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# Almaden Times

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OCTOBER 15 – OCTOBER 28, 2021 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 21

## Celebrate with 'Heart of the Park' in Almaden Oct. 16

Celebrate our public parks with the Martin-Fontana Parks Association's (MFPA) tenth annual "Heart of the Park" event this Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021 in the Jeffrey Fontana Park on Golden Oak Way in the Almaden Valley.

Festivities begin at 12 noon with a birding tour of Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, a natural oak preserve, led by Lisa Myers of Los Gatos Birdwatcher. Meet at the dog park entrance to the oak preserve and discover the many species of birds that inhabit this park.

At 1 p.m. visit the many informational booths as well as arts and craft tables to pick up gardening tips from Santa Clara Valley Master Gardeners, and the California Native Plant Society. Learn how to improve neighborhood safety with tips from the Almaden Valley Safety Net by visiting their "Hands On" display.

Enjoyment for the whole family includes the "Strut Your Mutt" dog parade, paint a Halloween Pumpkin, games, and free ice cream bars. The popular raffle drawing takes place at 2:30 p.m., with over \$1,000 worth of raffle items.

### About MFPA

The non-profit MFPA, formed in 2010, successfully stopped the PG&E removal of 140 mature trees in TJ Martin and Jeffrey Fontana Parks, and has grown to become one of the most active neighborhood park groups in the city.

Learn more about MFPA by visiting <https://www.saveourparktrees.com>.

## High School Junior Arz Bshara funds non-profit *Bright Future*

*Helps support foster care and other organizations*

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's persistent and most urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

For rising local high school junior Arz Bshara, the response to Dr. King's inquiry would be founding her non-profit organization *Bright Future*.



*Bright Future* makes generous donations in support of foster children locally in San Jose, college students in third-world countries, and other youths in need.

The organization is funded by Bshara and her fellow members' Etsy businesses where they sell a variety of keychains.

Originally, Bshara started her small business, SongKeychains, in 2020 as a fun arts and crafts hobby. However, after rapidly receiving more than 1,000 orders, she knew she had an opportunity of a lifetime. She immediately founded *Bright Future* in hope of using her business' earnings to assist disadvantaged communities.

Bshara made her first donation in gifting more than 200 items of notebooks, pens, pencils, and washi tape to a local foster care support organization named Rebekah Children's Services to help the children in their school work. Since

### DOING FOR OTHERS

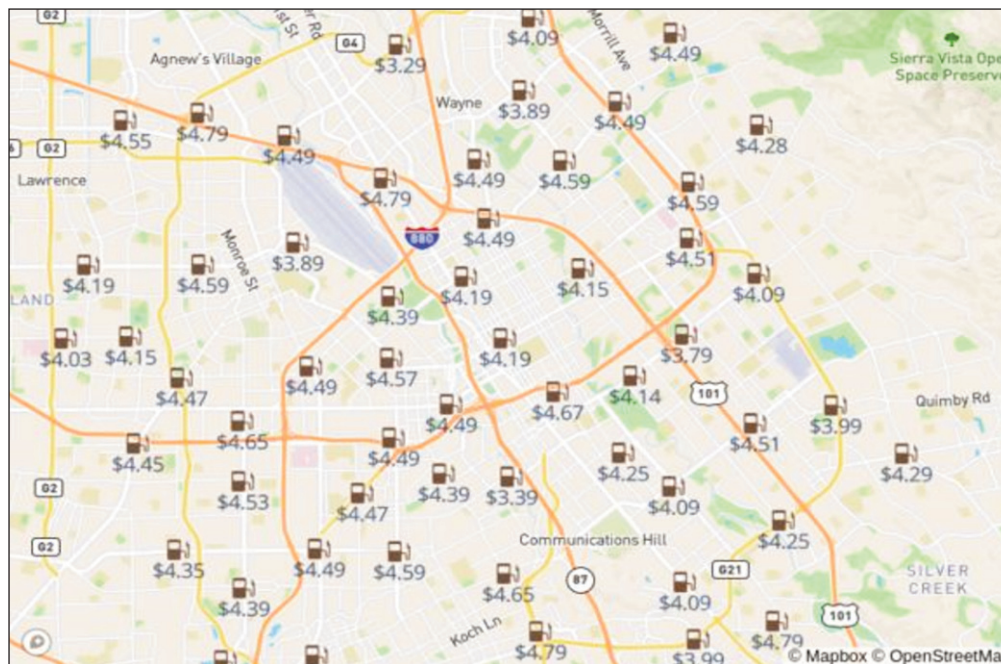


Arz Bshara founded *Bright Future* to make generous donations in support of foster children and other organizations in San Jose.

then, *Bright Future* has grown 10 times its number of members, donated more than \$7,000, and has expanded internationally in donating to over five other organizations.

Bshara is now planning on starting a club at

her school, Archbishop Mitty High School, where she and other students will help individuals in other countries start their own successful businesses so they can raise funds to support themselves.



## Gas prices vary as much as \$1.30 per gallon in San Jose

Gas prices vary across the San Jose area, with some registering significantly above the average.

Depending on where you fill up, you could be losing as much as \$1.30 per gallon, according to an analysis recently reported by GasBuddy.com.

Prices in San Jose ranged from \$3.79 per gallon to \$5.09, with an average price of \$4.39 for regular, according to this week's GasBuddy's survey of stations in the San Jose area.

The most expensive gas in the San Jose area appeared to be at 76, located at 2850 Stevens Creek Boulevard.

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Almaden Valley home on a generously-sized homesite with mature landscaping, privacy, pool, and spa. Gleaming hardwood flooring, ceiling fans, fireplace, wet bar, lots of natural light and double pane windows. Lots of trees and foliage around the perimeter including, roses, geraniums, palm trees, fig, orange and sour cherry fruit trees. Graystone, Bret Harte and Leland Schools. The new owner of this home will have membership at the Almaden Cabana Club.



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.

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Open House - Saturday & Sunday  
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## 391 Castlemaine Court, San Jose

Centrally located just south of Communications Hill, this lovely two-story modern townhome is a dream! Inside, its open floor plan, unique designer touches, and bright, airy atmosphere make for comfortable home living and remote work. Out back, the private patio and lush greenery provide the right atmosphere for outdoor entertaining, gardening, and more. A private, end-unit, the home is part of the wonderful Amber Grove community that features numerous amenities, including a pool and spa. With easy access to downtown San Jose, major thoroughfares, and public transportation, staying connected to all of the incredible experiences Silicon Valley has to offer is a breeze.

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Jennifer Higgins Bradanini gets no jail time. Photo via Facebook

## Ex-district 10 city council candidate won't serve jail time for crash that killed a 66-year-old pedestrian

*Higgins must wear GPS monitoring device*

Superior Court Judge Jose Franco has nixed the six-month jail sentence of ex-district 10 city council candidate Jennifer Higgins for fatally striking a 66-year-old pedestrian with her SUV.

Higgins, who ran for San Jose's District 10 council seat in 2019, was sentenced in July to up to six months in county jail for a December 2019 crash that killed Timothy Starkey of Santa Cruz.

Judge Franco decided in August that Higgins should pay \$183,857 in restitution to Starkey's family and she could satisfy her sentence by wearing an electronic monitoring device in San Mateo County, where she now lives.

The victim's family believed, at the time of sentencing, that the six-month jail decision of Women's

March leader Higgins allowed her to get off too lightly in the sentence. So far, the family has not filed a civil lawsuit against Higgins.

Judge Franco previously reduced Higgins' felony charge for vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence to a misdemeanor, paving the way for a lighter sentence.

### Fatal accident

Higgins veered her SUV out of the lane she was driving in on the 900 block of Blossom Hill Road in Los Gatos and struck Starkey who was loading his car's trunk on Dec. 16, 2019.

Higgins could not recall, when questioned by police officers, what led her to swerve out of her lane approximately six to eight feet. It was later learned that Higgins was allegedly under the influence of benzodiazepine — a class of medications that are typically prescribed for anxiety, depression and insomnia — at the time of the crash, according to court documents. Those taking benzodiazepine are urged not to drive while on the medication as it can cause weakness and dizziness.

