

Electric leaf blower pilot program powers up in San Jose
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Nature preserved
City Council unanimously approves permanent protection of Coyote Valley – **SEE PAGE 6**

Celebrity Chef Joanne Weir to open rooftop restaurant in San Jose **SEE PAGE 9**



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NOV. 26 – DEC. 9, 2021 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 24

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Councilmember Matt Mahan selected as one of nation's outstanding rising leaders

Joins group of officials working to solve America's largest challenges

District 10 San Jose City Councilmember **Matt Mahan** (pictured) has been chosen as one of 20 leaders from across the country to join the NewDEAL (Developing Exceptional American Leaders).

NewDEAL is a selective national network of the most talented, forward-looking state and local elected officials with Honorary Co-Chairs U.S. Senator Chris Coons, Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland, and Columbia, SC Mayor Steve Benjamin.

Chosen from more than 1650 nominations over NewDEAL's decade-long history, members of the nearly 200-person network are working to enact pro-growth progressive solutions in a diverse array of communities.

Mahan joins the group at a time when state and local leaders are on the frontlines of responding to the pandemic and as they take on a critical role in implementing the American Rescue Plan Act, recently signed by President Biden, which is
See MAHAN, page 6

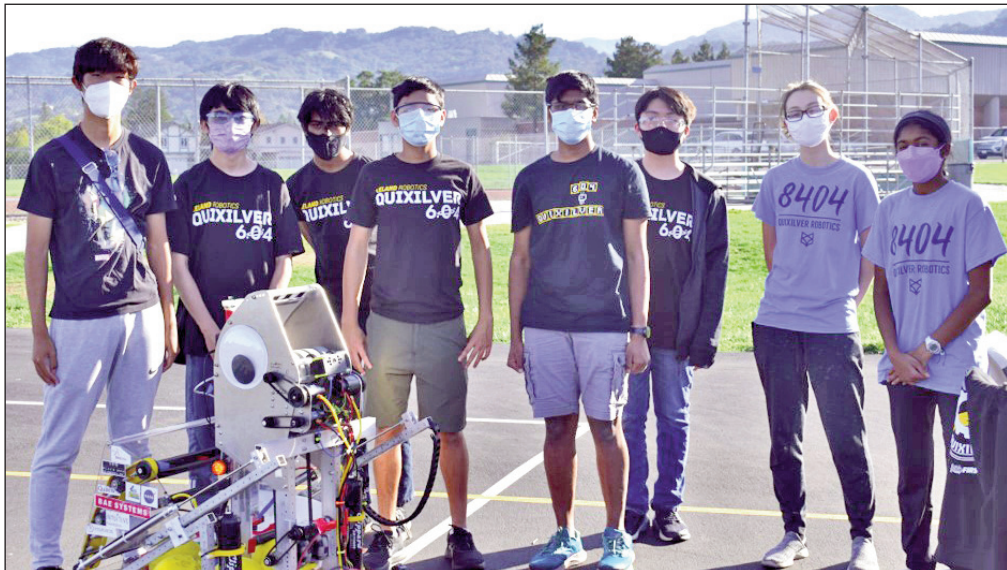
A Festival of Thanks

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Although due to COVID-19, the Almaden Valley Women's Club couldn't host its beloved Art and Wine Festival this year, it continued to serve the community with fundraising events.

In May, a virtual 5k had participants following a pre-made route or creating their own map. In September, a wine pull held at the Farmer's Market at Princeton Plaza had entrants pulling corks to win bottles of wine, as well as a commemorative wine glass. And on Nov. 14, the Women's Club held a Festival of Thanks featuring art, vendors, games and food trucks. All proceeds from the events support San Jose charities and scholarships for graduating high school students.

"As we head into November, and start to think about the holidays and Thanksgiving, we have



Members of Leland High School's robotics club created and piloted a ball-throwing robot at the Festival of Thanks.

created a community event surrounding things we are thankful for," the Women's Club said on its website.

In addition to Thanksgiving, the idea behind the Festival of Thanks was to offer a taste of the Almaden Valley Art and Wine Festival while bringing people together safely. Music played, robots performed, and artists showed off their

creations to passersby. The event was held outside Castellero Middle School.

Denise Myrick, AVWC vice president of fundraising, said the women's club tried to mirror what it offered at the Almaden Art & Wine Festival on a very small scale with sponsor booths, artists and a children's area with games

See THANKS, page 17

Almaden Blossom Valley NCL Class of 2022 selects Little Free Library for senior project

By Tonya Chin
Special to the Times

The Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) Class of 2022 has chosen Little Free Library as its focus for its senior service project this year. This is a new philanthropy focus for the chapter this year.

Little Free Library provides free books for the community and is the largest non-profit grass root book sharing network in the world. Little Free Library helps to build communities by inspiring readers and expanding book access for children and adults.

The senior class will be responsible for building, decorating, and installing four new Little Free Libraries in our community. They will also be filling the libraries with a variety of books that they will continue to restock. The class will also incorporate the "Read in Color"



The Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) Class of 2022. Photo credit: Katie Hardtke

program. This program is designed by Little Free Library to distribute books that provide perspectives on racism and social justice; celebrate BIPOC, LGBT, and other marginalized voices; and incorporate experiences from all identities for all

readers.

Book donations, of all genres and age groups, would be highly appreciated to help fill the libraries. If you have gently used books to contribute to the project, please send an email to ncl@mcgeeclan.org to

arrange for pickup.

Six different nearby San Jose high schools (Leigh, Leland, Mitty, Notre Dame, Pioneer, and Valley Christian high schools) are represented in the 2022 Almaden Blossom Valley NCL class. The group has spent six years together developing leadership skills, taking part in cultural experiences, and performing hundreds of hours of philanthropy throughout our local community.

The Class of 2022 has had the opportunity to become aware and participate in many different charitable organizations throughout our greater area. Each year they have volunteered in a different focus area including supporting animals and the environment in seventh grade, helping families in need in the eighth grade, assisting children in the ninth grade, supporting senior care in the tenth grade, and helping the hungry and homeless in the

See NCL, page 6

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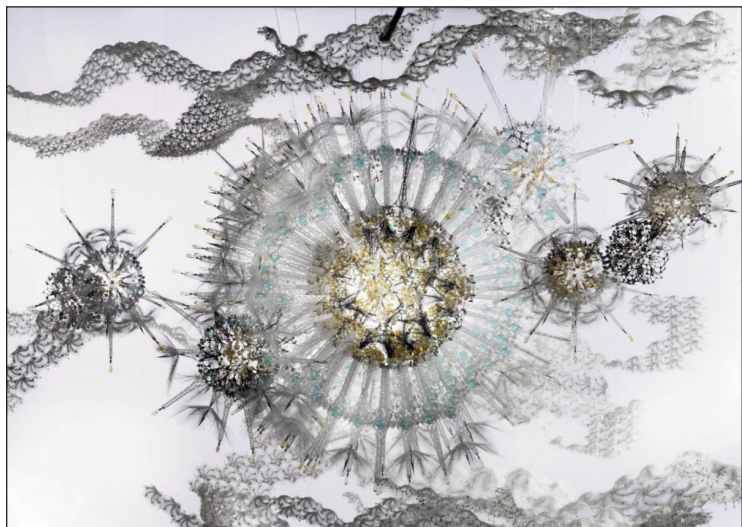
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PUBLIC ART



Permanent public artwork unveiled at Mineta San Jose International Airport



"Threshold" – an exploration of creation through technology and aesthetics

The City of San José and Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) welcome the installation of a new artwork in the pre-security Arrivals Hall of Terminal B. The work is by Philip Beesley & Living Architecture Systems Group on Nov. 18.

