Much like atoms that make up our universe, primes are the building blocks of the mathematical universe."

"We don't only want to know how many primes there are (infinitely many!), we also want to know how they're distributed," Apoorva said. "My project takes this question even further, or to be exact, even smaller. In particular, I study prime distribution in short intervals, looking at their fine-tuned behavior in these extremely zoomed-in settings. Going from general distribution to short intervals restricts the tools we could use previously and requires much more careful handling of the details and highly refined theorems, which is what my project navigates through to prove my result in this delicate setting," stated Apoorva.

Apoorva began homeschooling in sixth grade. "Because of homeschooling, I've had the chance to forge my own unconventional path full of exciting experiences of all flavors, including learning from a conglomerate of institutions such as San Jose State University, Columbia University and Johns Hopkins University," Apoorva said.

In her free time, Apoorva enjoys playing the violin, practicing kung fu, and reading classical literature. She also founded her own art gallery, Apoorva Panidapu's Art Gallery, as an online platform to share her artwork and raise funds for charity.

**Ardash's Project Description**

The following engineering project was submitted by Ardash: A Contactless Vital Signs Monitor using PhotoPlethysmographic (PPG) Imaging Infrared Sensing Tech-

niques & Computer Vision.

Aardash developed a contactless, low-cost, prototype that detects the five vital signs — skin-temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, and blood oxygen levels (Spo2).

"The contactless feature helps reduce the exposure of healthcare providers (like the many that occurred during the COVID-19 outbreak), and the low-cost feature strengthens home healthcare systems—allowing for self-quarantining/isolation without overwhelming hospitals," Aardash said.



"Finally, the continuous-monitoring capability can help detect health abnormalities like Sudden Infant Death Syndrome that can be both fatal and unexpected.

Ambati's academic interests are mostly environmental science, biology, and computer science.

"I love gardening and growing plants, especially succulents which I sell through my STEM education organization, Gro-STEMs," Aardash said. "Whenever I find time, I like to play the flute and read comics. I ultimately aspire to become a Principal Investigator and have my own lab at an academic institution, where I can work with like-minded students and faculty to conduct research in environmental sciences/engineering, developing technologies that better the world and

help protect our environment.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship has provided more than \$8.2 million in scholarship funds to 366 students since its inception in 2001, and has been named one of the most prestigious undergraduate scholarships by U.S. News & World Report. It is a program of the Davidson Institute for Talent Development, a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Reno, Nev. that supports profoundly gifted youth.

For more information, visit <https://www.davidsongifted.org/fellows-scholarship>

*Editor's note: Akhilesh Balasingam, from San Jose, received an Honorable Mention for his science project. At press time, we have not received details about Balasingam's project.*



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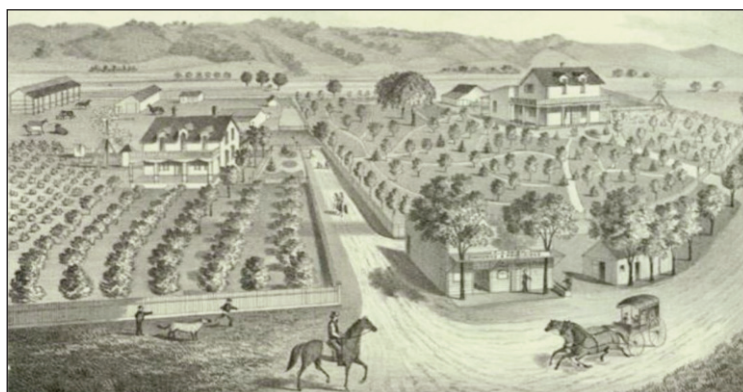
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Times **Community News**



California Pioneers of Santa Clara County erected a plaque at a recent dedication on the property of Oakmont of Silver Creek Senior Living Center community located at 3544 San Felipe Rd. in Evergreen.



This 1876 drawing from the Thompson and West Atlas shows the Smith store in the lower center and newly planted residence of F. J. Smith in the upper right corner.

*“Oakmont Senior Living was honored to be entrusted with the improvements of the historic Francis J. Smith house. We look forward to continuing to feature this landmark at the entrance of our senior living community,” said an Oakmont representative.*

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### Postmaster

*Continued from page 1*  
store in 1868.

In 1870, the farmers of Evergreen petitioned for a post office and Francis J. Smith became Evergreen's first postmaster. He held the post until the post office was closed in 1914. Farmers picked up their mail at Smith's store and patronized nearby businesses, including a blacksmith shop and winery.

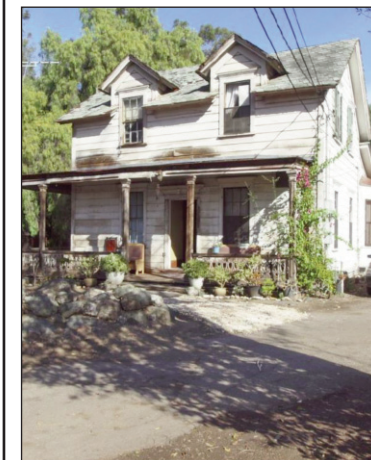
The house stood behind the general store, which burned down in 1929. The house remained a home for one of Smith's children, Katherine R. Smith, a schoolteacher, and she lived there until her death in 1873 at the age of 103.

An elementary school in the Evergreen School District bears her name.

In 2019, the house was moved closer to the road to make room for new development. Some of the eucalyptus and pepper trees Francis planted still remain today.

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County erected a plaque at a dedication earlier this year.