### Credit for good conduct

With credit for good conduct, Higgins is ordered to wear the Buddi SmartTag GPS monitoring device for three months, unless she violates the ruling's stipulations. She is permitted to travel to work and attend medical and court-related appointments.

Higgins works as the director of development for the Women's March Foundation, a non-profit organization based out of Los Angeles, according to her LinkedIn page.

# Valley Currents

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



Volunteers were mostly National Charity League (NCL) members and students from Pioneer, Bellarmine and Mitty High Schools.

## Successful Gifts for Teens assembly session completed

**Cheryl Markman**  
*Special to the Times*

Last month Gifts for Teens completed another successful assembly session for the holiday giving season.

In preparation toiletries and school supplies were gathered together in cellophane bags; sweat-shirts, tee-shirts and socks were rolled; knit scarves, caps and gloves were bundled; fast food and store gift cards were sorted and sealed in can't-be-missed red envelopes.

On the assembly days, the early

morning set-up crew came in and set up canopies and tables for the assembly line in the American Association of University Women (AAUW) headquarters parking lot. Then the volunteers arrived and the fun began.

Volunteers were mostly National Charity League (NCL) members and students from Pioneer, Bellarmine and Mitty High Schools. Teens helping other teens, less fortunate than themselves, kids they don't even know. Over 500 bags and totes were filled this year.

The first Saturday was spent filling duffel bags for the boys; the second Saturday was devoted to filling sturdy tote bags for the girls. A third day was allotted to finishing the girls' totes and taking inventory, already gearing up for next year!

Gifts for Teens would like to thank everyone who donated items, gift cards and cash.

The donations make this another successful year for the organization by providing a more joyful holiday season for the underprivileged youths in our community.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST Machado Family Orchard in San Jose

Orchards provided an abundance of fruit in the Valley of Hearts Delight.

Prunes, peaches, and apricots were grown, harvested, dried, canned, packed, and shipped. This fruit was shipped around the country and to Europe.

By 1852, the first pioneer nurserymen were importing and experimenting with various types of fruit trees and by the 1860s orchards were being set out in East San Jose, Milpitas, and the North Valley. In the 1870s increasing residential and business growth led to the shifting of orchard areas to new communities such as the Willows, Berryessa, Los Gatos, and Saratoga.

The 1880s saw orchards expanding into the Campbell, Evergreen, and Edenvale areas. Orchard prod-



ucts dominated agricultural production by the end of the century and fruit production peaked in the 1920s. The most popular of the orchard products was the prune with acreage expanding rapidly during the 1890s.

By the 1930s, 83 percent of the valley orchards raised prunes with the Santa Clara Valley producing 25 percent of the world's trade

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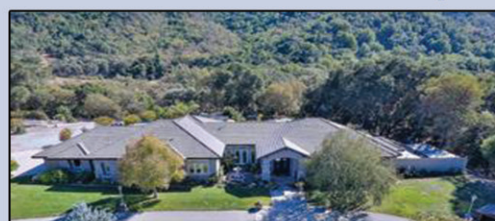
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stream, open space and  
riding trails

**SALE PENDING**  
**844 Bucks Lake Court, Almaden**



Upstairs unit  
2 bedroom,  
2 bath in  
Park Almaden

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1286 Chateau Drive - \$2,575,000



1080 Micro Court - \$2,520,000



6603 Mount Royal Drive - \$2,155,000



1299 Swinging Gate Court - \$2,625,000



6857 Castlerock Drive - \$2,900,000



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



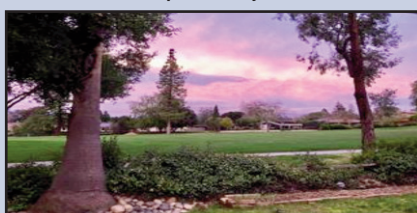
6933 Castlerock Drive - \$2,650,000



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



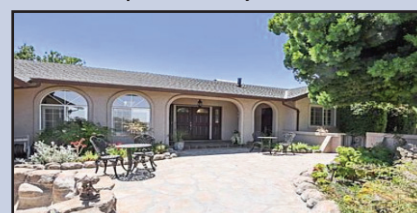
1299 Littman Drive - \$2,625,000\*  
represented buyer



6598 Crystal Springs Drive - \$2,520,000\*  
represented both buyer and seller



1194 Chateau Drive - \$2,425,000\*  
represented buyer



1172 Grimley Lane - \$2,800,000



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## WATER-WISE

# The rains of Santa Clara Valley

By Matthew Frazier

Certified Water Manager

In February of 2017 we had several weeks of what seemed to be consecutive days and nights of steady rain. It was during this time that the citizens of San Jose and Santa Clara Valley were assured that the drought we had been facing recently was firmly in our past and that we could return to using water in what we deemed a normal fashion.

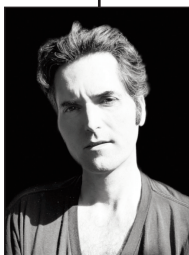
This collective sentiment struck me as somewhat delusional.

For those of us who are native to this valley, droughts are nothing new. The very prospect of consecutive days of rain seems rare and is an aberration by our measures.

In late winter and early spring of that year, I was working for Azimian Campbell Ace Hardware in the South Bay. The conversations which ensued were plethora. Many were com-

menting on how their drip irrigation and micro irrigation systems were to become obsolete, now that this volume of water was upon us. My thoughts were quite a contrast to the collective.

My education and training as a nursery consultant and lawn and garden sales specialist had included knowledge about the characteristics of plants and their water needs. For years, I had advocated the use of flowers, shrubs, trees, and vines which are native to Santa Clara Valley, given the clay soil we have and it's tendency to rot out the root systems on non-natives.



I expressed my thoughts on this issue with our customers and assured them that these rains were a welcome deviation from our normal droughts and dry spells, but to be mindful of the glaring fact that we would once again, in the near future, be facing another water crisis – throughout our valley and throughout our state. This was two years before Valley Water recruited me as a water-wise outdoor surveyor, or irrigation surveyor, to conduct audits of landscapes and generate water usage reports.

Now, nearly five years later, we face an even more severe shortage of water – a level-4 drought by some measures. This may be our second consecutive winter season with little to no rain. We may very well not see rains again for some time. As a former garden center/nursery consultant, water-waste inspector, and water-wise outdoor surveyor, I have



seen first-hand the effects of water being used inefficiently. I have made it my personal mission to raise public awareness about the importance of water conservation and water management through native plant selection and xeriscaping.

Now, as I venture further into municipal stormwater inspection and management, I see a new frontier and opportunity for us to harvest and mitigate rainwater and stormwater. Through careful and educated irrigation practices, we can reduce our water consumption and replicate the natural water cycles we see in nature. Much has been discussed thus far about feasible responsible water usage from our local water agencies and water districts. There is literature available and information on websites. The challenge which we face now is how to conserve and manage water in ever-changing and new ways. What can we do to advance our knowledge of conservation and management of this precious resource?

The information is out there, in many forms. I strongly encourage anyone interested in

reducing their consumption to reach out to those who are directly involved in The Water Industry and learn all they can. Small steps at home can have an exponential effect over time. One may be inclined to conclude that their actions alone may be insufficient and would not impact the whole. It is through decisions about conservation and consumption, hour to hour and day to day, which shape the future of our water situation here in Santa Clara Valley and beyond.

Thank you for allowing me to share these thoughts. I invite you to join me in the continued endeavor of responsible water use.