The artwork - *Threshold* - is a pair of sculptures enclosed in glass display cases, flanking the airport's arrival hall. The artwork offers a dream-like display of crystalline rays, clouds, and nest-like forms,

composed of more than sixty thousand individually crafted sculptural elements.

New kinds of digital fabrication were invented in the artist's studio for this work, including innovative heating and laser-cutting techniques. Intertwined throughout the sculpture are clusters of small glass orbs, filled with prototype liquids used by researchers investigating near-living cells that reflect the surrounding colorful bustle of the airport.

"The Airport is excited to offer travelers such compelling art as they arrive and depart the Bay Area through San José," said John Aitken, Director of Aviation at SJC. "We are always looking for ways to enrich the airport experience for travelers and tap into the ingenuity of Silicon Valley. *Threshold* does just that, and we appreciate the investments at our airport in support of the arts."

"*Threshold* is an exquisite addition to the City's permanent public art collection, exemplifying innovation at the intersection of art and technology," says Kerry Adams Hapner, Director of Cultural Affairs. "The artwork will enrapture airport visitors."

Artist Philip Beesley said: "Nature and technology are intertwined within this artwork. *Threshold* offers a new kind of gateway to Silicon Valley."

Valley Currents

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



Gas-powered leaf blowers may be phased out of San Jose in favor of electric ones. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

Electric leaf blower pilot program powers up in San Jose

Idea developed in partnership with Councilmember Matt Mahan's office and residents of the District 10 Leaf Blower Working Group

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Gas-powered leaf blowers could disappear from San Jose, two years before they stop being sold in California.

An electric leaf blower pilot program launched on Friday aims to decrease the noise and air pollution generated by gas-powered blowers. The idea was developed in close partnership with San Jose Councilmember Matt Mahan's office and residents of the District 10 Leaf Blower Working Group.

Group Chair Marty Stuczynski said lawn maintenance workers prefer the 2-cycle gas leaf blowers because they're powerful and get the job done quickly. He has urged the city to transition to electric leaf blowers for years and is frustrated the City Council has been slow to act.

"All the cities around us get it done and we can't get it done in San Jose," he said. "I don't want to wait years and years for this to get done. I want to get it done now."

Stuczynski said if the pilot program goes well, the parks department will recommend the electric blowers and hopefully, councilmembers will be convinced to ban gas-powered leaf blowers citywide.

Armed with about \$33,500 in city funding for three electric leaf blowers and personnel, Mahan enlisted the help of the parks department to evaluate the battery life, charging time and efficiency of the electric blowers.

"I'm thrilled about the pilot from an environmental perspective," Mahan told San José Spotlight. "It demonstrates the power of community engagement in the political process."

Dan Greeley, interim parks manager, said the department looks for alternative technologies to reduce the city's carbon footprint as part of its 20-year ActivateSJ Strategic Plan. The department will evaluate the power of the electric blowers to move both dry and wet leaves, as well as their cost and comfort. Employees will alternate using gas and electric-powered leaf blowers every two weeks in Districts 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10 while collecting data.

The pilot program, which started in late October, will continue until the end of June. The department will share preliminary findings in February 2022.

Greeley said electric leaf blowers still make noise, but at a lower decibel level. He added they are also

less powerful, but still worth studying because of their other benefits.

"Our hope is to transition the older gas blowers to electric blowers over time," Mahan said. "But they do have to meet the needs of our Parks and Rec staff."

About 20 California cities—including Los Altos, Los Angeles, Los Gatos, Oakland and Palo Alto—have already banned gas-powered leaf blowers.

In October, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation to phase out the sale of new gas-powered, small off-road engines in California. The new law affects gas-powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers and gas-powered generators. The bill was introduced by Assemblymembers Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park) and Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego).

AB 1346 requires new sales of these engines to be zero-emission by 2024 or whenever the California Air Resources Board determines is feasible. About \$30 million in the state's budget will be used for an incentive program to help landscaping businesses transition.

"It's time to phase out these super polluters. They're not only bad for our environment, but can cause serious health issues for workers who utilize them every day," Gonzalez said in a statement. "We can and must help small landscaping businesses replace their gas-powered equipment with cleaner alternatives."

According to the California Air Resources Board, in one hour of operation, a commercial gas-powered leaf blower emits pollution comparable to driving a 2017 Toyota Camry about 1,100 miles, approximately the distance from Los Angeles to Denver.

In addition, the extremely high levels of noise—up to 112 decibels—created by the gas-powered blowers pose risks of hearing loss.

"Carbon monoxide and particulate matter exhaust from gas-powered engines saturate the air with dangerous contaminants, accelerating environmental deterioration and damage to our city's climate," Mahan said.



Councilmember Matt Mahan and city workers tried out the electric leaf blowers. Photo courtesy of Matt Mahan.

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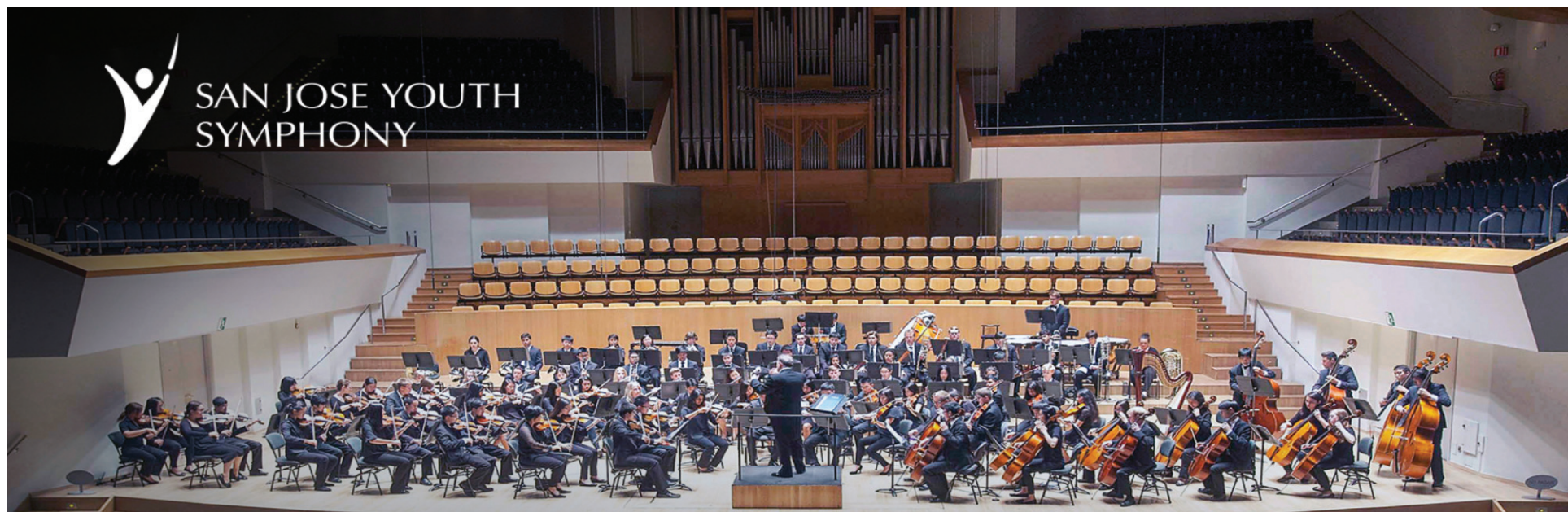
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Times Features