“Oakmont Senior Living was honored to be entrusted with the improvements of the historic Francis J. Smith house. We look forward to continuing to feature this landmark at the entrance of our senior living community,” said an Oakmont representative.



The Francis J. Smith home prior to the extensive restoration.





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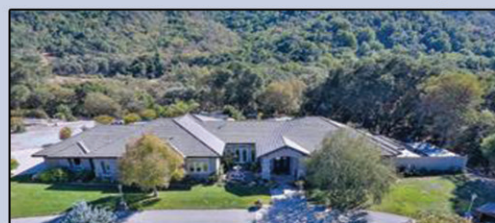
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6857 Castlerock Drive - \$2,900,000



1270 Echo Ridge Court - \$1,785,000\* rep-  
resented buyer



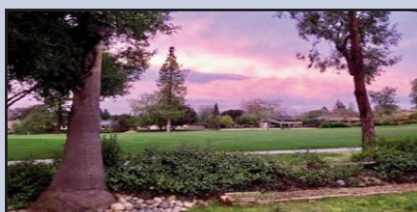
6933 Castlerock Drive - \$2,650,000



854 Bucks Lake Court - \$582,000\*  
represented both buyer and seller



1299 Littman Drive - \$2,625,000\*  
represented buyer



6598 Crystal Springs Drive - \$2,520,000\*  
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1194 Chateau Drive - \$2,425,000\*  
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Kindercare  
Mr. Peabody's  
N. Jeanette Campa - Jabez Realty  
Nothing Bundt Cakes  
Oakmont of Evergreen  
Ramirez Realty Team  
Silver Creek Academy  
SOS Auto Repair  
Tasty Pizza  
The 5 Social  
Valley Transportation Agency  
Valley Water

## Times Feature

### Tribute

*Continued from page 15*

something right around here. All one has to do is look at the plaque [the 9/11 element] at that end of the memorial with Todd's and Mark's names, the pavers along this walkway [the Walk of Heroes] to the fire bell [which commemorates first responders], and the plaques we're about to unveil, on the other side of this wall, to realize that this Town has some grit. It continues to be a community that will do what it takes to stand up and be counted and take a stand against the evil in the world."

Chief Bowden stated: "As we honor and remember all the first responders who lost their lives on September 11, I feel it is essential to focus on the many lives saved that day. There are countless stories of first responders making their way up stairwells and rescuing those trapped or struggling to make their way out of the Twin Towers. There are stories of law enforcement officers clearing the streets so emergency medical personnel can provide care to those who needed it." Chief Bowden cited that the actions of first responders evacuating those they could in the Twin Towers and surrounded areas are responsible for saving well over 4,000 lives on 9/11."

"Today is about remembering that twenty years ago, a bunch of heroes stood up out of their seats and took action to protect our team, the United States of America," said Pearce-Percy."

Mayor Sayoc continued, "I do think there's Divine Intervention that allows me to stand



Veterans Foundation President **Major General Kent Hillhouse** delivers closing remarks.

*Photo by Natalya Lyukevich.*

here today twenty years later because of the heroic actions of two boys who graduated from that high school across the street. So the Council and I stand always to hold this day in remembrance. But we also ask today

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**Times Feature**

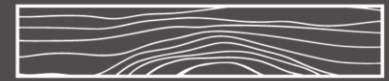
**State Senator Dave Cortese** addresses the audience. Photo by Danny B Acevedo, DBAPIX.

of all days 'Let's not only remember, but let's take that Los Gatos grit we heard about. Let's absorb that and let's remember that they were one of us and with courage and with that same grit; we could be someone else's hero.'"

Sayoc stated, "My fellow Veterans Foundation committee members and I had the exceptional honor of knowing fellow committee member, Alice Hoagland, mother of Mark Bingham. I was graced with the distinction to eulogize Alice who passed late last year, and praise the bravery she exhibited in the wake of her son's tragic death. It takes a unique parent to view the silver lining of the actions of a son killed in a terrorist attack, yet this mother found the inner strength to convey

Mark's contribution to America to an audience of 1500 strangers at our memorial dedication in June 2019. Alice Hoagland declared 'United Flight 93 was good news on a terrible morning of tragedy. Our guys succeeded in saving the ultimate target of the thugs who held them captive.'" The target to which Alice referred was the U.S. Capitol Building, our country's Representatives, and all on the ground who were in or near it. Alice Hoagland was not just any ordinary citizen. Challenges in her life propelled Alice to act." Following her son's death, Alice chose to continue her son's legacy. She became a strong advocate for the LGBTQ movement and gay rugby, and as a former career flight attendant, lobbied in Washington D.C. for airline safety. While carrying on her son's legacy, in a twist of fate, Alice created a legacy of her own."

Mayor Marico Sayoc and Veterans Foundation President Major General Kent Hillhouse US Army (Ret.) unveiled the Wall of Gratitude at The Flame of Liberty Memorial which identifies the parties who contributed resources to support the construction of The Flame of Liberty Memorial. General Hillhouse concluded the day's celebration by reinforcing a few key takeaways in the audience's mind. "I believe we were attacked because we were a freedom-loving nation, and we stand behind our ideals. We're here to honor those 3000 people who died on September 11. Some were first responders; some were military. Most were civilians. We are also here in appreciation of the youth of our Town, the youth of our country and the six million who put on uniforms to protect us. And, as a result of that, we have not had a major terrorist attack on our Town since then. So we never want to forget."

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## Public Hearing



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

Open Hearing scheduled for the October 14, 2021 Evergreen School District Board of Trustees Meeting, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing, register at: <https://eesd.info/3hRlmgG>

Re: THE AVAILABILITY OF TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

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