*Editor's note: Matthew Frazier is an Expert-Level Certified Water Manager through CLCA (California Landscape Contractors' Association), Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper through CALWEP and Qualified Stormwater Manager through EnviroCert International Inc. I'm also a graduate of Valley Water's Water 101 Ambassador Academy and a Certified Water Ambassador. You can reach Matthew Frazier via email: [kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com](mailto:kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com)*

## HEART OF THE PARK CELEBRATION

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021

**NOON - BIRD TOUR OF GUADALUPE OAK GROVE PARK  
MEET BY THE ENTRANCE CLOSEST TO THE PLAYGROUND**

**1 PM - EVENTS BEGIN IN FRONT OF FONTANA DOG PARK**

**- DOG PARADE REGISTRATION OPENS**

**- REFRESHMENTS, ACTIVITY TABLES, AND RAFFLE PRIZES GALORE**

**- FREE ICE CREAM, FACE PAINTING, PUMPKIN DECORATING, AND MUCH MORE!**

**1:30 PM - "STRUTT YOUR MUTT" DOG PARADE  
SPECIAL JUDGE - COUNCILMAN MATT MAHAN**

**2:30 PM - RAFFLE DRAWINGS BEGIN**

Come learn  
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# San Jose State University president resigns

## University to pay \$1.6 million to sexually harassed female athletes

San Jose State University's president Mary A. Papazian is resigning in the wake of a massive sexual abuse scandal in the school's athletic department that has consumed the school for months.

Papazian announced last week that she will resign as president on Dec. 21. California State University Chancellor Joseph Castro will meet with campus stakeholders before naming an interim president.

"The best interest of the campus continues to be at the forefront of every decision I make. After thoughtful consideration, I have made the decision to step away as president," Papazian said in a statement. "I truly love this university and believe this choice will allow the focus to be positively and solely on our talented, diverse and outstanding campus."

Papazian's announcement coincides with the finalizing of a major settlement between the school and the U.S. Department of Justice over its decade-long failure to address complaints about sexual misconduct by the former director of

sports medicine, Scott Shaw.

Shaw resigned his position last year, which he has held since 2008, after allegations resurfaced in news media reports accusing him of inappropriately touching swimmers during physical therapy from 2006 to 2009. He has denied any misconduct, and no criminal charges have been filed.

The university has agreed to pay \$1.6 million to female student-athletes who were sexually harassed. The school and federal investigators identified 23 individuals who Shaw inappropriately touched as recently as last year. 13 of the 23 individuals have each agreed to a settlement of \$125,000.

Federal prosecutors found that the university failed to adequately respond to reports of sexual harassment and assault that started in 2009, and they also found that the university retaliated against two employees, including one who repeatedly alerted school officials about the trainer.

Papazian will continue to cooperate with the ongoing Title IX investigation and other investigations surrounding Shaw.

"This transition does not impact our intention and obligation to understand what occurred and how the university responded at the time," Papazian said.



San Jose State University's president **Mary A. Papazian** is resigning in the wake of a massive sexual abuse scandal in the school's athletic department that has consumed the school for months. Photo by Robert Bain



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## Report: 2021's Best Foodie Cities in America

With Oct. 16 being World Food Day and restaurant prices rising 5.4% between July 2020 and July 2021, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2021's Best Foodie Cities in America.



To determine the best and cheapest local foodie scenes, WalletHub compared more than 180 of the largest U.S. cities across 29 key metrics. The data set ranges from affordability and accessibility of high-quality restaurants to food festivals per capita to craft breweries and wineries per capita.

### Top 20 Foodie Cities in America

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Portland, OR      | 11. Los Angeles, CA  |
| 2. Orlando, FL       | 12. San Diego, CA    |
| 3. Miami, FL         | 13. Portland, ME     |
| 4. San Francisco, CA | 14. Oakland, CA      |
| 5. Austin, TX        | 15. Washington, DC   |
| 6. Sacramento, CA    | 16. St. Louis, MO    |
| 7. Denver, CO        | 17. Grand Rapids, MI |
| 8. Las Vegas, NV     | 18. Chicago, IL      |
| 9. Seattle, WA       | 19. Atlanta, GA      |
| 10. Tampa, FL        | 20. Houston, TX      |

### Best vs. Worst

- Orlando, Florida, has the most gourmet specialty-food stores (per square root of population), 0.4529, which is 19.4 times more than in Pearl City, Hawaii, the city with the fewest at 0.0234.

- Orlando, Florida, has the most restaurants (per square root of population), 7.23, which is 18.1 times more than in Pearl City, Hawaii, the city with the fewest at 0.40.

- Orlando, Florida, has the most ice cream and frozen yogurt shops (per square root of population), 0.3566, which is 49.5 times more than in South Burlington, Vermont, the city with the fewest at 0.0072.

- Santa Rosa, California, has the highest ratio of full-service restaurants to fast-food establishments, 1.72, which is 3.2 times higher than in Jackson, Mississippi, the city with the lowest at 0.54.

To view the full report and your city's rank, visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-foodie-cities/7522>



Times **Community News**

# If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!

By Matt Mahan

*Special to the Times*

I've always loved the adage "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

The wisdom of that saying was evident this week when the City Council's Rules Committee moved forward two memos that a few colleagues and I co-authored on the topic of street homelessness and blight reduction.

The week before, I had made a public push for the City and the County to step forward with public lands, such as the County Fairgrounds, that could be used to construct cost-effective, modular housing at scale to effectively end street homelessness in our community. My initial memo was shot down in the committee meeting by colleagues and staff who (contradictorily, in my opinion) felt it was either unnecessary or too ambitious.

Well, last week our office worked with the Mayor's office and other colleagues to put forward and pass two follow up memos that commit the City to constructing the next 1,000 units of modular shelter by the end of next year. Our approach also prioritizes a "local preference" concept that I've advocated for that would reward the neighborhoods closest to these new sites by focusing on closing encampments and reducing blight in the immediate vicinity. It's only common sense that the neighborhoods that take on modular housing for the homeless should also see the biggest benefit in terms of reduced trash, noise and street camping.

Finally, the second memo expands the San Jose Bridge program, which will now employ up to 100 homeless residents at a time to clean up the City. This program can serve

well over 100 people per year as participants routinely graduate into full-time jobs at local companies and nonprofits.

We need to do much more to turn the corner on street homeless in San Jose, but these actions are a step in the right direction.

You might ask why I am so focused on scaling up cost-effective shelter for the homeless when homeless individuals also desperately need other services,

such as jobs, training, addiction treatment, and mental health support. I see both shelter and services as key components of the solution, but we know from experience that services without shelter are much less effective. It is hard to hold down a job or kick an addiction when you're living in an encampment in the creek.

Furthermore, in addition to being inhumane, street homelessness is extremely wasteful of public resources. In our county alone, government spends over \$500 million per year on

reactive homelessness-related services ranging from police and fire calls and trash pick-up to emergency room visits and court appearances. We know from experience that getting people stably sheltered reduces these reactive "Band-Aid" costs and allows us to shift more of our spending toward services that help people regain self-sufficiency and independence.

Beyond shelter and services, the third leg of my proposed solution involves personal responsibility. I'll share more of my thinking on this concept in future columns, but for now I'll just say that when government—which is really the community—provides safe, private shelter, I believe that individuals have a responsibility to use it.

Shelter, services, responsibility; these are the three key ingredients to ending street homelessness, and I'm going to continue to push hard to realize that goal regardless of the obstacles.

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



## District 10 Report

**Matt Mahan**  
Councilmember-elect, District 10

## Silicon Valley Reads organization to focus on kindness, resilience and hope for 2022

The 19th Annual Silicon Valley Reads program returns in 2022 with three inspirational memoirs and related events scheduled throughout February and March.

Last year's theme of "Connecting" deeply resonated in our community, as readers of all ages found new ways to build connections through food, nature, animals, music, books and with each other.

Through meaningful stories and a combination of virtual and in-person events

focused on motivating the community even more, the Silicon Valley Reads 2022 theme is the Power of Kindness, Resilience & Hope.

"This year's theme will allow us to engage in conversation about the transformative power of kindness, highlight our remarkable capacity for resilience, and build hopefulness for our future," said Dr. Mary Ann

Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, who serves as Silicon Valley Reads co-chair along with Jill Bourne, City of San José Library Director and Jennifer Weeks, Santa Clara County Librarian.