San Jose City Council unanimously approves the permanent protection of Coyote Valley

San José Mayor, councilmembers, and advocates celebrate expansion of lands protected in Coyote Valley

The San Jose City Council has unanimously approved the permanent protection of Coyote Valley.

The council was joined by environmental advocates, Tribal leaders and community partners to celebrate the Nov. 16 unanimous City Council vote to approve zoning changes to Coyote Valley that will protect it from urban sprawl.

More than 3,200 acres of land in Coyote Valley are now protected for agriculture, recreation, and tourism uses and spared from the expansion of office and industrial development in the area, preserving it for future generations.

“Recent wildfires and flooding underscore the importance of defending our natural open space to keep our residents safe and honor the stewardship and advocacy of our environmental partners and indigenous community,” said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo. “By preserving Coyote Valley, San José remains committed to safeguarding our most precious resources for our children and future generations.”

Tuesday’s action by the San José City Council builds on Measure C and Measure T, which voters passed overwhelmingly in 2018. These measures respectively established development limits outside San José’s urban growth boundary to curb residential sprawl and allotted \$50 million for land acquisition to preserve groundwater and floodplain basins. In 2019, the City of San José, in partnership with the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, protected 937 acres of habitats and floodplains in North Coyote Valley through a historic \$96 million purchase and sale agreement and open space designation. The City, the Authority, and POST have further leveraged public and nonprofit investment through \$150 million from local, state, and federal sources for natural infrastructure protection.

“Protecting and restoring Coyote Valley’s natural infrastructure is one of the smartest

investments we can make to build climate resilience in the region and will help both nature and people adapt to climate change,” said Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. “We are proud to partner with the City of San Jose to advance innovative nature-based solutions to the climate crisis right here in our own backyard.”

Saff recommendations include moving the urban development boundary north of Coyote Valley to preclude development of office buildings and industrial sites in the area, as well as modifying zoning for existing businesses to ensure that those already operating in the Valley can remain. According to technical analysis done for Climate Smart San José, the preservation of Coyote Valley would lead to a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions benefit of an approximate equivalent to 94,000 metric tons carbon dioxide (MT CO2e) per year. This change alone represents two percent of the reductions needed to get from the City’s current GHG emissions levels to the 2040 Climate Smart San José plan goal.

Coyote Valley represents 50% of Silicon Valley’s remaining undeveloped water recharge areas which are highly vulnerable to ground pollutant exposure from potential nearby industrial development. As a result of this Council action, the Coyote groundwater sub-basin remains protected from industrial contaminants. Underscoring Coyote Valley’s importance as one of the region’s most important forms of natural infrastructure, is Assembly Bill 948, proposed by Assemblymember Ash Kalra and signed into law in 2019. AB948 recognizes Coyote Valley as “a resource of statewide significance subject to intense development pressure and in need of restoration, conservation, and enhancement”.

The City will also explore the development of a carbon credits program that would be levied through future mitigation fees of development throughout the city to benefit public acquisition of land. This proposed program would directly benefit landowners in Coyote Valley and allow the City to grow the amount of protected open space available for residents and future generations to enjoy.

Mahan

Continued from page 1
sending hundreds of billions of dollars to state and local governments.

NewDEALers are supporting each other in addressing the many challenges created and exacerbated by COVID-19 by innovating, convening virtually, and sharing good ideas. The NewDEAL is tracking how states, counties, and cities spend their pandemic recovery funds and helping provide leaders with policy recommendations for building back better from this crisis.

“We are in a unique moment for state and local leaders as we must find solutions for the

urgent challenges created by COVID-19 while not losing focus on longer-term issues that will continue to affect the economic security of San Jose and other communities for decades to come,” said Mahan. “I’m running for Mayor in the midst of the pandemic because it is time for creative solutions to address problems exacerbated by COVID-19 and to make the most of this unique moment to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods while ensuring City Hall is responsive and accountable. I look forward to sharing lessons with and learning from other leaders who are setting the standard for effective governance, and I am excited to be part of NewDEAL’s efforts to expand opportunities for Americans in communities nationwide.”

NCL

Continued from page 1
eleventh grade.

Providing donations, organizing various supply drives and volunteering hours, NCL Class of 2022 has been actively involved in supporting dozens of organizations around our

community. They have also enjoyed making friends with other young women in their broader local area.

The class, together with their families and friends, are looking forward to a celebration of their years of working together on April 3, 2022 at the Saratoga Foothill Club.

For more information about Little Free Library, visit: Library www.littlefreelibrary.org