The featured nonfiction books have been selected to highlight the 2022 theme:

• **See No Stranger\*** by Valarie Kaur: A synthesis of wisdom and a chronicle of personal and communal history, *See No Stranger* is part memoir, part practical guide to *See READS*, next page



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# San Jose bans sale of flavored tobacco products

By Tran Nguyen

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

The City Council unanimously voted last week to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-juices and menthol cigarettes. It will not make it a crime for individuals to possess such products.

"Cotton candy, fruit punch, salt water taffy, gummy bear, bubble gum, those are flavors that should be candies and not cigarettes," said Councilmember Pam Foley, who's leading the effort. "These are the things that are killing our kids, or attracting our children to become addicted as early as middle school."

According to a Santa Clara County survey, nearly one in three local teens have tried e-cigarettes—and one in eight currently use them. The survey also found eight out of 10 San Jose tobacco retailers sell flavored products, and almost a quarter sell them to under-age youth.

The sale of hookah and flavored cigars is not included in the plan, which also raises the legal age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21—aligning with the state.

"It is a very important issue to me, and something that we need to address," Councilmember David Cohen said. "As I mentioned yesterday, it's not something that can be addressed by schools and just by parents, but something that the city has to partner with to help address."

The city estimates the ban will directly affect 18 businesses, and will require 44 other retailers to register with a program that regulates the sale of tobacco products in San Jose. Local businesses have until July 2022 to stop selling flavored tobacco products.

The new law also bans new tobacco retailers within 1,000 feet of schools and within 500 feet of other tobacco shops.

Most locals want flavored tobacco gone, with three in five San Jose voters strongly

supporting the ban, a recent survey shows. More than 70 residents, including teachers and students, spoke at the meeting, with a majority in support of the ban.

"I have seen firsthand youth who use flavored tobacco products in my own home, at my kids' high school and at the middle school where I teach," said teacher Marin Lopez. "Tobacco companies or retailers should not be allowed to profit off of risking our kids' health... It is urgent that we remove these products that are easily accessible to San Jose youth."

Health experts also emphasized the importance of banning the sale of flavored tobacco in San Jose.

"It's become clear that menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars are the main factor of death and disease in the Black community," said Dr. Phil Gardiner, co-chair of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council. "Let's be clear that this has been going on for some 30 years, and you have the chance to stop it here."

Tobacco retailers in the county are concentrated in neighborhoods with a higher percentage of low-income residents or people of color, according to Santa Clara County Public Health.

Some residents said San Jose isn't going far enough, pushing the city to also include hookah and other flavored products in the ban.

"It is also vitally important that you remove the proposed exemptions for hookah, premium cigars and loose-leaf tobacco," resident Lizze Velton said. "Many Bay Area jurisdictions, including Santa Clara County itself have comprehensive policies with no exemptions. Why choose to do less?"

Councilmember Matt Mahan said the city should be mindful when it comes to hookah, and that smoking hookah at an adults-only lounge is "a very different social and cultural use case than simply buying something labeled



San Jose is the largest city in California to ban flavored tobacco products in an effort to curb nicotine addiction among children.

as a hookah product in a retail establishment and can very easily get handed off to a child."

Local business owners pushed back on the ban, saying it won't help solve the problem of children smoking.

"What you are doing is not helping the kids' epidemic with vaping, but it's going to make it worse," business owner Nam Nguyen said, citing a rise in cigarette use in San Francisco after passing a similar ban in 2017. "Business owners are not the bad guys... We only cater to adults. Let the state and the government decide on these policies."

Business owners told the city in a recent virtual meeting that the ban of such products will hurt them financially. Out of 121 tobacco shops that responded to a city survey, 82% oppose the ban.

Santa Clara County, as well as cities such as Gilroy, Palo Alto, Los Gatos and Cupertino have passed similar bans on flavored tobacco products.

"This ordinance isn't perfect, but the goal is to get it passed," Foley said, adding the city will look at it again in a year. "Because frankly, Big Tobacco is not going to stop with this, they will figure out some other distribution system, some other way to reach our kids—and we have to be prepared for that and be prepared to act quickly."

Contact Tran Nguyen at [tran@sanjos-spotlight.com](mailto:tran@sanjos-spotlight.com) or follow @nguyenntn on twitter.

## Reads

Continued from previous page

changing the world. Author Valarie Kaur, renowned Sikh activist, filmmaker and civil rights lawyer ignited the hearts of millions around the globe by sharing her compelling story and declaring Revolutionary Love as the call of our times: a radical, joyful practice that extends to others, to ourselves and to our opponents. A #1 Los Angeles Times best seller. \*adult content



• **Enough about Me** by Richard Lui:

Richard Lui made the difficult decision to leave his dream job as an NBC News/MSNBC anchor to help care for his ailing father in San Francisco. It was a difficult time, and through the challenge he realized that doing this selfless act had a positive overall impact on his well-being. He decided to dig deep into exploring acts of compassion from the lens of a reporter. Part scientific, part emotional, his journey is one that many will travel and the element of "anti-self" self-help can benefit our community as a whole.

• **A Dream Called Home** by Reyna Grande:

A beautifully written immigrant story that quickly engages the reader. Reyna crosses the border at 9 years old and perseveres through many difficulties to find her way to UC Santa Cruz. With a passion for writing and the resilience to push forward, her story enlightens us to the challenges so many confront in making a home in America.

"The diversity of our authors and their personal stories reflect the experiences of our community members," explained Jill Bourne, Director of San José Public Library. "People will identify with these memoirs, and if they can't relate personally, they can learn from them."

Silicon Valley Reads will announce the selection of companion books for children and teens on [siliconvalleyreads.org](http://siliconvalleyreads.org) shortly.

More information about Silicon Valley Reads and plans for 2022 can be found at [SiliconValleyReads.org](http://SiliconValleyReads.org).

## Silicon Valley Reads 2021

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## Times Feature

# Santa Clara County sets conditions for removing indoor mask mandate

By Eli Wolfe

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Santa Clara County has set the stage for lifting health orders that require face coverings in most indoor public places.

Public health officers announced on Thursday that nine Bay Area jurisdictions can remove their indoor mask mandates under certain conditions.

“Whenever possible, our aim was to adopt a metric that would be easy for the public to follow along,” said Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County public health officer.

To qualify, a jurisdiction must remain in the moderate COVID-19 transmission tier for three weeks; COVID-19 hospitalizations must be low and stable and 80% of the jurisdiction must be fully vaccinated. Alternatively, a jurisdiction can lift the mandate eight weeks after a COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized for emergency use by federal and state authorities for 5-to-11-year-olds.

More than 84% of Santa Clara County residents over the age of 12 have been fully vaccinated, and nearly 90% of eligible residents have at least one dose. The seven day average for new cases is nearly 160.

According to Cody, 72.4% of the entire county population—including ages 11 and under—is fully vaccinated.

“We as a region, our public has by and large embraced the COVID prevention measures that we’ve talked about and asked everyone to do,” Cody said. “And because of that our rates are fairly low. We have had a fourth surge, but it has been relatively blunted compared to the experience of other parts of the state and country.”

Cody explained that the county is updating its public COVID-19 dashboard to show the percentage of the total population that is vaccinated. And when it comes to judging if hospitalizations are low and stable, that’s at the discretion of the public health officer.

“That’s not one you’re going to be able to track on our public dashboard,” Cody said. “It has a lot to do with capacity in the jurisdiction... In Santa Clara County, our (hospital) capacity is on the robust side. So that metric is going to be fairly simple for us to meet.”

Santa Clara County, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Sonoma and the city of Berkeley established indoor mask mandates, regardless of vaccine status, in early August following a surge in new infections due to the Delta variant of COVID-19.

“People have been asking me about (the mask mandate) for two weeks now. It has been a mystery, but it’s good that we have some answers now... These are reasonable metrics,” George Rutherford, a professor of epidemiology at UC San Francisco, told San José Spotlight. “It’s good that they also add the metric about moderate COVID transmission tier for three weeks, that means we won’t be jumping back and forth.”

Lifting the indoor mask mandate does not prevent businesses, nonprofits, churches or others with public indoor spaces from imposing their own requirements. The federal government still requires people riding public transit to wear masks and passengers will

not be allowed to board VTA vehicles without one unless they are exempt. Federal law also requires masks at Mineta San Jose International Airport.

***“Whenever possible, our aim was to adopt a metric that would be easy for the public to follow along,” said Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County public health officer.***



Santa Clara County Public Health Officer **Dr. Sara Cody** speaks about criteria to rescinding the indoor mask mandate on Oct. 7. Photo by Lloyd Alaban

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**active**



# Newsom wants school children K-12 to get COVID-19 vaccine

*Only medical restrictions can qualify a student for exemption*

Gov. Gavin Newsom said last Friday that California will require children attending schools in the state to be vaccinated against the disease.

"We're leaning forward," Newsom said. "We want to end this pandemic. We are all exhausted by it."

Speaking at a school in San Francisco, Newsom predicted other states will follow California's lead.

Newsom said the requirement will roll out in phases for grades 7-12 and then for grades K-6. It will become effective in the school term following full U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of the vaccine for children in those grades, he said.

The administration expects it to apply to grades 7-12 next July. The requirement doesn't apply to child care or colleges.

In August, the FDA granted full formal approval of the Pfizer shots for children ages

16 and older after the company provided evidence from extensive trials demonstrating its safety and efficacy. Regulators concluded the vaccines are safer for kids than COVID-19, and note that children can also spread the disease to those who are more vulnerable. U.S. health officials have not attributed any heart inflammation deaths to the vaccines, though they were investigating the June death of a 13-year-old boy days after his second shot.

California already requires children entering transitional kindergarten or kindergarten

to be vaccinated against measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, polio, hepatitis B, bacterial meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. Under a controversial 2015 state law, California eliminated an allowance for "personal belief" exemptions to those vaccine requirements, following a measles outbreak at Disneyland.

Only medical restrictions can qualify a child attending public or private school for exemption.

AlmadenTimes Real Estate

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Times **Community News****Supervisor Otto Lee leads board of supervisors to create new county commission on sustainability**

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted **Supervisor Otto Lee's** (inset) referral to establish a Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission on Wednesday, Oct. 6.

While the County has several committees related to environmental issues such as waste reductions, there is no direct body to advise the Board of Supervisors on climate change, environmental conservation, and sustainability.

"The devastating impacts of climate change and extreme weather are only getting worse and I want the County of Santa Clara to lead the fight against this existential threat to protect our families," noted Supervisor Otto Lee. "The Sustainability Commission will guide the Board of Supervisors to make the changes we need to take action for our future."

The referral calls on the Administration to report back on potential courses of action for creation of a Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission, with an emphasis on guiding the County's efforts in reducing negative environmental impacts and instituting best practices for sustainability.

Environmental advocates spoke in support of this item during the meeting, reinforcing the imperative that the County take

direct and immediate action to put in place policies that will reduce our impact on the environment as soon as possible. Additionally, as our youths have demonstrated to be active leaders in the environmental movement, at least two of the commissioners will be reserved for youths for their invaluable perspectives.

The referral calls on the Administration to report back on potential courses of action for creation of a Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission, with an emphasis on guiding the County's efforts in reducing negative environmental impacts and instituting best practices for sustainability.

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**Steinway Society presents 'Stunning virtuosity' Russian pianist Nikolay Khozyainov**

Russian pianist Nikolay Khozyainov will perform in Steinway Society – The Bay Area's "Home Concert Hall" series with a specially recorded performance available online from December 10 - 13, 2021.

Master of Romantic tone. The New York



Russian pianist **Nikolay Khozyainov** performs in Steinway Society – The Bay Area's "Home Concert Hall Series" Nov. 19 - 22, 2021. Photo by Marie Staggat

Times wrote that the music world was taking notice of the "stunning virtuosity and prodigious technique" of Nikolay Khozyainov, and audiences agree: they have acclaimed his performances at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, and Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow.

Born in 1992 in Blagoveschensk, a city in the Russian Far East, Khozyainov made his debut at the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory at the age of seven and went on to study at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory. Khozyainov has won first prizes in numerous international competitions and was awarded Distinction in the 2010 Fryderyk Chopin Competition, where he was the youngest finalist.

**Program**

Chopin, Impromptu in F-sharp Major, Op. 36  
Chopin, Selections from Études, Op. 25

1. No. 7 in C-sharp minor (Lento)

2. No. 2 in F Minor (Presto)

3. No. 3 in F Major (Allegro)

Chopin, Ballade in F Minor, Op. 52

Chopin, Berceuse in D-flat Major, Op. 57

Chopin, Piano Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58

1. Allegro maestoso

2. Scherzo: Molto vivace

3. Largo

4. Finale: Presto non tanto; Agitato

Tickets Available Now: Tickets for the performances may be purchased in advance by going to [steinwaysociety.com/tickets](http://steinwaysociety.com/tickets) or by contacting the Steinway Society box office at 408-300-5635.

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Times **Community News**

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Report: Top 10 most underrated National Parks in the USA

We all know the likes of Yosemite, Yellowstone, and, of course, the Grand Canyon, and there's no denying that they're some of the most breathtaking locations in the US.

But the one thing that can make visiting these national parks a little bit less special is the heaving crowds, especially in the last year, with record visitor numbers due to restrictions on international travel.

So if you want to try something different and experience one of the country's lesser-known parks, which are your best bets?

A new study reveals Redwood in California is the 4th most underrated national park in the USA.

However, one of California's most famous national parks, Yosemite, is named the 4th most overrated national park in America.

ParkSleepFly has analyzed Tripadvisor reviews of U.S. national parks with fewer than 1 million visitors a year to reveal the most underrated national parks in the country. The study also looked into the most overrated parks in America, with visitor numbers over 1 million yet poor reviews.

ParkSleepFly analyzed Tripadvisor reviews of each national park in the USA against the latest visitor numbers to reveal the most underrated in the country. To do so, they looked at the best-reviewed parks with fewer than 1 million annual visitors (as well as the overrated parks with lots of visitors but low reviews!).

So, if you're looking to see some of the best that the US has to offer, without having to fight through the crowds, why not visit underappreciated national parks with smaller crowds?

Appropriately named, Redwood national park is known for its coastal redwood trees, which are some of the tallest trees in the world. Despite only 265,177 visitors a year, the national park is considered one of the most amazing in the USA, with 86.2% of reviews rated "excellent".

Yosemite is without a doubt a stunning national park; however, with over 2.2 million visitors a year and only 80.1% reviewing the park as "excellent" it is one of the most overrated according to the rankings.

This is likely to be because of the huge crowds heading to the park each year, which requires reservations to enter during the summer in order to control crowds.

You can view the research in full here: [www.parksleepfly.com/blog/underrated-national-parks](http://www.parksleepfly.com/blog/underrated-national-parks)

The USA's most underrated national parks

Key		Total visitors (2020)	Total reviews		
		Number of "excellent" reviews	% of "excellent" reviews		
National park & state					
1	Glacier Bay - Alaska	5,748	1,378	1,280	92.9%
2	Kenai Fjords - Alaska	115,882	1,725	1,550	89.9%
3	Crater Lake - Oregon	670,500	3,065	2,670	87.1%
4	Redwood - California	265,177	1,134	978	86.2%
5	Badlands - South Dakota	916,932	964	830	86.1%
6	Sequoia - California	796,086	329	275	83.6%
7	Dry Tortugas - Florida	48,543	5,346	4,432	82.9%
7	Haleakalā - Hawaii	319,147	2,481	2,056	82.9%
9	White Sands - New Mexico	415,383	4,085	3,361	82.3%
10	Carlsbad Caverns - New Mexico	183,835	1,132	923	81.5%
10	Black Canyon of the Gunnison - Colorado	341,620	1,046	852	81.5%
12	Mesa Verde - Colorado	287,477	264	208	78.8%
13	Theodore Roosevelt - North Dakota	551,303	1,785	1,400	78.4%
14	Saguaro - Arizona	762,226	1,085	850	78.3%
15	Canyonlands - Utah	493,914	3,665	2,863	78.1%
16	Hawai'i Volcanoes - Hawaii	589,775	8,228	6,420	78.0%
17	Kings Canyon - California	415,077	943	731	77.5%
18	Petrified Forest - Arizona	384,483	1,180	905	76.7%
19	Denali - Alaska	54,850	693	531	76.6%
20	Capitol Reef - Utah	981,038	1,651	1,228	74.4%
21	Big Bend - Texas	393,907	178	129	72.5%
22	Great Sand Dunes - Colorado	461,532	928	668	72.0%
23	Everglades - Florida	702,319	1,613	1,067	66.2%
24	Great Basin - Nevada	120,248	523	341	65.2%
25	Mammoth Cave - Kentucky	290,392	3,991	2,571	64.4%
26	Pinnacles - California	165,740	565	346	61.2%
27	Gateway Arch - Missouri	486,021	452	276	61.1%
28	Wrangell-St. Elias - Alaska	16,655	117	70	59.8%
29	Congaree - South Carolina	119,306	551	325	59.0%
30	Wind Cave - South Dakota	448,405	653	372	57.0%
31	Guadalupe Mountains - Texas	151,256	148	70	47.3%