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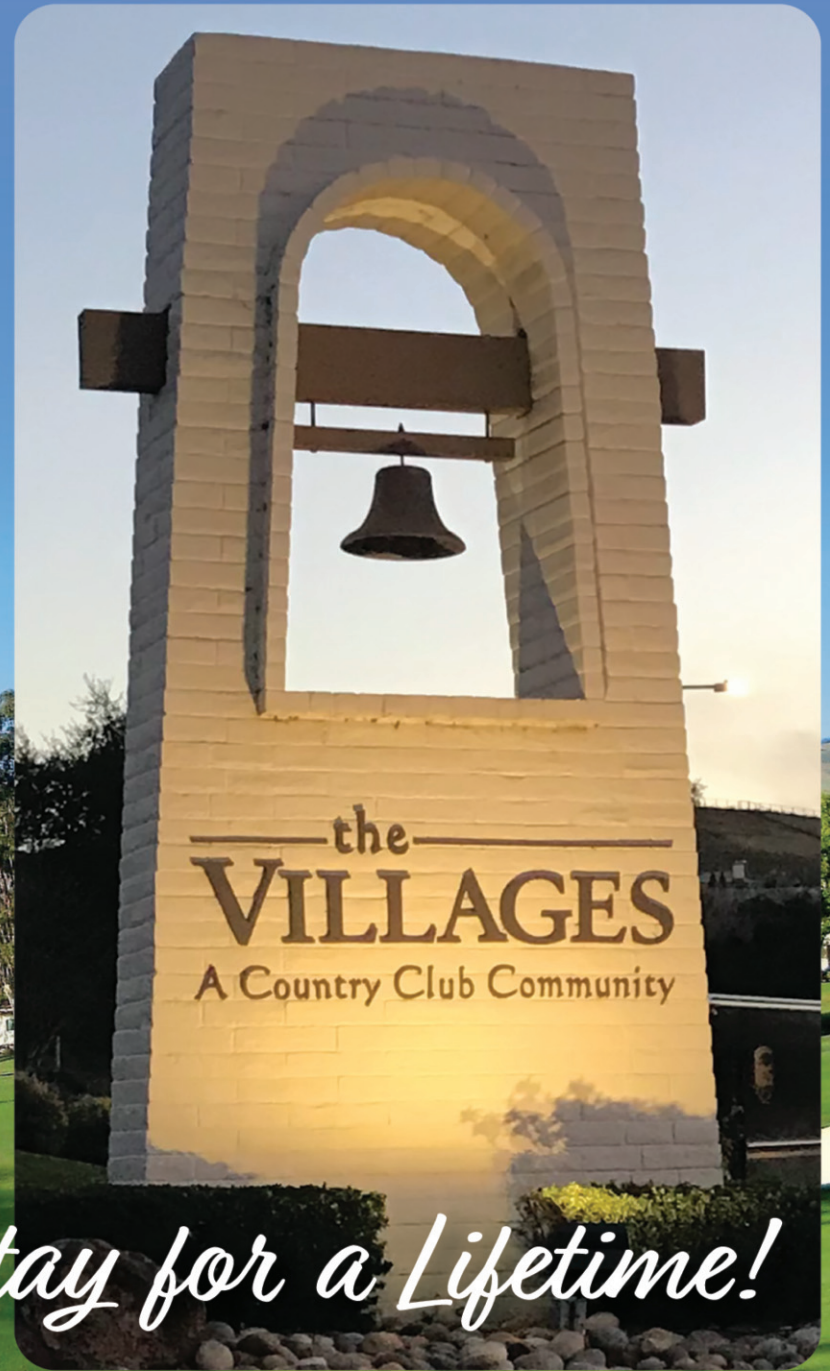
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Times **Community News**

Celebrity Chef Joanne Weir to open a rooftop restaurant in Willow Glen

Copita has been named the Best Mexican Restaurant in the Bay Area; Restaurateur Mindel expects Copita to be most vivacious restaurant around

By William Bellou
Publisher

Copita Tequileria y Comida, the famed Mexican Tequileria in Sausalito, will open a second location now under construction at the northeast corner of Willow Street and Lincoln Avenue in the heart of Willow Glen.

The stunning two-story restaurant site, inspired by the romance of San Miguel Allende, is lovingly brought to life by renowned celebrity chef Joanne Weir and Larry Mindel, the legendary restaurateur.

Copita has been named the Best Mexican Restaurant in the Bay Area by 7 X 7 Magazine and featured on the cover of San Francisco Magazine as one of the best Mexican restaurants in the Bay Area.

The new Copita Tequileria y Comida is actually two restaurants in one comprising 6,400 square feet employing nearly 100 staff members. The completion of the restaurant is targeted for summer 2022.

The highlight is the rooftop bar. Overlooking bustling downtown Willow Glen, the second-story terrace provides plenty of intimate seating around small tables and fire pits, places to gather and celebrate while enjoying a variety of small plates and a robust cocktail menu.



Downstairs, diners can savor Copita's modern, sophisticated take on Mexican cuisine in a more traditional, beautifully appointed full-service dining area. Both settings feature plenty of outdoor space to take advantage of the spectacular local weather and to accommodate customer preferences in post-Covid dining.

Copita is famous for its exciting re-imagining of classic Mexican fare—creating the

best of traditional Mexican preparations and flavors using the most delectable, highest-quality locally sourced produce and proteins.

Every item on the Copita's menu, from the chorizo to the sauces to the tortillas, is hand-made and 100% gluten-free. The seasonal menu features an array of mouth-watering tacos, tangy ceviches, succulent roasted meats, and other dishes, all crafted under the careful eye and exquisite palate of the Maestra de Cocina, Joanne Weir.

While Copita gets accolades for its food, it is also renowned for another reason: its love affair with tequila. In fact, it was a margarita contest between co-owners Weir and restaurateur Larry Mindel that spawned the restaurant in the first place.

"Larry's margarita was very tequila-forward; mine was more balanced," Weir recalls with a smile. Mindel ceded the win to Weir and suggested they open a restaurant together – the result was Copita.

Chef: Joanne Weir

While she may be an East Coast native, Chef Joanne Weir, the creative force behind Copita, has also been a Bay Area favorite for more than 30 years. Whether you know her from "Plates and Places" or any other of her award-winning cooking shows on PBS, her acclaimed cookbooks (she's written nearly two dozen—her first, From Tapas to Meze, was one of Julia Child's favorites; another, Weir Cooking in the City, won a James Beard award) or the many cooking classes she offers here and abroad, you know that Weir's warmth, curiosity, passion for cooking, and most of all, her love of sharing good food, is contagious.

A fourth-generation cook who spent her formative years on her grandparents' farms, Weir was steeped in the locally sourced, organic tradition long before she joined Alice Waters at the famed Chez Panisse in Berkeley. Waters calls Weir "a true purist" who seeks out which ingredients are "the most alive and vibrant" and uses those ingredients "simply and beautifully." It's that vibrancy that makes the original Copita such a stand-out, and what Weir is eager to expand upon at the new location in Willow Glen. "I may not be steeped in traditional Mexican cooking, but I know flavors," she says. Her mission: clean, fresh flavors with Mexican

See COPITA, page 10

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Times **Feature**

Copita

Continued from page 9

flair. Weir is also a hands-on manager with a perfectionist's attention to detail. "If I'm going to put my name on this restaurant, I'll be there, tasting every dish that goes on the menu."

The Restaurateur: Larry Mindel

He may be best known locally for being the powerhouse behind Il Fornaio, MacArthur Park, Poggio and Prego, but restaurateur Larry Mindel has launched dozens of wildly successful establishments over his long career. "I always look for the opportunity to do something a little bit different, but a whole lot better, than the competition," he says.

Copita has a special place in his heart. Launched almost on a lark in 2012, the popularity of the charming little restaurant in Sausalito took off beyond anyone's expectations. It was so successful, in fact, that Mindel soon began thinking about a new location.