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Times **Local News**

## Presentation high school student Nishi Dharia designs life-saving incubator

*17-year-old innovator helping save lives of premature babies in India*

More than 15 million premature babies are born each year across the globe according to the World Health Organization, and India is the country with the highest rate with 3.5 million born annually.

Sadly, only one in ten of India's premature babies survive, but more than 70% could be saved if they had access to basic care and life-saving incubators.

Nishi Dharia, a 17-year-old senior at Presentation High School in San Jose, is now making a difference.

Nishi designed the "Impact Incubator" for her eighth-grade Science Fair project.

Inspired by the great need for incubators in rural India where electricity and access to health care is scarce, it took a lot of research, experimentation and a one-year scientific exercise and then a scientific report to create her own device to help those babies. In spite of her successful outcome, Nishi didn't win or even place in the Science Fair so she put it aside and turned her attention to high school.

While a Sophomore at Presentation High School, Nishi heard about the birth of her cousin's premature baby in India. While the baby was fortunate enough to be born in a hospital that had an incubator, the milestone renewed Nishi's desire to help those without access to incubators in India. Determined to help save precious lives, Nishi sprang into action and founded Impact Incubators, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the production and distribution of incubators in rural India.



Nishi Dharia, a 17-year-old senior at Presentation High School in San Jose, is now making a difference by distributing her "Impact Incubator" she designed for her eighth-grade Science Fair project.

Launched in the Spring of 2020 right at the start of the pandemic, Impact Incubators has to date distributed 100 incubators free of charge to families and doctors living in rural areas of India including the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat. By early next year, Nishi hopes to have distributed 500 incubators, expanding her reach throughout India and into other countries like Bangladesh.

"I was finally able to visit India this summer," Nishi said. "During my trip, I was able to visit hospitals and mothers in Bangalore. I distributed 25 Impact Incubators as well as gave demonstrations on how to use them. I also received valuable feedback on how I can improve the incubator to make it more effective and easier to use. Going on this trip made me feel so grateful that I had the opportunity to help people in my community and truly make an impact. I will continue to work on Impact Incubators, and I hope to visit again and meet many more doctors and parents."

"We are beyond proud of Nishi and the life-saving impact of her creative problem-solving," said Holly Elkins, Presentation High School President. "Effectively translating her ideas into action is exactly the type of courageous and compassionate leader we strive to inspire at Pres. We applaud her tenacity and can't wait to see what Nishi does next."

Nishi has raised more than \$6,000 through various creative fundraisers including a virtual concert and selling items from a clothing line she created and sold through Etsy and her website.

To learn more on how to support Impact Incubators, please visit [impactincubators.org](http://impactincubators.org).



Nishi Dharia delivers several of her Impact Incubators to doctors at a health clinic in Bangalore, India, this summer. The Impact Incubator is a low-cost, easily accessible and safe incubator that is portable and reusable and can be used in hospitals and at home.

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Times Feature

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

# Cognitive bias

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:

Cognitive bias

Cognitive bias is a limitation in objective thinking that is caused by the tendency for the human brain to perceive information through a filter of personal experience and preference. The filtering process is called heuristics; it’s a coping mechanism that allows the brain to prioritize and process the vast amount of input it receives each second. While the mechanism is very effective, its limitations can cause errors that can be exploited.

In simpler terms, you can call this as human bias. This bias makes our thinking and decision-making faster and more efficient. The reason is that we don’t stop to consider all available information, as our thoughts proceed down some channels instead of others. For example, imagine that a person holds a belief that left-handed people are more creative than right-handed people. Whenever this person encounters a person that is both left-handed and creative, they place greater importance on this “evidence” that supports what they already believe. The individual might even seek “proof” that further backs up this belief while discounting examples that don’t support the idea.

So how does cognitive bias affect Machine

Learning (ML)? Companies from a wide range of industries use machine learning data to do everyday business. ML algorithms make decisions like who gets a bonus, a job interview, whether your credit card limit (or interest) is raised, and who gets into a clinical trial. ML algorithms even help make decisions about who gets parole and who languishes in prison.

Machine Learning algorithms are built using data that is trained to inherently make assumptions. When given new input data a machine learning model generates values based on a trained machine learning model. This means the data are wholly dependent on the set of training data it’s given for scoring. Scoring is also called prediction. Without proper attention, cognitive biases that are common in society will inevitably bleed into the results. Training data that doesn’t account for variances in race, sexual orientation or identity, or age, can have outcomes that very negatively affect people’s lives.

Unfortunately, there’s no easy fix for the overall problem, and most of the time we don’t know that we’re being biased. We believe we’re being clever or intuitive – or we just don’t think about it. Even when the algorithms are perfect and the outputs are immutable, our cognitive biases make our interpretation of data unreliable at best. Everyone has these biases to one degree or another – which makes it concerning that there’s been so little research on how they affect data interpretation.

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

# East San Jose becoming a 'dumping ground' for abandoned cars

By Times staff writers

East San Jose is becoming a ‘dumping ground’ for abandoned cars resulting in residents placing orange cones to reserve parking spots in front of their homes.

An East San Jose resident, who protected her parking space with pylons, said, “Verbal fights sometimes break-out over parking which can be frightening. That’s why you are seeing cones come up and down the streets just to be able to have the right to park in front of our own homes.”

“People are absolutely using East San Jose as storage for their extra vehicles,” said San Jose City planning Commissioner Rolando Bonilla.

To address the problem, Bonilla wants to implement a parking permit system to circumvent

vehicle owners traveling to East San Jose and leaving damaged or inoperable cars parked in neighborhoods for long periods of time.

Bonilla is proposing a parking permit pilot program that calls for two to four permits per parcel to be provided by the city at no cost to the property owner or tenant. The program would likely be similar to a neighborhood permit program near San Jose State University that prevents thousands of students from flooding adjacent streets.

Bonilla plans on soliciting the support from city council members to place the proposal on the Rules Committee agenda. If approved, the parking permit program could head to a vote before the full council by the end of October.

5:56 PM  
KPIX 5



Times **Local News**

## Lions Clubs and partners change lives by sending 118,000 pairs of prescription eyeglasses around the world

More than 1,000 local members of Lions Clubs International, Lions in Sight of California and Nevada, and the San Jose State University Delta Gamma Sorority held the largest used eyeglass recycling service event in the country, preparing 118,000 pairs of glasses for medical missions around the world.

California State Senator Dave Cortese, California State Assembly Member Alex Lee, San Jose City Council Member Dev Davis, and Brian Bates, VP, San Jose State University each spoke at the event.

The international medical missions are organized and staffed by Lions in Sight of California and Nevada, a non-profit Lions foundation, with Lions Club members that are licensed Doctors of Optometry. They work with other Lions Club volunteers who help select and fit donated glasses. Thousands of individuals with sight impairment are provided the gift of improved vision. A big part of a Lions in Sight mission is watching the smile on the face of someone who can see clearly for the first time in their life.

"We Lions are proud to lead this hands-on community partnership in service toward meeting the needs of the blind and visually impaired," said Dr. Bill Iannaccone, COO, Lions in Sight, and Past International Director, Lions Clubs International. "This recycling project is vital to our mission to provide eye care and eyeglasses to those in need around the world."

The event was hosted at Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, San Jose, a non-profit that provides in-person services to over 3,300 local blind and visually impaired individuals and their families annually.

"Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired is honored that our San Jose facility is the epicenter for this amazing service project," said Karae Lisle, CEO. "Vista Center, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, annually provides needed support services to thousands of people living with vision loss. We have long-standing ties with the Lions, and treasure this committed partnership. This eyeglass recycling effort demonstrates how together as a community of service volunteers we can serve more people who desperately

need vision support worldwide."

Processing so many pairs of used donated eyeglasses is a massive community undertaking with Lions, the Delta Gamma sorority of San Jose State, and Vista Center staff and client volunteers all rolling up their sleeves to sort, clean, grade by prescription, and package the glasses for shipment to Lions in Sight medical missions.

"Our fraternal service project is *Service for Sight*," said collegiate chapter officer Lauren Barnes, vice president: Foundation. "The 70-member Gamma Eta-San Jose State chapter, which is part of the 250,000-member international Delta Gamma Fraternity, embraces the opportunity and is eager to work hand-in-hand in this wonderful humanitarian service effort."

The 118,000 used prescription eyeglasses which weigh 20,000 pounds were provided to Lions in Sight of California and Nevada by a large corporate donor, with similar sized batches of glasses anticipated to be processed in the months to come.

Processing this and similar sized batches of glasses to be received in the near future requires an ongoing stream of volunteers and monetary support.

If you are interested in learning more about this community service project, please contact Bob Stewart at bob@lionstewart.com. Monetary donations to Vista Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired can be made online at [www.vistacenter.org](http://www.vistacenter.org). Monetary donations to Lions in Sight can be made online via [www.lionsinsight.net/donate](http://www.lionsinsight.net/donate).

### About Lions in Sight

Lions In Sight was founded in 1987 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) to work through local Lions Club members in California and Nevada to collect used eyeglasses for recycling and distribution internationally. The collected glasses are sorted, cleaned, processed, and packaged for delivery to clinics in developing nations. Volunteer doctors and Lions Club members travel to the clinics with the eyeglasses and exam equipment. Each year thousands of needy visually impaired children and adults receive the gift of improved vision through the volunteer efforts of Lions In Sight.

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## Symphony San Jose to present Four Seasons (times two) Oct. 23-24

**S**ymphony San Jose presents Four Seasons (times two) October 23-24 at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose.

In Vivaldi's beloved masterwork, Christina Mok and the orchestra capture each season of the year in glorious detail: birds sing, bluebottles hum, rain drums, and a fire crackles in the hearth.

Ginastera takes us south of the equator where his exhilarating rhythms, drawn from Argentinean folk dance, look back to the music of the conquistadores.

Astor Piazzolla pays a Nuevo Tango tribute to Vivaldi with his own Four Seasons, brimming with the tango's passion and energy. Lara St. John plays its lead, following up on her bravura performance in 2019's concert The Red Violin.

### Performances

- Vivaldi: The Four Seasons
- Ginastera: Four Dances from Estancia

• Piazzolla: Four Seasons of Buenos Aires  
Conductor: John Nelson

Soloists: Christina Mok & Lara St. John  
The California Theatre is located at: 345 South First Street in downtown San Jose, 95113.

Easy, inexpensive parking is just one block away at San Jose City Garage on San Carlos Street with entrances on 2nd and 3rd Streets.

### About Symphony San Jose

Founded in 2002, Symphony San Jose (Formerly Symphony Silicon Valley) has progressed from daring idea to exciting reality, rapidly becoming the greater South Bay's premiere orchestra and a notable community success story. The Symphony's artists, nationally recruited, locally resident, with an average performance tenure in San Jose of over 20 years, are recognized as among the best in the greater Bay Area.

To order tickets, visit [www.symphonysiliconvalley.org](http://www.symphonysiliconvalley.org) or call the Box Office: 408.286.2600; Or visit the Box Office between 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 325 South First Street in downtown San Jose, between San Carlos and San Salvador Streets just one-half block from the California Theatre.

## Symphony Silicon Valley opens its 20th Anniversary Season with a new name: Symphony San Jose

**A**fter nearly 20 years as Symphony Silicon Valley, the orchestra is changing its name to SYMPHONY SAN JOSE.

On Saturday, October 2, 2021 Symphony Silicon Valley General Director and Founder **Andrew Bales** (inset) opened the company's 20th Anniversary Season with an announcement to an enthusiastic crowd gathered in downtown San Jose.

The announcement of the name change was first made in person to symphony audiences at the season-opening concert, "Celebration", as Bales was introduced by San Jose Mayor San Liccardo on stage at the beautiful 1927 California Theatre. "It is traditional to name a civic venture like the symphony after its home city," stated Bales. "San Jose has always been the urban hub that we serve and we determined that now was the time to reinvest in the City via its name."

Without any previous announcement to



the press, Bales proudly proclaimed, "Emerging from the pandemic hiatus we wanted to connect directly to our host city by adopting its name. Symphony San Jose reflects the role we play in our community by producing music programming for people of all ages and all

backgrounds. From our California Theatre concerts to our Films in Concert series, to our educational outreach program ArtSPARK, to free outdoor music festivals, we have served over 1 million patrons with live performances in our first 20 years and expect that to grow."

Symphony San Jose's season continues through June 2022 with programs that run the gambit

from beloved classical favorites and new works, a quintet of superb conductors, seven concerto artists, composers from Vivaldi to Bernstein to Duke Ellington, a celebration of Beethoven's 251st anniversary and the incomparable Mozart composing while cavorting on the big screen in the Oscar-winning film, Amadeus.

Tickets and additional information are available at the Symphony San Jose Box Office: 408.286.2600 or at [www.symphonysan-jose.org](http://www.symphonysan-jose.org).



Times **Community News**

Santa Clara County Supervisor **Cindy Chavez** announced her run for mayor at an event outside her home Thursday. Photo by Eli Wolfe.

## Cindy Chavez confirms she's running for San Jose mayor

By Eli Wolfe

*Article courtesy of San José Spotlight*

After leading supporters in a chant in front of her home near downtown, Supervisor Cindy Chavez announced she's running for mayor of San Jose.

"Equality has been my North Star. And so many of you here have shown me the way," Chavez said. "I wanna live in a city of equals. A city where birth place and birthright and birth gender don't make a difference."

Chavez confirmed Thursday what had become one of the worst kept secrets in Silicon Valley politics. As Chavez for months sought endorsements and even participated in a candidate forum, insiders speculated the veteran politician was eyeing the city's top political job — but she avoided questions and dodged reporters.

Now, she's in the race with a new campaign slogan — City of Equals.

Chavez joins a handful of others vying to replace Mayor Sam Liccardo after he terms out in 2022: Councilmember Raul Perez, who was the first to announce in April, and his two council colleagues, Dev Davis and Matt Mahan, who joined the race days ago. Also running is former Congressional candidate Jonathan Royce Esteban—a long-shot in the race.

Chavez has become a household name in South Bay politics and has earned a reputation for calling the shots in the valley's labor movement.

She was joined Thursday by more than 100 supporters — one of the most notable being former Silicon Valley Leadership Group CEO Carl Guardino, who often supports candidates from the business faction and those aligned with his close friend, Liccardo. Liccardo has not officially endorsed a candidate but he reportedly encouraged Mahan to run. The mayor's chief of staff was overheard calling Mahan the city's next mayor at the councilmember's campaign launch.

"Cindy combines visionary goals with the attention to detail to bring those goals to reality," Guardino said, citing accomplishments such as the affordable housing Measure A and the children's health care initiative. "Cindy steps forward to do the work, then

steps back when it's time to take the bows. She's selflessly driven by the goal rather than the glory."