But the setting had to be just right. It was only when Mindel met Michael Van Every, who was looking for a restaurant partner worthy of the novel space he was creating in Willow Glen that things clicked into place. Once Mindel scrambled up the ladder to what would become the rooftop



terrace, he knew the vision that he and Weir shared of an exciting and lively restaurant, one that people would want to visit over and over again, would come to life.

Mindel expects Copita to be the most vivacious restaurant around, one worthy of a special trip. According to him, a great restaurant begins and ends with exceptional food – a given, considering Weir's exceptional talent for creating memorable dishes. Combine that with a beautiful architec-

tural setting and attentive, professional service, and you get a place people want to go back to, whether it's a casual Tuesday lunch or a special evening celebration. "When you take that first bite, or that first sip and go, 'Wow!'—that's the moment we live for," he says.

Developer: Michael Van Every

For developer Michael Van Every, the building that houses Republic Urban Properties' new office space and the restaurant that will set it apart is truly a labor of love.

Inspired by the gorgeous World Heritage city of San Miguel Allende, Van Every wanted to recreate the feel of the lively second-floor restaurant and entertainment establishments there that overlook the energetic hum of the streets below. "Republic wants to create landmarks that inspire people," he explains. "We knew that a two-story restaurant with a rooftop bar could be a pillar destination in what is already a great business and entertainment district."

He also envisioned an architectural style that would pay homage to some of San Jose's most beautiful neighborhoods. "We wanted to embody a romantic display of Spanish colonial architecture, the one true architecture of San Jose that's done really well and reflected in local neighborhoods like the Rose Garden and Willow Glen," he says.

Into this setting, Copita fits perfectly. "Like Willow Glen, Copita has charm and sophistication," Van Every notes. He then adds confidently, "And, like Willow Glen, it will have history."

Check for updates about Copita Willow Glen, 1098 Lincoln Ave., on the website, www.copitarestaurant.com.



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Survey: Nearly 60% of Americans unlikely to travel for Christmas

Higher gas prices expected to dampen travel

While rising vaccination rates against COVID-19 have increased travelers' comfort levels, most Americans are still opting to stay home this holiday season, according to a new national survey commissioned by the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) conducted by Morning Consult.

The survey found 33% are likely to travel for Christmas—an increase from 21% and 24%, respectively, compared to 2020. Those who do plan to travel over the holidays expect to drive, but rising gas prices may dampen those plans.

The survey of 2,200 adults was conducted October 30 – November 1, 2021, by Morning Consult on behalf of AHLA. Key findings include the following:

- Just one in three Americans plans to travel for Christmas (33% likely to travel, 59% unlikely).
- 66% of Christmas travelers plan to stay with family or friends, while 23% plan to stay in a hotel
- 52% of Americans say they plan to take fewer trips and 53% plan to take shorter trips due to rising gas prices
- Leisure travelers are making several adjustments to their travel plans based on the current state of the pandemic, including only traveling within driving distance

See TRAVEL, next page



Times **Local News****Travel**

Continued from previous page (58%), taking fewer trips (48%), and taking shorter trips (46%)

• Among parents with children under the age of 12, 41% say the availability of vaccines for kids ages 5-11 will make them more likely to travel

• 64% of Christmas travelers plan to drive, compared to 11% and 14%, respectively, who plan to fly

“While vaccines have helped travelers feel more comfortable, rising gas prices and continued concerns about the pandemic are making many Americans hesitant to travel during the holidays. Despite a slight expected uptick in holiday travel this year, hotels will continue to face economic fallout from the pandemic, underscoring the need for targeted federal relief, such as the Save Hotel Jobs Act, to support the industry and its workforce until travel fully returns,” said American Hotel & Lodging Association President and CEO Chip Rogers.

Despite being among the hardest hit, hotels are the only segment of the hospitality and leisure industry yet to receive direct pandemic relief from Congress. That is why AHLA and UNITE HERE, the largest hospitality workers’ union in North America, joined

forces to call on Congress to pass the bipartisan Save Hotel Jobs Act to provide critical support to hotels and their workers during this crucial period.

Survey Methodology

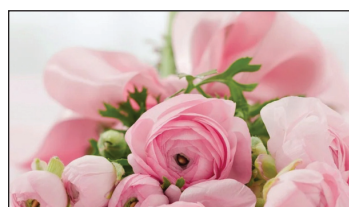
The poll was conducted October 30-November 1, 2021, among a national sample of 2200 Adults. The interviews were conducted online, and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Silicon Valley Reads 2021

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**IN MEMORY****Hendrik Sturuss**

Dec. 17, 1929 - Nov. 16, 2021, Almaden Valley

Hank was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He passed away peacefully at home.

Hank was born in the Netherlands and immigrated to the U.S. in 1957, settling in San Jose. Together, he and his wife Miep started and ran Foothill Draperies for 30 years and enjoyed a charter membership at Almaden Country Club for 40 years.

His optimism and humor shaped his love for life and positively impacted all who knew him well.

Hank and his family are greatly appreciative of the Kaiser Hospice Team who kindly cared for him.

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WATER-WISE

The Challenge Of Clay: Infiltration

By Matthew Frazier
*Garden Center & Nursery
Consultant/Water Manager*
By the summer of 2006 I had been freelancing as a screenwriter here in South San Jose for roughly ten years. I wasn't making much progress in the way of new projects and decided to seek

education and training in a new field to support myself financially while writing at night. My brother suggested working in a garden center or a nursery.
After submitting applications and resumes, I was recruited by a local family nursery. It was here that I began to learn about botany, hor-



ticulture, soil science, and landscape architecture and design principals. In the two years and two months I worked there, I learned much about these subjects.
One of the very first lessons I received was about which plants would thrive in amended soil and which ones could survive in our native clay soil on the valley floor. A very knowledgeable colleague and coworker explained the anatomy and physiology of clay soil to
(Continued, next page)

AlmadenTimes Real Estate

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Times **News**

me in terms I could comprehend. This person was a veteran of The Garden Center and Nursery Industries, having worked as a salesperson, supervisor, and manager in garden centers and nurseries for years.

What I came to learn in my conversations and inquiries with this person is that most of the ornamental plants we find in our local garden centers and nurseries here around Santa Clara County and The Bay Area are exotics which are temperamental when it comes to being transplanted from their comfort-zone of greenhouse containers to in-ground environs where, quite often, compacted and heavy soils constrict their delicate roots.

Many conversations ensued as I worked closely with our customers, many of whom were not involved in The Landscape Industry. The plants which caught their attention and made their way to their gardens and yards often suffered once they were in the ground. I worked with these customers in advising effective irrigation techniques and recommending soil amendments which we sold.

As weeks became months, I amassed enough confidence and knowledge to direct my attention to the plethora of plants which are native to California and more specifically, to our own Santa Clara Valley. Flowers, shrubs, trees, and vines which evolved with the native soil over centuries and millennia are exponentially more resilient than those which are aesthetically pleasing but whose bodies and roots suffer in this dense and heavy soil.

What I learned then is what I came to learn over the years which followed: Water is slow to infiltrate clay soil. The water must be applied in more frequent cycles and in smaller quantities to allow it to penetrate and percolate through the clay soil. What I was told by some professionals along the way is that water moves out elliptically through the clay soil via capillary action. At the same time, the particles must become fully saturated before the water can continue along its path.

An irrigation contractor once shared with me what they called the Three-and-Three Rule: Watering for three minutes, in three cycles, three hours apart, on three separate nights during the week. Example being 9:00pm, 12:00am, and 3:00am Sundays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Clay soil has a runoff point at five minutes with moderate overhead irrigation from spray nozzles and much of the water runs off of the turf lawn and landscapes and runs into the storm drain inlets in the streets.

I have worked in several garden centers and nurseries since

Almaden Valley Nursery, including garden and nursery departments at hardware stores and home-improvement centers. My message remains the same: Frequent and shorter cycles. The flowers, shrubs, trees, and vines which are native to Santa Clara Valley have grown to love our clay soil and when irrigated naturally with

rain, require little supplemental irrigation.

I will share a brief account of the section of Almaden Valley Nursery which sparked my interest and passion for California natives in a future article: Collectors' Corner. With the nights becoming longer and colder, proper irrigation is key. The challenges of clay are

many. Infiltration is one of the very first I encountered as a nursery consultant early in my journey.

I invite you to visit your local garden centers and nurseries and request drought-tolerant and low-water use species whenever possible, given the drought we are facing. But, especially those species which are native to our very own

valley.

When irrigating, I encourage you to be mindful of the frequency and volume of water being applied. Clay carries with it the unique challenge of slow infiltration for better results. Best wishes to you each and all. See you soon.

To reach Matthew Frazier, email kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com

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Saturday, January 22, 2022, @2pm

At the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts

Roald Dahl's amazing tale is now San Jose's golden ticket! It's the perfect recipe for a delectable treat: songs from the original film, including "Pure Imagination," "The Candy Man," and "I've Got a Golden Ticket," alongside a toe-tapping and ear-tickling new score from the songwriters of Hairspray.

Willy Wonka is opening his marvelous and mysterious chocolate factory...to a lucky few. That includes Charlie Bucket, whose bland life is about to burst with color and confection beyond his wildest dreams. He and four other golden ticket winners will embark on a mesmerizing joyride through a world of pure imagination. Now's your chance to experience the wonders of Wonka like never before – get ready for Oompa-Loompas, incredible inventions, the great glass elevator, and more, more, more at this everlasting showstopper!

Transportation: On your own

Date/Time: Saturday, January 22, 2022 @2pm

Price: \$85

Seats will be assigned when tickets are paid for.

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Commuters clog highways as people travel from home to work. File photo.

VTA committee recommends Measure B funds totaling \$200M for 13 local highway projects

By Eli Wolfe

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

VTA is poised to distribute nearly \$200 million for projects to reduce highway congestion following a critical committee vote.

The Congestion Management Program and Planning Committee is recommending VTA's board of directors approve funding for a list of 13 highway projects in cities across Santa Clara County. The funding comes from Measure B, a sales tax passed in 2016 to fund decades of transit projects.

The committee's vote on Thursday was the final hurdle for the funding proposal. VTA's board will consider approving it on Dec. 2.

"I look forward to these projects being able to continue to move forward, and hopefully each of them finding their way to construction," said committee chair and San Jose Councilmember Raul Peralez.

Measure B, a 30-year, half-cent sales tax, is anticipated to generate \$6.3 billion over its duration. Its primary purpose is to relieve congestion in the South Bay by allocating funds to several types of infrastructure, including street and bicycle projects. Last year, San Jose lawmakers voted against a proposal to shift some of the

funds to more environmentally-friendly transportation, such as light rail and bus lines. Months later, there was public outcry when VTA outlined a plan to divert the first 10 years of sales tax proceeds to BART expansions throughout San Jose.

Cities applied for Measure B funds for highway projects earlier this year and VTA scored and prioritized funding needs. Staff explained the available funds—\$196.81 million— would barely cover four of the 13 projects, so money is being allocated to each project to help clear different phases of development, be it design or construction.

The cities that will receive Measure B funds this round include Campbell, Gilroy, Los Gatos, Mountain View and San Jose. Funds will also be awarded for a project underway by Santa Clara County.

The highest priority project is the U.S. 101/Shoreline Boulevard northbound off-ramp realignment and bus lane in Mountain View, which needs \$5 million for construction. VTA also categorized as top priority the 101/Mabury Interchange and the 101/Zanker Road/Skyport Drive/Fourth Street improvement, both in San Jose.

Robin Roemer, a former member of VTA's Citizens Advisory Committee, took

See VTA, next page

2016 Measure B Highway Interchanges Program - Prioritized Project List & Funding Recommendation

Rank	Score	Project	Primary Sponsor	2016 Measure B Requests (\$YOE)				Staff Recommendation
				PA/ED	Design (PSE)	ROW	Construction	
1	68.13	US 101/Shoreline Boulevard Northbound Off-Ramp Realignment and Bus Lane	Mountain View	Funded			\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
2	59.25	US 101/Mabury Interchange	San Jose	Funded		\$ 101,000,000	\$ 65,957,000	\$ 101,000,000
3	56.84	US 101/Zanker Road/Skyport Drive/Fourth Street Improvement	San Jose	Funded	\$ 9,470,000	\$ 103,500,000	\$ 59,380,000	\$ 9,470,000
4	56.50	I-280/Winchester Blvd. Interchange Improvements	San Jose	Funded	\$ 11,570,000	\$ 15,480,000	\$ 135,475,000	\$ 11,570,000
5	54.63	US 101/SR 152/10th Street Interchange Improvement	Gilroy	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 4,050,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 33,150,000	\$ 7,650,000
6	53.63	State Route 17 Corridor Congestion Relief	Los Gatos	Funded	\$ 7,803,000	\$ 675,000	\$ 85,860,000	\$ 7,803,000
7	53.45	Calaveras Boulevard Widening	Milpitas	Funded	\$ 9,600,000	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 99,505,000	\$ 9,600,000
8	52.03	US 101 Interchanges Improvements: San Antonio Road to Charleston Road/Rengstorff Avenue	Mountain View	\$ 5,317,500	\$ 11,000,000	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 129,576,000	\$ 16,317,500
9	50.50	SR17 Southbound/Hamilton Ave. Off-ramp	Campbell	Funded			\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,400,000
10	46.00	Charcot Avenue Extension	San Jose	Funded			\$ 9,500,000	\$ 9,500,000
11	43.20	US 101/SR 25 Santa Teresa Boulevard Extension	Santa Clara County	Funded		\$ 1,300,000	\$ 23,700,000	\$ 1,300,000
12	38.59	SR 237/Middlefield Interchange Improvement	Mountain View	Funded			\$ 16,200,000	\$ 16,200,000
13	38.00	US 101/Old Oakland Road Improvements*	San Jose	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 36,250,000	-
Total Competitive Recommendation								\$ 196,810,500

*Is a subset of the US 101/Mabury interchange project

Times **Local News****Tech Jargon of the week**

Virtual Machines

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

Virtual Machines

If it hasn’t happened already, there will come a time when you’ll wish your computer was running a different operating system. Whether you’re a competent software developer or an average user desiring an application exclusive to an OS other than the one you have, there are plenty of valid reasons why you’d want to use another OS. However, despite what you might think, you don’t necessarily have to adhere to your supposed monetary and spatial restraints, given the number of available virtual machines out there.