Chavez picked off two labor-friendly supporters from the San Jose City Council: David Cohen and Magdalena Carrasco, though it's unclear if they'll also support Perez.

Assemblymember Evan Low, who said he's known Chavez for close to 20 years, said she supported the fight against Prop 8, which eliminated the rights of gay people to marry. Low noted that there are no elected representatives in San Jose who are Asian, but he said Chavez has been a strong ally, including amid the uptick of violence against Asians during the pandemic.

"I am deeply committed to Cindy as mayor," Low said. "During the pandemic, the person who called my phone the most to try to get state resources was none other than Cindy Chavez."

The longtime politician was first elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2013, and won another 4-year term last year. She also served as the board president.

Chavez has deep ties to labor in San Jose, having previously served as the head of Working Partnerships USA and the South Bay Labor Council—the latter being a critical source of endorsements in the 2022 race. She also served on the San Jose City Council from 1997 to 2007 and as vice mayor from 2005 to 2007. She sits as a member of the VTA Board of Directors, where she has helped oversee assistance to the families of victims of the mass shooting in May.

"I knew Cindy always had our back, and would never be afraid to take charge," Gilroy Councilmember Rebeca Armendariz said Thursday.

But this isn't her first shot at running San Jose. Chavez ran for mayor in 2006 and lost to Chuck Reed.

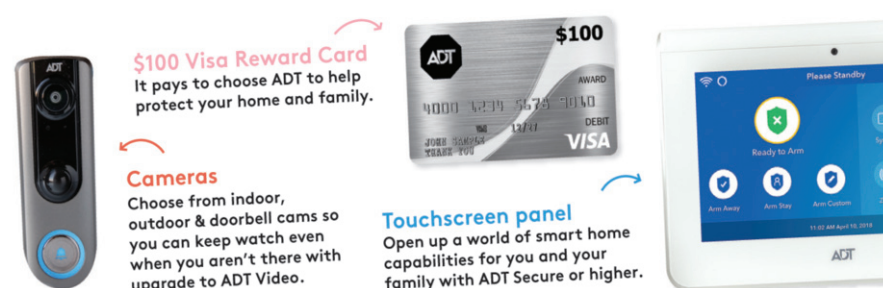
Chavez and Perez recently squared off in a forum to discuss civic issues in San Jose that the next mayor should prioritize. Both will be competing for labor endorsements and dollars, while Davis and Mahan seek support from business groups.

See CHAVEZ, page 21

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# Gov. Newsom signs bill to improve college affordability

*\$47 billion dollar investment  
in higher education*

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill last week which improves college affordability and makes it easier for community college students to transfer to the state's public university systems.

Assembly Bill 928 authored by Assemblyman Marc Berman, D-Menlo Park, requires the 23-campus California State University and nine undergraduate campuses of the University of California system to establish a joint singular lower-division general education pathway for transfer.

"We're turning commitments into reality by ensuring that our students have more access to high-quality educational opportunities, creating a change of course for generations to come and bolstering California's innovation economy," Newsom stated in a press release.

### Improved pathways from community colleges to CSU and UC systems

Newsom also signed AB 1111 which requires the 116 community colleges to adopt a common course-numbering system that ensures that similar courses at any California community college are aligned so they fulfill the same transfer requirements for CSU and UC systems. It also requires the California Community Colleges to place students who declare a transfer goal on an associate degree for transfer pathway for

their intended major.

"Californians have thrived at our world-class universities for decades, but not everyone has had similar access," Newsom said. "Today that's changing. Everyone deserves a shot at the 'California Dream.' We're eliminating equity gaps and increasing opportunities at our universities to make those dreams a reality for more California students."

California is making a \$47.1 billion invest-

ment in its higher education system including ongoing base funding to the University of California, California State University and the California Community Colleges, expansion of the state's Cal Grant program to additional community college students and many other programs to make college more affordable. An additional \$1.9 billion has also been signed by Newsom to create college savings accounts.

The deadline for updating the educational system is May 31, 2023, which creates a joint singular lower-division general education pathway.

The associate degree for transfer -- known as ADT -- was created to streamline the process and guarantee admission into the UC and CSU systems for those who complete the pathway. It also enables students to transfer to many private universities.

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# Chavez

Continued from page 19

Chavez for decades has positioned herself as a progressive Democrat.

"I'm deeply committed to Cindy as mayor," said Assemblyman Evan Low. "But let me just tell you something, it's been a difficult time for all of us during the pandemic... the person who calls my phone the most to try to get state resources was none other than Cindy Chavez."

She recently co-authored a memo with Supervisor Susan Ellenberg seeking to improve jail conditions and joined her colleagues in a vote of no confidence in Sheriff Laurie Smith.

One of her signature issues is affordable housing and she championed Measure A, a \$950M homelessness bond measure, in 2016. But a recent audit showed the county is woefully behind on getting the projects off the ground — and the funding might not be enough as building costs rise.

Chavez was also a vocal leader in the fight to close Reid-Hillview Airport amid concerns that leaked fuel was poisoning the community.

Chavez told San José Spotlight that she'd like to expand affordable housing options for people living in the city. Even though the city, county and various partners have housed 19,000 people over the past five years, she said progress is hard to appreciate when people are still living on the street.

"One of the opportunities there is really to take a look at how to expand housing for extremely low-income people," Chavez said. "We have to expand being able to build affordable housing at the lower end of the spectrum."

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

Visit us at our web site at: [church@campbellucc.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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

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#### 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".

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Sunday at 11:00 am Together let us build lives toward excellence!

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## Notice

### Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students

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

SJMN#6547945; January 28, 2021

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(408) 270-6080

## Singles

### Almaden Valley (Senior) Singles

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.

# TimesClassifieds

## Spas and Salons

## Eye for Beauty



### Therapeutic Massage Eyelash extensions



## Spa Therapy

16820 Jackson Oaks Dr., Morgan Hill CA  
Hours 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM

**Call: (831) 232-8182**

*By appointment only during Covid*

## Jewelry

## M & L Jewelers

Jewelers & Watch Repair  
Ring sizing - Watch bands  
Watch batteries - Engraving  
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Ask about our exclusive watch battery warranties!

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3218 S. White Rd. San Jose, CA  
Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm, Sat. 10am-5pm

## Shoe Repair

## ANDY'S SHOE REPAIR

**408-270-0850**

**No Shoe is Ever Too Old!**

**Hours:**

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**Saturday**  
**9:30 am - 4:00 pm**

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## Kitchen/Bath

## TOMLINSON

**KITCHEN & BATH**

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## Home Services



## Benson's CLEANERS

Full Service Dry Cleaners 5965 Almaden  
Wash & Fold Expwy #160  
MON - FRI 6:30 AM - 6:30 PM 408-997-6144

## 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**

## Employment

### Sales Director

Direct sales processes for LED technology products. MBA required.  
Seoul Semiconductor, Inc.

1762 Technology Dr #227, San Jose, CA 95110

## IT Manager

**Sify Technologies North America Corporation/Sify NA seeks IT Manager – Instructional Design** in Santa Clara, CA. Prepare a range of cost proposals with appropriate complexity in response to specific solicitation requirements and relevant regulations. Work on multiple proposal efforts concurrently toward achievement of a fully compliant and competitive cost proposal. Work from home may be an option. May need to relocate/travel to unanticipated client sites. Please send your Cover Sheet and Resume to 5201 Great America Parkway Suite 132, 1st Floor, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Attn: Katta Reddy

## Notices

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# 1052 Via Valiente, Almaden Valley



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



## Just Listed!

**\$1,875,000**  
**4 Bed | 2.5 Bath**  
**2430 Sq Ft | 8436 Sq Ft Lot**

Almaden Valley home on a generously-sized homesite with mature landscaping, privacy, pool, and spa. Gleaming hardwood flooring, ceiling fans, fireplace, wet bar, lots of natural light and double pane windows. Lots of trees and foliage around the perimeter including, roses, geraniums, palm trees, fig, orange and sour cherry fruit trees. Graystone, Bret Harte and Leland Schools. The new owner of this home will have membership at the Almaden Cabana Club.



*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.***



COMPASS