Assuming your machine touts the capabilities, intuitive software allows you to emulate your desired OS within a different OS, allowing you to run two operating systems alongside one another on a single machine. This is how you would use a virtual machine!

A virtual machine is a computer file, typically called an image that behaves like an actual computer; in other words, creating a computer within a computer. It runs in a window, much like any other program, giving the end user the same experience on a virtual machine as they would have on the host operating system itself. The virtual

machine is sandboxed from the rest of the system, meaning that the software inside a virtual machine can’t escape or tamper with the computer itself. This produces an ideal environment for testing other operating systems including beta releases, accessing virus-infected data, creating operating system backups, and running software or applications on operating systems they weren’t originally intended for.

Multiple virtual machines can run simultaneously on the same physical computer. For servers, the multiple operating systems run side-by-side with a piece of software called a hypervisor to manage them, while desktop computers typically employ one operating system to run the other operating systems within its program windows. Each vir-



tual machine provides its own virtual hardware, including CPUs, memory, hard drives, network interfaces, and other devices. The virtual hardware is then mapped to the real hardware on the physical machine which saves costs by reducing the need for physical hardware systems along with the associated maintenance costs that go with it, plus reduces power and cooling demand.

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.

VTA

Continued from previous page
issue with the agency granting money to all project applicants.

“The only criteria for funding is ‘did the project apply?’” Roemer said during public comment, noting funding appeared to be allocated with no regard to how projects would impact climate change. “Giving money to everyone is never good policy.”

Roemer also complained the agency is allocating significant funds for the construction of low-priority projects, such as the Charcot Avenue Extension. VTA is recommending \$9.5 million for this highway overpass in North San Jose, which

Roemer and other San Jose residents have been fighting for years.

VTA board member and county Supervisor Joe Simitian noted all of the projects were included on the Measure B ballot, which voters approved. He also observed that multiple VTA committees approved the funding proposal.

“I think (staff comments) reflect the real-world environment in which projects like this get funded,” he said.

One board member raised concerns about making sure Measure B dollars flow to projects that will have the greatest impact on congestion.

“That should be our number one priority,” said board member Carmen Montano, adding she’s also concerned about the equitable distribution of funds to cities.

“Some cities probably haven’t had any Measure B funding because they’re not project-ready, but shouldn’t we be assisting them or helping them be project-ready?”

Perez agreed that not every city is represented, but said cities must prepare to apply for funds if they want to receive them.

“These are not things that should be a surprise to voters,” he said.

The committee is also recommending the VTA board augment the biennial budget for the Measure B program by allocating \$190.89 million to Caltrain grade separations and highway interchanges.

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Times **Feature**

Symphony San Jose Chorale Presents 'Carols In The California' Saturday, Dec 14 In San Jose

14th Annual Family Tradition Returns for One Night Only

Family Holiday Tradition returns! The Symphony San Jose Chorale under the baton of Elena Sharkova presents the 14th Annual "Carols in the California", an exciting and festive program of holiday cheer. Come for a traditional sing-along of your favorite carols with choir and brass ensemble and prepare to be dazzled by performances of classical works by members of Symphony San Jose and the SSJ Chorale all in the warm glow of the beautifully restored California Theatre.

And while downtown, enjoy Christmas in the Park, The Holiday Ice Rink Under the



Palms, and Winter Wonderland rides and games just two blocks from the theater. San Jose comes alive with the Holiday Season, with activities and memories for the entire family! All-day parking is available for just \$5 at the city-owned garage on Second and San Carlos Streets.

WHO: Symphony San Jose Chorale presents

WHAT: "Carols in the California"

WHEN: Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 7pm

WHERE: The California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San Jose

PRICES: \$36 (\$26 for attendees under 26 years old.)

BOX OFFICE: 408.286.2600 or www.symphonysanjose.org

Or visit the Box Office between 10am and 5pm, 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. Easy, inexpensive parking just one block away at San Jose City Garage on San Carlos Street with entrances on 2nd and 3rd Streets.

ABOUT THE CHORALE

Symphony San Jose Chorale performs classical masterworks and contemporary music with the symphony, as well as a wide range of pieces, from jazz to liturgical and everything in between. Performances include Movies in Concert, a capella programs, and appearances with smaller instrumental groups in San Jose and peninsula locations throughout the San Francisco Bay area. Maestra Elena Sharkova, who directs the Symphony San Jose Chorale and the Cantabile Youth Singers, is an internationally recognized conductor, lecturer and master teacher.

ABOUT CHORALE DIRECTOR, ELENA SHARKOVA

Russian-American conductor Elena Sharkova is recognized nationally and internationally as an inspirational, versatile, and effective conductor, choral clinician, music educator, and lecturer. She has conducted professional, university, youth, and community choirs and orchestras in 17 countries across North America, Asia, Eastern and Western Europe, Russia, and the Middle East. Elena has served as a jury member at numerous national and international music festivals and competitions.

Photos by Robert Shomler

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Times Local News



The Festival of Thanks featured art, games and food trucks.

Thanks

Continued from page 1
like cornhole and crafts like coloring and face painting.

A special addition for this event was the ability to decorate luminaries called “thankful bags.”

Myrick said especially with coming out of COVID, it gave people a chance to reflect on what they’re grateful for.

Johnny Escobar helped his daughter Capri make a thankful bag. “We live in the neighborhood and like to support local events,” he said. “We wanted to come see what was going on.”

Although the turnout was small, the Festival of Thanks provided enjoyment for those who attended.

Mayra Evans was happy to watch her children enthusiastically peruse merchandise and watch members of Leland High School’s robotics club pilots a ball-throwing robot. Evans said she would like to see more events like this.

“It was an opportunity to come together as a community,” she said. “I think it’s necessary, especially for the young ones.”

Artist Andrea Silva, who creates keychains, coasters, magnets and jewelry, said being able to show and sell her work meant getting to do what she loves. Graphic Designer Claire Koperwas, who sold paintings, stickers, photos and cards, said it was exciting to participate in the event.

“It’s really fun,” Koperwas said. “I love

talking to people and talking about art with other artists.”

Gilbert Serrato, who enjoyed the music, said although he was surprised the event was compact, he had fun playing Cornhole. He and Genevieve Anderson appreciated the service organizations being there such as Live Oak Adult Day Services and Almaden Valley Counseling Service.

Michelle Humke, executive director of Almaden Valley Counseling Service, said any opportunity to get its name out to the community about what it offers is important.

“We’re happy to be here,” she said. “Especially during the pandemic, people need mental health services.”

Rebecca Stene, AVWC vice president of membership, said the Women’s Club is already planning for next year.

“We’ve always been about the community and giving them an event to come out to,” she said.

Below: Johnny Escobar helped his daughter Capri make a thankful bag.



Artist Andrea Silva said being able to show and sell her work meant getting to do what she loves.

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The Tabard Theatre Company announces Holiday Musical Revue 'A Merry Little Christmas Cabaret'

The Tabard Theatre Company announces A Merry Little Christmas Cabaret. This big band holiday musical will open to live in-person audiences and simultaneous livestream on December 10 and run through December 19.

The year is 1964 and the head of the recording label, in response to deflating record sales and the growing momentum of the British Invasion decides to go for a tried and true strategy to boost the numbers... a Christmas album. But to get the record to market in time he has to

start right away! Who cares if it's the middle of July in Los Angeles? It's time to get into the Christmas spirit. Welcome to this madcap adventure including yuletide cocktails and Hawaiian shirts!

The show will also be available for on-demand viewing Dec.20 through December 31. Single tickets for the play are \$19-\$48. Tabard Theatre is an all-vaccinated venue and will be checking proof of vaccination at the door for in-person patrons. Facial coverings are also currently required.

A Merry Little Christmas Cabaret will feature Le Perez, Semhar Gebrat, Bobby Singer, Lena Heuman, Chris Fernandez and Stephanie Whigham. Also featured will be the musical skills of members of San Jose's Nineteen Jazz Orchestra.

Tabard Theatre is located in the heart of historic San Pedro Square in downtown San Jose. Tickets: \$19-\$48 www.tabardtheatre.org or Call (408) 679-2330.

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Times **Community News**

Report: Best and Worst Cities for Remote Workers in 2022

If you could work from anywhere — up to 70 percent of job candidates today prefer a hybrid or remote work setup — where would you choose to live?

To help telecommuters narrow their shortlist, LawnStarter ranked 2022's Best Cities for Remote Workers.

The report compared nearly 200 of the biggest U.S. cities based on remote job opportunities, internet connectivity, cost of living, and availability of personal workspace, among 20 total factors.

2022's Best Cities for Remote Workers

- 1 Frisco, TX
- 2 Naperville, IL
- 3 Dallas, TX
- 4 Arlington, TX
- 5 Atlanta, GA
- 6 Austin, TX
- 7 Tampa, FL
- 8 Plano, TX
- 9 Raleigh, NC
- 10 Cincinnati, OH

2022's Worst Cities for Remote Workers

- 185 Oxnard, CA
- 186 Oceanside, CA
- 187 Stockton, CA
- 188 San Bernardino, CA
- 189 Escondido, CA
- 190 Santa Ana, CA
- 191 Modesto, CA
- 192 Lancaster, CA
- 193 Honolulu, HI
- 194 Salinas, CA

Highlights and Lowlights:

- **Don't Mess with Texas:** The Lone Star State dominates our ranking of the Best Cities for Remote Workers, hardly a surprise, considering it's the third fastest-growing state in America.

Texas claims half of our top 10 cities and seven of our top 20, including Frisco at No. 1 and every major Texas city.

- **Texas cities** — three of them in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex — earned many of the highest scores in the Opportunity and Connectivity categories. The lack of a state income tax also means more take-home money.

- **Go Big and Go Work from Home:** Our ranking shows that large cities tend to be safe bets for remote workers, despite the trend that claustrophobic remote workers are flocking to the suburbs for more space.

Eight of our top 10 cities have at least 250,000 residents, while the other two are mid-size cities with populations between 100,000 and 250,000.

Suburbs might offer more breathing room and mainstream amenities, but bigger cities boast more job opportunities and options in general.

- **Not All That Glitters Is Gold:** If you're a California-dreaming remote worker, wake up. The Golden State monopolizes the bottom of our ranking. Nine out of the worst 10 are in California, including Salinas in last place. Los Angeles is tops among California cities at No. 90 (tied with Chesapeake, Virginia).

High on costs and low on good workplace factors like available personal space, California may be better for visiting than telecommuting.

Our full ranking and analysis can be found here: <https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/studies/best-worst-us-cities-for-remote-workers>

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TRAVEL TIPS

Plan ahead for this year's holiday vacation

Whether your family counts a holiday vacation among your treasured traditions or you're anticipating a holiday getaway for the first time, getting an early start on your planning can help ensure your trip is filled with good tidings and joy.

Know what you want to spend. If you're planning to open your wallet a little wider for this trip than you have in the past, you're not alone. A survey by American Express Travel found more than 60% of travelers are planning to spend more on trips in 2021 since they missed out on travel in 2020. Setting your budget now can help you make choices about things like accommodations and activities while giving you some extra time to save. Working off a budget from the start can also help you take advantage of book now and pay later options that may give you added savings or incentives.

Be conscious of high-demand destinations. Popular travel spots tend to fill up fast, so if you're considering visiting a high-demand location, be aware of how crowds might affect your plans for everything from wait times at attractions to rental cars and more. According to vacation rental company Vrbo, prime warm-weather destinations where families can spend the holidays together are already facing lower availability for homes, including Florida and Hawaii beaches. Similarly, Maui, Hawaii, has less than 20% of homes available during Christmas week. Ski spots also see a large share of holiday travel, so be prepared if you're planning on a holiday hot spot.

Manage against the unexpected. Despite all the advantages of planning ahead, it's impossible to predict unknown variables like the weather when you make travel arrangements months ahead of time. Travel insurance can help protect the majority of your investment if you have to cancel your trip. Some policies offer coverage for cancellation for any reason, so you'll want to research exactly what your policy allows, including weather and pandemic-related cancellations.

Book lodging early. With travel volume up and availability for accommodations already trending downward for the holiday season, consider making reservations sooner than later.

"We typically see December bookings peak in October and November, but families are locking in their holiday vacation plans much earlier than usual," said Melanie Fish, Vrbo's travel expert. "Vacation homes have been quickly scooped up during every popular travel season this year, so it's no surprise families are planning ahead to ensure they have a great place to spend the holidays together."

Look into local events. In this pandemic age, many attractions and activities have new guidelines, including altered operating schedules, occupancy limits and reser-

vation systems. You can typically find the latest information on websites or by calling ahead. Take these measures into consideration as you're creating your trip itinerary and organizing advanced reservations.

Consider how the holidays will affect your packing. Traveling during the holidays may mean a different approach to your typical vacation packing. Especially if you're traveling with children, you'll need to make space for beloved holiday traditions such as gifts or a visit from a certain jolly old elf. For more inspiration for your holiday getaway, visit Vrbo.com.

(Family Features)
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- Loving Respect
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- Shared Laughter

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

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For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

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